

Appendix

Rotary International and Its Contribution to Peace: Historical Milestones

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To date, Rotary International is composed of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs with more than 1.2 million members. Through its membership and clubs, Rotary has an institutional presence in more than 200 countries around the world. As a civil society organization, it is one of the largest in the world, cutting across national borders, cultures, religions, and continents. In this regard, Rotary has built a human and organizational infrastructure that is unique, inclusive, diverse, and global. Using this infrastructure, with its human and material resources, Rotary has been engaged in several areas of service for over a century at the local, national, and international levels. Overall, the initiatives of Rotary center on the following six areas of focus:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development

Although Rotary International is well known for its general philanthropic initiatives, less is known about the group's contribution to international peace.

As World War I was coming to an end, Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary with the first Rotary Club in Chicago in 1905, uttered the following words: "The road to war is well paved. The road to peace is a wilderness." These insightful words mark one of the first testimonies of Rotarians' concern and interest in the issue of peace. It came at a time of global turmoil, when nations, although becoming increasingly interconnected through commerce, trade, and technology, rushed headlong into destructive warfare driven by the rising bellicose culture of nationalist and militaristic zealotry.

Harris's words also came at a time when international democratic institutions and peace and security institutions did not exist, or were too weak to curb the historical trends toward world wars.

Despite the havoc that surrounded them, from very early on Rotarians pursued and acted out of a vision that was ahead of the historical curve. As World War I was winding down, Rotarians became busy with strategies on how to contribute toward the betterment of the world. In 1917, Arch C. Klumph, the president of Rotary International at the time, proposed the establishment of an endowment "for the purpose of doing good in the world." The next vital step came in 1921 at the Rotarian Convention in Scotland. Here, the membership unanimously agreed to incorporate peacebuilding into Rotary's constitution and by-laws. In this way, a central goal of Rotary International was "the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world of fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service."

By 1928, the Rotary endowment had grown to over US\$5,000 and was named the Rotary Foundation, an entity at the core of Rotary International. More important, however, was that the purpose of the foundation was to empower Rotarians to promote and pursue practical initiatives for the purpose of advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace through improving health, supporting education, and alleviating poverty.

While the clouds of World War II were gathering, and while societies and nations around the world were poised for all-out war that would immerse the world into the most calamitous event in human history, Rotarians were mobilizing and erecting the signposts for peace. They strove for a new world with peacebuilding foundations and initiatives for the benefit of all peoples and nations. During their 1940 convention in Havana, Cuba, Rotarians adopted a resolution calling for "freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights." What is historically noteworthy is that this resolution provided the framework for what later evolved into the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

By 1942, in transcending defiance of World War II, Rotary clubs from twenty-one nations met at a conference in London, with the intention of envisioning and establishing some of the first building blocks for a postwar world. Thereupon, Rotarians developed a programmatic strategy for internationally advancing education, science, and culture after World War II. This initiative led the international dialogues on the restructuring of education once the war ended. This effort constituted the foundation that eventually led to the establishment of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

As the war came to an end, Rotary's work in promoting world peace and understanding reached a new milestone with a significant new international initiative. In April 1945, in San Francisco, Rotary International was at

the forefront in one of the most important developments in the interest of international peace: finalizing the charter that founded the United Nations. In light of its previous track record of peace initiatives, Rotary International was invited to attend the historic event by providing eleven official observers to the U.S. delegation. (Today Rotary International holds observer status at the United Nations.) By 1948 the Universal Declaration for Human Rights had been formally established following the framework and directives as articulated by the Rotary International Convention in Havana of 1940.

During the decades since the end of World War II and the founding of the United Nations, Rotary International, through its worldwide districts and clubs, has engaged in innumerable peacebuilding initiatives at the local, national, and international levels. One of its most ambitious undertakings, having a bearing on health in relationship to peacebuilding, was the launching of PolioPlus in 1985, an initiative to eradicate polio. To date, Rotarians have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio. Polio once infected more than 350,000 children annually. In 2011, only 650 cases were reported, and in 2012 only 223 were reported. The effort has resulted in the near eradication of the disease.

Along with the innumerable practical peacebuilding projects that it initiated, supported, and financed, Rotary has also promoted a culture of peace internationally through symbolic events, monuments, and declarations underscoring public commitment to peace. One of the many ways Rotary has been promoting a culture of peace was to work with city authorities and citizens around the world, officially declaring their respective city's commitment to peace by identifying their cities with Rotary's peace-enhancing vision and practices. In 1992, the City of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia, was declared the first Rotary Peace City in the world. Now there are more than sixty Rotary Peace Cities around the world.

The next step in Rotary International's contribution to peace came in 1996, when a decision was made to explore the idea of an educational entity dedicated to Paul Harris, as a way of commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of his death in 1947. The idea was to establish some form of center, institute, or university program that would reflect his ideas. This effort coincided with the eighty-seventh Annual Convention of Rotary International, during which President Herbert G. Brown reiterated the heart of Rotary's ways of serving the interest of peace with the maxim "Act with integrity, serve with love, work for peace."

The year 1999 became a historic milestone in Rotary's ongoing efforts to contribute to world peace and understanding. By decision of the Rotary International Trustees, Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution were to be established in partnership with universities around the world. Moreover, once the Peace Centers were established,

Rotary International would offer full scholarships to promising students from around the world, who would be invited to apply as prospective Rotary Peace Fellows. The Rotary Peace Centers Committee, in charge of this ambitious project, vetted more than 100 universities, from which it made its selection based on criteria such as geographic diversity, superior faculty, and an established two-year master's degree program in international relations, peace, and conflict resolution. In 2006, it added another component to this effort: a three-month professional development certificate program, designed to cater to professionals interested in peace studies and conflict resolution.

To date the Rotary Peace Centers serving hundreds of Rotary Peace Fellows are located at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (United States), International Christian University (Tokyo, Japan), University of Bradford (West Yorkshire, England), University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia), Uppsala University (Uppsala, Sweden), and Chulalongkorn University (a professional development center in Bangkok, Thailand). The first class of Rotary Peace Fellows graduated in 2004. Since then more than 1,000 Rotary Peace Fellows graduated and assumed professional leadership positions in the field in different countries around the world.

To date, of these Rotary Peace Fellows,

- 268 (38 percent) work for nongovernmental organizations or other peace-related organizations
- 110 (16 percent) work for a government agency or the military
- 66 (9 percent) are teachers/professors
- 61 (9 percent) are pursuing additional advanced degrees in peace-related fields
- 44 (6 percent) work in research or academic support positions
- 35 (5 percent) work for United Nations agencies
- 19 (3 percent) work for police or are involved in law enforcement
- 15 (2 percent) are lawyers
- 12 (2 percent) are journalists
- 10 (1 percent) work for the World Bank
- 40 (6 percent) defy easy categorization, including bankers, human resources professionals, and business owners
- 26 (4 percent) reported they are actively looking for work in the field.

Rotary Peace Fellows become meaningfully employed in various countries around the world. To date,

- 204 (29 percent) reside in North America

- 165 (23 percent) reside in Asia
- 106 (15 percent) reside in Europe
- 80 (11 percent) reside in Africa
- 64 (9 percent) reside in Australia and Oceania
- 53 (8 percent) reside in South America
- 25 (4 percent) reside in the Middle East
- 9 (1 percent) reside in Central America and the Caribbean.

The work of Rotary Peace Fellows is exemplary and inspiring. For example, two of them designed a project providing curriculum, peacebuilding training, and education to 200 teachers and 1,300 students in ten different high schools in Uganda. This initiative was made financially possible through a Rotary Foundation Global Grant, cosponsored by Rotarians in the United States and Uganda.

Individual Rotarians also launch peace initiatives. For example, over several years, two Rotarians, one of Greek background and one of Turkish background, designed and facilitated a series of problemsolving and peacebuilding workshops focusing on ethnically divided Cyprus and Greek Turkish relations in the eastern Mediterranean. These workshops brought together participants from the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities from Turkey, Greece, and the United States to discuss pressing issues in the ongoing Cyprus conflict, as well as avenues toward reconciliation and resolution. In attendance were leaders of civil society organizations, academics, former government representatives, and influential people close to current policy leaders. Reports, in the form of white papers, on the recommendations that resulted from the dialogue process were distributed to the leadership on the two sides of the conflict, as well as civil society organizations, party leaders, foreign embassies involved in the Cyprus issue, and the UN office in Cyprus.

There are innumerable other peace-worthy initiatives launched by Rotary Peace Fellows, Rotarians, or both in collaboration. They all underscore the ongoing contribution of Rotary International to peace.

The next significant milestone in Rotary's contribution to international peace came in 2012, when a group of Rotarians founded and launched the Rotarian Action Group for Peace, a semi-autonomous, international organization endorsed and authorized by Rotary International. As its name suggests, its vision and actions are explicitly and specifically centered on the area of focus of peace conflict prevention and resolution. In this regard,

Action Group for Peace provides an official entity that empowers and supports the peace work of Rotarians by offering structure, guidance and resources to further their peace efforts. Rotary already has a strong commitment to peace, and our organization will forge a path for existing