



humanity in motion

## foundation bulletin

April 2009

### DISTRICT 1160 ROTARY FOUNDATION BULLETIN

#### ***Request to Presidents***

*Please circulate, as 'best practice', this bulletin to all members of your club so that all Rotarians in District 1160 have update on Rotary Foundation's work - Rotary International's own charity*

#### **Group Study Exchange (2008/2009)**

Best wishes to the Group Study Exchange Team which left for District 5470 (Colorado) on Saturday 24 April.

The team leader is Rtn Colum McLoughlin. The members of the team are: Aiden Lonergan from Ballinasloe, Graeme Moore from Belfast, Michael Fitzpatrick from Dublin & Neil McGuinness from Lurgan.

Their progress can be followed on <http://www.district1160.org/gse/news.php>

#### **Fund Development (URGENT)**

***Have you sent your Annual Programmes Fund contributions to District Treasurer Werner yet?***

In the last two years: 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 - this District has been the leading District in terms of contributions in RIBI - achieving \$100 per capita in 2006/2007, and \$110 per capita in 2007/2008. Please do your very best this year in your contributions to the Annual Programmes Fund so that DRFC Elect Caroline and her team can assist clubs in their efforts to help people at home and abroad

Without those contributions we cannot participate in the Rotary Foundations programmes which aim to make....

**...And do make 'A difference in the lives of so many people' in so many countries across the globe**

#### **Matching Grants (2008/2009) – update**

- The Major Matching Grant application submitted by R/C Eshowe and R/C Limavady for funding to help provide transport, food and training for orphans and their caregivers at the Esiqwagweni Day care centre in Mandawi, South Africa has been approved by the Rotary Foundation Trustees

#### **District Designated Fund 2008/2009**

- Details re allocations to date from the District Designated Fund (2008/2009) will be given in the May bulletin

#### **Dates to remember (With thanks to those clubs which are identifying possible candidates)**

Closing date for applications for the **GSE trip to Japan** (October 15 to November 11, 2009) has been extended to **20 May**

Closing date for applications for **World Peace Scholarships** - **31 May**

Closing date for Applications for **Ambassadorial Scholarships** - **31 July**

***All enquiries re applications to DRFC Verity or DRFC Elect Caroline***

**Meanwhile do not hesitate to contact me or members of the team with your queries:**

**As we together work to maintain District 1160 as a leading Rotary Foundation District in RIBI in 2008/2009**



## **Group Study Exchange (GSE) – Why your club should be involved!**

Speaking at RIBI President Ian Thompson's recent visit to Strabane-Lifford Club, President Vincent Grant of The Rotary Club of Londonderry, advised the audience that, for him and his wife, Una, the most notable event during his presidential year was the visit of the GSE Team from District 5470 Colorado. This was the first time that they, personally, had hosted GSE Team members. They so enjoyed entertaining and talking with their two GSE guests that they would have no hesitation in hosting other GSE visitors in the future.

### **Team Selection**

*What is Group Study Exchange (GSE)?* GSE is an Exchange of Teams between two Rotary Districts normally for both vocational and cultural experience.

*Who can participate?* Team members are people in employment, aged 25 to 39, not immediate members of Rotarian families, who can show that they will benefit from participation in GSE and act as good ambassadors for our District. They must be able to secure agreement with their employers to be abroad for about five weeks and be available to attend District Conference, if requested. Recent teams have included nurses, teachers, engineers, care assistants, police/gardai, farmers, accountants, project managers, local government officers. The team is led by a Rotarian.

***How are Team Members selected? Every year, clubs are requested to nominate participants. Each club is free to adopt its own method of selection by nominating suitable candidates known to members, approaching local businesses, advertising in local papers or publicising the opportunity in the local media. Nominees complete an application form and are called for one, possibly two, interviews to complete selection.***

***Who pays for GSE Team Members? Travel costs are paid by The Rotary Foundation from the District Designated Fund. Training costs and team uniforms are met from District funds. Team members meet their own incidental expenses and travel within District 1160. Clubs are not asked to contribute, other than to host their nominee(s) at a club meeting but some clubs do assist their successful candidates by supplying gifts for the host families in the other districts. Remember, your club already contributed funds to The Rotary Foundation; this is an opportunity to have your contribution support someone in your community.***

***Why should my club nominate a participant? Nominating a participant enables your club to become directly involved in furthering the fellowship, vocational, educational and peaceful aspirations of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. It gives the Team Member an unforgettable opportunity to improve vocational skills in what, for some, can be a life-changing experience. At local level, it gives your club an opportunity to recognise and reward working people in your community, at the same time generating good publicity for your club. It also gives your club an opening to engage with your nominee and his/her employer as potential members of your club. District GSE Officer John Clifford, has had the pleasure of seeing one of his Team members who went, last year, to D9550 in Australia become a Rotarian.***

*When and where?* The next team, led by current District Rotary Foundation Officer Verity Swan is going to Japan in October 2009. The closing date for applications has been extended until 20 May 2009. For further information, contact District GSE Officer John Clifford (Cork Bishopstown) or DRFC Verity Swan (Dublin North). Please act quickly!

### *Hosting an incoming GSE Team*

*What is required?* Visiting teams usually comprise five members including the Rotarian Team leader. It is normal to offer home-hosting to the team members so that they can derive maximum cultural experience from the exchange. Home hosting would also include the provision of laundry facilities, if requested, and access to the internet or phone to enable the team member to communicate with family. Some team members like to

keep fit while on tour by running, walking or going to a gym. The normal stay with each club is two to four days.

Host clubs are usually asked to arrange one or more vocational experience for each team member in line with their current occupation or other requested experience. If the day suits, the visiting team should be requested to address a regular meeting of the host club and exchange club banners. Neighbouring clubs could be invited to this meeting. The host club often arranges a meal or other group function for club representatives, host families and visiting team members. Tourism opportunities should be made available on an individual or team basis.

***Who pays for hosting? All expenses in connection with club hosting are the responsibility of the host club. Clubs normally arrange to transfer teams through each stage of their journey although District may consider exceptional travel costs for a cross-country journey by public transport. District will pay hotel accommodation for a mid-term team break away from all club commitments while District Conference will host the visiting team during that event. Excluding the individual home-hosting and motoring costs, it is unlikely that a club would incur more than £500, or Euro equivalent, in home hosting.***

*Why should my club act as host?* Cultural exchange is a two-way process and, like Vincent and Una Grant above, many Rotarian families really enjoy hosting visiting GSE team members. It gives your club an opportunity to participate with other clubs in our District in support of the ideals of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation. It also gives an opportunity for local press publicity and, possibly, a civic reception. Engaging with the visiting team members can be a very enriching experience for any club. In other Districts, clubs often compete with each other for the opportunity to host!

*When?* The next incoming team, from Japan, will visit during September and October 2009. If you wish to volunteer now, please contact District GSE Officer John Clifford (Cork Bishopstown) or DRFC Verity Swan (Dublin North).

AG John MacCrossan May 2009