

The Rotary Foundation's Future

Realising that The Rotary Foundation has been Rotary International's resounding success in the last five decades is the first step to build its future. In many ways it is the cause for the growth of Rotary International. Today TRF faces very big and different challenges.

The first is to convert donors into contributors. In total amount, TRF has collected many times than what it did a decade ago. But still does not reflect the potential of the members to contribute and it is a cause for concern. Well educated members give proportionately less when you take their earnings and capacity to give. To make contributors out of donors means that the Rotarians should see what they want to see — when each of them looks at himself or herself in the mirror in the morning they should be able to see themselves as a citizen who takes responsibility. Someone, who, as a neighbor cares.

I am reminded of the story of the rich father who called his four sons one day and asked them individually what they want to become. The first son said that he wanted to become a doctor, the second said attorney, the third said businessman and the fourth said that he wanted to promote peace! The astonished father asked him why. The son replied, "It is only when there is peace, can I think of doing something else." Everyone who cares for peace will have to safeguard the future of TRF by contributing to its growth to promote peace in this world through the various programmes.

In many countries we see impressive monuments built for the unknown soldiers who fought against tyrants and invaders. It was because of their



sacrifice that the country became independent and peaceful. TRF is like that monument built for peace and the unknown soldiers are the Rotarians who have given for the cause of peace. We may not be able to remember the names of all the donors, but Rotary will always remember their gift, small or large, with gratitude as it has helped someone or some community in some corner of the globe. The world needs people with the heart of Buddha and brain of Einstein. Rotarians can fit that bill.

A contribution of US \$1,000 and a PHF pin is not the end of giving. It is just the beginning. The personal contribution to TRF must become an annual feature as the programmes of TRF are laudable and are producing the desired results. A school boy was proposing the vote of thanks to the chief guest who had donated a large sum of money at the annual day. He said, "Sir, we will be very happy if you come again next year." The chief guest enquired why. The boy replied, "You will help our school again when

you come next year and many children like me can study."

A Rotary club cannot meet the diverse needs of the society even if it has resources. The network of TRF is the only way that your contribution can be multiplied to bring about the desired results in the community. TRF gives Rotarians a sense of community, gives purpose and gives direction. People who carry out the projects of TRF know that they are a member of a community. Rotary International is India's community. It increasingly gives the individual the ability to perform and to achieve.

Rotary International and TRF are human-change institutions. Devote more and more of your great competence, time and money to build their future.



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