



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

I have been an active Rotarian for 34 years. I have been asked what Rotary is all about many times. Rotary was founded in Chicago in 1905 by a lawyer named Paul Harris who moved there from Vermont. He was lonely, so he formed a group of businessmen and started having a lunch meeting once a week. Eventually, they started to help different groups, people, and organizations. Each Rotary Club has their own local projects. There are Rotary Clubs in over 200 nations in the world. The funds raised by each Rotary Club are used to support their projects. The funds raised by Rotary Clubs are not used to run the local club but to help others. Club expenses are raised from individual members through dues.

Some Rotary Club projects are as follows:

- Educational scholarships
- Senior shuttle bus sponsorship
- Sending hospital equipment to facilities in 6 different countries
- Supporting a local Interact Club for high school aged children
- Hosting foreign exchange students
- Assisting and cooperating with other non-profit organizations
- Contributing over \$850 million towards the eradication of polio
- Sponsoring speech contests for high school aged students
- Purchasing new bathroom facilities for the local recreation center
- Donating \$100,000 to help create the Father Roger Bilodeau Community Center
- Sponsoring replacement uniforms for local sports teams
- Distributing turkeys and Thanksgiving meals to local families
- Providing Christmas dinners, gifts, clothes, and toys to local families

I can't list all of the projects that clubs get involved in but I did want to list a few.

Funds are raised by each club in various ways such as providing local phone books, auctions, penny sales, car raffles, and many other projects. We, as Rotarians have no idea of how many people we help. People helping people is a nice feeling.

The motto of Rotary is **SERVICE ABOVE SELF.**

Rotary also has a 4-way test: Is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Thank you,

James E. Jamieson
Lincoln-Woodstock Rotary Club
October, 2010