



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary. Humanity in motion.
www.rotary.org

Rotary at a Glance

Established:

February 23, 1905,
in Chicago, Ill., USA

Founder:

Chicago lawyer
Paul P. Harris

Clubs:

33,000 clubs in more
than 200 countries and
geographical regions

Membership:

1.2 million men
and women

Chicagoland & NW Indiana:

About 200 clubs
totaling more than
8,000 members

Experience Rotary

Rotary membership gives men and women an opportunity to forge new friendships and share the rewards of helping others through volunteer service.

The Rotary club meeting is a chance for members to socialize, network, and plan service activities based on local needs and their own interests and talents. In addition Rotary clubs often team up with clubs in other countries to carry out international service projects, enhancing members' cross-cultural understanding.

Rotary clubs are open to people of every race, culture, and creed.

To learn more about the rewards of Rotary membership, visit www.rotary.org or contact a Rotary club in your community.

Rotary: a global network of volunteers

Humanitarian organization began in Chicago 103 years ago

When Paul Harris, a young lawyer in Chicago, formed a club with three friends on Feb. 23, 1905, he hoped to recapture the atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship he had experienced growing up in small-town America.

Because they rotated meetings between their offices, they called their group the Rotary Club. Members met weekly to socialize, network, and plan projects to help the community.

Over the next century Rotary grew from a single club into a diverse, international network of nearly 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical regions. Rotary's 1.2 million members are business and professional leaders united by the motto of Service Above Self.

Rotary clubs have no political or religious agendas and are open to men and women of all backgrounds.

Rotary's mission can be summed up this way: Acting alone, an individual's reach is limited, but when the right people work together, they can accomplish almost anything.

Rotary gives club members the opportunity to help people in need wherever they live, from supporting local food banks to helping AIDS orphans in Africa. In doing so, Rotary members work at the grassroots level to promote peace and understanding through humanitarian and educational programs that address the



Don Garner, a past president of the Rotary Club of Chicago, interacts with high school students training for summer internships provided by the club's Job1 program.

underlying causes of conflict, such as poverty, illiteracy, hunger, and disease. Rotary's top goal as an organization is the global eradication of polio.

For the past three years, the Rotary Club of Chicago, the world's first, has rallied the local business community to provide meaningful summer jobs for students in Chicago's public high schools. The club's Job1 program so far has mentored, trained, and placed nearly 200 teens in paid internships with businesses, nonprofits, and academic institutions. Many of

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the employers are Rotary members who see Job1 as a chance to serve the community through their professions, a Rotary tradition called "vocational service." Interest in Job1 has spread among Rotary clubs throughout the area, and the Chicago club

has received inquiries from clubs in other parts of the country and abroad.

Rotary also is the world's largest privately funded source of international scholarships, each year allowing about 1,000 college students to begin study as unof-

ficial goodwill ambassadors. Another Rotary program annually provides nearly 8,000 international exchanges for high school-age students.

Through Rotary's humanitarian and educational programs, its members work together at the local level to make the world a better place — one person, one family, one community at a time

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Rotary charts a direct course to world peace

While all of Rotary's humanitarian and educational programs advance the cause of international understanding by addressing the root causes of conflict, Rotary also takes a direct approach with two programs that give leaders the tools they will need to "wage peace" on the world stage.

Launched in 2002, the six Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution offer two-year, master's degree-level curricula aimed at helping the next generation of gov-

ernment officials, diplomats, and leaders develop the skills to reduce the threat of war and violence. Up to 60 Rotary World Peace Fellows are accepted yearly through a globally competitive selection process based on their professional and academic achievements. Grassroots Rotary members play an important role because fellowship candidates are sponsored by local clubs.

Chicagoan Scott Lang graduated from the Rotary Center at the University of Bradford, England, in 2007.

He now lives in Sarajevo and is a senior associate with the Democratization Policy Council, exploring strategies to nurture peace in post-conflict environments. "The Rotary Fellowship prepared me both intellectually and practically to conduct these analyses," Lang says, citing the value of his "exposure to leading academic practitioners and a cadre of colleagues steeped in field experience."

The other Rotary Centers are located on the campuses of International Christian Uni-

versity, Tokyo, Japan; Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina; University of California, Berkeley, California; the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia; and — in a shared arrangement — Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In addition to the Rotary Centers, Rotary also offers an innovative three-month program at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, aimed at upper-level professionals in government, nongovernmental organizations, and international industry. Launched in 2006, the Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program provides intensive training in mediation and conflict resolution to impart skills and knowledge that participants can immediately put into practice. The program accepts 30 fellows per session, with one-third of the openings reserved for students from outside Thailand.

Interested in becoming a Rotary World Peace Fellow? Contact a Rotary club in your area or send an e-mail to rotarycenters@rotary.org. For more information about the Bangkok program, e-mail bangkok.peacestudies@rotary.org.

Rotary's top goal: a polio-free world

Rotary club members have been working toward a polio-free world since 1985, when Rotary launched its landmark PolioPlus program. In 1988, Rotary became a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The initiative received a major boost in November 2007, when the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant, which Rotary pledged to match dollar-for-dollar over the next three years. The resulting \$200 million will be spent directly on polio eradication activities.

Since the initiative began, Rotary members worldwide have donated their time and resources to help immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries against this crippling disease.

By the time polio is eradicated, Rotary will have contributed \$850 million and countless volunteer hours to the cause. The goal is almost at hand, and today polio persists in only a handful of countries. Fewer than 2,000 cases are reported annually, compared with 350,000 a year in the late 1980s. A polio-free world will be Rotary's ultimate gift to children everywhere.

For more information about Rotary and polio eradication, visit www.rotary.org.



Bill Gates administers oral polio vaccine to a child in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2007.



Margaret Soo, of Malaysia, a Rotary World Peace Fellow in 2002-04, volunteers at a school for indigenous children in the Malaysian peninsula.