

## Rotary International FAQ

### August 2024

#### 1. What is **Rotary**?

Rotary is the oldest **service club** in the world but, more than that, it is a **global network** of men and women of all ages who use their passion, energy, and intelligence to **take action on sustainable projects** from literacy and peace to water and health. Rotarians are always **working to better our world, create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.**

#### 2. How long has Rotary been around?

Paul Harris, a Chicago attorney, formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on **Feb. 23, 1905**, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could **exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships**. Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to **humanitarian service**. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six continents.

#### 3. How many Rotary Clubs and members are there in the world?

There are over 46,000 Clubs with over 1.4 million members.

#### 4. What are the areas of focus for Rotary's work?

Promoting peace; fighting disease; providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; saving mothers and children; supporting education; growing local economies; protecting the environment. Visit:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes>

#### 5. What is the top priority of Rotary Clubs worldwide?

In 1979, Rotary began a project to immunize six million children against polio in the Philippines. The effort's success led to Rotary making polio eradication its top priority. Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and was a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. Since then, Rotary and our partners have immunized over 2.5 billion children with the oral polio vaccine. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation now supports Rotary's polio eradication efforts. Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide. We are very close to ending the disease for good.

#### 6. What does Rotary International do?

Rotary International supports Rotary clubs worldwide by coordinating global programs and initiatives.

#### 7. What is the Rotary Foundation? (<https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation>)

The Rotary Foundation helps fund our humanitarian activities, from local service projects to global initiatives. Every Rotarian is encouraged to donate US\$100 each year to the Foundation which is the engine that powers the work of Rotary around the world. Clubs can apply for grants from the Rotary Foundation to augment funds raised locally for projects in their community or internationally.

#### 8. How much money does the Rotary Foundation give out annually?

In 2022-23, The Foundation gave out 473 District grants totaling US\$26 million; 324 disaster response grants totaling US\$15 million; 1,092 global grants totaling US\$55 million, and 1 program of scale grant totaling US\$2 million.

#### 9. When was the first Club established in Canada?

The first Rotary Club in Canada was chartered in Winnipeg in 1912 making Rotary 'international'.