*Sent to all Members*

March 2, 2025

Dear {%FName%},

…and there is a difference.

It always disappoints me to hear a Rotarian say their club only cares about local service and local projects. It makes me wonder why they joined Rotary International.

Rotary International’s greatest accomplishment is probably the near total eradication of polio. And it will probably qualify Rotary for a Nobel Peace Prize when polio is history rather than reality. That is international impact.

My proudest Rotary recollections include hearing a woman in Haiti say that when Rotary gave her community a well, the children stopped dying. That’s why I’m proud to belong to an organization with a worldwide impact.

Or hearing a Youth Exchange student from Sweden say to others that if everyone could be a Rotary Youth Exchange student, there would be no war. That’s international impact.

Today, mothers and children in Third World countries have hope for a better life because Rotarians made possible micro-loans, books, access to health care, and sanitation. Hospitals in Guatemala have safe drinking water because of Rotarians in NE WI and the UP.  Ukrainian students are attending schools with electricity provided by generators made possible by Rotarians in Wisconsin and Michigan.

As impressive and important as the myriads of local service projects Rotarians make possible, may we never lose sight of our international opportunity to serve as well. The combination of local and international service makes Rotarians unique among service organizations.

Thank you to those who support international service and practice the dual focus of Rotary. Now, more than ever, we cannot lose sight of what makes us proud of our membership. That is our commitment to not only a better community but also a better world.

Thank you.

ROGER UTNEHMER
Rotary District 6220
District Governor 2024-25
(C) 920 495 9677