



Rotary Responds to A I D S



Rotary International

Cover Photographs:

The top picture, courtesy of The Names Project Foundation, depicts the AIDS quilt, as shown in Washington, D.C., 11-13 October 1996. The first AIDS quilt was designed nearly a decade ago by a man named Cleve Jones, to memorialize a friend who had died of AIDS. Other mourners took up the idea and have now swelled Jones's expression of grief to this veritable landscape of individual 3 x 6-foot designs, some 45,000 panels in all, extending to 30 football fields of fabric, and commemorating 70,000 men, women, and children. This moving memorial, made up of contributions from many countries, is a moveable one as well. It is seen by more than a million people in some 2,000 different locations each year, and everywhere it goes it raises funds that stay behind to care for people in the host community who have AIDS. Except for the folded red ribbon, now recognized around the world, no other AIDS symbol speaks so eloquently of the international tragedy this grim epidemic has wrought.

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The other three photographs are courtesy of Rotary clubs and district AIDS projects.



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Chapter 1

Rotary International and AIDS

Over the past decade, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has graduated from a shocking phenomenon to a grim fact of life. Once restricted to a few countries and specific populations, today AIDS and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes AIDS, affect men, women and children of all ages everywhere. As family after family, community after community, has come to grips with its devastating intensity, AIDS has become an all-too-real daily presence — at work, at home, in our schools, and in our clubs.

Rotary's involvement with HIV/AIDS began as local Rotary clubs started to confront the AIDS epidemic in their communities. The ground swell of activity had been forming for many years by the time the Board of Rotary International, at its March 1993 meeting, made the following decision.

Decision: The Board adopts the following statement on AIDS education and prevention:

Rotary International, recognizing:

- that the HIV virus which causes AIDS has been described as a pandemic disease;
- the destructive nature of the disease is fatal to man, woman, and child worldwide;
- there is no known cure for HIV/AIDS victims;

encourages and supports the efforts of its clubs, working as appropriate with government health agencies and non-governmental organizations to:

- increase awareness among their membership and the broader community about AIDS education and prevention;
- undertake or support AIDS education and prevention programs, enhancing AIDS aware-

ness, simultaneously using caution and good judgment to work within cultural and community sensitivities.

The *RI Manual of Procedure* carries the following guideline on AIDS Education:

“Rotary clubs are encouraged to work as appropriate with government health agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase awareness among their membership and the broader community about AIDS education and prevention. They should also undertake or support AIDS education and prevention programs, enhancing AIDS awareness, simultaneously using caution and good judgment to work within cultural and community sensitivities.”

These actions laid the groundwork for 1996-97 RI President Luis Vicente Giay to issue the following statement shortly after he took office in July 1996:

“Young people are our future. Their own future depends on their health. But every day, more than 8,500 people — most of them young people in the prime of life — acquire the HIV virus that causes the deadly disease AIDS. To safeguard the health of the New Generations, we must combat the AIDS epidemic.

He further suggested the following ways in which Rotary clubs and districts can battle AIDS:

- Educate the public about the dangers of AIDS and ways to prevent infection.
- Support prevention of drug abuse, a principal means of HIV/AIDS infection.
- Help raise the status of women, which demonstrably curbs the spread of AIDS.
- Provide volunteer and financial assistance to organizations helping AIDS victims.
- Enlist youth in anti-AIDS efforts, to increase the effectiveness of those efforts.

Rotary International established a cooperative relationship with UNAIDS (the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS) at the XI International AIDS Conference in July 1996 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. At a special ceremony and press conference, RI President Giay and UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot signed a joint statement on AIDS entitled “Working with New Generations for a Safer World.” (See page 12.)

At the November 1996 meeting the Board of Directors further agreed that AIDS awareness and education is a commended activity within Community Service and requested the General Secretary to ensure that AIDS awareness and education is promoted through existing RI programs and to provide increased coverage of AIDS projects in Rotary publications such as the *Rotary World* newspaper, *THE ROTARIAN* magazine, other regional Rotary publications, and on the RI World Wide Web home page.

Rotarians, clubs and districts are accustomed to responding to local needs. Increasingly the need includes persons with HIV/AIDS. This handbook

- clarifies Rotary's position concerning AIDS;
- highlights projects that are already showing good results; and
- offers suggestions and resources for beginning projects.



Chapter 2

AIDS and Whom It Affects

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a disease caused by HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), a virus that damages and kills white blood cells, the body's normal immune system. As the immune system weakens, the carrier may develop the classic symptoms of AIDS — fever, weight loss, diarrhea, and fatigue. Eventually, the infected person can no longer fight off life-threatening illnesses such as tuberculosis or rare forms of pneumonia — what are called opportunistic infections. Not everyone who has HIV is sick: the virus may remain dormant for years with no symptoms, but it can always be transmitted. Eventually, the person will develop AIDS.

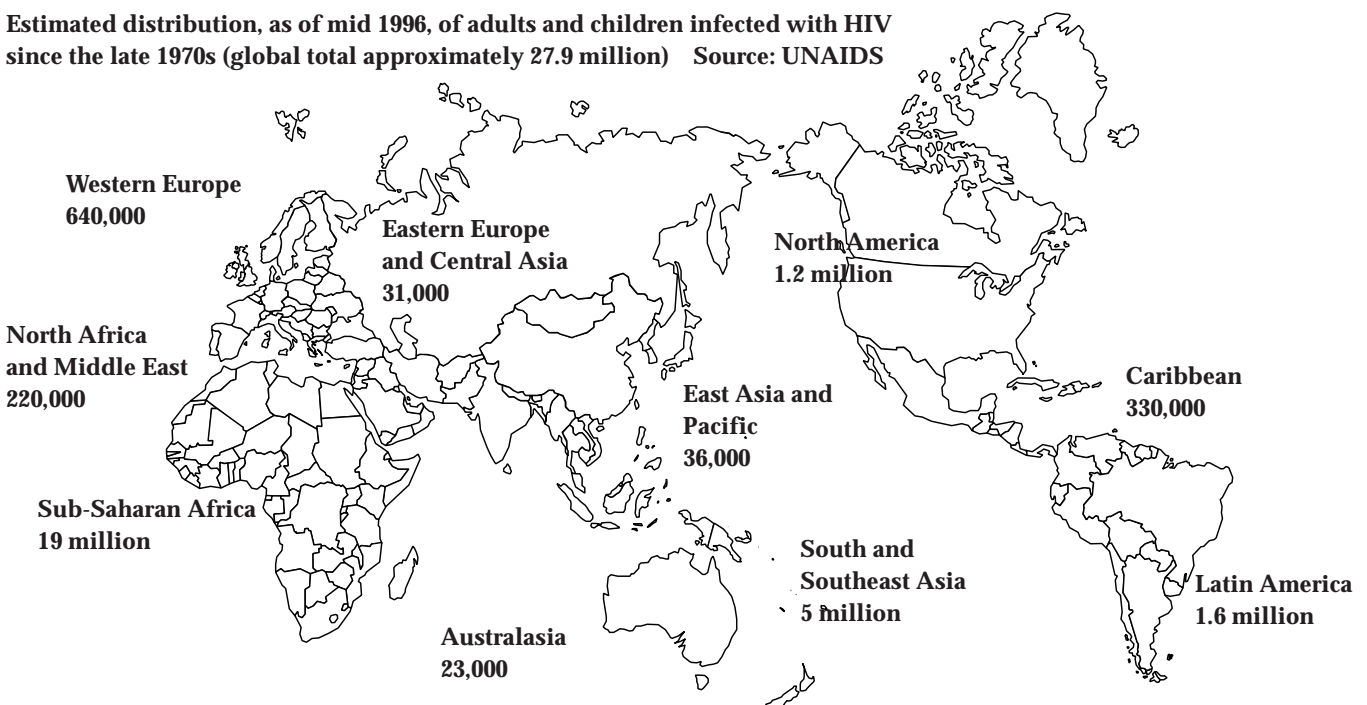
HIV is spread by sexual contact, blood, and from infected mother to child. Having multiple sex part-

ners increases the risk of transmitting HIV. Blood transmission can occur by the repeated, shared use of unsterile needles and syringes among intravenous drug users, and through transfusions if the blood is contaminated. The virus can also be transmitted from an infected mother to her infant before, during, or perhaps after birth (possibly through breast milk).

Between 75 and 85 of every 100 HIV infections in adults worldwide have been transmitted through unprotected sexual intercourse. Heterosexual intercourse accounts for more than 70 percent of all adult HIV infections to date and homosexual intercourse for a further 5-10 percent. Transfusion of HIV-infected blood or blood products accounts for 3-5 percent of all adult HIV infections. The sharing of HIV-infected injection equipment by drug users accounts for 5-10 percent of all adult HIV infections. Mother-to-child transmission accounts for more than 90 percent of all infections in infants and children.

*HIV is **not** transmitted by casual contact, such as kissing, sneezing, or coughing — or from donating blood. One cannot get HIV by working next to an infected colleague, or touching and hugging an infected person. Unlike a cold or measles, HIV or AIDS is not casually contagious.*

Estimated distribution, as of mid 1996, of adults and children infected with HIV since the late 1970s (global total approximately 27.9 million) Source: UNAIDS



Geographic Distribution

If current patterns continue, some 60 to 70 million adults worldwide will be infected with HIV by the year 2000.

Sub-Saharan Africa, with three in five of all HIV-infected people alive today, remains the most affected part of the world. But Asia, where the epidemic is far more recent, is set to overtake Africa as the region with the most new infections. Home to more than half the global population, Asia already has more AIDS cases a year than North America, and more than twice as many as Western Europe.

According to the World Health Organization, rates of infection are rising in some Central American countries and in the Caribbean with increased heterosexual transmission and intravenous drug use.

In the industrialized nations of North America and Western Europe, the infection rate is lower and declining, but with 13,000 new infections still occurring daily worldwide — and most of them acquired heterosexually — these statistics may offer a false sense of security. The transmission of HIV through heterosexual intercourse is on the rise, with especially noticeable increases in urban populations who have high rates of intravenous drug use or sexually transmitted diseases.

While in Eastern Europe and Central Asia the rates of people living with HIV and AIDS are still low, the region has many ingredients of rapid HIV spread — economic crisis, rising unemployment, crumbling health systems, ethnic and religious conflicts, the displacement of civilian populations, as well as people on the move in search of economic opportunities.

The Most Vulnerable Populations

- Among both men and women, the hardest-hit group is young people. More than half of all HIV infections worldwide occur between ages 15 and 24. HIV is transmitted among young people mainly through unprotected sexual intercourse. In young people who inject drugs, HIV is also transmitted through the sharing of contaminated equipment.
- Women are increasingly becoming infected with HIV and at a significantly younger age than men. Females are more vulnerable than males both biologically and socially: the latter because they

generally have less control of their cultural and financial environment. HIV infection due to blood transfusion is more common in women than men. Women more often have blood transfusions because of anemia and complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

- As infections in women rise, so do infections in the infants born to them. Overall, about one-third of babies born to HIV-infected mothers become infected themselves. AIDS also affects children through the premature deaths of their parents. Nine million children under 15, over 90 percent of them in Africa, have lost their mothers to AIDS. The traditional extended family cannot cope alone. Some grandparents are trying to raise as many as 20 children of their prematurely dead sons and daughters. They need help with food, farming, shelter, blankets, school fees and clothing.

Controlling the Epidemic

Treatment

The most dramatic improvements are in the new class of drugs called protease inhibitors. In combination with other AIDS drugs, these inhibitors are already lowering levels of the virus and increasing the life span of HIV-infected adults. Newer tests on children are also showing a positive response. Unfortunately, treatment with such drugs — which can cost up to US\$20,000 per year per patient — is not yet possible in the impoverished countries where infection is most rampant.

The greatest medical need now is for a vaccine. Nine out of 10 infections occur in places where sophisticated drugs — and even good sex-education programs — are far out of reach.

For the most current medical information, please contact the organizations listed in the Resources section.

Education and Prevention

But even where there is no cure, progress of other kinds is being made. Thailand, for example, one of the nations most affected, largely due to the high number of men visiting brothels, has shown very favorable response to educational and public health campaigns. Uganda provides another example of the value of vigilant sex education among the young, and Vietnam and Brazil are also making progress.

Educating people about the HIV virus and its transmission gives them the tools to protect themselves and prevent the spread of AIDS. Teaching young people before they become sexually active, and teaching them to teach their peers can encourage preventive methods which can stop the spread of AIDS before infection has begun. When children and adolescents have access to services and are armed with skills and tools, they are better prepared to grow and live in a world with AIDS.

Prevention and education can encourage any of these components:

- abstinence from sex;
- limiting sex partners, preferably to one;
- avoiding high-risk sexual partners, such as people with multiple-partners or drug users;
- use of condoms;
- obtaining counseling and testing;
- avoidance of intravenous drugs;
- better protection of the blood supply;
- greater attention to sterilization in hospitals;
- education of both male and female adults and young people concerning the need for shared responsibility.

Education and prevention can take place at many levels. Parents have a unique opportunity as the child's first educators to teach responsible sexual behavior. As members of business and the professions, Rotarians have a vested interest in the health of co-workers, colleagues and employees. Membership in Rotary provides further opportunities to support club members with HIV and AIDS, and to work with their Partners in Service, Rotaract, Interact and Rotary Village Corps/Rotary Community Corps, in assisting AIDS organizations and AIDS education and prevention measures in our communities. These efforts can also go beyond the boundaries of individual Rotary clubs to work with Rotary clubs in other countries and regions and meet the needs of their communities.

The possibilities are as endless as the diverse communities individuals live in. Where knowledge of HIV and AIDS is minimal, an education campaign might be in order, whether in a Rotary club or in the community. This education could be done in cooperation with youth through joint projects with Interact or Rotaract clubs or other young people in the community. Young people, as one of the most vulnerable population groups, need to know about the threat of AIDS to their health and lives. They are also an excellent resource for educating each other. Perhaps the best educational method is talking and working with people living with HIV and AIDS. The indiscriminating nature of AIDS affects people all around us. Rotarians can make a difference in their lives by supporting services and creating opportunities for people with AIDS.

Local AIDS organizations can assist in determining the most pressing needs. By pooling resources Rotarians can magnify the small steps taken at home, at work, in Rotary clubs, in the community and internationally, in responding to AIDS.



Chapter 3

Responding Through Public Awareness

A prerequisite for prevention of HIV/AIDS is open dialogue about its transmission. In many parts of the world, even where HIV infection is common, denial, rejection and superstition still characterize public and official attitudes towards AIDS — and towards people with AIDS.

Prevention is not possible without educated and knowledgeable individuals. Information projects can range from home sessions with young people and office sessions with employees, to club addresses by knowledgeable speakers and national and international communications campaigns.

Education should include not only information on sexual transmission but also on the connection between intravenous drug use and AIDS. HIV infection in drug users has been reported by over 50 countries, many of which are in Asia, Eastern Europe and South America. In North America and Western Europe, the transmission of HIV has been especially noticeable in populations who have high rates of intravenous drug use.

Project Ideas

At Home

- Share with your family members what you have learned about AIDS and discuss precautions that can be taken.
- Find clinics that offer AIDS testing and ensure that your children and your children's friends know about it. Protect the ones you love!

At Work

- Invite a health educator to give a presentation to all your employees and refer them to health services as needed.
- Be certain your doctor uses the proper protective equipment, gloves and a mask, both for his or her own protection and also for yours.

In the Rotary Club

- Invite knowledgeable speakers to address the issues and what Rotarians can do.
- Publish an AIDS/HIV newsletter stressing preventive measures and listing resources for various kinds of help.

In the Community

- “World AIDS Day,” on 1 December, is an excellent opportunity for Rotary clubs worldwide to sponsor education programs. Set up a display in a strategic location in the community.
- Organize a health fair to be held on specific days and in specific locations, where festivals or other community activities take place. An attractive booth might distribute leaflets and condoms, have a team of counselors working nearby, and trained Rotarians to answer questions from the public.

Internationally

- Support Rotary clubs in other areas in obtaining AIDS education materials.
- Sponsor a medical professional to gain increased exposure to AIDS education projects in other countries.

Project Models

Rotary AIDS Awareness Now

Rotary runners in Clayton County, Georgia, USA, have clocked many miles to spread the AIDS message. Taking on the challenge of educating their families, friends, and neighbors, they literally ran with it — in jogging shorts, special T-shirts, and running shoes — to meetings of other clubs in the south Atlanta metropolitan area. On arrival, they unfurled a scroll outlining the program, appropriately called R.A.A.N. (Rotary AIDS Awareness Now), and gave a short presentation. People were

reluctant to talk about AIDS when the program began, “But if Rotarians step out and speak,” the runners said, “people listen.”

Educating Barbers

In the Indian state of Kerala, AIDS is spreading through contamination from unsafe blood transfusions, reuse of syringes in hospitals, and reuse of blades by barbers. Cochin City has 160 barbershops and the rural areas of Cochin about 1,900 more. Barbers are mostly uneducated and lack knowledge of AIDS and its transmission. The Rotary Club of Cochin West, India, has initiated a project to teach AIDS awareness to the barbers by printing pamphlets and other reading material in the regional language. The club has extended the program to include a medical camp for illiterate camp dwellers and slum dwellers, providing educational facilities for the children and health care for all ages. The project has won an RI Significant Achievement Award.

Los Altos Club’s Story

In 1989, the Rotary Club of Los Altos, California, USA, under the leadership of past president Dushan Angius, who lost a son to AIDS, produced a documentary video detailing the valiant battle waged against AIDS by Steven Angius and two other local Rotarians. Rotary clubs have circulated it to high schools, junior highs and elementary schools nearly everywhere, and have also shown it to faculties and student bodies on college and university campuses. The follow-up production, “AIDS: The Community Challenge,” and its accompanying handbook, instruct clubs in developing such a symposium, from choice of audience through forming of committees and planning meetings, acquiring speakers — including sample letters inviting them — establishing a budget and raising funds, and designing information packets, press releases, and registration details.

Argentinean National Effort

On 6 March 1996, Rotarians, Interactors, and Rotaractors throughout Argentina committed themselves to a nationwide AIDS public-information campaign through an agreement signed by then RI President-elect Luis Vicente Giay and Dr. Alberto Mazza, Argentina’s minister of health. The agreement specified that the National Ministry of Health would provide the basic elements of the campaign, including the informative materials and trained personnel, and set the campaign objectives. Rotarians, in turn, would be responsible for local promotion, observe two “Rotary AIDS Prevention Weeks” during the year, and mobilize all available community resources to maximize public participation. The Rotary program, emphasizing youth education and participation, would encourage the support of Interact and Rotaract clubs in the preparation of youth leadership for the campaign. Rotarians would also organize public information forums and give AIDS education a prominent place on the agenda at Rotary district conferences.

Making Use of Rotary Foundation Matching Grants

In Africa, a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant helped the Rotary Clubs of Masaka, Uganda, and St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, provide materials for AIDS prevention training and education. Part of a multi-year, community-based health care effort, the stencil machine and printing supplies, the AIDS prevention teaching materials and health fair supplies delivered to the Ssembabule Uganda Child Survival Project supported the health workers in their health education efforts.



Chapter 4

Enlisting Youth in AIDS Education and Prevention Efforts

Among both men and women, the hardest-hit group is young people. The World Health Organization estimates that half of all infections to date (1996) have been in 15–24-year-olds.

Health promotion activities among youth are far more effective if young people are involved in all aspects of the project. This includes involving them in deciding on the aims and direction of the project, participating actively in prevention activities, providing care and support for people with HIV/AIDS and evaluating the impact the project has had on them and on their peers.

The key to working effectively with young people — as with adults — is open communication: the establishment of trust between adult and adolescent, the sharing of responsibility and knowledge, and the assurance of support. Treat the young with respect and give them a chance to talk to you — not just you to them — and they will usually tell you what their needs are, and most rewarding of all, how you can help them.

Their own peer groups, too, as well as young adults a few years beyond their own ages, can be of great help. That is why members of Interact and Rotaract are such important partners in Rotary's efforts.

Project Ideas

At Home

- Have a sale and donate the money to AIDS research or services.

- Encourage parent-child communication about the importance of AIDS prevention.
- Talk to your children before they become sexually active — and don't fool yourself that they never will.

At Work

- Sponsor a sports event with an underlying "safe sex" theme, champions speaking out, and illustrated leaflets distributed at the gates. Make sure the media is there!
- Include a brochure on AIDS among the materials distributed to new employees.

In the Rotary Club

- Call on Interact and Rotaract clubs to help plan and carry out projects.
- On World AIDS Day, 1 December, sponsor a celebrity concert or a poster competition jointly with these Partners in Service.

In the Community

- Organize a community seminar on AIDS with both adult and youth participants.
- Invite secondary school students to write and act out skits about AIDS.
- Work with a radio station to create programs, which, especially if interactive, can reach many young people.

Internationally

- Working with Rotary's Partners in Service and Rotary clubs overseas, send educational materials to young people.

Project Models

Young People as Educators

The Interact Club of Government High School Putheri in Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu, India, joined an awareness camp focusing on AIDS and drug and alcohol abuse. The Interactors, some of whom are themselves the children of addicted parents, then conducted an educational campaign in nearby hamlets, using placards, wall posters, handbills, and accounts from their own personal experience.

Integrating AIDS Education with Literacy

AIDS education is part of a literacy campaign of the Rotary Club of N'Djamena, Chad, which uses comic-book materials designed by young artists. The project has support from the Rotary Clubs of Leuven, Belgium, and Agde-Cap d'Agde, France.

Working with Interact

The Rotary Club of Glendale Sunrise, California, USA, and the Hoover High School Interact Club sponsored an AIDS Awareness Week at the school. T-shirts designed by the Interactors and financed by a loan from the Rotary club were printed at discount by a local businessman. Other highlights included poster and essay contests, distribution of red AIDS ribbons, a lunchtime AIDS information session for students conducted by Interact members, a forum to educate parents about AIDS, and a dance. Glendale Sunrise Rotarians also marched in a civic parade, distributing AIDS information along the way.

The Rotary Club of Dourdan, France, joined with a local high school in supporting a student education campaign about drugs, alcoholism, and AIDS. Questions raised by 350 older students during a two-day information program will serve as the basis for continuing health education in the school and a booklet to be distributed to all students.

The Interact Club of Collegiate High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, decorated the children's ward at the AIDS Haven, a local hospice for those suffering from AIDS. Interact club members painted posters and hung them for the children in the facility to enjoy.



Chapter 5

Helping People Living with AIDS

Individuals with AIDS need a variety of services such as sustained and expensive medical care, counseling, group support, community assistance, education and job opportunities. The individuals to whom they are close — family members, partners, fellow workers, friends and neighbors — need counseling and support as well.

We can help through direct support or through referrals to programs that provide various accommodations, financial assistance, employment, and treatment. We can also supply two of the greatest needs of all: companionship and compassion.

When deliberating on an activity, it is a good rule to consult those who are most directly affected. People who live with HIV and AIDS have formed associations all over the world, and are the best people to seek advice from, as they are aware of the needs not only for care, but also for prevention. Many have become the most convincing educators!

Project Ideas

At Home

- Save your coat hangers and plastic bags and donate them to an AIDS service organization that provides food items and clothing to people with AIDS. The money saved could be used for other services.

At Work

- Many people with AIDS have either been fired from or forced to quit their jobs. Many are also relatively healthy, talented, and certainly capable of taking on a freelance or part-time job. A job

could help by providing him or her with needed funds, while also giving him or her a better sense of purpose and self-respect.

In the Rotary Club

- Try to get every member of your club to commit to spending a few hours with a person with AIDS or with the person's caregiver.
- Organize a blood drive. Many people with AIDS are in need of blood transfusions.

In the Community

- Plan for projected medical needs of people with AIDS. Some patients require extended hospital stays as well as expensive treatments.
- Create a terminal care home in your community for AIDS patients.
- Establish a counseling service for AIDS patients and their families, formed from your own club and the community at large.

Internationally

- Volunteer your time and skills to work with an AIDS organization or a Rotary club undertaking an AIDS project.
- Collect equipment and supplies for AIDS organizations overseas.
- Establish credit programs to provide opportunities for self-employment.

Project Models

Rotaractors Construct a Home

The Rotaract Club of Uberaba, Brazil, has initiated a project designed to raise funds to complete construction of a home for HIV-positive people who are in recovery and to provide them with medicines. The funds will be raised in a 24-hour telethon during which responding callers will be charged for an automatic donation on their phone bills. The club is also participating in a community awareness project designed to dispel prejudices against people with HIV. It will be conducted with support of local media and further publicized through billboards, pamphlets, posters, T-shirts, and school visits.

Supporting Fellow Rotarians

Michael Kallet, a member of the Rotary Club of Oneida, New York, USA, lost a brother to AIDS in 1991. During his grueling 19-month battle with the disease, Steven Kallet agreed to let his story be told in the hope of dramatizing the need for AIDS awareness even in small towns like Oneida (population 10,800). Mike turned to his fellow Rotarians, using "The Los Altos Story" to help make his case. Oneida Rotarians responded by organizing an AIDS Education Committee and establishing a memorial fund of nearly US\$2,000 to implement its work. Soon, neighboring clubs in Sherrill and Canastota joined in, along with the AIDS Task Force of Central New York. The Oneida club has published a pamphlet telling how the program was developed and offers help to other clubs in arranging programs of their own.

Finding Families for Children Orphaned by AIDS

The Rotary Club of Nairobi, Kenya, formed a committee of members with banking, legal, psychological and development skills, along with representatives of a donor organization and a Kenyan AIDS organization, for the purpose of finding families to foster AIDS orphans. Foster families will receive financial support for the children's education and care until the children are grown. The Nairobi club will continue to raise funds for the program, to monitor and evaluate it, to try to extend the program to other clubs in East Africa, and to interest Rotary clubs around the world in supporting it.

Matching Grants to Action

Knowledge of AIDS or HIV in Hungary is practically non-existent and refugee children with AIDS are shunned. The Budapest Pediatric HIV Clinic, which provides services from medical treatment to emotional support, lacked furniture, equipment and

training and information materials. The Rotary clubs of District 1470 in Denmark and of Budapest-Sasad and Szeged in Hungary, joined to help provide equipment, supplies and training materials for an HIV/AIDS clinic.

Food Delivery

The Rotary Club of Santos and RI Districts 4420 (Brazil) and 3350 (Thailand) cooperated to supply a vehicle for delivery of donated food to 134 poor families stricken by AIDS. Santos Rotarians are working with an organization called A CAUSA, in which several of their wives are participants. A CAUSA and the Rotary club collect donations of beans, rice, meat, eggs, fruits, vegetables, pasta, bread, milk, and other foodstuffs from a number of different companies and then select, pack, and deliver the food. The delivery vehicle bears a logo acknowledging The Rotary Foundation.

Rebuilding Lives

The Rotary Club of Kampala-East, Uganda, applied for funds for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant with the Rotary Club of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, for a program aimed at supporting young families affected by AIDS. Single mothers receive basic management training and a US\$10 to \$60 loan to start a small business. Of 55 women who received loans, only three have not repaid. One young mother supported her three children, her blind husband, and five brothers. AIDS education, information and prevention are an important part of the training program. Each participant in turn helps to raise awareness of the dangers of careless sex. Dr. Lawrence Marum of the Rotary Club of Sonoma, California, USA, the Case Western Reserve University staff member who supervised the Kampala project, says Rotary assistance has greatly reduced the children's mortality rate. In Uganda, as little as \$2 a month can make a major difference in a child's survival.

Statement on AIDS, Rotary and UNAIDS

“Working with New Generations
for a Safer World”

Each day more than 8,500 people are newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and 21 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. There is no cure for AIDS and a vaccine for mass distribution will not be ready before the 21st century. Young men and women — half the world’s population — are most at risk. UNAIDS estimates that half of all infections to date have been in the 15-24 year old population group. If the futures of our youth are to be protected, awareness and safe practices programs must be stepped up. AIDS leaves children without parents, schools without teachers, hospitals without doctors and creative young people with no hope or future.

UNAIDS was established by the United Nations in 1996 to solidify and intensify global efforts to stem this epidemic. Co-sponsored by six UN agencies, UNAIDS consolidates advocacy efforts, ensures more effective use of UN system resources, and coordinates UN support to national AIDS awareness programs.

To succeed, the program must have community support. UNAIDS understands it cannot reach into every nation, every city, every village around this planet with programs specifically designed for each of these peoples.

Rotary can help. There are more than 28,000 Rotary clubs with nearly 1.2 million members in 154 countries around the world. Each club is composed of men and women established in their professions who work as volunteers to improve the quality of life in their homes, their communities and the world. Every day, Rotarians turn vision into action.

Rotary can address the specific needs of young people in the local community. Under the leadership of Rotary International President Luis Vicente Gay, from Argentina, Rotary clubs worldwide are being asked to direct their efforts toward the New Generations by expanding and developing targeted youth programs addressing areas such as health, hunger, education, environment, human values, and leadership issues. In this effort, Rotarians will not only work for young people, but also with them. By “Working with New Generations for a Safer World,” Rotarians will help save the lives of millions of young people. Rotary understands that no community initiative for youth can ignore the AIDS crisis.

With UNAIDS as a primary resource, Rotary will inform and encourage its global, community based grassroots network to launch public awareness campaigns to promote AIDS awareness and safe practices among youth. Interact and Rotaract, Rotary sponsored service clubs for young people, will play an integral role.

HIV/AIDS looms as an ominous shadow over the world’s more than 400 million children, adolescents and youth. Only by involving the whole of society can we brighten the future for New Generations.

Rotary International was the leading nongovernmental organization associated with the founding of the United Nations in 1945. That alliance for the betterment, development and health of humankind continues and is increasing as we look toward the new century.

Working together, Rotary clubs and UNAIDS promise new hope for our children and our grandchildren. The commitment is urgent. We pledge this today, because tomorrow will be too late.



Resources

... to help clubs
develop
AIDS-related
programs
and projects

Rotary Resources

New Generations Programs

Interact

A Rotary club-sponsored service organization, Interact provides young people ages 14-18 with the opportunity to develop leadership skills while learning the value of teamwork. Self-governing and self-supporting, Interact clubs are either school- or community-based. In school-based clubs, faculty advisors may attend meetings in place of Rotarian advisors.

Rotaract

Comprised of men and women ages 18 to 30, Rotaract clubs carry out a wide range of Community Service projects, often working alongside their sponsoring Rotary clubs on joint projects. In addition to developing their leadership capabilities in their self-governing clubs, Rotaractors refine professional skills and enjoy international meeting opportunities.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Popular worldwide, this program, sponsored by Rotary districts or clubs, develops the leadership

potential of qualified youth and young adults in a seminar, camp or conference. Educational topics are tailored to the age group in attendance.

Rotary Youth Exchange

In this program, approximately 7,000 students ages 15-19 go abroad yearly, either for the academic year or an extended holiday, broadening their horizons and making lasting friendships. Sponsored and hosted by Rotary clubs, participants stay with families.

Other Programs of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

A 10-year emphasis approved by the RI Board of Directors in 1992, its focus includes cooperation with school administrators to develop or support projects that deter substance abuse among primary and secondary school students.

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships

The world's largest privately funded scholarship program, this Rotary Foundation program enables approximately 1,200 men and women to go abroad every year to study and serve as goodwill ambassadors for their countries and for Rotary.

Rotary Village Corps/ Rotary Community Corps

Self-help organizations of non-Rotarians, RVCs and RCCs work to develop the communities where they live and learn valuable group skills in the process. Hundreds of rural and urban corps worldwide are sponsored by Rotary clubs.

Rotary Volunteers

Volunteers registered with this RI program learn of service opportunities in and beyond their communities. The Rotary Foundation may assist international volunteers — Rotarians, Rotaractors and Foundation alumni — who meet eligibility criteria.

Vocational Service

This Avenue of Service traditionally has provided opportunities for Rotarians to assist young people with their career choices, job training, and employment needs.

Other Organizations

UNAIDS

**20, avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 791 2111
Fax: (41 22) 791 4880/4179
Email: UNAIDS@WHO.CH
Web site: <http://www.UNAIDS.org>**

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS has worked with Rotary International and is an excellent resource for Rotary clubs interested in establishing new AIDS projects or expanding existing ones.

Addresses for UNAIDS Country Program Advisors can be obtained from UNAIDS or from Rotary International. UNAIDS offices are also located in:

Bangladesh	Malawi
Barbados	Namibia
Bulgaria	Nepal
Cambodia	Pakistan
China	Philippines
Cote d'Ivoire	Tanzania
Dominican Republic	Thailand
Eritrea	Uganda
Ghana	Ukraine
India	Uruguay
Indonesia	Venezuela
Kazakhstan	Zaire
Kenya	Zambia
Laos	Zimbabwe

**ActionAid
Chataway House
Leach Road
Chard, Somerset TA20 1FA, UK
Tel: (44 0) 1460 62972
Fax: (44 0) 1460 67191
Email: mail@actionaid.org.uk
Web site: <http://www.oneworld.org/actionaid/home.html>**

A development agency working directly with three million of the world's poorest in Africa, Asia and Latin America, helping them in their fight against poverty. Publications in English and French, some also available in Swahili and Portuguese in series "Strategies for Hope." Publications offer innovative and practical approaches to AIDS management and prevention in developing countries, especially Africa.

**AIDS SidAlerte International
950 Cabrillo St., #14
San Francisco, CA 94118 USA
Tel: (415) 750 1624
Fax: (415) 750 1624**

Email: aidsida@igc.apc.org
The SDI network of 16 NGOs is the largest African NGO network in Francophone Africa, and the network is expanding in Anglophone Africa. Publishes "SidAlerte," a monthly medical review on HIV/AIDS, which reports on all aspects of policy concerning financing, management, and prevention of HIV/AIDS. Also carries latest information on fundamental research and vaccine development.

Appropriate Health Resources & Technologies Action Group (AHRTAG)

**29-35 Farringdon Road
London EC1M 3JB, UK
Tel: (41 171) 242 0606
Fax: (41 171) 242 0041
Email: ahrtag@geo2.poptel.org.uk
Web site: <http://www.poptel.org.uk/ahrtag/>**

An international development agency committed to strengthening primary health care and community-based rehabilitation in the South by maximizing the use and impact of information, providing training and resources, and actively supporting the capacity building of partner organizations. A variety of publications available, including a "Resource pack on HIV/AIDS and sexual health for working with young people" which lists resources and the organizations that produce them. Free to workers in developing countries. Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese.

Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent AIDS

Task Force

ART Secretariat

Regional Delegation Kuala Lumpur

32, Jalan Nipah

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: (603) 451 0723, (603) 452 4046

Fax: (603) 451 9359

Email: ifrc@po.jaring.my

Ten Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (in China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) have formed the Task Force, which especially targets education of youth and women on HIV/AIDS in the most exposed Asian countries. Information and publications, including the twice-yearly newsletter "Work of ART," available.

Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS (ABIA)

Rua Sete de Setembro 48/12

Andar - Centro

Rio de Janeiro, RJ 20050-000

Brazil

Tel: 55 21 224 1650

Fax: 55 21 224 3414

Web site: <http://www.ibase.org.br/~abiaadmin/>

An organization with a nationwide program on AIDS awareness and education. Main activities include training, workshops and seminars.

Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (AFAO)

P.O. Box H274

Australia Square

Sydney, NSW 2000

Australia

Tel: (61 2) 231 2111

Fax: (61 2) 231 2092

Email: afao@pinkboard.com.au

Web site: <http://www.pinkboard.com.au/~afao>

AFAO is a non-government organization representing Australia's community-based response to HIV/AIDS. Activities include advocacy, education, support to people with AIDS, and policy formulation.

Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)

400-100, rue Sparks Street

Ottawa K1P 5B7

Canada

CAS, a national coalition of more than 100 community-based AIDS organizations across Canada, is dedicated to increasing the response to HIV/AIDS across all sectors and to enriching the lives of people and communities living with HIV/AIDS.

Casa Alianza de Honduras

Calle Morelos, Ave Cervantes al Norte

del Puente Carias

Apdo Postal #2401

Tegucigalpa DC

Honduras

International organization (Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Canada and USA) aimed at street youth.

Provides medical care, vocational training, counseling, food, shelter, legal aid, education, community outreach and STD and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

1600 Clifton Rd., NE

Atlanta, GA 30333, USA

Email: netinfo@cdc1.cdc.gov

Web page: <http://www.cdcnac.org>

The CDC mission is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury and disability. The National AIDS Clearinghouse facilitates the sharing of HIV/AIDS resources and information about education and prevention, published materials, and research findings, as well as news about AIDS-related trends.

Commonwealth Youth Programme

Commonwealth Secretariat

Marborough House, Pall Mall

London SW1Y 5H, UK

Tel: (41 171) 747 6463

Fax: (41 171) 930 1647

Resources include AIDS-related programs, addresses in different regions, and the excellent publication "Working with Young People: a guide to preventing HIV, AIDS and STD," 1995, specifically written for those who want to plan and carry out projects among young people.

The East-West Center

1777 East-West Road

Honolulu, HI 90848 USA

Tel: (808) 944 7197

Fax: (808) 944-7376

An organization which works with the governments and people of the Asia-Pacific Region. Publishes series reports on topics of regional concern, including HIV/AIDS.

ENDA Health Programme on AIDS in Africa**4, rue Kleber****Dakar 3370****Senegal****Tel: 221 222 125****Fax: 221 222 695**

A non-governmental organization supporting a broad range of health, environment, and development projects including AIDS prevention, education, and working with street youth.

**International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies****17 Chemin des Crêts****Petit-Saconnex****Geneva****Switzerland****Tel: 41 22 730 4222****Fax: 41 22 733 0395****Email: secretariat@ifrc.org****Web site: <http://www.ifrc.org>**

Contributes to the development of the humanitarian activities of the 169 National Societies, and has a Community Health Department with a special program for AIDS. See for example the activities of the Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent AIDS Task Force.

Life Education International**P.O. Box 1571****Potts Point****NSW 2011****Australia****Tel: (02) 9358 2466****Fax: (02) 9357 2569**

Life Education Centers offer children a new style of learning, one that is informative, enlightening, and positive in its approach. With years of experience in drug-abuse prevention, Life Education now offers AIDS prevention programs for children 9 to 15 years of age, as well as parent and employee programs. The organization also operates in New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Africa, the UK and the USA.

Malaysian AIDS Council Resource Center**(MACRC)****23, Jalan 11/12****46200 Petaling Jaya****Selangor****Malaysia****Tel: (60) 3 758 1033****Fax: (60) 3 758 6133****Email: aidsinfo@asiaconnect.com.my****Web site: <http://www.asiaconnect.com.my/aids/mac/>**

MACRC has been set up to cater to the demand for HIV/AIDS information. The Center is part of the comprehensive approach taken by the Malaysian AIDS Council, an affiliate of 27 groups, in conducting its programs and activities to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia.

Pan American Health Organization**525 23rd Street, NW****Washington, D.C. 20037, USA****Tel: (202) 861 3459****Fax: (202) 861 3143****Email: publinfo@paho.org****Web site: <http://www.paho.org>**

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is an international public health agency with more than 90 years of experience in working to improve health and living standards of the countries of the Americas. PAHO's basic task is to collaborate with Ministries of Health, social security agencies, other government institutions, non-governmental organizations and community groups to strengthen national and local health systems and improve the health of the peoples of the Americas.

Population Services International**1120 19th St, NW****Suite 600****Washington, D.C. 20036, USA****Tel: (202) 785 0072****Fax: (202) 785 0120****Email: Generalinfo@psiwash.org****Web site: <http://www.psiwash.org>**

A nonprofit dedicated to improving the health of low-income people worldwide. Develops and implements social marketing programs worldwide to encourage healthy behavior and expand access and increase affordability of beneficial health products. Social marketing programs include projects to combat the spread of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, maternal and child health products and services, communications campaigns, help in developing and strengthening local industry and service sectors, and local training in public health and social marketing.

Project HOPE
International Headquarters
Health Sciences Education Center
Carter Hall
Millwood, VA 22646, USA
Tel: (540) 837 2100
Fax: (540) 837 1813

Web site: <http://www.projhope.org>
Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere) provides health education, health policy research, and humanitarian assistance worldwide. Some of the countries Project HOPE is currently involved with are Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Egypt, USA, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bosnia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Slovakia, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Quaker Service Australia
P.O. Box 119
North Hobart, Tas. 7002, Australia
Tel/Fax: (002) 343 240

Quaker Service Australia has worked in numerous countries including Uganda and Cambodia in training medical workers and improving country community services and support for HIV-positive people and their family members, and educating young people to avoid spread of HIV to younger age groups.

SOS Crianca
Centro Brasileiro de Defesa dos Direitos de
Crianca e do Adolescente
Caixa Postal 4884, Ag.
CENTRAL CEP 20 100
Rio de Janeiro - RJ
Brazil

Tel: 55 21 233 9715
Fax: 55 21 227 4029

An organization which promotes national and international awareness of issues related to socially marginalized youth. It advocates for the legal rights of children and adolescents, particularly those living on the streets of Brazil. Materials to help discuss sexual behavior and AIDS with young people are available.

World Foundation for AIDS Research
and Prevention
Secretariat:

1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France
Tel: (33-1) 45 68 45 20, (33-1) 45 68 38 41
Fax: (33-1) 42 73 37 45

Established "to throw new forces into the fight against AIDS, by mobilizing private initiative worldwide to complement the measures taken by public authorities," giving priority to innovation in research, meeting the educational challenge, and coping with the social emergency.

Youth for Population Information and
Communication (YPIC)

Box 3110
Kumasi
Ghana
Tel: 233 51 6186
Fax: 233 51 4132

A non-governmental organization operating nationally and with a network in Uganda, Kenya and Mauritius. Services target youth and include advocacy, vocational training, counseling, access to existing health services, life planning, education, family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention.



Rotary International
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201, USA

