



ROTARY

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ROTARY AND EDUCATION

Rotary strives to promote peace through education. Since 1947, The Rotary Foundation has awarded more than US\$1.1 billion in humanitarian and educational grants and is the world's largest privately-funded source of international scholarships. Each grant is administered by local Rotary clubs.

ROTARY'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution

A two-year master's-level program that trains future diplomats and leaders in the art of peace building and conflict resolution, the program selects and sends up to 60 Rotary World Peace Fellows annually to study at seven participating universities. They are: Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA; Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina; University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England; International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan; University of California, Berkeley, USA; and University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

Ambassadorial Scholarships

Approximately 1,000 scholarships are awarded yearly to university students around the globe to study in another country for three months to two years. These students serve as ambassadors of goodwill.

Youth Exchange

Some 8,000 teenage students around the world study in another country and learn about its history, language and culture each year. They too serve as goodwill ambassadors.

Rotary Grants for University Teachers

Grants awarded to about 20 university faculty members yearly, who can teach for up to 10 months at an institution of their choice in developing countries.

Group Study Exchange

Another goodwill initiative, this program enables groups of young professionals aged 25-40 to participate in four-to-six-week exchange visits between countries.

ROTARY'S LITERACY EFFORTS

In 1985, Rotary declared basic literacy to be a pre-condition to the development of peace. Through this organizational emphasis, more than half the world's 32,000 Rotary clubs address the full range of literacy and mathematical challenges for primary, vocational, and adult learners as well as teacher training. Many Rotary members promote what is called "lighthouse" literacy projects – those that can be replicated easily, thereby increasing the scope of their impact.

Lighthouse literacy projects have been created for formal schooling, older children who are not in school, functionally illiterate adults (particularly women), special groups, and teacher's training. The purpose of these projects is to inspire, guide and support national authorities toward alleviating mass illiteracy in developing countries. In Thailand, for example, the "lighthouse" literacy effort has been so successful that the government adopted it as a national program. Similar literacy initiatives have been sponsored by Rotary clubs in Australia, Bangladesh, and South Africa.

Early Childhood and Primary Education

Early literacy training is critical to the success of a child's later education. Rotarians work with children, parents, and educators to encourage and build reading skills at an early age.

- The Rotary Club of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the Rotary Club of Footscray, Australia, helped introduce the Concentrated Language Encounter methodology to Dhaka's primary schools. The Bangladesh government is supporting the effort underwritten by a 3-H grant.
- The Rotary Club of Honolulu-Sunrise, Hawaii, USA, developed a "Read to Me" media campaign, encouraging parents to read aloud to their children. The project has been replicated in six other U.S. states and in Canada, and Mexico.
- Working with Human Rights Now, the Rotary Club of Lahore Midtown in Punjab, Pakistan established the Kasure Village School, paying teachers salaries and providing materials for students who would otherwise have no access to education.
- Canadian and Indian Rotarians established the Bombay Pavement College to give street children both literacy training and entrepreneurial skills. Students receive loans for such small business ventures as shoe shining, car washing, and bicycle repair.

Adult Literacy Programs

Many adults in both the developed and developing world lack the skills they need to hold a job or perform basic tasks required by everyday life. The hardships caused by illiteracy, from the difficulty in finding employment to the constant pressure to cover it up, often lead to a host of other problems. Rotary clubs work with adult learners to improve basic literacy skills and reeducate them to meet new job demands.

- The Rotary Club of Johannesburg, South Africa, in cooperation with The Rotary Foundation, a Rotary district in Alabama, USA and the National Literacy Cooperation established adult learning centers to teach literacy.
- Eight Rotary clubs in El Salvador are working with the national ministry of education and a five year program to establish a network of literacy centers which utilize local high schools students as tutors, supervised by state-selected teachers.
- The San Antonio, Texas, USA adult literacy program enlists Rotarians, spouses and others to tutor adults 18 and older on basic reading skills and practical applications such as reading newspapers and filling out job applications.
- The Rotary Club of Mataram Yogyakarta, Indonesia set up literacy classes in a rural community's health center.

Literacy and Women

Because girls do not have access to education in many parts of the world, the illiteracy rate among women exceeds that of men. Studies of illiteracy rates in low-income countries have shown a 20 percent difference between the genders. Providing women with literacy skills can have far-reaching positive effects. A mother who can read will teach her children to read, helping to break the cycle of poverty.

- The Rotary Club of Islamabad, Pakistan has established two female literacy centers. The literacy classes also train women on subjects such as family health care, hygiene, and income-generating activities.
- Nigerian Rotarians are addressing low literacy rates for women in their country. In Osogbo, a Rotary program provides two hours of daily literacy training to market women. In Ibadan, Rotarians coordinate the literacy training component of the vocational training conducted by the National Directorate of Employment.

ROTARY

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