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TEN-YEAR-OLD FUNDRAISES FOR POLIO ERADICATION

By Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 27 April 2009

A lot of Rotarians could take a cue from one spunky 10-year-old from Eugene, Oregon, USA, who has raised a little more than \$1,640 for [Rotary's US\\$200 Million Challenge](#).

Ian Schwartz, a fourth grader at St. Paul Parish School, decided to collect money for charity in lieu of gifts from friends for his birthday, in keeping with a family tradition. Ian's mother, Sherilyn, is a member of the Rotary Club of Eugene. When the February issue of *The Rotarian* arrived at their home, Ian was inspired by the illustrated "[Amazing Stories of Polio](#)" inside, and news of the [recent \\$255 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#).

"He said to me, 'Mom, I can't raise \$255 million.' I told him, 'Yes, but every little bit helps,'" Sherilyn recalls.

Ian began researching polio on the Internet and created a presentation for a school assembly. His classmates had a personal connection to the disease that they didn't even know about, Ian said: The school's music teacher had contracted polio as a child but fully recovered because of the care available to him in the United States.

After setting up a booth in the lunchroom, Ian spent his lunch hour and recess collecting donations, raising \$284. His parents matched that amount, bringing his total to \$568.

"We gave him the choice of receiving a PlayStation Portable from us for his birthday, or having us match his effort," says Sherilyn. "He opted for the match. Of course, we also bought him the PSP."

Ian then took his fundraising effort to the Eugene club, where he shared the results of his research and his dedication to making a difference. With more than 200 club members in attendance, including Mike Fischnaller, governor of District 5110 (parts of Oregon and California), the Rotarians passed around the hat and raised more than \$900, bringing Ian's total contribution to Rotary's challenge to almost \$1,500.

Because of his donation, Ian qualified to become a Paul Harris Fellow, and through the club's matching recognition points, he will also be able to choose two additional recipients to receive the recognition.

"I'm very proud of him," says Sherilyn. "I think polio eradication is a great endeavor. I would like to see more kids ask their friends for donations to a good cause like this than to receive a bunch of stuff for their birthday that they don't need."

Fischnaller was so impressed with Ian's efforts, he has invited him to address the district's conference on 30 May in Corvallis.

"He's a little tentative about it, but he's excited at the same time," says Sherilyn, who notes that Ian is no stranger to standing before an audience: He has taken part in readings before his parish once a year when his class has hosted Mass.

SCHOLARSHIP GIVES BREAK TO YOUNG FRENCH JOURNALISTS

By Joseph Derr Rotary International News -- 28 April 2009

Le Rotarien, the certified Rotary regional magazine of France and 38 other Francophone countries, serves more than 39,000 Rotarians. Now through a scholarship program developed in 2002, it also fosters the careers of budding journalists.

The magazine awards four scholarships up to €10,000 (US\$13,750) to young journalists to create a short digital video documentary. The jury includes *Le Rotarien* staff, journalism school professors, and independent media executives.

"The award is an excellent way to develop relationships with the journalist teachers in the 12 major journalism schools in France," says Brigitte Marquand, the magazine's public relations and media specialist. "It also helps improve the public image of Rotary in the press circle."

Alexandre Paré, one of the 2008 recipients, recently graduated from the Centre de Formation des Journalistes in Paris. He now works as a broadcast journalist for BFMTV, a rising 24-hour French cable news network.

For Paré, whose film on a hospital train in Zambia was scheduled for completion in March, the scholarship is worth years of experience in the field.

"There are very famous journalists on the jury, and it was very thrilling to convince them that my project was worth filming," Paré says. "It's the best encouragement you can get as a journalist."

The 32 [Rotary World Magazine Press](#) publications are vital to spreading Rotary International's messages throughout the world. All Rotarians are required to take either [The Rotarian](#) or the regional magazine serving their area.



District governors can support the regional magazines by encouraging timely subscription payment by all club members and sending article ideas to the editors.

INDIA COUPLE PLEDGES US\$2 MILLION TO FOUNDATION

By Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 30 April 2009

A desire to improve literacy in their homeland of India has motivated recent [Arch C. Klumph Society](#) inductees Rajendra R. and Shubha Laxmi Chhapwale to commit an additional US\$2 million to The Rotary Foundation over the next three years.

Rajendra made the announcement during the couple's induction into the society 23 April at RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA, where their portrait now hangs in the Arch C. Klumph Gallery. The Chhapwales' daughter, Amarja, and son-in-law, Christopher Webb, of Los Angeles, also attended the ceremony.

"It is our concern for the deprived and unprivileged children in our country that made us come here," Rajendra said to the assembled Rotary leaders, dignitaries, and guests. "Rotary is doing such meaningful work through its programs, like polio eradication, Matching Grants, and Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants, throughout the world. I realized that The Rotary Foundation is just the right organization, where proper justice is done to the donations."

The couple has already contributed \$250,000 to the Foundation and established an endowed fund. The new pledge will go toward increasing this endowment fund.

"One of the thrust areas of Rotary International is literacy. We thought that by establishing this endowment fund in The Rotary Foundation, we can help this cause more effectively, and the results would be faster," Rajendra said. "With the wider net of Rotary clubs all over India and also through the Matching Grants program, this task is possible and achievable."

Rajendra is the founder of Monarch Realty Developers Pvt. Ltd., a property development company that has constructed more than a million and a half square feet of commercial and residential space in and around Mumbai. He joined the Rotary Club of Mumbai North Island, Maharashtra, in 1989. Shubha is also strongly committed to Rotary: She is a member and past president of the Inner Wheel Club of Mumbai North Island and will serve as district chair in 2011-12.

In 2007-08, Rajendra served as president of his Rotary club, which increased his appreciation for the Foundation's work. "I became more aware of the tremendous activities done by The Rotary Foundation," he explained.

Rajendra said he and his wife have been working to improve literacy in their country for some time.

He has worked closely with Child Rights and You, a grassroots nongovernmental organization that addresses the needs of children throughout India. He also helps construct, renovate, and maintain primary and secondary school buildings in rural areas of the country.

"The root cause of all evil is poverty, and poverty can be eradicated only with the spread of education," Rajenda said. "A substantial part of India's population is uneducated rural children. The future of these children is the future of our country."

"We believe it is our responsibility to educate these children and provide opportunities in their life. It is only because of opportunities we have been blessed with that we are all here today. This form of opportunity should be made available to every child on this earth. Whatever I can, I must do. And I shall do."

QUINNIPIAC ROTARACT CLUB

Outgoing and Incoming Executive Boards



Outgoing Executive Board Left to Right: Kate Elliot, Fadila Dawuni (Ghana), Joe Jager, V.P. Kyle McKendrick, Pres. Mike Erzingher. Not Present Sandy Torres & Phil Treiber.



Incoming Executive Board Left to Right: Carol-Ann Kinaw, (unknown), Jillian Ebanks, Pres. Kristin Gabriel, Joe Jager, Kate Elliot, Rtn. Dave Marsteller (Philadelphia Metro), & Mliagros (Milu) D'Elia (Argentina).


JOKE OF THE WEEK

A local Lutheran congregation had a less fortunate family so they hired them to paint the pastor's house. The frugal family added a quart of water to each gallon of latex paint. A week later a strong storm washed most of the paint off the pastor's house. He approached the worried family and said: "Repaint and thin no more"!

MEETING SCHEDULE

May 11 th	Nancy Dudchik – Hamden Chamber of Commerce
May 25 th	NO MEETING
Jun 21 st -24 th	International Convention – Birmingham UK
June 30 th	Ambassadorial Scholarship Application Deadline

Of the things we think, say, or do...



Is it the TRUTH?
 Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
 Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?