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INK CARTRIDGE/CELL PHONE FUNDRAISER

Our group is participating in a recycling fundraiser by collecting used cell phones, inkjet cartridges and empty toner cartridges to raise money for our local and international humanitarian projects.

Unlike other fundraising projects, there is nothing to buy. This recycling program is an easy way for us to raise money and help the environment at the same time by reducing the amount of non-biodegradable waste in our landfills.

Did you know:

- ✎ Over 100 million cell phones will be thrown out this year alone.
- ✎ Printer cartridges create over 1.9 billion pounds of non-biodegradable waste; and
- ✎ One cell phone can pollute up to 34.9 gallons of water?

Can we count on your help? It's easy!

Please collect used cell phones and empty inkjet print cartridges, laser toner, copier toner, fax toner and multi-functional printer cartridges from your home, work, co-workers and neighbors. Bring them to the next Rotary Club meeting.

NOTE: please collect these items in separate containers, as the toner residue can damage cells phones or inkjet cartridges.

Please erase all data on your cell phone. But don't worry—as an extra security measure, our recycling company will double check to make sure all data is deleted.

There is no cost to our group to participate in this recycling program, so 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club of Hamden.

Our goal is to ship out our first collection of cell phones and cartridges on 15 February 2010 so could you please help us out this week? With your help, this is going to be a great way for us to raise money and help the environment.

This is an ongoing fundraiser; so when you have more cartridges and cell phones ready, please contact me!

Thank you for your continued support!

ROTARY TACKLES UNCOMFORTABLE TOPIC

[Independent Mail](#) Posted December 30, 2009 at 10:53 p.m.

Rotary International's membership magazine *The Rotarian* has featured many provocative humanitarian concerns on its cover in the past few years, but it hit a new mark in the January issue.

The cover features a schematic drawing of a man and a woman, the type that is found on public restroom doors, and the words, "Billions of people have nowhere to go. What a mess."

The article by Rose George tells in excruciating detail what it's like in places where there is literally nowhere to do what human beings do several times a day except the side of the road or beside a tree in the woods. This "problem no one wants to talk about" is actually one of the world's major health problems, she argues, affecting 2.6 billion people who have no sanitary toilets.

Why? Because the bacteria in human feces left out in the open are carried about on hands and feet into living spaces. "It finds its way into food and drink, with desperate consequences," George writes. "Diarrhea — 90 percent of which is caused by contaminated food or water — kills up to two million people a year, most of them children."

Diarrhea kills more children under age 5 than AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria. "In graphic terms," she explains, "diarrhea's death toll is equivalent to two jumbo jets full of children dying every four hours."

Even so, the taboo nature of the topic and cultural differences that prevent uneducated people from accepting the convenience of a sanitary toilet are tough to break through. George notes that the framers of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals included sanitation in the goals with reluctance, even though preventing diarrhea would enhance the eagerly embraced goals of universal primary education, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and reducing child mortality.

Money and government concern won't solve the problem alone, however. George tells of a failed attempt by the Indian government to introduce new sanitary latrines in the 1980s. They went unused "at least for their intended purpose," she writes. "Maybe because they were nicer than people's houses, so they were turned into extra storage spaces or temples." She explains that installing new "hardware" has to be accompanied with "software": human psychology and language to get people to embrace the sanitary toilet and abandon the old ways.



Rotary Clubs have been involved in public sanitation almost since the first club was established by Paul Harris in Chicago in 1905. The club's very first public service project in 1907 was building "comfort stations" outside Chicago's City Hall. Many clubs have supported international sanitation projects, the most successful of which are done in partnership with local leaders.

We expect this cover article will get lots of Rotary Clubs talking about sanitation projects in remote corners of the world. George suggests enlisting celebrities "who happily promote a clean and shiny water faucet in a dusty village, with a photogenic child in tow, but don't bother to take a few steps over to the latrine that has enabled that child to go back to school and prolonged her life."

Need a new cause, Brad and Angelina? Or how about Tiger Woods? After all, he's taking a break from golf and needs to rehabilitate his reputation.

Seriously, we hope this provocative Rotarian cover story brings attention to an uncomfortable subject that sorely needs addressing. Think about it. If the indoor toilet in your home or place of work mysteriously disappeared, where would you go?

NIGERIA THE 2009 LEADER IN PROGRESS TOWARD ENDING POLIO

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 8 January 2010

The incidence of polio in Nigeria dropped by more than 50 percent in 2009 to 388 cases as of 22 December, compared with 783 cases for the same period in 2008.

Most dramatic was the decline in the transmission of the type 1 wild poliovirus, to 74 cases from 707. Also, the proportion of unimmunized children in Nigeria's highest-risk states fell below 10 percent for the first time.

The [World Health Organization's](#) Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication attributes 95 percent of the world's progress against the disease in 2009 to Nigeria's success. Rotarians are playing a key role in their country's gains by

- ℞ Immunizing children and helping to overcome resistance from families initially opposed to vaccination
- ℞ Airing public service announcements on state radio and sponsoring town criers to urge mothers to bring their children to immunization posts
- ℞ Monitoring National Immunization Days and Immunization Plus Days, and handing out soap, school supplies, and other items to children who were vaccinated
- ℞ Advocating with government, religious, and traditional leaders to step up support for ending polio
- ℞ Conducting a national workshop in September to train local Rotary leaders in polio eradication

"There is a big momentum, much more than ever before, of the federal government, more state governments, and traditional leaders, as well as some local governments, to mobilize all the needed forces," says Busuyi Onabolu, chair of the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee. The effort aims to ensure "that the required quality of the campaigns is regularly implemented and every child is immunized with the potent OPV [oral polio vaccine] drops."

Supplementary Immunization Plus Days in November "witnessed a massive support from traditional leaders," says Onabolu. "There is no doubt that the traditional and religious institutions have added a new and positive dynamic to the polio eradication campaign."

Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate, executive director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, the government entity responsible for polio immunization activities in Nigeria, pointed to "an enormous responsiveness on the part of parents in many states" as key to the success of Immunization Plus Days in October that reached more than 30 million children.

Other allies in Nigeria's drive to end the disease include Journalists Against Polio and the Forum of Muslim Women of Nigeria, both with networks in the country's high-risk northern states. Organizations like these are working in partnership with the media and communities to help coordinate the promotion of polio eradication.

A bivalent vaccine, already in use in Afghanistan, has been developed to stop the transmission of the type 1 and type 3 wild polioviruses simultaneously. According to the WHO, the vaccine is intended for introduction in India and Nigeria by late January and is expected to be "a critical new tool" in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Learn more about Rotary's effort to eradicate polio:

- ℞ [Read more](#) about polio and what you can do to help.
- ℞ [Watch a video](#) about Rotary's progress in meeting the US\$200 Million Challenge

SETTING PACE FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN UGANDA

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 6 January 2010

Robert Opira of Uganda is a master of understatement when he calls his first job out of college "very challenging work." As a psychological counselor and project manager for World Vision, he helped rehabilitate and resettle more than 12,000 former child soldiers in northern Uganda from 2002 to 2005.

"The Lord's Resistance Army had abducted and recruited an estimated 36,000 children, the youngest being seven years old," says Opira, a member of the Rotary Club of Gulu and former Rotary Peace Fellow. "It was this kind of work that motivated me to apply for the Rotary Peace Fellowship. I thought maybe I would do something to help prevent war, rather than addressing the consequences."



While a 2005-07 [peace fellow](#) at the University of Queensland in Australia, Opira got the idea for creating a conflict resolution center in his homeland. "I realized that starting the center would enable me to better utilize the knowledge and skills acquired from the fellowship," he says.

Opira shared his vision with another Ugandan peace fellow (2004-06) at the Queensland Rotary Center, Godfrey Mukalazi. Following their graduation, the pair founded the Great Lakes Center for Conflict Resolution in Gulu, Uganda. [GLACCR](#) is a nongovernmental organization working to address conflict and security challenges in the five-country Great Lakes region, where more than five million people have died since the mid-1990s in conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda alone.

Working with 26 NGOs and district government leaders, GLACCR is building conflict sensitivity training into development projects in northern Uganda. Opira says the effort, funded by a US\$100,000 grant from USAID, will help preserve peace in area communities by focusing on the root causes and consequences of conflict.

GLACCR also provides expertise in peace-building and conflict resolution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Vision, Self-Help Uganda, and other NGOs active in Uganda. In addition, it is designing a conflict early warning system that will link global information technologies with local social networks to help prevent conflict.

Opira is also director of St. Peter's Junior School, which he founded in 2008 with the support of Rotarians in Australia, Japan, and the United States. Designed to serve mainly children of families affected by conflict and HIV/AIDS, the school has established a nursery and aims to add one grade each year.

Opira says that "the support from Rotarians throughout the world" for his peace fellowship led him to join Rotary that same year. "I wanted to remain in the Rotary family. I realized that through this great family I could better serve my community."

INVITE A UN SPEAKER TO YOUR NEXT DISTRICT EVENT

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 5 January 2010

More than a dozen United Nations specialists have visited Rotary clubs and districts across the United States, speaking to Rotarians about how the two organizations can help each other with their parallel global development goals.

The visits are part of the United Nations-Rotary Outreach Programme, a speakers bureau developed in 2008. The program allows UN specialists to present timely and relevant information from their respective fields to Rotary club, district, and zone events.

These briefings address key humanitarian and global issues, including the [UN Millennium Development Goals](#), peace-building, security, economic development, human rights, and the plight of refugees.

"Rotary is the United Nations' antenna to the mainland of America," says Ramu Damodaran, a deputy director of the UN's Department of Public Information. "This program is trying to build a connection between what is happening on a global level at the UN and concerned citizens in local communities."

During one week in August 2008, Damodaran spoke to 12 clubs in Oregon about global security and the UN's development agenda.

"The beauty of this program is the dynamic -- that the UN is sharing what we are doing but also listening to Rotarians on what we should be doing," says Damodaran. "There is no comparison to the level of involvement and reach Rotary has. This has a lot to do with its relationship with the UN."

After learning about the speakers bureau, David Zembiec, a member of the Rotary Club of Watertown, New York, arranged for UN sustainable energy and policy adviser Andrew Yager to visit his club. Yager shared his insights on how to incorporate alternative approaches and new technologies into local and regional economic development strategies.

"By getting a speaker of such a high caliber, it makes the event more significant and brings much more attention to the topic," says Zembiec. "The speakers bureau brings a broader national and international understanding of humanitarian issues. Rotarians can then use what the speaker said and make it relevant on a local level."

While the UN's information department handles speakers' logistical arrangements, the host club or district is responsible for their travel and overnight accommodations.

An audience of more than 100 attendees is required. Sessions, moderated by a Rotarian, can be open to non-Rotarians, including business leaders, government officials, academics, media representatives, and professionals. To optimize the speaker's visit to the area, clubs and districts are encouraged to arrange interviews with local media and lectures at high schools or colleges.

"This is a program I can see clubs and districts getting excited about," says Deanna Rhodes, a member of the Rotary Club of League City, Texas, who arranged for a UN specialist to speak at a district event. "Bringing in a UN official to talk at a district or zone conference would be a huge asset to the event."

Interested clubs and districts should contact the UN Department of Public Information and provide the following:



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

- ℥ Name and address of group requesting the UN speaker
- ℥ Name, phone number, and e-mail address of contact person
- ℥ UN-related topics of interest, in order of preference
- ℥ Date and time of event and alternate date, if available
- ℥ Dates the speaker would spend in the area

Send the information to:

Group Programmes Unit
 UN Department of Public Information
 Attn: [Vivian Bernstein](#) and [Lilli Schindler](#)
 Room GA-62
 United Nations Secretariat
 New York, NY 10017
 Phone: 212-963-7710



JOKE OF THE WEEK

Six elderly, retired Floridians play high stakes poker in the condo clubhouse. A member of the group, Meierwitz, loses \$5000 on a single hand, clutches his chest and drops dead at the table. Showing respect for their fallen comrade, the other five continue playing standing up.

Finkelstein looks around and asks, "So, who's gonna' tell his wife?"

They draw straws. Goldberg picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, not to make a bad situation any worse.

"Discreet? I'm the most discreet person you'll ever meet. Discretion is my middle name....leave it to me"

Goldberg goes over to the Meierwitz apartment, knocks on the door. The wife answers and asks what he wants.

Goldberg declares, "Your husband just lost \$5000 playing poker, and is afraid to come home."

"Tell him to drop dead!" says the wife.

"I'll go tell him." says Goldberg.

MEETING SCHEDULE

| Day | Date | Event |
|---------|--|--|
| Mon | Jan 11 th | Student of the Month Deb Sharkey |
| Mon | Jan 18 th | Fran Rabinowitz – Interact @ Hamden High |
| Mon | Feb 8 th | Student of the Month |
| Mon | Feb 22 nd | Rotary's 105 th Anniversary |
| Sat | Feb 27 th | District Leadership Seminar |
| Sat | Mar 13 th | World Rotaract Day |
| Mon | Mar 15 th | Student of the Month |
| Mon | Apr 12 th | Student of the Month |
| Sat | Apr 17 th | District Assembly – Meriden |
| Fri-Sun | Apr 30 th - May 2 nd | District Conference – Burlington VT |
| Mon | May 10 th | Student of the Month |
| Sun-Wed | Jun 20 th – 23 rd | International Convention Montreal |

Meetings are held each Monday unless otherwise posted.