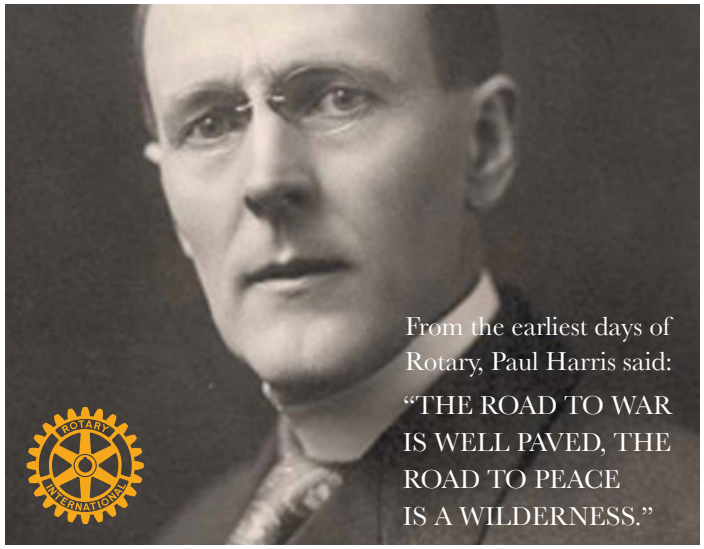
ROTARY'S PEACE MILESTONES



RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed that an endowment be set up "for the purpose of doing good in the world." In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US$5,000 it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

1917

At their convention in Edinburgh, Scotland, Rotarians unanimously agreed to incorporate peacemaking into Rotary's constitution and by-laws with these words, "The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world of fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service."

1921

Rotarians again made a significant contribution to peacemaking at their convention in Havana, Cuba by adopting a resolution calling for "freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights" that became the framework for the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1940

Rotary clubs from 21 nations organized a conference in London to develop a vision for advancing education, science and culture after World War II. This meeting led the international dialogues on reconstructing education around the world once WWII was over, and served as a precursor to UNESCO.

1942

In April 1945, Rotary was at the forefront of arguably one of the most important meetings of the 20th Century, the finalizing of the charter of the United Nations in San Francisco. Rotary was invited to attend as an observer organization. Rotary provided 11 official observers to the US delegation alone – only one other organization had more than three. *A Century of Service, The Story of Rotary International* by David C. Forward.

1945

The United Nations Universal Declaration for Human Rights was finalized using the framework and guidelines from the 1940 Rotary International Convention in Havana.

1948

Rotary builds peace through its single largest and most significant project: PolioPlus. To date, Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than USD $1.3 billion toward the eradication of polio. Polio once infected more than 350,000 children annually. In 2011, only 650 cases were reported, in 2012 only 223 and in 2013 there were only 416 cases of polio reported worldwide.

1985

The City of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia was declared the first Rotary Peace City in the world. Now there are over sixty Rotary Peace Cities.

1992

1996

A committee was formed to develop the concept of an educational center, institute, or university dedicated to Paul Harris as a way of commemorating the 50th anniversary of his death in 1947.

1999

The RI Trustees approved the plan to partner with universities to establish the Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution. The Rotary Peace Centers committee considered more than 100 universities and selected seven based on criteria such as geographic diversity, superior faculty and an established two year master's degree program with a core curriculum in international relations, peace, and conflict resolution.

2004

Since the first graduating class in 2004, over 850 graduates have emerged from the programs. Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities.

Marios Antoniou
Rotary Peace Fellow

2006

A 3-month peace studies certificate program was launched, serving as an addition to the Rotary Peace Centers program. The program enhances Rotary's existing work to support international peace studies. The certificate program attracts middle to upper-level professionals who can arrange to be away from their employment for just a few months. 50 are the certificate participants per year.

2010

The 10th Class of Rotary Peace Fellows was selected. In 2002, less than half of all Rotary Districts submitted applications; to date over 89% of all Rotary Districts have endorsed qualified applicants.

Rotary Peace Fellows

2012-2013

Rotary Theme:
Peace Through Service

India was removed from the World Health Organization's list of countries plagued by Polio.

Issue of Rotarian Magazine entitled "Making Peace."

Rotarian Action Group for Peace recognized by Rotary International:
rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

2014-2015

Rotarian Action Group for Peace turns 3!

• Over 2,000 members from 50+ countries

• PeaceHUB Map launches to connect all Rotary peace resources in one spot

• On the planning Committee for the SãoPaulo Peace Symposium

Rotary Peace Symposiums:

Berlin, Germany
Peace Without Borders
Nov 30 - Dec 2, 2012

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
The Green Path to Peace
Jan 25 - 27, 2013

Hiroshima, Japan
Peace Begins with You
May 17 - 18, 2013

2016-2017

• Rotary Theme: Rotary Serving Humanity. President John Germ believes that "now is the time to capitalize on our success: as we complete the eradication of polio, and catapult Rotary forward to be an even greater force for good in the world."
• Rotary Foundation celebrates 100 years of doing good in the world.
• More than 1,000 Peace Fellow Alumni are working in over 100 countries.
• $142 million has been raised by Rotary to support peace around the world.

rotarian action group for peace
peace through service

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