

"Next to life itself, God's most precious gift is sight—PROTECT IT, SAVE IT, and RESTORE IT."

PRESIDENT FRANK DEVLYN SALUTES HONOR ROLL OF DISTRICTS--\$10,000 OR MORE

The districts listed below have made a contribution of \$10,000 or more to the Avoidable Blindness Task Force Pool:

District	Governor	Contribution
6930	Michael Donovan	\$50,000.00
3280	Hassan Maniruzzaman	\$30,000.00
6400	John C. Brooks	\$27,500.00
7600	Joseph Mulkerrin	\$25,000.00
2770	Tetsuo Tanaka	\$20,000.00
5970	Alan W. Selene	\$20,000.00
3620	Kung-Chih Yu	\$15,000.00
4750	Renato F. deOliveira	\$15,000.00
1730	Guy-Phillippe Ferreyrolles	\$10,000.00
2620	Morito Watanabe	\$10,000.00
2690	Akio Fujiwara	\$10,000.00
2710	Kousuke Dohl	\$10,000.00
3010	Satish Wadhwa	\$10,000.00
3450	John Wan	\$10,000.00
3480	Chou-Ying Kuo	\$10,000.00
3490	Ping-Lin Huang	\$10,000.00
5360	Monte J.Audenart	\$10,000.00
5440	C. David Hergert	\$10,000.00
5870	Patsy Long Derr	\$10,000.00
6960	Gary D. Wilson	\$10,000.00
6980	Charles Rogers	\$10,000.00
7370	Thomas Graves	\$10,000.00
9140	Omaka Okoh	\$10,000.00
9750	Phillip T. Hayes	\$10,000.00

Total of Honor Roll: \$337,500.00

We join President Frank Devlyn and gratefully acknowledge the contributions of these districts who have demonstrated that they **CREATE AWARENESS AND TAKE ACTION**. It will be used to finance ABTF projects around the Rotary world. In India, for example this amount of money would restore sight to more than 1000 needy cataract blinded people.

REPORT ON STATUS OF THE ABTF POOLS AS OF 12 FEB.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

CASH POOL US \$661,331
DDF POOL US \$470,285

GRAND TOTAL US \$1,131,616

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS AWARDED FROM EACH POOL AND THE WORLD FUND AS OF 12 FEB 2001

CASH POOL US \$94,558 99 Grants
DDF POOL US \$168,917 104 Grants
WORLD FUND US \$372,614 41 Grants

Remaining Balance of Funds in Each Pool

CASH POOL US \$556,773
DDF POOL US \$301,368

BALANCE US \$868,141

NUMBER OF PENDING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/AVERAGE GRANT AWARD

Currently the Foundation has over 300 Pending applications for Avoidable Blindness projects that are either incomplete or are being processed for approval by the Trustees.

The average request per pending application is US \$3,000 from both the AB DDF and Cash Pools which when approved will require US \$900,000.

Checklists have been sent to the project contacts for most of the incomplete applications. The sponsors must provide the required information by **15 May 2001** to complete the applications for consideration by the Trustees.

The foundation continues to receive high volumes of applications from India. In addition we have experienced an increase in Avoidable Blindness applications from Mexico.

GENT,BELGIUM JOINS IN GUERRERO: LET THERE BE LIGHT PROJECT IN MEXICO

The Rotary Club of **Gent, Belgium, D.1620**, will celebrate its 75th birthday next November **2001**. **Rotarian Philippe Caron** wrote : "Our committee has decided to organize a large event and try to raise a sizeable sum of money for the benefit of a large Rotary project. The sum could be anywhere between \$50,000 and \$120,000 US dollars.

To illustrate our desire to **Create Awareness** my club will organize a large photo exhibition from a famous French photographer **Yann Arthus Bertrand**, "**The Earth From Above**", see <http://www.yannarthusbertrand.com/fr/view/index.htm>.

We expect between 20 and 30,000 visitors to that exhibition between Nov.10 and Dec.31,2001 and we are now starting a campaign to find sponsors.

The grand opening of the exhibition would be on November 10, and we intend to call it "**75 Years of Rotary in Gent**" and to include the other 4 Rotary clubs of our town. He wrote that blindness project to be funded would have to have a certain visibility so that we could make our potential sponsors enthusiastic for the exhibition and for the project itself.

We responded to Rotarian Phillippe's request with the recommendation that they consider joining in the project of the **World Cataract Foundation** of Memphis, Tennessee to make the state of **Guerrero, Mexico a "CATARACT FREE STATE"** in seven to ten years.

The **R.C. of Acapulco, Mexico** has joined in the project. The **R.C. of Memphis, TN, USA**, has been invited to participate. We are pleased to work with the **WCF** which has titled the project: '**GUERRERO:LET THERE BE LIGHT**'. If other Rotary Clubs and/or districts which to be involved contact: **Don Dunavant, Executive Director, World Cataract Foundation**. Ddunavant@aol.com or write to 6463 Poplar St., Ste 101, Memphis, TN 38119.

REMINDER, MATCHING GRANT DEADLINE 31 MARCH

All ABTF Coordinators should be aware that the final deadline for submission of Matching Grants for this Rotary year is **31 March 2001**. In addition all and must be approved by the Rotary Foundation Trustees by **15 May 2001**.

SUCCESS STORIES, PHOTOS NEEDED FOR INSTITUTE AND CONVENTION-SAN ANTONIO

Time is running out. Dr. Robert Holcomb, our North American Area Coordinator has been assigned the task to head up our ABTF Booth Display and staffing of ABTF members at the San Antonio Institute and Convention.

We are looking for photographs of projects in action. Photos and other material should be sent to: Kathy Kessenich, Program Division, Rotary International, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60201.

SEND USED GLASSES TO MMI FOR RECYCLING TO NEEDY!

We have received requests of where to send used glasses for distribution to needy patients!

Having personally participated with Medical Ministry International, I know they utilize old glasses very efficiently. They clean them, catalog them as to prescription and distribute them with the help of volunteers staffers. The address to send glasses to is:

**MMI WAREHOUSE
12281 SW 28TH STREET
MIAMI, FL 33175**

QUOTE FROM RICHARD L. EVANS

"By reason of being alive we have a responsibility to study, learn, work, develop, contribute, serve, improve, to pay a debt to the past, to pay our way in the present, and to pass on something to the future."

President Rotary International 1966-67

RC BURDWAN SOUTH, D.3240 SEEKS MG FOR ROTARY BRAILLE TRANSCRIPTION

Rotarian **Dr. Parthanat Sen** of the Rotary Club of Burdwan South has submitted a Matching Grant request to equip a Rotary Braille Transcription Center for blind students in a residential Braille school, namely Burdwan Blind Academy. The MG will supply funds to purchase the Braille printing equipment and the Rotary Club of Burdwan South will fund the recurring annual cost of \$1800 U.S. to provide materials and operating expenses.

KOFA INTERACT CLUB HAS PROJECT TO AID ABTF BY COLLECTING OLD GLASSES

The **Kofa High School Interact Club** from D. 5550, Arizona, USA, under the guidance of teacher, **Ruth Brockington**, wife of **PDG Anthony Brockington**, has collected, cleaned, and packaged for shipping 277 pairs of eyeglasses to be used for needy people in Mexico. ABTF Coordinator **Pat Devlyn** has been working with her. We thank the **Kofa High School Interactors**. This is a worthwhile project and can be recommended to other Interact Club. (see page 2 re glasses to MMI).

PDG SEEKS CORNEAL TRANSPLANT FOR DAUGHTER WITH KERATO- CONUS

PDG Alberto Giannini, D. 4870 from San Luis, Argentina, has written that his 22 year old daughter has very advanced keratoconus and requires a corneal transplant.

He was referred to Latin American Area Coordinator **Dr. Bolivar Zinsly**, an ophthalmologist, and **Dr. Albert Alley**, who did our very first ABTF project with 100 surgeries in Argentina. His team did some corneal transplants last year. We are hopeful that our ABTF will be able to help preserve her vision.

D. 7620 SUPPORTS D.3280 IN FUNDING EYE BANK IN CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

D.7620 continues its strong support of ABTF projects with a MG with **D.3280. DG Thomas Kwako** had helped to fund a large MG to do our #2 ABTF project of fighting River Blindness in Tanzania. Now, his district has contributed \$9,000 to enable **D.3280 DG Hassan Maniruzzaman** to obtain a MG totaling \$24,000 to purchase essential equipment for the Ort-Mahler Eye Clinic in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

D.3280 has been the number two contributor to our ABTF Pool and received "Honor Roll" recognition from President Frank Devlyn. See "Honor Roll" on page 1.

D. 7620 PDG Bob Ketron has worked with the International Federation of Eye and Tissue Banks, which has worldwide experience in dealing with Eye Banks in some twenty countries.

This project will "provide even greater service to restoring sight to more of the people in the Chittagong area who are unfortunate enough to have corneal eye disease or injury.

We salute **Governors Maniruzzaman and Kwako** and their district Rotarians for being an outstanding supporter of our ABTF and following President Frank Devlyn's theme of **Create Awareness...and...Take Action!**

D.7390 CONDUCTS TWO EYE MISSIONS TO BRAZIL. ABC TV CREW TO MAKE VIDEO

DG Walt Dixon, D.7390 reports that his district has two missions planned to Brazil this year. The first mission was from Jan. 13th to 20th and the second will be March 29th to April 4th. "We will take an ABC television crew with us". The team will include six eye doctors and the plan to perform a total of 250 surgeries and will expend approximately \$30,000 of DDF funds. **Gov. Walt** reports he will be going with the team. We salute D. 7390!!

D.2340 SUPPORTS 3-H PROGRAM OF CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS REHABILITATION IN BRAZIL

Gov. Olle Bjelfman, D.2340, Sweden has co-sponsored a Rotary 3-H Program (HHH-1286) CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS REHABILITATION IN BRAZIL. His district had contributed \$15,000. In addition he has talked about the Avoidable Blindness in his club visits and has encouraged Rotarians to make a contribution this year to ABTF projects.

ZONE 1 COORDINATORS GIVE REPORT ON DISTRICTS ACTIVE IN ABTF PROJECTS IN JAPAN

Zone 1 ABTF Coordinators Akira Kato and Shigeru Kobayashi report many projects in Japan.

Some examples included: D.2500 planned MG # 14917 to provide 200 cataract surgeries in Purwokerto, Indonesia, D. 2540 studied the status of blind people in Nepal. D.2530 asked ophthalmologists to conduct eye care education to Rotarians and other people.

. D. 2820 planned MG # 15650 to provide special playground equipment for blind children in Bangkok and MG # 16465 to help provide a braille printer to a school for the blind in Bangkok.

. D. 2810 applied for a MG#16298 to provide cataract surgery for 50 needy elderly in Seoul, Dongho, Korea.

R.I. Director Hipolito Ferreira Sets Up Special Fund for ABTF Projects.

President Frank Devlyn reports that R.I. Director Hipolito Ferreira has established a special fund for Avoidable Blindness projects in Brazil. Dr. Ignacio Calvacanti of Recife, who has one of the largest private eye clinics has advised President Frank that he can do cataract surgeries for \$100. President Frank urges those interested in helping finance projects in ABTF in Brazil to contact Director Hipolito and Dr. Ignacio.

HAROLD COWIE ZONE 22 ABTF COORDINATOR ILL AND UNABLE TO CONTINUE HIS WORK!

I am sorry to inform you that our extremely capable and dedicated Zone 22 Coordinator Harold Cowie of Calgary, Canada, has been in a fight for his life. He was taken to the emergency room on January 20th and had to fight for his life when his heart and kidneys shut down. Fortunately, as he states "through the healing grace of God I am getting better".

Harold has arranged for Rotarian Don O'Dwyer, Acting Executive Director of Eye-sight Universal, to take over and see that the work will be done.

In the meantime I want to express great appreciation to Harold for his effective work on the ABTF and to ask you to join me in prayers for God's continued healing for Harold and His loving care for Harold's wife Kay.

Thought for March---"Take Time"

TAKE TIME TO THINK, it will serve you well no matter where you may go.

The world today has too many folks who do not take time to grow.

TAKE TIME TO LISTEN, it will serve you well no matter what you may do.

There are many who talk, few who listen, the world needs more of the few.

TAKE TIME TO LAUGH, it will serve you well, for the face is character's map.

Laughter is a happy companion removing the cares from your lap.

TAKE TIME FOR FRIENDS, it will serve you well, friends are a comfort and joy Do not neglect them, they're life's best treasures, their love will never annoy.

TAKE TIME TO LOVE, it will serve you well, love seems to be a lost art.

The world needs love, less hate and greed. Let us temper mind with the heart.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY, it will serve you well to fill each day to its best.

We need guiding help to carry on, let's welcome the Unseen Guest.

TAKE TIME TO LIVE, it will serve you well,

there must be no selfish aims.

Life is rich and filled with adventure, it will
follow what Time proclaims.

Author's note: The speed of today demands
that we take time to live. I have found this
true, as I always seem to be saying, when
asked to do something, "I do not have time."

EVERETT WENTWORTH HILL
President, Rotary International 1924-1925

Note: "I met President Hill at the Rotary
International Council on Legislation in
1974 at Minneapolis. He later shared his
book of poems entitled "He Who Seeks Gold"
from which the above was taken."

.....

**REMINDER; CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS
ABTF NEWSLETTER ARE INVITED.**

To submit material or for information or
questions, please visit our web site listed
at the bottom of each page or contact

O. Doyle Dannenberg, O.D., Chairman
Avoidable Blindness Task Force
340 Linwood Street
Escondido, California, U.S.A.
e-mail: <doyled@nctimes.net>
Phone: (760) 745-56374
Fax: (760) 746-0204