

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is at the HEART of Rotary Service

Rotarians in Clubs Worldwide make COMMUNITY SERVICE their priority with humanitarian project activities as varied as the needs they address. The more common include projects on:

- Improving health (including combating childhood and other diseases and infections, combating AIDS as well as improving the availability and access of water supply and sanitation to poor communities).
- Enhancing human development through improving literacy and education; as well as job skills.
- Helping alleviate hunger and poverty through creating employment opportunities.
- Combating drug abuse and preventing violence;
- Protecting the environment.

Through these various humanitarian projects, Community Service focuses on providing assistance and support to people in need and/or at risk within communities towards improvement of overall welfare.

Over 80% of Rotary activities involves community service because Community Service encapsulates the very essence of Rotary mission.

With the foregoing basic facts of Rotary Community Service in mind, it is important to remind ourselves of the Community Service plans for the celebration of the Centenary (100 years) of Rotary, a year from now (2005).

Towards this celebration, Rotary International had decided that:

- Each Rotary Club should plan and designate a Centennial Community Service Project and communicate this project to the Rotary Foundation.
- It is hoped that every Rotary Club in our District have done this and would be reporting on **it**.
- Rotary International also recommended that each Rotarian should commit himself/herself to a minimum of ten (10) hours of humanitarian community service per year.

Ten hours is obviously an absolute minimum. A situation where most Rotarians give more than 10 hours to community service per year would be commendable.

- Community Service Committees at the Club, Country and District Levels this Rotary Year (2004/2005) should make special efforts to stimulate the formulation, planning and implementation of a much greater number, variety, and quality of community service projects and should be reporting on those projects to the Country and District Community Chairpersons.

The Best Community Service Projects are proposed to be recognized at our Centennial District Conference in Nairobi,

Kenya in May 2005.

- A Projects Fair is planned for the Centennial District Conference and it is hoped that all Clubs in the District will take the opportunity to show-case their projects.
- In giving our time to community service, let's have comfort in the saying that:

“What we do for ourselves dies with us But what we do for others and the world remains and it is immortal”.

-Albert Pine-