

The Rotary Foundation Endowment Fund. “Rotary’s tomorrow depends on what we do today”

Many Rotarians are not familiar with the Rotary Foundation Endowment fund as one of the components of our Rotary Foundation Program. Last year in 2011-2012 \$181,000,000 was raised for the Rotary Foundation of which \$18,000,000 was contributed to the Endowment fund, or slightly less than 10% of the total funds given to the Rotary Foundation. The breakdown of giving to TRF last year is as follows:

\$110 million to the Annual Program Fund;

\$18 million to the Endowment fund

\$45 million to the Polio Plus fund

\$7.9 million to the Disaster Fund and Donor Advised Funds

The endowment fund provides perpetual support for Rotary’s programs by supplementing annual contributions. The principal of a gift to the Endowment is never spent and a portion of the earnings is used to support the work of the Foundation. The ultimate impact of the Endowment Fund can make a major difference for the Rotary. For example, if our goal of \$1 billion as mentioned below is reached, Rotary could double the funding for humanitarian programs from approximately \$40 million last year to \$80 million. These programs span all of our six areas of focus—child and maternal health, basic education and literacy, Peace & Conflict Resolution; Disease Prevention and Treatment; water and sanitation; and Economic & Community Development.

The endowment fund was established in 1982 and it now has a goal of \$1 billion dollars by 2012. The initial target goal of \$200 million was met in 2005, six years ahead of schedule. The current endowment fund has \$248 million. The financial support to Rotary Programs by the endowment is approximately \$8 million a year

The endowment fund has naming opportunities where you can establish a fund for a loved one. There are 908 named endowments in the fund totaling \$134.8 million. 99 were established in 2011-12 with contributions totaling \$7.8 million. (See News from the Chairs for more details.)

Although direct contributions can be made to the Endowment Fund, normally most contributions to the fund are from provisions made from a person’s will or living trust, life insurance policy, retirement fund charitable remainder trust, or a donor advised funds. For a complex estate situation, Rotary has a designated major gifts officer for each district who helps establish the details and approaches to structuring a gift.

An investment in the Endowment Fund, has a permanent impact on lives of people in the future.