

2008-09 Foundation Annual Report

The Rotary Foundation 2008-09 Annual Report on Operations offers a comprehensive look at the nature, progress, and achievements of the Foundation's programs in responding to a range of humanitarian needs. It is also designed to be used as a decision-making tool to help manage the Foundation's operations.

Each section of the report begins with an executive summary of the highlights of the program covered. You will see how Ambassadorial Scholars, Group Study Exchange teams, Rotary World Peace Fellows, and Foundation alumni gained or applied skills in peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development.

Rotarians continued to give generously to The Rotary Foundation, despite the most challenging global economy in more than 60 years. This support enabled Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge for polio eradication to nearly reach the halfway point in funding and the Annual Programs Fund to record the third-highest total in contributions in the Foundation's history.

The Future Vision Plan, developed to help the Foundation take a simplified and more focused approach to grant making, moved closer to its pilot phase. Of the 277 districts that applied to participate in the pilot, 100 districts from 74 countries and all Rotary zones were selected.

In the past year, the Foundation managed almost 6,000 open humanitarian grants, totaling more than \$170 million in Foundation funding and sponsor contributions. Projects made possible by these grants are helping to save and change lives around the world. In response to the global economic crisis, however, the Foundation Trustees

approved several decisions to help ensure funding for both the Humanitarian Grants Program and Educational Programs.

The PolioPlus program played a central role in several achievements of Rotary International and its Foundation, including strong progress toward meeting Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. In addition, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, of which Rotary is a spearheading partner, was inducted into the Polio Hall of Fame; Rotary clubs illuminated several iconic structures around the world with the End Polio Now logo; and *The Final Inch*, a documentary featuring scenes of Rotarians volunteering during a National Immunization Day in India, was nominated for an Academy Award.

We hope you will find this report an informative and inspiring account of The Rotary Foundation's achievements in a challenging and an exciting year. The continued strong support of Rotarians worldwide will help Rotary keep its promise to children to eradicate polio and enable the Foundation to carry out its mission of improving health, supporting education, and eliminating poverty.

John T. Osterlund
General Manager
The Rotary Foundation of Rotary
International

For the complete report see:

http://www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/Financials/Announcements/Pages/09nov18annc_operations_report.aspx