

## CHAPTER 7

# THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. Your club's support of The Rotary Foundation makes a difference in the lives of people around the globe.

The Rotary Foundation helps fund our humanitarian activities, from local service projects to global initiatives. Your club or district can apply for grants to participate in projects and provide scholarships. The Foundation also leads the charge on worldwide campaigns such as eradicating polio and promoting peace.

Participation in Foundation activities, such as scholarships and vocational training teams, can attract potential members and engage current ones, and inspire them to give.

## ROTARY FOUNDATION RESPONSIBILITIES

AS PRESIDENT-ELECT	AS PRESIDENT
Appoint and meet with your club Rotary Foundation committee	Regularly review your club's financial contribution trends in Rotary Club Central
Review your club's involvement with Foundation programs using Rotary Club Central	Ensure that your club maintains its qualification to apply for Rotary grants
View your club's trends in financial contributions to The Rotary Foundation in Rotary Club Central	Understand and agree to the club memorandum of understanding (MOU) and implement its terms
Work with your president to understand and agree to the club memorandum of understanding (MOU)	Ensure that reports on open grants are submitted on time

AS PRESIDENT-ELECT	AS PRESIDENT
Set your club goals for financial contribution and program participation before the start of your year in Rotary Club Central	
Work with your Foundation committee to make sure your club is qualified to apply for Rotary grants	

Club presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and Rotary Foundation committee chairs can review their club's Foundation contributions on My Rotary.

Your leadership will be very important as your club makes steady progress toward its Foundation goals. Encourage members to participate by:

- Asking them to give to the Foundation, paying extra attention to members who have never given
- Thanking members who give to the Foundation and recognizing those who reach milestones such as Paul Harris Fellow or Major Donor recognition
- Acknowledging contributions and involvement in Rotary grants
- Practicing the proper management of Foundation grant funds
- Leading by example and making a personal contribution

## CLUB ROTARY FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The club Rotary Foundation committee structure is determined by your club's Foundation goals. If your plans include applying for a global grant, your club may want to have a grants subcommittee. Your club can make changes to its bylaws to reflect the specific responsibilities of your Foundation committee, adding subcommittees as needed (appendix 1). Choose committee members with excellent communication skills, and community or international volunteer experience. Former grant participants are also good candidates.

Your Rotary Foundation committee has these responsibilities:

- Conduct inspirational Rotary Foundation programs
- Ask alumni or volunteers to share their Foundation experiences at a club meeting
- Achieve your club's Foundation contribution goals for the year
- Educate club members about the Foundation
- Encourage club members to participate in Rotary grants and activities and to make a contribution
- Communicate the Foundation goals set by the district and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation
- Ensure proper stewardship of grant funds

Find more information in Club Rotary Foundation Committee Basics course on the [Learning Center](#).

## DISTRICT SUPPORT

Members of the district Rotary Foundation and international service committees can put your club in contact with other Rotary clubs working on similar projects. [The Rotary Foundation Reference Guide](#) describes how clubs can participate in Foundation programs.

### DISTRICT ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR

The district Rotary Foundation seminar is for every Rotary member to learn about The Rotary Foundation's message of achieving world understanding and peace. Club presidents, club Foundation committee members, and other interested club members should attend to learn more about programs, grants, and fundraising.

### GRANT MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

At the grant management seminar, club members learn how to successfully manage a Rotary grant, meet the Foundation's stewardship expectations, and implement the club memorandum of understanding. One member of your club must attend this seminar for club qualification. Find more information in [A Guide to Global Grants](#).

### STEWARDSHIP AND QUALIFICATION

To show your commitment to the ethical management of Rotary Foundation grant funds, grant sponsors must be qualified by their district. Once the district qualifies your club, you may apply for a global grant. The Foundation has two minimum requirements for club qualification:

- The club president-elect or a club-designated appointee attends the district grant management seminar.
- The club president and president-elect sign the [club memorandum of understanding](#) on behalf of their club.

Your district may have additional requirements.

## FOUNDATION FUNDING

Contributions to The Rotary Foundation are transformed into grants that improve our world and change lives. The Trustees involve Rotarians worldwide in the decision-making process for Foundation grants and programs.

### SHARE AND THE DISTRICT DESIGNATED FUND

At the end of every Rotary year, contributions to the Annual Fund-SHARE from every Rotary club in a district are divided into two funds:

- 50 percent credited to the District Designated Fund (DDF)
- 50 percent credited to the World Fund

The Foundation uses the World Fund portion to pay for the worldwide programs available to all Rotary districts. Your district uses the DDF portion to fund the Foundation grants and programs of its choice. Your district Rotary Foundation committee decides how to use the district's available DDF, in consultation with the clubs in your district.

To ensure that our Foundation has sufficient and reliable resources in the future, a small portion of Endowment earnings, Annual Fund contributions, and cash contributions to global grants will help fund operating expenses and build an operating reserve.

- Five percent of contributions to the Annual Fund will be earmarked and may be used to pay for operating expenses or to build the operating reserve.
- An additional 5 percent for cash contributions to global grants will be used to help cover the costs of processing these gifts.

Learn more about the [Foundation's funding model](#).

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Rotary members and friends of Rotary support the Foundation's work through voluntary [contributions](#). When Rotarians see the extraordinary results of educational and humanitarian activities, they understand why supporting The Rotary Foundation financially is vital to making the world a better place. Among other options, contributions can be directed to the Annual Fund, the Endowment, the PolioPlus Fund, a specific global grant, and the Rotary Peace Centers. Contributions can be made on [My Rotary](#) or with [The Rotary Foundation Contribution Form](#) or the [Multiple Donor Form](#). In RIBI, contributions to The Rotary Foundation or specific Foundation programs, such as End Polio Now or the Rotary Peace Centers, may be sent in pounds sterling to [The Rotary Foundation UK](#) at the RIBI Support Centre in Alcester, England.

As president-elect, you will enter your Foundation fund development club goals in [Rotary Club Central](#).

The sincere acknowledgment of a donor's gift is the first step toward additional financial support. The Rotary Foundation recognizes clubs and donors for financial contributions or commitments for future contributions. Extra acknowledgement from the club president provides a personal touch that can make donors feel good about their decision to support the Foundation and inspire future gifts.

For support on Foundation matters, contact your district Rotary Foundation committee chair, [regional Rotary Foundation coordinators](#), and [endowment/major gifts advisers](#).

To learn more about the Foundation, take the Rotary Foundation Basics course in the [Learning Center](#). Encourage new members to take this course too, and use the content to supplement your presentations on the Foundation.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How will you encourage members to get involved with The Rotary Foundation?

What is your personal goal to support The Rotary Foundation?

