



# International Service

As I further my Rotary journey, I can build connections around the world, helping meet needs, solve problems, and build peace

## Session Goals

How can I, as an individual Rotarian, contribute to International Service?

Exchange ideas supporting why my club should be involved in International Service

What are the benefits of a Rotary Action Group to me?

Explore ideas for International Service projects

## Materials

Insert IS-1: Suggested Steps in Developing an International Service Project

Insert IS-2: What is an International Service Project?

Insert IS-3: Bringing It Together in International Service

Communities in Action 605-EN-(112)

Rotary Showcase Search

Rotary Friendship Exchange Handbook EN-(909)

Key: attached insert online article ppt

This is a course in the Service Spiral going across the 3 days of RLI. Prior courses include Our Foundation, Service Projects and Targeted Service. Additional courses in this spiral include Rotary Opportunities, and Making a Difference. Leadership and Membership have separate spirals.

## Session Topics

- 1) What does International Service mean to me?
- 2) What can I, as an individual Rotarian, do to promote opportunities for International Service?
- 3) What can my club do to promote opportunities for International Service?
- 4) What can my district do to promote opportunities for International Service?

*“Our greatest strength...at the club or international level, lies in the work that Rotarian volunteers put into the programs....Dedicated, dynamic volunteers are the mainspring of Rotary’s strength and continued growth.”*

Past RI Pres. William E. Skelton—  
Address to 1983 Rotary Convention,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada



- 5) How can we utilize our vocational skills in international service?
- 6) What are some ideas for club meeting programs in the “International” area?
- 7) How can we blend non-Rotarian activities with Rotarian International Service?
- 8) What opportunities exist in our community to join an existing project?

#### What makes a service project effective?

Effective service projects do more than just offer a quick “fix” to problems. Typically, Rotary’s most effective service projects:

- Respond to real issues
- Improve community members’ lives
- Incorporate the abilities of those who are served
- Recognize the contributions of all participants as important and necessary
- Are based on a realistic assessment of available resources
- Aim for specific goals and objectives with measurable results
- Build effective networks
- Empower people and communities

From *Communities in Action* 605-EN-(112)

- 9) What is “sustainability”, and how important is it in developing an International Service project?
- 10) Develop an International Service project.
- 11) Review how prior aspects of RLI have informed the development of your Project (See IS-3)

*“Rotarians in one part of the globe can affect lives on the opposite side of the world. We have the desires and the capabilities to give help where help is needed....*

*Where there [is]...a starving child...a weeping mother — Rotary can be there.*

*Where there is a cataracted eye, a crooked limb — a need for medicine, braces, surgery — Rotary can be there.*

*Where there is the sigh of the lonely, the despair of the isolated — Rotary can be there.*

*Rotary is the sanctity of fellowship, the love of brotherhood, the warmth of trust. Rotary is a vision — yet struck in stone. We build not only in concrete, but also in lives and futures.”*

Past RI Pres. Edward F. Cadman  
— Address to 1985 Rotary Convention, Kansas City, Missouri, USA



## **Insert IS-1: Suggested Steps in Developing a International Service Project**

1. Get ideas from Rotary Web Site (Rotary Showcase) or people who have visited a foreign country.
2. Try to select something important that will interest the club members.
3. Present the idea to the club's International Service Committee who will report to the Board of Directors.
4. If approved, make contact with Rotary club or district in the target country to seek cooperation. Conduct a “needs assessment”. Conduct a “sustainability assessment”.
5. Get estimates of project cost with cooperation of partner club/district.
6. Consider if visit to other country desirable/necessary. If so, discuss ways of financing travel.
7. Develop budget for project with partner club/district. Estimate source of funds - sponsor club, district contribution, partner club, grant funds, outside support, etc.
8. Get approval of budget by all sources of support and begin preparation of grant applications.
9. Process Foundation Grant Model applications and execute project.
10. Keep club informed of progress of project. Have pictures taken, etc. for publicity within district, to outside media, etc.
11. Thank those who supported project.
12. Send Grant Reports as required.



## **Insert IS-2: What is an International Service Project?**

An International Service Project, formerly called “World Community Service”, involves Rotary clubs from two or more countries uniting to serve one of their communities. Clubs searching for international assistance can publicize their project needs via the web to other clubs around the world. Likewise, clubs looking to support an international project can use web resources to locate a suitable candidate.

By advancing international understanding and goodwill through service, International Service Projects reflect the heart of Rotary and provide exciting, challenging, and rewarding opportunities to Rotarians.

Program History and Goals: The WCS program was officially launched in 1967. Since then, thousands of WCS projects were completed, and millions of dollars in funds and supplies were donated annually by Rotary clubs to support them. The WCS program was phased out June 30, 2011 in favor of a resource and support model developed by Rotary International to support International Service Projects.

### **International Service Projects aim to:**

1. Improve the **quality of life** of those in need through international service
2. Encourage **cooperation** between clubs and districts in different countries as they carry out international service projects
3. Provide an effective **framework** for exchanging information regarding project needs and assistance
4. Increase **awareness** among Rotarians of International development and cultural issues as well as the importance of implementing projects that help people help themselves
5. Assist participants in **related programs** of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation
6. Educate Rotarians about **project funding opportunities** available through the Foundation and other sources
7. **Communicate** successful project experiences to other Rotarians
8. Foster **international understanding, goodwill, and peace**

The RI Board recommends that when clubs develop programs for World Understanding Month in February, they structure at least one around International Service.

### **Projects should adhere to the following criteria:**

1. The project is humanitarian in nature.
2. Rotarians in two or more countries are involved.
3. The project is located in one of these countries.

### **Getting Involved**

Rotary clubs that get involved find that the project’s benefits extend far beyond the communities where their projects take place. Clubs have the opportunity to (1) Undertake more ambitious projects (2) Empower all participants in service efforts (3) Develop closer ties with Rotarians abroad (4) Further international understanding and goodwill AND, (5) Address global concerns

Many clubs start participating in International Service Projects because of **informal contacts** among Rotarians... **Rotary Showcase** is another way Rotarians can get involved in International Service. This searchable database, available at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), lists hundreds of club and district community service projects worldwide in need of funding, volunteers, donated goods, and partners for Rotary Foundation Grants. It also offers a list of model projects, which can be a source of best practices.

Excerpted from World Community Service Handbook: a Guide to Action. 742-EN-(908), modified by RLI



# Insert IS-3: Bringing It Together in International Service

