



**Dong Kurn Lee**  
Rotary International President

**Rick Benson**  
District Governor

**Paul Mangels**  
Assistant District Governor

**Mohammad Elahee**  
Rotary Club of Hamden President

## CONTENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Husband, wife team aim to end poverty .....      | 1 |
| Special hut promotes peace in West Africa.....   | 1 |
| Rotary responds to polio outbreak in Africa..... | 2 |
| Future Vision pilot deadline approaching.....    | 2 |
| Joke of the Week.....                            | 3 |
| Meeting Schedule.....                            | 3 |

## HUSBAND, WIFE TEAM AIM TO END POVERTY

By Diana Schoberg Rotary International News -- 8 May 2009

Noting that "world peace can only come when there is no poverty," Frank and Kathleen Mayhew of the Rotary Club of Sebastopol, California, USA, urge Rotarians to take a new direction to end poverty. To do that, the husband-and-wife team proposes their "[Adopt a Village](#)" model.

Here's how it works: A Rotary club in a developing country selects a village, assesses its needs, and designs a project with health, food production, and education components. (Clean water and malaria prevention elements are required under the health heading if they are problems in the village.) A partner club adopts the village, addressing all three issues at once. Projects usually cost about US\$30,000; some have been completed through Matching Grants from The Rotary Foundation.

Villages in Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Uganda have participated with support from partner clubs in Canada, England, and the United States. The Mayhews, who have given presentations at several North American clubs, currently act as matchmakers, but they encourage clubs with good working relationships to take the concept and run with it.

"While Rotary has had 3-H grants, which are huge grants, nobody has really looked at the multielement grant. It kind of comes as a surprise to people," says Frank Mayhew, who chairs the grants subcommittee for District 5130. "It does make sense."

### Village inspires GSE team

When a Group Study Exchange team from District 5130 (California, USA) visited District 9110 in Nigeria, team members spent a day in Ijado, a prospective Adopt a Village project site. They learned that the village lacks a health clinic, that villagers fetch water several times a day, and that fewer than 10 percent of adults can read and write.

"What we brought back is passion," says Susan Cole, team leader and member of the Rotary Club of Windsor, California. "I can't tell you how moving it was to be there and talk to the women in the village. It's personal: It's not just a project, it's a connection."

## SPECIAL HUT PROMOTES PEACE IN WEST AFRICA

By Jennifer Lee Atkin Rotary International News -- 6 May 2009

In the small border town of Jendemah, Sierra Leone, Richelieu Allison is known as "the peace hut guy."

It's a title he's earned: Months of weather delays, poor road conditions, building material shortages, and even a snake bite haven't kept Allison from constructing a peace hut for this community of 10,000.

Now the focal point of a special park, the palaver hut was built with help from the Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone, and The Rotary Foundation. Allison, a 2006 Rotary World Peace Fellow, hopes it is only the first of several huts linked by a caravan that he envisions as a "cross-border, people-to-people movement for peace."

In West African culture, a palaver hut is where town chiefs and elders settle conflicts. "The construction of these huts will provide a permanent forum not only for the local people to settle disputes but also to discuss issues relating to development," Allison says.

Jendemah connects Sierra Leone and Liberia by way of the Mano River Union Bridge. Constructed along a major trade route in 1973, the bridge was meant to be a symbol of regional prosperity.

But people on both sides have endured decades of mutual fear and distrust. The civil war that broke out in Liberia in 1989 degenerated into a conflict that spread to Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The war officially ended in 2003, but the bridge didn't reopen until 2007.

"There is still a need to ensure that the people continue to reconcile their differences," Allison says.

A native of Liberia, Allison knows the horrors of war. "I saw summary executions. I witnessed the recruitment of some of my friends who, as young as eight, were sent to the battlefield," he recalls.

Determined to restore peace to his country, in 2001 Allison helped found the [West African Youth Network](#), which trains young West Africans in peace-building and other humanitarian endeavors.

In 2006, he became a member of the inaugural class of the [Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies certificate program at Chulalongkorn University](#), in Bangkok, Thailand. Soon after, he began envisioning a peace caravan.



Once he secures funding and materials, Allison plans to construct seven more palaver huts along historically troubled borders in the region. Each hut, which costs US\$5,200 to build, will have [The Four-Way Test](#) inscribed on it, he says.

Allison, along with local Rotarians and members of the West African Youth Network, will then travel to each palaver hut to conduct conflict resolution workshops and hold peace vigils.

The hut in Jendemah has already had an impact. "The construction process helped people to focus and think about the importance of peace," Allison says. "It has brought together chiefs and elders, immigration and law enforcement officers, young people and traders, on both sides of the border."

## ROTARY RESPONDS TO POLIO OUTBREAK IN AFRICA

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 1 May 2009

A recent wild poliovirus outbreak in southern Sudan has spread into parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

In response, Rotary is providing a total of US\$500,000 in emergency grants to UNICEF and the World Health Organization for immediate immunization efforts in the Horn of Africa.

In January, The Rotary Foundation Trustees approved \$2.2 million in PolioPlus grants to support immunization activities there.

The outbreak requires urgent action by governments and partner agencies to make the region polio-free, health officials say. The emergency response is aimed at reducing the threat of the virus spreading to other polio-free countries, a process called importation. The emergency grants will support immunization activities in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda through May. Immunization rounds are also continuing in southern Sudan in an effort to halt the source of the outbreak.

"Polio importations highlight our global vulnerability to infectious disease, particularly where routine immunization is low and vulnerable children are missed," said Carol Pandak, manager of PolioPlus.

The government of southern Sudan has launched a polio eradication action plan, including the formation of an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee, which is placing full responsibility and accountability for the outbreak response on state and district governments. President Salva Kiir Mayardit has issued a directive to all 10 state governors, requesting that they secure the support of nongovernmental organizations and traditional and religious leaders for the effort.

### Leadership commended

Dr. Hussein Gezairy, director of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean region, commended the government of southern Sudan "for putting in place these important new measures to address this dangerous spread of disease.

It is precisely this leadership which will help ensure the outbreak is rapidly stopped and will prevent further international spread. No child in southern Sudan need ever again know the pain of life-long polio paralysis."

The persistent outbreak in southern Sudan threatens the progress made by polio-free countries in eliminating the wild virus and preventing importations. Although outbreaks sometimes occur during eradication efforts, they do not lessen the feasibility of the eradication initiative. Outbreaks do, however, highlight the critical need to stop polio transmission in the remaining polio-endemic countries, such as Nigeria and India, which have exported the poliovirus to other nations in recent years, health officials say. The only other endemic countries are Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Large-scale outbreak response is now underway across the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and northern Sudan. An immunization campaign was held in southern Sudan 27-29 April, targeting more than 2.9 million children under age five. The next campaign is scheduled for 26-28 May.

"Experience shows that where polio transmission has been stopped before, it can be stopped again," said Pandak. "A fast, large-scale, and high-quality immunization response and strong surveillance are absolutely critical to prevent the virus taking hold in the longer term."

## FUTURE VISION PILOT DEADLINE APPROACHING

By Arnold R. Grahl Rotary International News -- 7 May 2009

As of 6 May, more than 175 districts have submitted applications to participate in the Future Vision Plan pilot.

Applications must be submitted through Member Access by 15 May.

"The Rotary Foundation Future Vision Plan will enhance Rotarians' capacity for service," says Luis Vicente Giay, Future Vision Committee chair. "It will strengthen Rotary and our Foundation and will allow our Foundation to better fulfill its purpose: Doing Good in the World."

The [Future Vision pilot](#), which will begin 1 July 2010, is a three-year test of a new grant structure. To simplify the grant-making process, the plan offers only two types of grants: [Rotary Foundation District Grants](#) and [Rotary Foundation Global Grants](#).

District grants, modeled after the existing District Simplified Grants, are block grants made to districts for up to 50 percent of their District Designated Fund (DDF) and can be used for a wide variety of activities. Global grants support larger, international projects with sustainable, high-impact outcomes in one of the [six areas of focus](#).



District governors-elect, district Rotary Foundation committee chairs, and regional Rotary Foundation coordinators (RRFCs) from the districts selected for the pilot will receive training immediately before the 2010 International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. Clubs in the pilot districts will undergo training later in the 2009-10 Rotary year.

Future Vision Committee member Mark Maloney cites several advantages to participating in the pilot. Pilot districts will be able to provide input into the refinement of the grant structure, receive specialized support and service, and have earlier access to more funds to use at their discretion. The current District Simplified Grants program allows districts to request only 20 percent of the DDF.

At the same time, the pilot districts must commit to three years and will need to be patient and flexible, he says, as some changes may occur as the pilot moves forward.

"We are standing at a moment of unprecedented change and unequalled opportunity," Maloney told RRFCs at an annual training meeting in Chicago earlier this year.

### JOKE OF THE WEEK

A Lutheran arrives at the Pearly Gates and St. Peter bids him welcome. He tells him, "All the Lutherans are in Room 10, but please be quiet as you pass Room 4." The Lutheran says thanks and enters.

A Methodist arrives next. St. Peter welcomes him and says, "All the Methodists are in Room 7, but be sure to be quiet when you go by Room 4." The Methodist nods and enters.

A Latter-Day Saint shows up a moment later, and St. Peter checks his name off the list. He says, "All the Mormons are in Room 14, but be sure to be quiet when you go by Room 4." The Mormon starts to enter, but turns and asks, "Why, wants in Room 4?"

St. Peter answers, "The Catholics." The Latter-day Saint is puzzled. "So why do you want me to be quiet?" St Peter replies, "Because they think they are the only ones here."

~Brian Phelps, Stockton, California

### MEETING SCHEDULE

|  |  |
|--|--|
| May 11 <sup>th</sup>                   | Nancy Dudchik – Hamden Chamber of Commerce     |
| May 18 <sup>th</sup>                   | Student of the Month - Westwoods               |
| May 25 <sup>th</sup>                   | <b>NO MEETING</b>                              |
| Jun 21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> | International Convention – Birmingham UK       |
| June 30 <sup>th</sup>                  | Ambassadorial Scholarship Application Deadline |

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

