Rotaract's Contribution to Polio Eradication

Rotaract clubs have been pairing with Rotary clubs in the fight against polio for some time. As one example, the Rotaract Club of Faridabad N.I.T., Haryana, India, joined its Rotary club sponsor in the operation of a free health clinic that provided polio vaccine to some 200 children and screened 25 young polio victims to determine their need for corrective surgery.

Because only 10 countries remain polio-endemic, many Rotaract clubs in polio-free nations do not have hands-on opportunities to help. These clubs are encouraged to creatively generate contributions to the polio eradication fundraising campaign, working wherever possible with Rotary clubs. Consider identifying a campaign goal. Then, appoint a chair. Finally, execute the fundraising event. And don't forget to let us know your results!

For further information, contact:
Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign
The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698 USA
(847) 866-3000
www.rotary.org

Project example: Building a water park

The Rotaract Club of Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, turned an old wading pool in Fort George Park into an imaginative, eye-catching water park with water cannons, spray guns, inground sprinklers, archway sprays, a spiral spraying tunnel, and other play elements — a major six-year-long project.

The city of Prince George provided C$50,000 for the project, but the Rotaract club obtained all the rest of the budget — more than $180,000 — through activities designed by its fundraising committee. Corporate sponsorship packages offered businesses the opportunity to donate $500-$20,000 in return for levels of acknowledgment and media recognition. A plaque campaign encouraged community members to purchase puzzle-piece-shaped plaques for $50 each, which were placed at the water park.

The community grew excited as local newspapers and radio stations promoted the 5 June 2001 opening of the wheelchair-accessible, safe water park. The opening ceremony paid tribute to David Ferris, a past Rotaract club president and major force behind the project, who died in a 1998 car accident. Because of the hard work and determination of Ferris and the Rotaract Club of Prince George, families will continue to enjoy the popular water park.
United States, Canada, and Caribbean to form new MDIO

At the annual multidistrict United States, Canada, and Caribbean (USCC) Conference, held 25-28 July 2002 at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, USA, Rotaractors and Rotarians agreed to form a Rotaract multidistrict information organization (MDIO) for the region. The conference theme, Make Contact, set the stage for the action.

In late August, Rotaractor Brandon Benavides, chairman of the steering committee elected at the conference, revealed the proposed MDIO’s name — ACCT: America Canada Caribbean Together. “ACCT will represent more than 400 Rotaract clubs in the region, creating awareness of information and taking action,” he said. Margit Karkela, committee vice president, said the committee hopes to have the bylaws approved by Rotary International soon so that the MDIO can be “a valuable communication source to Rotaract clubs in our region and worldwide.”

To date, 14 MDIOs have been created worldwide for the purpose of disseminating information and facilitating communication among district Rotaract clubs. If your club would like more information on forming an MDIO, please contact Rotaract staff at rotaract@rotaryintl.org.

Brisbane Rotaract Preconvention Meeting:

A Hopping Good Time

General
The Rotaract Preconvention Meeting in Brisbane, Australia, will be held on 30 and 31 May 2003, the two days prior to the Rotary International Convention (1-4 June).

Registration
Register early and pay discounted fees. Registration and housing forms are found online at www.rotary.org/meetings/conventions/brisbane.

The fee schedule is as follows:
- Before 31 December 2002 — US$44
- 31 December 2002 to 31 March 2003 — US$67
- After 31 March — US$89

Housing
Hotel Ibis, the designated Rotaract hotel, offers the low rate of AS$115 (approximately US$60) per night. All housing forms are due by 1 March 2003. Additional low-cost housing information is available from RI Registration Services; fax your request to (847) 866-3064.

Projects Exhibition
Display your club and district projects at the Projects Exhibition in the House of Friendship. For RI consideration of your project, complete and submit the Projects Exhibition Application by 7 February 2003. The form is located on RI’s Web site (www.rotary.org) under Meetings.

Host committees
Rotaractors are welcome to participate in activities planned by the Rotary Host Organization Committee. Check out its Web site at www.rotary2003.org for activity details.

Our Aussie Rotaract friends are already busy coordinating great social activities for this preconvention meeting. Stay tuned for more details from the Rotaract Host Committee.

Submit your club or district’s outstanding project for the 2003 Outstanding Rotaract Project award. Forms are available online at www.rotary.org/programs/rotaract/outstanding.html or by contacting RI Rotaract staff. The deadline for submissions is 1 March 2003. Winners will be recognized at the 2003 Brisbane Preconvention Meeting.

Make sure your club information in the 2002-03 Worldwide Rotaract Directory is up-to-date. If you have not received correspondence from RI, we may not have your correct contact information.

Rotaract by the Numbers*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rotaract clubs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rotary club sponsors</td>
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<td>Rotaract countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated membership</td>
<td>183,575</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*as of 1 September 2002

The place to be in 2003!

Please send news and photos to Rotaract staff contact Billy Jo Baker at Rotary International World Headquarters, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201-3698, USA; Tel: (847) 866-3315; Fax: (847) 866-6116; E-mail: rotaract@rotaryintl.org

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