



Dear fellow Rotarians,

Rotary has always had a great tradition of supporting youth projects and meeting the needs of children. As we celebrate Rotary's centennial, we can be proud of all that we have accomplished in the last 100 years, ranging from our earliest efforts to help youngsters with disabilities to our current effort to protect children against the ravages of polio through PolioPlus.

My wife, Mary, can tell you that my first priority is my family. We have three children and eight grandchildren. I treasure each moment that I spend with them, whether it's a formal holiday celebration or cheering them on the softball field. In the same way, our emphasis on the family of Rotary is just as important. As we commemorate New Generations Month in September, we must

continue to support Rotary programs and projects that improve the standard of living for children around the world. We are investing in our future when we invest in the world's children.

One of Rotary's oldest and most successful programs is Youth Exchange. Each year, some 8,000 students travel abroad to learn about other cultures and experience new ways of life. Youth Exchange provides a window to the world that results in international awareness and goodwill at the grassroots level. I have enjoyed getting to know many Youth Exchange students over the years who have gone on to careers in international relations, education, and humanitarian service.

It is important to remember that today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. As we look for ways to celebrate the centennial, I encourage Rotary clubs to start an Interact club if they do not have one in their community. Interact can serve as a young person's first introduction to Rotary service and become a stepping stone to Rotaract. This natural progression of service may lead to Rotary club membership and a lifetime commitment to Rotary's ideals.

As business leaders, Rotarians are in a unique position to serve as role models and mentors to youth. They can provide vocational guidance, career opportunities, and financial support for projects that benefit at-risk youth, homeless children, abuse victims and others in need.

This year, Rotarians can help children by supporting four areas of emphasis: family of Rotary, health concerns, literacy, and water management. The statistics reflect a grim reality: about 6,000 children die every day because of waterborne diseases, and millions of children cannot read or write because their communities lack the resources. Rotarians can reach out to these children by providing the necessary funds and support.

The Rotary Foundation Trustees have recently created a fund within the Permanent Fund to support humanitarian projects that address the needs of children. Rotary clubs and districts will be able to apply for funding from the Children's Fund after earnings become available. This will provide another avenue for Rotarians to fund efforts that specifically benefit children.

Rotary's greatest legacy may be its PolioPlus program, which has helped immunize nearly two billion children against polio. This is an incredible feat that may stand as our greatest achievement during our first century of service. As we celebrate our centennial year, we must continue our support until polio is eradicated in every country. When we achieve this goal, it will be our greatest gift to the world's children.

During the centennial, I encourage Rotarians to embrace new challenges and dreams. As we continue to Celebrate Rotary, let us not forget the children. Let us continue this historic journey to provide hope and a better life for the next generation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn E. Estess Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Glenn E. Estess Sr.
President, Rotary International

