



Nunzio Scibilia

District Governor
2016-2017

Palermo, 1st November 2016

Dear friends in Rotary,

It is very pleasant, although rather difficult, to write about the Rotary Foundation during the very month dedicated to it when all Rotarians, the world over, celebrate the centenary of its foundation.

As we look back to 100 years of hard work in the support of and with commitment to the Foundation we can proudly say that we have achieved much in changing people's lives both locally as well as internationally. It has been a long road registering successes through thick and thin. But Rotarians love a challenge and working for 'our Foundation' has never frightened us.

Rotary Foundation's mission is that of encouraging Rotarians to promote world understanding and goodwill through the improvement of health, the support of learning and the challenge to poverty. The Foundation's funds support Rotarians in investing their time, resources and competences in facing challenges in six specific areas of intervention with sustainable solutions having a lasting impact.

How do we operate?

Sustaining

- The training, instruction, creation of Peace through prevention and conflict resolution
- The improvement of maternal health and the reduction of infantile mortality

Supporting

- Actions to provide access to clean water supply and sanitary structures

Financing

- The training of activities apt to reducing the effects of disease
- Training and activities to bring by education of both adults and children
- Investing in the economic progress of needy communities

Our priority remains the Polio Plus Campaign. The last report, which was received in recent days, presents a new reality. While we have very positive data regarding Afghanistan and Pakistan (9 and 14 cases respectively compared to last year's 20 and 54), unfortunately there were 3 new cases in Nigeria in August. Auspiciously the number has not increased since then, but this small amount of cases has taken the country back by two years with the result that it has again been listed as an endemic zone.

Although war in the territories mentioned make our vaccination campaigns rather 'risky', we must keep up the alert and strengthen our commitment to reach our goal of the complete eradication of poliomyelitis in the world as soon as possible.

I am very pleased with the results attained by requests for District Funds for the current year. All 17 requests that were received have received the go ahead. This proves that the Clubs have made precious use of the instructions received from the RF Commission and the Sub-committee for Funds who I thank once again. The projects presented were excellent in their content and aims.

Arch Klumph, founder of the Foundation, had a splendid intuition in his plan to 'do good to the world' and the seed he planted during the presentation of his idea to the International Congress of Rotary, in Atlanta back in 1917 has flourished. Thanks to his vision and to the tireless commitment and extraordinary generosity of Rotarians the world over, that fund has developed and today represents one of the most important humanitarian foundations in the world placing itself 'serving Humanity'.

Never has a motto been more apt in line with so important an anniversary!

Yours in Rotary.