

District 1080 Foundation News

March 2008

The latest newsletter of 2007/8. It has been a very successful Foundation year to date with a lot going on in both the clubs and District. It has been a real pleasure for members of the District team to come to a lot of the clubs and both hear what you have been doing and trying to both spread the word and also help with and suggest how you can be more involved with the various programmes that the world of OUR Charity involves. There is still a lot to do in the current year - in hearing speakers from the Scholar and GSE programmes and continue to increase club and member contributions so that clubs, in the years to come, can have a greater ability to get involved in the various activities in which OUR Charity is involved. Of course there are many ways to support Foundation and its programmes, some of which are highlighted below. If a member of the team has not visited your club recently and you have ideas or questions you would like to raise, please just ask. This newsletter is not just for the club Foundation team, so try and spread it round so that all members can have a greater appreciation of Foundation – THE/OUR ROTARY CHARITY.

DISTRICT 2007/8 TEAM

Hugh Davies - Chairman
Brian Baxter - Grants Chairman
Barry Catchpole - Ambassadorial Scholars
Iain Livingstone - G.S.E.Teams
John Gillespie
Chris Johnson - Contributions
Dorothy Pulsford-Harris
Keir Wyatt
DGN John Samuel

CONTRIBUTIONS

As we said in the last newsletter we appear to be “treading water” in the last couple of years, and last year we ended up by donating just a bit more in dollar terms but slightly less in £Sterling, which is disappointing, as without the input of funds to Foundation we will be unable to do more of the wonderful Humanitarian work we are doing with District Simplified Grants, the big uptake of Matching Grants and the support of Polio Plus and other Major Disasters. There is a BIG emphasis this year on members getting signed up to the Sustaining Member scheme and most of you will have heard me or your A.G. talking about this. Any club wishing for some/more of the Sustaining Member leaflets please let me know and please get your club to support OUR CHARITY. As you know there are various ways of getting this apart from Fund Raising – Gift Aid, Rotary Credit Card and others which you have already heard about. How many of you have got involved in selling the Credit Card to the club – so easy, and only one use gives £25 to Foundation.

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARS

We have 5 scholars at Cambridge (from USA , Japan, Namibia and New Zealand) and four at the U.E.A(2 continuing from last year) and they have been speaking to a number of clubs, but I understand that they would like to speak to more. If you haven't had a scholar come and talk to your club recently and would like to do so, please contact Barry who will arrange a visit but time is running out!

Our own scholar this year, Melpo put forward by the Norwich St. Edmunds club, has gone off to the other side of the world, in Australia, and no doubt will be settling down there before going out to some of the clubs and telling them about Rotary in East Anglia. (Their academic year is different to our's).

GSE TEAMS

This year's team went out early in March to Australia, to District 9300 which is based around Wagga Wagga (where else!) which is inland from Sydney and are now back having given a final presentation at their District Conference. The Team consisted of - Team Leader, Mike Butcher, of Great Yarmouth Haven, three girls and Howard, a Police Officer, to keep them all in line! The weather there should have been rather better than here, as I compose this listening to a howling gale and light snow outside.

The incoming team will be with us in May, starting around Norwich and North Norfolk in the first week, then on to the South East area, then South West and ending up in the last week around the Swaffham club with a final Rally at the George at Swaffham. The majority of hosts have been agreed and the programme of events and presentations will be available shortly. Please get involved in the programme and if you are not already either a host or a member of one of the clubs that are involved in looking after them, find out the nearest club who are hosting a rally and get some of your

members to go to one. You might even be able to understand them! But they sound a great and varied group.

DISTRICT SIMPLIFIED GRANTS

This year we had £7,309 , to spend on matching 13 projects from 13 clubs ranging from Latrines in a school in Kenya to items for an Old People's Home in Framlingham or computers for Stroke Victims in Great Yarmouth. All the money has now been spent but any club wishing to have one of their ideas matched can look forward to next year. The District clubs have really responded to this relatively new initiative and in the previous 2 years 12 clubs in each year have had a project of their own matched by the DDF which was a result of giving 3 years before. These grants are so simple to request and administer , so if your club has a possible project in mind please contact Brian Baxter. So many clubs realise (after the event) that they could have done so much better if they had spoken to us first. If you have a project – ASK before finalising it.

MATCHING GRANTS

We have made Matching Grants again one of the MAIN emphases for this year and have already seen some really good projects coming forward for these. Again WATER is one of the main areas and both Diss and Norwich have come forward with continuing projects and although Norwich St.Edmunds has combined with two of their twin clubs in Europe on a South African project, Diss has brought a number of different clubs into their continuing work in Western Zambia. Again, nearly a quarter of the District clubs were involved in M.Gs this year and although the time limit on forwarding these has now passed we will have done eight of these grants in 2007/8. This year has seen a more varied type of project and in one - Watton and Kings Lynn have been involved in a cross District Grant, a first, with Stevenage Grange club and District 1260. This has been a joint project for eye care in Mumbai, India under the "Make Blindness History" banner which has already helped thousands of poor families in that region. We will be hearing more about one of the projects in Ghana at the District Conference later in the year.

POLIO PLUS

I guess that most of you will by now have heard about the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's magnificent gift of \$100,000,000 to Rotary, the largest ever donation by them to a single Charity. Rotary have responded to this by giving us all a challenge to match this amount in the next 3 years. You will all be hearing a lot more about this challenge and the even more important challenge of, at last, eliminating Polio from the world. There are still 4 Endemic countries – India, Pakistan, Afganistan and Nigeria, but in all of these there is a reduction in cases and, with the new mono-valent vaccines, better targeting is helping in this. With this gift and matching from us all, the end of polio is in sight. Some members in 1080 have already been on a NID (National Immunisation Day) a few weeks ago in India and saw the need for the volunteer work by thousands of Rotarians to get the children immunised. With the resources of Rotarians and funding by the Gates Foundation and Rotary the end of Polio can be achieved.

2009 CALENDARS

Samples of these will soon be available but the ordering of them will be different to earlier years. We will inform you of this later but I understand that it will be a CLUB project through the Secretary although the profit will still go to Foundation.

GIFT AID

I say again, the Taxman gets far too much of our money and why not get some back for Foundation. All clubs should try to organise Gift Aid on all members Foundation contributions and the AGs are working with the clubs in their Area to encourage each to do this.

ROTARY CREDIT CARDS

We are again asking clubs to get involved with these and it is SO simple, you only have to use it ONCE and Foundation get £25. You can then forget it or if you continue to use it a small % of each purchase goes to Foundation as well. Continue to have a great Foundation year and get involved in one or more of the various activities.

FOUNDATION CHAIRMEN 2008/9

One last point, if your club is changing the Chairman in July can you all please let me know the new Chairman's details and even if you are going on let me know so that we can send out details of the programme for District Assembly on Saturday 26 April. It should be another VERY interesting and inspiring morning.

Hugh

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