

# What is Rotary ?

**Rotary is one of the largest and most influential international humanitarian service organizations in the world.**

- Rotary's 1.2 million members worldwide belong to more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.
- As volunteers, Rotary members have been serving the needs of communities worldwide since 1905.

**Rotary is a global network of business, professional, and community leaders.**

- Through volunteer service, the women and men of Rotary build friendships and enlarge their circle of business and professional acquaintances.
- Participating in international service projects allows Rotary members to connect with people from around the world and promote cross-cultural understanding.

**Rotary promotes peace and international understanding through its educational and humanitarian programs.**

- Rotary sponsors the largest privately funded international scholarship program in the world. Since 1947, Rotary has contributed roughly \$500 million to fund 38,000 students from 100 countries. These cultural ambassadors use the skills they acquire through their studies abroad to help their communities.
- Rotary clubs promote peace by initiating thousands of humanitarian projects every year that address the underlying causes of social instability and conflict — hunger, poverty, disease, and illiteracy.

**Rotary's top philanthropic goal is to eradicate polio worldwide.**

- Since 1985, Rotary members have donated their time and money to help immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries.
- To date, Rotary has contributed more than US\$800 million and countless volunteer hours to fighting the disease.

**Rotary and its partners have reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide.**

- Less than 2,000 cases of polio were reported in 2008, compared with 350,000 cases in 1988.
- Polio remains endemic in just three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Rotary's Motto  
"Service Above Self"