



ROTARY AND YOUTH

Rotary International is committed to helping young people prepare for the future. As community leaders, Rotary club members support a variety of youth-oriented service projects and programs that include mentoring, tutoring, leadership development, vocational training, local and international scholarships and urban peace initiatives.

Providing Opportunities for Education

- Ambassadorial Scholarships
 - o The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is the largest source of privately funded international scholarships. Each year, nearly 1,300 young adults serve as youth ambassadors and study at a college or university in another country.
- Youth Exchange
 - o Each year about 7,000 secondary school students visit or study in another country under the Youth Exchange program. The program allows students to experience first-hand life, culture and education in another country.
- Rotary clubs promote literacy among youth and provide tools to facilitate learning.
 - o A Rotary club in Bolivia built three libraries in low-income neighborhoods to increase literacy and reading skills.

Providing Basic Health Care

- Gift of Life
 - o Rotary's Gift of Life program provides free medical care for needy children with congenital heart disease. The Gift of Life has been instrumental in saving more than 2,500 children worldwide through open-heart surgery.
- PolioPlus
 - o Through the Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus program and global eradication efforts, more than two billion children worldwide have been immunized against polio since 1985.

Building Future Leaders

- Rotary-sponsored clubs for young people
 - o Interact (for secondary school students) and Rotaract (for young adults 18-30 years old) provide opportunities for leadership development, fellowship and service.
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
 - o Young people ages 14-30 participate in camps or workshops that focus on leadership and professional development.

Promoting Peace

- Rotary projects prevent violence towards young people by addressing urban issues.
 - o Rotary club members in Sydney, Australia established the "Street Smart" facility to reunite homeless youths with their families, provide health care, drug abuse treatment and vocational training.