Partnering with Mercy Ships to fight disease

This Rotary Foundation vocational training team is the first to serve under Rotary’s partnership with Mercy Ships. Rotary District 7690 in North Carolina, sponsored the team with a packaged grant, part of the new Rotary grant model that launched worldwide 1 July. The team’s 5 members will train Guinean health professionals at the 2 national hospitals.

The Africa Mercy, a 500-foot oceangoing hospital ship, is docked in Conakry for a 10-month medical mission. The Mercy Ships staff and visiting experts, such as this team, will tackle a range of tasks, including setting up medical and dental clinics, conducting health screenings, performing surgeries on board, and conducting health care outreach.

“Mercy Ships looks for ways to continue helping local medical professionals after the ship leaves port,” says Michelle Bullington, who advised the team. “Improving sterilization techniques would have a sustainable impact.”

Rick Snider, of District 7690, worked on a Mercy Ship for five years and coordinated the Guinea project. He recruited Rotarian Jenny Braswell a recently retired public health official as team leader. Her husband, Sherrill, a physician, became her first recruit for the Guinea team. She handpicked the rest from former public health colleagues.

In Guinea, the team’s work begins with a tour of the century-old Ignace Deen Hospital. Laundered gauze bandages droop over railings to dry in the sun for reuse. The well-worn examination tables have no sterile paper and the medical units are nearly devoid of supplies or equipment. Doctors and nurses provide their own gloves masks and gowns. Germ-killing bleach is rare.

In the generally clean wards, the patients’ family sleep under the beds. Food is stored on the floor where it is accessible to vermin and flies and mosquitoes glide freely through doorways kept open to contend with the heat.

The team also visits Donka hospital, where toilets are flushed with water from a pail, and power outages are common. “The staff members touch patients without gloves, going patient to patient without washing hands,” says Braswell, “They are doing the best they can with what they have.”

For a week, the team provides training in reducing infections, covering topics such as using surgical gloves, masks, and gowns; controlling rats and mosquitoes; disinfecting with bleach; tracking infectious diseases; and hand-washing.

“Fifty percent of hospital-associated infections could be prevented with hand-washing,” Knowledge gaps soon become apparent. “It is important to clarify that hand sanitizer kills bacteria” – particularly in a place where running water is unreliable, Braswell says.

When Sherrill Braswell presses for what is needed to reduce infections, the answer is lengthy: more autoclaves, antibiotics, vaccines, bed nets, and rubber gloves, in addition to a water tower to maintain running water. Of six operating rooms, only the new maternity units have UVGI (ultraviolet germicidal irradiation), a standard sterilization method.

Read the full version of this story in the November 2013 issue of The Rotarian
### District 5170 Giving to Date

#### Fighting Hunger

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Annual Fund Goal 2013-2014</th>
<th>Annual Fund through 12/10/2013</th>
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Foundation Drawing Results

Congratulations to our 2013-2014 Rotary Foundation Drawing Winners

First Prize of a trip for 2 to the Rotary International Convention is Sydney, Australia goes to: Major Donor and Paul Harris Society member Mike Niimoto of the Rotary Club of Almaden Valley.

Second Prize of a trip for 2 to the Uniendo America Project Fair in Antigua, Guatemala goes to: Past President Ron Ince of the Rotary Club of Freedom

Livermore Valley helps with Stove Team Project

The Rotary Club of Livermore Valley is working with the Rotary Foundation and Stove Team International in the development of stove factories in Mexico.

Helping to establish a new stove factory in Morelia, Mexico, the Rotary club of Livermore Valley will help prevent further injuries caused by improper indoor cooking fires. It is now recognized by the World Health Organization that more than four million premature deaths per year are caused by smoke from open fire cooking. One of the top four health risks in the developing world, diseases from smoke exposure cause eight times as many deaths as malaria.

In 2004, Stove Team founder Nancy Hughes started the organization which developed the Ecocina, a portable, affordable, safe cookstove. Then finding local entrepreneurs willing to start sustainable factories to produce the stoves. Using local labor and materials, these factories help solve another problem in those areas—unemployment.

Javier Perez, tesorojp@sbcglobal.net
Livermore Valley Rotary
Polio in Afghanistan & Pakistan: Prospects for Eradication

The following is an excerpt from an extensive article outlining the state of affairs regarding the polio virus in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Furthermore, it reviews the unique challenges confronting the campaign for the eradication of polio in both countries while highlighting recent developments. If you would like the full article, please email TRF Today editor Jolene Bortz at jbortz@howardtours.net

Afghanistan is one of 3 countries in the world where polio remains endemic. Despite the endemic designation, much of Afghanistan is polio-free. In 2012, the disease was confined to three southern provinces. However, the 8 cases of polio confirmed in 2013 are located in the eastern provinces. Rural and isolated, these provinces are prone to attacks and generalized instability due to the close proximity of the Pakistan border, a lack of infrastructure, basic services and government oversight. Building on insecurity, the Taliban’s ban against vaccinations was one of the most critical obstacles facing healthcare workers in Afghanistan. However, in a positive development for antipolio campaigns, the Taliban recently revaluated their stance on the issue. Taliban leadership recently issued a statement in May saying, “According to the latest international medicine science, the polio disease can only be cured by preventive measures i.e. the anti-polio drops and the vaccination of children against this disease. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan supports and lends a hand to all those programs which works for the health care of the helpless people of our country.”

This recent reversal has presented anti-polio workers with a unique opportunity to reach a greater number of children living in areas previously impossible to access. As of July, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative confirmed 3 reported cases of polio in Afghanistan in 2013, whereas the same period of time in 2012 yielded 13 reported cases. By October 2013, the overall confirmed cases of polio for the year totaled 8. Although the impact of Taliban’s endorsement of polio vaccinations cannot be fully evaluated until more time has passed, the initial reports seem to suggest that the endorsement is making a difference.

However, despite the Afghan Taliban’s support for a vaccination process, cross-border transmission between Afghanistan and Pakistan remains a threat. Taliban factions operating within the tribal areas of Pakistan have not renounced the ban on vaccination campaigns. As such, individuals infected with the virus reintroduce polio in Afghanistan. According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, “Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan repeatedly re-infect one other.” This trend has the possibility of undermining any potential gains made from the Taliban’s recent announcement in favor of vaccination.

Compared to Afghanistan, Pakistan has a much higher occurrence of polio. In 2013, Pakistan confirmed 53 cases of polio, a number six times that of neighboring Afghanistan. Unlike the Afghan Taliban, the Pakistani Taliban continue to ban healthcare workers administrating polio drops to children. The most affected population are the children living in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). In 2012, Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ihsanullah Ihsan stated that “leadership decided to ban the vaccine because it was an excuse for the U.S. to send in its spies and expose Taliban leaders to drone strikes…we will allow vaccination when the U.S. stops its drone strikes.” In addition, the anti-vaccination campaigns were further impaired following the details of the US operation to hunt Osama Bin Laden. The operation used vaccination campaigns to obtain DNA samples from those living in the Abbottabad residence. The drone attacks and the killing of Bin Laden on Pakistani territory have intensified emotions within parts of society. In general, those living in areas prone to drone strikes, tend to feel wary of what they believe to be Western intrusions into their lives, reports The New York Times. Usman, a resident of FATA, represents an example of this mistrust against anti-polio campaigns. In an interview with The New York Times, Usman, who himself is crippled by polio, states his first three children were vaccinated against the disease but he declined the same when his youngest son was born. In an episode of cruel irony, his son was the first confirmed case of a child being crippled by polio in 2013. His decision to turn away the healthcare workers when they came to his village was fed largely by his “fury” over American drone strikes in the region. Coupled with the covert CIA hunt for Bin Laden’s DNA, Usman came to believe that the anti-polio campaigns were tantamount to a “Western plot” against Pakistan’s people and culture, an idea that is gaining traction in the loosely controlled tribal areas.

In his interview with The New York Times, Usman now admits that he “made a mistake” by not allowing his youngest to be vaccinated but states that Americans have caused pain in his community stating “Americans pay for the polio campaign, and that’s good, but you abused a humanitarian mission for a military purpose.”

Doctors and anti-polio agencies are worried that stories such as these may become all too common if the militant-imposed ban on vaccines continues in these regions. Children in North Waziristan and South Waziristan are at greater risk for contracting polio due to the inability to access vaccinations. Official Pakistani sources warn that medical workers have recorded over 50,000 incidents of families refusing the vaccinations for their children across FATA.
Afghanistan
- 2 new WPV1 case were reported. The total number of cases for 2013 is now 11, all of which were reported close to Pakistan border.
- No new cases reported of vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2).
- Subnational immunization days (sNIDs) were conducted in Nov. Further sNIDs are planned for Dec.

Nigeria
- No new WPV cases were reported. The total number of WPV cases for 2013 is 50.
- No new cVDPV2 was reported.
- Additional campaigns are planned for Dec.

Pakistan
- 6 new WPV1 cases were reported bringing the total WPV1 cases for Pakistan in 2013 to 70.
- No new cVDPV2 cases reported.
- The situation in North Waziristan is dire with the largest number of children being paralyzed by polio in all of Asia.

Chad, Cameroon and CAR
- In Chad, no new cases were reported. Nationwide immunization campaigns took place in Oct/Nov.
- In Cameroon, no new cases were reported. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains 4.
- Central African Republic, continues to be a serious risk of re-infection due to ongoing insecurity and destruction of helath infrastructure. SNIDS are planned for Dec.

Horn of Africa
- No new cases were reported. The total number of cases for 2013 in the Horn of Africa is now 203 (183 / Somalia, 14 / Kenya, 6 / Ethiopia).
- Outbreak response across the Horn is continuing. The number of newly reported cases from the epicenter has declined.

Israel, West Bank / Gaza
- Although no cases of paralytic polio has been reported environmental surveillance continues.
- Immunization activity with bOPV targeting children up to age nine is taking place through December.

West Africa
- No new WPV cases were reported. The most recent case in the region was in Niger Nov 2012.
- Multi-country synchronized immunization campaigns took place in West Africa in Oct. and Nov.

The Middle East
- In Syria, the total number of WPV1 cases remains 17. Prior to the outbreak the virus was last reported in Syria in 1999.
- A comprehensive outbreak response continues across the region. Large-scale immunization activity started 24 Oct to vaccinate 1.6 million children against polio in both government-controlled and contested areas.
- 7 countries and territories are holding polio vaccination campaigns targeting 22 million children under the age of five over the next 6-8 months. In a joint resolution, all countries of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region have declared polio eradication to be an emergency, calling for support in negotiating and establishing access to those children who are currently unreached with polio vaccination.

Total cases | Year-to-date 2013 | Year-to-date 2012 | Total in 2012
---|---|---|---
Globally | 355 | 205 | 223
- in endemic countries | 131 | 200 | 217
- in non-endemic countries | 224 | 5 | 6

- See more at: http://www.polioeradication.org/
Many Rotarians wonder if we are well served when we fund Global and District Scholarships with our District Designated Funds (DDF). They point out that there are more immediate needs for which these funds could be used. Most people know that I am passionate about Water and Sanitation projects as I feel these projects enhance all the other Areas of Focus of The Rotary Foundation. However, if we are to build a better world we must also create more long range strategies. I feel that providing scholarships to help educate individuals will stimulate the feelings of Peace, Goodwill, and Understanding for a lifetime. As District Governor Angie says in her message to the clubs “Who knows how our mentoring (scholarships) of young people will echo into the future…?” Wouldn’t it be wonderful if one of our scholars could set the tone for peace in the Middle East!

Please read the letter below, I think you will see how scholarships can be money well spent.

Roger

How We Give and Receive

A gift to The Rotary Foundation is an investment. Gifts to the Annual Fund enable Rotarians to change people’s lives and communities while creating lifelong relationships. Like financial investors, Annual Fund donors have the potential to receive returns far greater than their initial investment. Sometimes these returns occur immediately but often the returns occur over time.

I would like to share a story with you to demonstrate the global impact that results from your gifts to Annual Fund-SHARE. Of the many of students awarded scholarships from The Rotary Foundation to study abroad and expand cultural understanding there was one sent from the United States to South Africa. South Africa, a country characterized by a history of deprivation and impoverishment, changed his life forever. His scholarship experience reaffirmed his belief that making a difference in someone’s life can be life-changing for all people involved in the exchange – those receiving and those giving.

While serving as a Rotary Scholar, he became involved with Dr. Jane Goodall’s global youth organization, Roots & Shoots. They orchestrated AIDS workshops, tutored homeless youth, arranged township clean ups and home-stays. Additionally, they collected supplies for a home for the elderly, orphaned or disabled. Later Dr. Goodall arranged for him to volunteer with her community development project in Tanzania and selected him to join her delegation to a United Nations World Summit. These invaluable experiences led to global opportunities for him in Africa, North America, Asia and Europe.

This Rotary Scholar was later awarded a vocational scholarship from his sponsor Rotary club in recognition of his academic achievement and service to the community. He decided to study fundraising, because it aligned with the values he nurtured during his Rotary scholarship. He believes through fundraising you can educate and motivate people to improve the human condition globally. While earning his Masters of Science in Non-profit Management he was recruited to The Rotary Foundation. Today, he is privileged to work for the Foundation as an Annual Giving Officer serving with Rotarians in the western region of North America.

As a Rotary Foundation employee he has been able to leverage his Rotary Scholar experiences and connections to further the mission of Rotary. Dr. Jane Goodall, celebrated scientist, travels 300+ days a year as a UN Messenger of Peace. Dr. Goodall’s former volunteer, our Rotary Scholar turned Rotary employee, orchestrated the opportunity for her to speak at the Rotary International Convention in Birmingham, attend a Bequest Society reception and an Arch C. Klump dinner to honor our Foundation donors. After all, without these Rotary Foundation supporters, his scholarship to South Africa would not have been possible.

Using his connections and networks developed during his Rotary Scholarship, he was also able to connect with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The Archbishop was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in fighting the injustices of the apartheid regime and later appointed by Nelson Mandela to lead the Truth & Reconciliation Commission. This Rotary Scholar arranged for the Archbishop to speak
at the Rotary World Peace Symposium in Birmingham which explored world peace and understanding with our Rotary Peace Fellows and Rotarians.

Archbishop Tutu, a polio survivor, joined our “This Close” public service campaign to bring awareness to Rotary’s polio eradication efforts and signed the soccer ball that traveled to more than 20 African nations prior to its arrival at our Rotary Convention in Montreal as part of our “Kick Polio Out of Africa” campaign.

The Archbishop later spoke to more than 15,000 people at the Tacoma, Washington Dome to address some of the rising concerns about youth and violence in their community. The Archbishop’s youngest daughter (and head of his legacy foundation) spoke at a district conference in Alaska, and Peace Fellows have been contributing to blogs on the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation website.

The initial investment in this Rotary Scholar is quite small when compared to all the good that has resulted from his scholarship for him, Rotary and communities throughout the world. I can’t think of another fund like the Annual Fund that produces these kinds of global returns. Today this Rotary Scholar continues to support The Rotary Foundation’s Annual Fund-SHARE with recurring contributions through Rotary Direct. And, that Rotary Scholar is me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Happy Foundation Month and thank you Rotary!

Steven Solomon, Annual Giving Officer
The Rotary Foundation

Vote for The Rotary Foundation in United Airlines’ 10 Million Charity Miles Giveaway

Help us earn miles by voting for Rotary in United’s 10 Million Charity Miles giveaway. United Airlines is giving at least 25,000 miles to each of its nonprofit partners participating in the promotion. The more votes we get, the more miles we’ll receive. The remaining portion of the 10 million miles will be distributed to participating charities based on the percentage of total votes received.

Vote daily between now and 31 December. http://www.10millioncharitymiles.com/
The holidays are here, and in the coming weeks you'll see your mailbox fill with plaintive requests from every imaginable charity and nonprofit cause. I run one of them, so I should know.

If history is any indication, many of these requests will not go unrequited: The philanthropy monitor Giving USA estimates that U.S. nonprofits and houses of worship received an amazing $316 billion in 2012.

More than 70% of those voluntary gifts were donated by individuals and families. Even though donations dropped sharply during the Great Recession and have yet to fully recover, Americans still give away more than the entire gross domestic product of prosperous countries such as Israel and Denmark.

Survey data tell us about how Americans give. The University of Michigan's Panel Study of Income Dynamics shows that about two-thirds of Americans contributed to charity in 2009, even in the teeth of the recession. The average family contributed $1,239, or 1.6% of average income. We know that contributions climb as wealth and income rise, as one would expect. Giving also increases with age and education. Women give more than men, married people give more than singles, and religious Americans of all faiths give more than people with no religion.

American generosity is internationally exceptional and generally amazes foreigners, especially those from the social democracies across the Atlantic.

As a European acquaintance once asked me, "What's in it for you?"

A reasonable question. Leave aside for a moment the metaphysical rewards of giving; as a social scientist would say, they are "empirically untestable." Here in this mortal coil, does giving boost our odds of living longer and healthier lives? Will it make us more attractive? If we fail to donate, will others think we were raised by wolves?

The answer to all these questions is "yes." For starters, happiness and giving are strongly correlated. The University of Chicago's General Social Survey shows that charitable givers are 43% likelier to say they are "very happy" than nongivers. Nongivers are a whopping 3.5 times more likely than givers to say they are "not happy at all."

Skeptics will question the causality here. Does charitable giving make us happier, vice versa or both? Experimental studies hold the answer. In 2008, researchers from Harvard and the University of British Columbia found that the amount subjects spent on themselves was inconsequential for happiness, while spending on others yielded significant happiness gains.

Meanwhile, researchers at the University of Oregon attached fMRI scanners to participants and asked them to divide $100 between a food pantry and their own wallets. Choosing charity lighted up the nucleus accumbens, a brain center of pleasure and reward that also corresponds to pleasurable music, addictive drugs, and the bond between mothers and their children.

Giving improves our health, too. In a new study of more than 800 Detroit residents, a psychologist from the University of Buffalo found that volunteering significantly lowers the association between stressful life events and death.

Similarly, when researchers at Stanford University and the Buck Institute for Research on Aging tracked nearly 2,000 older Americans from 1990 to 1999, the researchers found that the dedicated volunteers among the group were 56% more likely to have survived through the study's end than nonvolunteers in identical health. And it pays to start early: A report published in 2008 by the University of California found that altruistic teenagers are physically and mentally healthier late in their lives than their less generous peers.

Charitable giving is even good for our looks. In 2009, Dutch and British researchers showed female college students one of three videos featuring the same handsome actor. In the first, he gives generously to a beggar on the street; in the second, he hands over just a little money; and in the third, the man gives nothing. The more he gave, the more handsome he appeared to the women in the study.

This no doubt explains why men loosen their wallets when trying to impress women. A 1999 experiment from the University of Liverpool showed that eager men on first dates give significantly more to a panhandler than men who are ensconced in comfortable long-term relationships.

As remarkable as all this may seem, these findings meet with scholarly consensus, not controversy. Giving generously to the causes we value really does boost our well-being and our esteem in the eyes of others. Consider the science and ask yourself: Can you really afford not to give?

So, on behalf of my colleagues in America's millions of nonprofits, voluntary organizations and houses of worship, I want you to know we're here for you. We want to help you become healthier, happier and better looking. Preferably before the end of the calendar year.
You are cordially invited to an elegant evening with

Dong Kurn Lee, PRIP
The Rotary Foundation Chair of Trustees

5:00 PM no-host Reception, 6:00 PM Program & Dinner
Saturday – January 18, 2014

Remarks by D.K. Lee
Evening program will feature the latest update on Thee End Polio Now Campaign and other Foundation Programs

Hilton Hotel, San Francisco Airport Bayfront
600 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, CA

Black Tie Optional
$100 per person or $900 per table of 10

Make reservation for you and your guests at http://tinyurl.com/kn3899c

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