

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

R. I. DIRECTOR KEN COLLINS MEETS JOHN HERON ON BUS IN PERU: RESULTS IN 3600 EYE SURGERIES AND A NEW ROTARIAN! + MORE!!!!

President Frank Devlyn challenged us as the year began to **"CREATE AWARENESS... AND TAKE ACTION"**. In launching the ABTF he expressed the hope that we would do 1000 new projects in preventing blindness and restoring sight and to also increase membership in Rotary.

R.I. Director Ken Collins sent the following message to me on June 9th. I thought it told a great story—illustrating why I feel so blessed to be a Rotarian and to have been asked by President Frank to serve as Chairman of our Avoidable Blindness Task Force. Here is Ken's original message, my response, and Ken's subsequent additional information.

June 9, 2001 From Kenneth E. Collins:

Australian businessman and now **Rotarian John Heron** has personally funded 900 cataract operations in cooperation with **PDG Dr. Umesh Megur D3160**. In addition he has provided 9 operating microscopes and 18 sets of instruments to allow other doctors in **D3160** to carry out operations.

Next year **Rotarian John** will fund a further 1100 operations, 600 in Bali, Indonesia, and 500 in Davao, Philippines.

Each time, the money contributed by John is matched by The Rotary Foundation through Matching Grants.

Therefore John has been responsible for 3600 operations this year and will be for 4,400 next year.

June 9, 2001—MY RESPONSE TO KEN:
Dear Ken:

What an exciting message to receive this morning! Please pass on my deepest gratitude and enthusiasm to **Rotarian John Heron** for what he has done for Rotary's Avoidable Blindness efforts—not only this year, but in the new Rotary year ahead.

I don't know **Rotarian Heron**, but I think of a couple of favorite quotations that are apt for him. First: He is a wealthy man for **"A MAN'S TRUE WEALTH IS THE GOOD HE DOES IN THIS WORLD!!"**

Secondly: He is a happy man for **Dr. Albert Schwitzer** said: **"I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOUR DESTINY WILL BE, BUT OF ONE THING I AM CERTAIN, THE ONLY ONES AMONG YOU, WHO WILL BE TRULY HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT AND FOUND HOW TO SERVE!"**

In these two years **Rotarian John Heron** will have personally provided new hope, new life for 8,000 cataract blinded persons in India, Bali, Indonesia, and Davao, Philippines.

I am sure **President Frank Devlyn** joins with me in saluting, recognizing, and appreciating **Rotarian Heron**.

Thank you, **Ken**, for sharing this information.

June 9, 2001, Ken tells the rest of the story.

Thanks for the e-mail. **Di and I** met **John Heron** on a bus in the Sacred Valley in Peru after the Buenos Aires Convention.

We each asked the other why they were there. We told John we were Rotarians and as an example of the work we do I told him that this year we have an emphasis on the treatment of avoidable blindness, and that for \$30 we can restore a person's sight.

He looked me in the eye and said, "Are you saying that if I give you \$30 I can restore a person's sight?" When I said yes he asked, "If I give you \$30,000 could I restore the sight to 1,000 people?" Again I replied yes, and he immediately said, "I'll do it." He added it is a privilege to help those in need."

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At the time he knew nothing about Rotary, but within two months he had taken himself and his wife to visit the project site in **D3160 India**, and recently came with us to the Bali Eye Clinic.

Just two weeks ago he was inducted into the **Rotary Club of Loganholme, D 9600** which is about 3000 miles from where I live.

Just thought you might like to know the rest of the story. "HE WAS A ROTARIAN BEFORE HE BECAME A MEMBER OF A ROTARY CLUB."

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Thanks to Director Ken Collins for sharing this inspiring story with us.

JAMES ROBINSON GIVES THE LATEST FIGURES ON ABTF FOUNDATION MG FUNDING

June 12, 2001. James Robinson has provided the latest available information on Foundation Matching Grants and funding of ABTF projects.

He reported that they have been swamped with applications to process for Avoidable Blindness. He stated: "It is difficult to provide accurate final numbers as they change daily with the number of grants currently being processed. It is unlikely that we will have a final count until some time in July."

"In general I can tell you that the Foundation has received approximately **1100 Matching Grant Applications for Avoidable Blindness projects this Rotary year.** As of 5 June 2001, a total of 543 grants have been approved using funds from the Matching Grant budget for a total of **US \$2, 331,318.** A total of **US \$2,055,351** has been raised in contributions to the Avoidable Blindness Pools.

However, I expect more contributions in response to a mailing that was sent to all Governors in May requesting them to allocate unidentified DDF to various programs. More funding is needed for the Pools as the Foundation currently has more pending applications requesting funds than there are funds available in the pools. The trustees will evaluate the initiative at their June meeting in San Antonio." I want to give a big **THANK YOU to James Robinson and Robbyn Singer who have done a superb job for our ABTF!!**

FRANK DEVLYN TO HEAD ABTF IN YEAR 2001-2002

Richard D. King, R.I. President 2001-2002 has named **Frank Devlyn**, who created the ABTF this Rotary year, to the position of **General Chairman ABTF** for the year ahead.

In a letter to the 68 Zone Coordinators for 2001-2002, **President Frank** wrote: "I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the outstanding team of the Avoidable Blindness Task Force for 2001-2002. I am honored to be the Chairman for this Task Force. It is our job to promote Avoidable Blindness projects and all of us must work to promote in our zones."

President King's challenge to the ABTF states: "To distribute information on avoidable blindness and facilitate linkages between those with project needs and those with available resources; to utilize this avenue to support clubs and districts in their efforts to achieve the 2001-2002 Presidential Citation and increase membership."

Assistant General Chairman will be **Doyle Dannenberg.** Ten Area Coordinators have been named:

Area A: Kazuaki Morita

Area B: Umesh Megur

Area C: Yusuf Kodwawala

Area D: Norman Cooper

Area E: Fabio Dossi

Area F: Sizenando Affonso

Area G: Luis Roji Uribe

Area H: Melvin L. Farnsworth

Area I: Edwin A. Schulz

Area J: Albert A. Alley

In addition three members at large were chosen:

Susumu Tsuda (Ophthalmologist) Japan

Kenneth D. Tuck (Ophthalmologist), USA

Robert C. Welsh (Ophthalmologist), USA

Sixty-eight Zone Coordinators have been named. Their names will appear in the 2001-2002 R.I. Directory and on the Avoidable Blindness Website.

DR. ROBERT HOLCOMB TO HEAD ABTF BOOTH AT SAN ANTONIO CONVENTION

Dr. Robert Holcomb, North America Area Coordinator for our ABTF will head up our ABTF Booth at the coming San Antonio Convention next week. We have been assigned Booth #706-707. The booth will be shared by the 2000-01 and 2001-02 ABTF's.

Rotary International has prepared a hand out for our use. In addition we have invited many of our cooperating partners in our ABTF activities to provide information on how Rotarians can work with them. Rotarian **Bob Ketron** will have information on **Corneal Eye Banks** at the booth.

Hours of Operation: 24-27 June 1200-1800 are Core Hours. As a service to all Rotarians attending the convention, it is published in the program book that all Exhibit Booths will be staffed from 1200-1800 hours from 24-27 June. **Booth Chairman Bob Holcomb** urges all ABTF members for both years 2000-01 and 2001-02 to stop by and volunteer to assist in staffing the booth in two hour shifts.

A BIG THANKS TO BOB HOLCOMB FOR ASSUMING THIS JOB AND ALL HE HAS DONE THIS YEAR!!

REMINDER OF TASK FORCE WORKSHOP IN SAN ANTONIO 25 JUNE!

ABTF Members are invited to attend and participate in a Task Force Idea Exchange Workshop being held on Monday 25 June, 1530-1700. One of the workshops will focus on the work of our **Avoidable Blindness Task Force**.

It will be held in **Room 210 A/B**.

Come join us and share what you have done this year and enable all of us to do an even better job in the year ahead.

DR. SERGE RESNIKOFF OF WHO TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER AT SAN ANTONIO

President Frank Devlyn reports that **Dr. Serge Resnikoff** of the **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION** will be a featured speaker at the San Antonio Convention.

Dr. Resnikoff will be speaking on "**Blindness Prevention Programmes: past, present, and future**." Actually he will be sharing information on **WHO'S 'THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS'** (referred to as "**VISION 2020—The Right To Sight**"), launched in 1999, is a collaborative effort between WHO and a number of international nongovernmental organizations and other interested partners. This effort is poised to take the steps necessary to achieve the goal of eliminating blindness worldwide by the year 2020.

"**VISION 2020**" includes three major components as target activities: specific disease control, human resource development, and infrastructure and appropriate technology development. In the first five year phase, disease control efforts will focus largely on cataract, trachoma, onchocerciasis, avoidable causes of childhood blindness, uncorrected refractive errors, and low vision.

As **VISION 2020's** mission statement emphasizes, "**Our mission is to eliminate the main causes of blindness in order to give all people in the world, particularly the millions of needlessly blind, the right to sight**".

Gabriel Minder, Rotary International Alternate Representative to UN Geneva tells me that WHO recently identified Vietnam as one of the countries where blindness can be most cost-effectively avoided. In addition he stated that the R.I. Board has decided to resume Rotary presence in Vietnam. Perhaps a good ABTF project there could be helpful. **BE SURE TO HEAR DR. RESNIKOFF IN SAN ANTONIO.**

BARRY HOWIE, DG7080 REPORTS APPROVAL OF PLAN TO COLLECT USED EYE GLASSES IN CANADA

Barry Howie, DG 7080 reports that **Hakim Optical** with close to 100 stores in Canada has agreed to let Rotary place collection boxes in every one of their retail stores, to facilitate collection of used eyeglasses. We will begin to produce these boxes, subject to **Hakim** approving the text displayed on the boxes, which will feature both their logo and ours with equal prominence, and advising that all glasses collected will be fitted for people in third world countries.

Additionally, **Hakim** have agreed to donate 100,000 pairs of plastic frames to a Rotary Club in **D.7080**, with the understanding they will be used in the provision of glasses to orphans of the Genocide in Rwanda.

Thank you Governor Howie and Hakim!

PRESIDENT DEVLYN SHARES OPPORTUNITIES FOR TASK FORCE LEADERS IN S.A.

11 June 2001. President Frank Devlyn tells about several ideas and opportunities for Task Force leaders and members when they come to San Antonio.

1. You will see a fantastic gallery of Task Force pictures on the Wall of Fame.
2. Task Force booths which will combine work this year with the continuity of TF for the 2001-2002 Rotary year.
3. There will be workshops and seminars during which the work of the Task Forces and partner organizations will be featured.
4. Recognition of outstanding TF projects. I will be presenting over 50 certificates for outstanding projects.

5. On Friday afternoon during the International Institute there will be a Task Force Idea Exchange where you may exchange ideas about projects and activities.

Thought for June—"Success"

There are no secrets of success. **Success is doing the things you know you should do. Success is not doing the things you know you should not do.**

Success is not limited to any one area of your life. It encompasses all of the facets of relationships: as parent, as wife or husband, as citizen, neighbor, worker and all of the others.

Success is not confined to any one part of your personality but is related to the development of all the parts: body, mind, heart and spirit. It is making the most of your *total self*.

Success is discovering your best talents, skills and abilities and applying them where they will make the most effective contribution to your fellow men. In the words of Longfellow it is "doing what you do well, and doing well whatever you do."

Success is harnessing your heart to a task you love to do. It is falling in love with your work. It demands intense concentration on your chief aim in life. It is focusing the full power of all you are on what you have a burning desire to achieve.

Success is ninety-nine per cent mental attitude. It calls for love, joy, optimism, confidence, serenity, poise, faith, courage, cheerfulness, imagination, initiative, tolerance, honesty, humility, patience and enthusiasm.

Success is not arriving at the summit of a mountain as a final destination. It is a continuing upward spiral of progress. It is perpetual growth.

Success is having courage to meet failure without being defeated. It is refusing to let

present loss interfere with your long range goal.

Success is accepting the challenge of the difficult. In the inspiring words of Phillips Brooks: "Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of our work shall be no miracle, but you shall be the miracle."

Success is relative and individual and personal. It is your answer to the problem of making your minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years add up to a great life.

(Copied from The Art of Living by Wilferd A. Peterson.)

**Chairman Doyle Dannenberg
Salutes all Avoidable Blindness
Task Force Members!**

Since this Rotary year is coming to an end on 30 June and this will be my last Avoidable Blindness Newsletter, I would like to share the familiar words from Stephen Grellet:

KINDNESS

I shall pass through this world but once,
If therefore, there is any kindness I can show,
or any good thing I can do, let me do it now;
Let me not defer it nor neglect it, for I shall
not pass this way again."

Consequently I want to express from deep in my heart to every member of the Avoidable Blindness Task Force, a great big

“THANK YOU”

to each and everyone of you. I can honestly say that in my 52 year in Rotary, this has been the most challenging and rewarding year of my life. I am a firm believer in God and I feel He had his hand on my shoulder, for I love Rotary and have loved my profession of caring for the visual welfare of my fellow man. Thank you, President Fran for giving to me and all members of our

Avoidable Blindness Task Force the privilege of serving you, Rotary, and the countless number of people whose lives we have touched with restored sight, new hope, and the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the beautiful world we live in.

It is my personal belief that together when the final figures are in, we will have reached the goal set for us by President Frank of 1000 new projects in Avoidable Blindness!

Together we have **CREATED
AWARENESS....AND...TAKEN
ACTION!**

HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU

IN SAN ANTONIO NEXT

WEEK AND HAVE THE

OPPORTUNITY TO THANK

YOU PERSONALLY!