

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



11 October 2005

To 2005-06 District Governors

Dear District Governors:

We are deeply saddened to learn of the recent earthquake that hit Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, and of the floods and mudslides in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua caused by Hurricane Stan. We are touched by the commitment of Rotarians to assisting the communities affected by this disaster. To learn of these catastrophes that have taken the lives of more than 30,000 people is devastating.

We are writing to you to provide you with information on how you may work through Rotary to make a contribution toward alleviating this major humanitarian crisis. Although Rotary International does not have a fund to provide immediate relief to individuals in times of disaster, RI's International Service section provides information resources regarding club and district disaster relief efforts on the RI Web site (www.rotary.org/programs/wcs/disaster/reliefforts.html). Rotarians wishing to contribute funds and/or donated goods to disaster victims may visit the Web site for opportunities to work with clubs in the affected areas. Please note that contributions to these relief efforts do not qualify for Rotary Foundation recognition.

As always, we encourage you to work with organizations such as UNICEF and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to meet the immediate needs of victims affected by the earthquake.

While an immediate response is necessary at this time, we encourage you to begin thinking of long-term assistance projects. Please visit the RI Programs Web pages on the RI Web site (www.rotary.org/programs/wcs) for information on the World Community Service Projects Exchange and The Rotary Foundation Web pages (www.rotary.org/foundation/grants) for information on Humanitarian Grants.

It is our hope that with your rapid response to this appeal, you will be able to help thousands of innocent people impacted by this crisis rebuild their lives. Thank you for your commitment to helping those in need and in demonstrating "Service Above Self."

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar in black ink.

Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar
RI President

Handwritten signature of Frank Devlyn in black ink.

Frank Devlyn, Trustee Chairman
The Rotary Foundation

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