

## WHAT IS ROTARY?

**R**otary is a global network of community volunteers. Rotary members are business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Some 31,000 Rotary clubs in more than 165 countries carry out service projects in their local communities and abroad to address such critical issues as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment.

**P**eace Rotary builds understanding through international scholarships, exchange programs, and humanitarian grants. In 2002, Rotary launched the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, an innovative program designed to educate tomorrow's peacemakers. Hosted at seven leading universities around the globe, the program funds 70 World Peace Scholars each year for graduate studies in international relations, conflict studies, and negotiation —

**P**olio Eradication In 1985, Rotary launched PolioPlus, an ambitious program to immunize the world's children against polio. Rotary's grassroots leadership, volunteer support, and initial funding for vaccine provided the catalyst for the World Health Assembly's resolution in 1988 to eradicate polio worldwide. Spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are the World Health Organization, Rotary International, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

**P**rogress Paul P. Harris formed the world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, on 23 February 1905. The Rotary motto is Service Above Self and, as it celebrates its centennial, Rotary continues to concern itself with truth, fairness, improved relations among peoples, and world peace. During World War II, Rotary members increasingly became involved in promoting international understanding. A Rotary conference in London in 1942 planted the

**P**eople Belonging to a Rotary club gives men and women an enjoyable and organized way to make a contribution to their community. Rotary members meet weekly to plan club, community, and international service activities. By using their skills and expertise globally, members also enhance their professional network, career development, and cross-cultural understanding. Rotary clubs are

**P**rojects Rotary clubs participate in a range of humanitarian, intercultural, and educational activities to improve the human condition. Rotary's humanitarian grants support club projects that provide health care and medical supplies, clean water, food, job training, youth development, and education to millions of people in need — particularly in the developing world. In addition, more than 200 grants each year fund the work of Rotary volunteers, who travel to parts of the world where their technical expertise and knowledge are most needed to alleviate hardship and solve problems.

providing promising leaders the tools to further the cause of peace. Some 35,000 students from 110 countries have also studied abroad since 1947 as Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars. Rotary's Group Study Exchange has helped more than 45,000 young professionals explore their career fields in other countries. And each year some 8,000 secondary-school students experience life in another country through Rotary's Youth Exchange program.

As a result of this partnership's efforts, polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988, and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease. Rotary members have given more than half-a-billion U.S. dollars and countless hands-on volunteer hours to this critical effort. The potential savings from polio eradication are as high as US \$1.5 billion per year — funds that could be used to address other public health priorities. The savings in human suffering will be immeasurable.

seeds for the development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and some 50 Rotary members served as delegates and consultants at the founding of the United Nations. Today, Rotary holds the highest consultative status with the United Nations that a nongovernmental organization can obtain. In this capacity, Rotary has a voice within the UN system, allowing access to its people and resources worldwide.

nonreligious, nongovernmental, and open to every race, culture, and creed. Members represent a cross-section of local business and professional leaders. To learn more about a Rotary club in your community, please visit the information for prospective members section of the Rotary International web site at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or contact your local club.

## WHY JOIN YOUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB?

### Professional Networking

A founding principle of Rotary was to meet periodically to enjoy camaraderie and enlarge one's circle of business and professional acquaintances. As the oldest service club in the world, Rotary club members represent a cross-section of the community's owners, executives, managers, political leaders, and professionals — people who make decisions and influence policy.

### Service Opportunities

Club members have many opportunities for humanitarian service, both locally and internationally. Service programs address such concerns as health care, hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and the environment. Rotarians experience the fulfillment that comes from giving back to the community.

### Friendship

Rotary was founded on fellowship, an ideal that remains a major attraction of membership today. Club members enjoy the camaraderie with like-minded professionals, and club projects offer additional opportunities to develop enduring friendships. Rotary club members who travel have friendly contacts in almost every city in the world.

### Good Citizenship

Weekly Rotary club programs keep members informed about what is taking place in the community, nation, and world and motivated to make a difference.

### Family Foundations

Rotary sponsors some of the world's largest youth exchange, educational exchange, and scholarship programs. Rotary clubs provide innovative training opportunities and mentoring for young leaders and involve family members in a wide range of social and service activities.

### Entertainment

Social activities give Rotarians a chance to have fun. Every Rotary club and district host parties and activities that offer diversions from today's demanding professional and personal schedules. Conferences, conventions, assemblies, and social events provide entertainment as well as Rotary information, education, and service.

### Ethical Environment

Encouraging high ethical standards in one's profession and respect for all worthy vocations has been a hallmark of Rotary from its earliest days. In their business and professional lives, Rotarians abide by The Four-Way Test: Of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3) Will it BUILD GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### Leadership Development

Rotary is an organization of successful professionals. Team building, fund-raising, public speaking, planning, organization, and communication are just a sampling of the leadership skills that club members can exercise and enhance. Being a Rotary leader provides further experience in learning how to motivate, inspire, and guide others.

## ABOUT ROTARY DISTRICT 7710

On August 1, 1914, Rotary came to North Carolina when the Rotary Club of Raleigh received its charter as Club Number 124 of the International Association of Rotary Clubs. The Club owes its existence to the dedication of Rotarian George W. Harris, the noted photographer of Washington, D.C., who traveled to Raleigh on April 29, 1914, to meet with ten interested businessmen. He made the trip not by a high-flying jet or a smooth super-highway, but by railway, taking many hours of his time. During the week following his visit, five men were added to the original ten, making fifteen charter members of the first service club in the state and in the present area of District 7710. George Harris did not rest on his laurels. On November 9, 1915, he was back in North Carolina, this time at Durham, where his enthusiasm led to the formation of the Rotary Club of Durham, chartered on January 1, 1916, as Club Number 196 — helping produce a fifty-eight percent increase in the number of Rotary Clubs worldwide in a period of seventeen months. As Rotary grew, there emerged the concept of Rotary Districts, each presided over by a District Governor. Commencing on July 1, 1915, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina comprised Rotary District 4, with the first District Governor as David P. Sites of Roanoke, Virginia. This geographic alignment lasted until June 30, 1922, when the increased density of Rotary Clubs made it necessary to subdivide the district into smaller segments. The first District Governor from what is now District 7710 was M. Eugene Newsom, of Durham, who served in 1924-1925. Gene Newsom went on to serve as the President of Rotary International in 1929-1930, the only native of the present District 7710 to be so honored. Much later (in 1967-1968), Luther Hodges, then living in Chapel Hill, also served as the President of Rotary International, so the district can claim two distinguished sons of Rotary.

Here are just a few of the activities the district and its 42 clubs participate in:

- RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly
- Take-A-Kid to the Ballgame
- Rotary Against Drugs - Speech Contest
- Boys & Girls Homes at Lake Waccamaw
- RAH - Rotarians Against Hunger
- CART - Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust
- Annual District Conference
- District Simplified Grants for Local Projects
- Take-A-Kid to the Ballet
- Rotary Friendship Exchanges
- Carolinas PETS - President Elect Training
- Mid-Year Assembly
- Ambassadorial Scholarships
- Rotary Peace Center at Duke and UNC
- Group Study Exchange
- Luther Hodges Ethics and Character
- District Rotary Foundation Seminars
- Scholar Sponsors