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About The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes world understanding through international humanitarian service programs and educational and cultural exchanges. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and others who share its vision of a better world. **Since 1947, the Foundation has awarded more than US\$1.68 billion in humanitarian and educational grants**, which are initiated and administered by local Rotary clubs and districts.

The Foundation was created in 1917 by Rotary International's sixth president, Arch C. Klumph, as an endowment fund for Rotary "to do good in the world." It has grown from an initial contribution of US\$26.50 to more than US\$73 million contributed in 2007-08 Rotary year. Its event-filled history is a story of Rotarians learning the value of service to humanity. In 2008, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave more than \$255 million to eradicate polio from the world.



A child receives a polio vaccination through the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus project.



A Rotary Foundation Matching Grant brought clean drinking water to this small village.

The Foundation's Humanitarian Programs fund international Rotary club and district projects to improve the quality of life, providing health care, clean water, food, education, and other essential needs primarily in the developing world. One of the major Humanitarian Programs is PolioPlus, which seeks to eradicate the polio virus worldwide. Through its Educational Programs, the Foundation provides funding for some 1,200 students to study abroad each year. Grants are also awarded to university teachers to teach in developing countries and for exchanges of business and professional people. Former participants in the Foundation's programs have the opportunity to continue their affiliation with Rotary as Foundation Alumni.



A Matching Grant from the Rotary Foundation provided solar energy for three rural schools near Santiago del Estero, Argentina.

For more information <http://www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/TheRotaryFoundation/Pages/ridefault.aspx>