**History of The Rotary Foundation**

At the 1917 convention, outgoing RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed to set up an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” In 1928, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International.

**Growth of the Foundation**

In 1929, the Foundation made its first gift of $500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. “Daddy” Allen, later grew into Easter Seals.

When Rotary founder Paul Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring in to Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation.

**Evolution of Foundation programs**

1947: The Foundation established its first program, Fellowships for Advance Study, later known as Ambassadorial Scholarships.

1965-66: Three programs were launched: Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities in Keeping with the Objective of The Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants.

1978: Rotary introduced the Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants. The first 3-H Grant funded a project to immunize 6 million Philippine children against polio.

1985: The [PolioPlus program](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/end-polio) was launched to eradicate polio worldwide.

1987-88: The first peace forums were held, leading to [Rotary Peace Fellowships](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/get-involved/exchange-ideas/peace-fellowships).

2013: New [district, global, and packaged grants](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/apply-grants) enable Rotarians around the world to respond to the world’s greatest needs.

Since the first donation of $26.50 in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions totaling more than $1 billion.