

Our Foundation, The Rotary Foundation

Rtn Tusu, Rotary Club of Kampala North.

In Arusha, I watched lepers producing verdant gardens of vegetables, wielding hoes with fingerless hands, and looking very happy.

In Mombasa, I saw a three year old amputee being fitted with an artificial limb. It was challenging to watch someone so young facing such a hurdle in life.

In the Naivasha Safe House, children (some of them barely toddlers) abused by parents, relatives and friends, have lost all confidence in what you and I call “home”, a place of comfort and security. They get a new start in life at Safe House and, after some time there, once again blossom with the smiles and giggles of childhood.

In Nana Karodia, Gujarati, I interacted with happy little girls, even if we could not understand a word of each other’s languages, and the interaction was simply smiles. Their village had been destroyed by an earthquake, but the families had just moved into their new homes.

In the Nandi hills, Kenya, the villagers talked proudly about how they were maintaining their borehole.

In Dire Dawa, a modern eye hospital gives the opportunity of sight to people who thought they were blind for life.

In Namalemba, almost 1,000 people had to be turned away at the end of a medical camp: for many, this was the first chance to see doctor in their lives, having lived with their afflictions until that time. They cannot afford the transport to the hospital in Iganga 20km away. Yes, some can walk there, or be carried on a bicycle but, having got there, will they get to see the doctor or a nurse? And if they do, will they afford the medicine? Now a Health unit at Namalemba is going to be fully furnished and equipped, and these people will now have access to services daily services – along with the medication to treat them: they will no longer have to line up in the sun for a full day only to be turned away.

I could go on and on, from personal experience, for pages and pages...

Who does all this? Rotarians. How?

- By mobilising resources, each one putting something into the pot;
- By prudently investing these funds for a period of three years and then returning them to Districts to apply to service projects, while the profit they generate (and half the funds) during that period build up the pool of money available for projects all over the world, and especially in our countries - we thank the Paul Harris Fellows and the Rotary Foundation Sustaining members; and the members of the Paul Harris

Society who make a commitment to pay not just \$100 every year as the minimum recommended for any Rotarian, but \$1,000 every year.

- By permanently investing donations so donated so that the capital grows and only the earnings are used. We thank these Benefactors.
- By putting in place guidelines and procedures that ensure that service projects are appropriate, responsive to community needs, and are delivered through international partnerships to address that other objective of Rotary, international peace and understanding.
- By sending ambassadors (scholars, GSE Teams, and soon Vocational Training Teams) to parts of the world different from theirs so that we can all learn the common needs, common roots, and common challenges of people around the world. We all bleed red blood. We all smile the same way. We all care for family and friends.
- By using Rotarians as volunteers in the delivery of projects and care of scholars so that our funds reach their targeted needs.
- By creating The Rotary Foundation, Our Foundation in the financial sense in that it takes care of the resources we all jointly invest in service; And Our Foundation in the structural sense so that we can stand on it to deliver service.

Our Foundation, the Rotary Foundation: one cannot conceive Rotary and Rotarian service without it. Let us support it: through giving; and through identifying and implementing effective service projects.