

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

DISTRICT 2450

Subscribe to the Cyprus Rotary News



CYPRUS ROTARY NEWS

ISSUE NO 8 / FEBRUARY 2012



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

DEPUTY DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2450

Themis Themistocleous

+357 99221202

ddg2011-12@rotary-cyprus.org

SECRETARY

Anastasia Orphanou

+357 99557490

secretary@rotary-cyprus.org

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2450

Usama Barghouthi

dg.2011.12@gmail.com

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

Kalyan Banerjee

ROTARY WEBSITES

Cyprus Rotary

www.rotary-cyprus.org

District 2450

www.rotaryd2450.org

Rotary International

www.rotary.org



In this issue :

Messages from the :

- Deputy District Governor 2011-12, Themis THEMISTOCLEOUS
- RI President, Kaylan BANERJEE
- Foundation Trustee Chair, Bill Boyd

76th District 2450 Conference

'Peace
Through
Service' is
2012-13 RI
theme

Rotary is 'well on
the way' to a
new Foundation

ROTARY CLUBS
WORLDWIDE MEET
US\$200 MILLION
FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

**ROTARY CLUB
NICOSIA-SALAMIS**

**ROTARY CLUB LIMASSOL-
BERENGARIA COSMOPOLITAN**

**ROTARACT CLUB
NICOSIA ASPELIA**

Cyprus Rotary News Issue No 1
Cyprus Rotary News Issue No 2
Cyprus Rotary News Issue No 3
Cyprus Rotary News Issue No 4
Cyprus Rotary News Issue No 5
Cyprus Rotary News Issue No 6
Cyprus Rotary News Issue No 7



Message from the Deputy District Governor 2011-12 Themis Themistocleous

Dear fellow Rotarians,

During the first Rotary club meeting on 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Hiram Shorey, and Silvester Schiele met to talk about their personal experiences. Harris then unfolded his general plan for their club meetings.

This was the simple beginning of the world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago. It was created because of Harris' wish to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotarians continue to take pride in their history. In honor of that first club, Rotarians have preserved its original meeting place, Room 711 in Chicago's Unity Building, by re-creating the office as it existed in 1905. It is now housed at RI World Headquarters in the Chicago suburb of Evanston.

Our anniversary is commemorated as World Understanding and Peace Day. It offers a unique opportunity for clubs to honour the founders of Rotary, to mark and celebrate the occasion by holding special events that contribute to increasing awareness about Rotary and its humanitarian work.

In numerous cities, clubs promote the End Polio Now campaign by lighting up landmarks. I urge you to "light up" the spirit and the image of Rotary, by marking our anniversary in any way you consider appropriate. I also urge you to do so in a way that brings clubs closer to their communities and highlights our contribution to understanding and peace.

As RI President Kalyan Banerjee says in his February message, in Rotary we build peace by example, by working together, whatever our nationality or background, and putting others' needs above our own. In everything we do, we rely on our good name. This is why all of us have a responsibility to be sure that our good name is indeed known. We need to not just work through Rotary, but talk about Rotary and the benchmarks we are setting. Our Rotary work speaks to our belief that a better, more peaceful world is possible, and we need to be sure that our voices are heard.

Best Rotarian regards,

Themis Themistocleous

PP RC Nicosia-Salamis

DDG for Cyprus 2011-12, D2450

Message from
RI President 2011-12
KALYAN BANERJEE

February 2012



"We need to commit ourselves absolutely and fully and say, What I must do shall indeed be done."

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

This November, I had the opportunity to speak at the Rotary institute in Kolkata, India. The focus of this institute was on peace and the ways in which we in Rotary could work to build peace. When I received the invitation, I began to think about what I might say, knowing that with all that Rotarians do in this area, my main challenge would be keeping within the time limit!

But just before I arrived in Kolkata, I spoke at a water conference in Tel Aviv. It was a wonderful event at which Rotarians and non-Rotarians from all over the world came together to discuss the many challenges of keeping an ever-growing population supplied with an increasingly scarce resource. Before I could begin to talk about Rotary's contribution, however, I had to explain what Rotary is and what we do – because even in that very educated audience of scientists and entrepreneurs and executives, there were many people who had simply never heard of Rotary.

As I left that event, I began to think again about what to say in Kolkata, because so much of what we do in Rotary to build peace depends on public awareness of who we are. Why have we been so successful in our work to eradicate polio? Because Rotary is able to go where no government and few other nongovernmental organizations can – into homes, into schools, and into communities, with the trust and confidence of the people we serve.

When we in Rotary work for peace, we don't do it by negotiating treaties or demonstrating in the streets. Instead, we build peace by example – by working together, whatever our nationality or background, and putting others' needs above our own. We build peace by dealing with the problems that disrupt people's ability to live normal, peaceful lives – whether those problems are a lack of water, or sanitation, or safe, affordable housing; whether they stem from a shortage of education or health care, or a need to build productive and positive connections between communities. In everything we do, we rely on our good name.

This is why all of us have a responsibility to be sure that our good name is indeed known. We need to not just work through Rotary, but talk about Rotary – letting the world know about the work we are doing, the differences we are making, and the benchmarks we are setting. Our Rotary work speaks to our belief that a better, more peaceful world is possible, and we need to be sure that our voices are heard.

Message from the Foundation Trustee chair

Bill Boyd

February 2012



Our Foundation helps us help others

A friend who is an Arch C. Klumph Society member recently sent me an email ending with words that remind us of why we support our Foundation. John began life in humble circumstances and became a successful businessman. Through our Foundation, he has shared that success with people who have no ability to help themselves. He said: "As someone who was born poor on a farm during the Depression, I can confirm that when you have nothing, a little bit goes a long way to help. I remember like it was yesterday those neighbours and relatives who helped our family of nine and gave us support and encouragement. In essence, this is our Foundation's mission."

Another quote that impressed me recently came from a Rotarian at a Rotary institute: "I joined Rotary for business and fellowship. I stayed to change the world."

For many of us, Rotary is our only way to change the world. As individuals, there is little we can do on our own, but when we join with our fellow Rotarians, we do make a difference. How we do that depends on where we are. If you are in a country with great needs, then you will be involved in identifying the needs of people and developing and implementing projects that will change their lives. If you are one of this generation who has been blessed with success, then you can help by making resources available. Our Rotary Foundation, in a sense, sits in the middle and makes the connection.

Our business model works, which is why we will in a few years celebrate 100 years of supporting Rotarians in making the world a better place. We have passed the test of time.

Rotary is 'well on the way' to a new Foundation

By Megan Ferringier

Halfway through the three-year pilot of the Future Vision Plan, Rotarians are designing innovative projects and providing valuable feedback that will help improve The Rotary Foundation's new grant-making model.

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair William B. Boyd shared these and other highlights from the pilot during the International Assembly -- an annual training meeting for incoming district governors -- this week in San Diego, California, USA.

"We are on a Future Vision journey that will lead us to a new Foundation," said Boyd, noting that "we are well on the way."

Boyd said Future Vision is built on the principles of simplicity and sustainability, and a desire to involve districts, clubs, and Rotarians more in spending and stewardship.

Under Future Vision, the number of grant types is being streamlined from 12 to just two: global grants and district grants. [Global grants](#) support large international activities with sustainable impact in one or more of the six [areas of focus](#). [District grants](#) can be used for a wide range of activities that align with the [Foundation's mission](#).

All districts will begin using the new model on 1 July 2013. Boyd said that concentrating on the six areas of focus has been one of the chief advantages of the plan.

"We needed to lift ourselves above the multitude of little projects that felt good but addressed symptoms, not causes, and were too short-term in their benefits," he said. "We have finite resources and cannot do everything for everybody, but these are key areas in which Rotarians can make a difference. We can change the world."

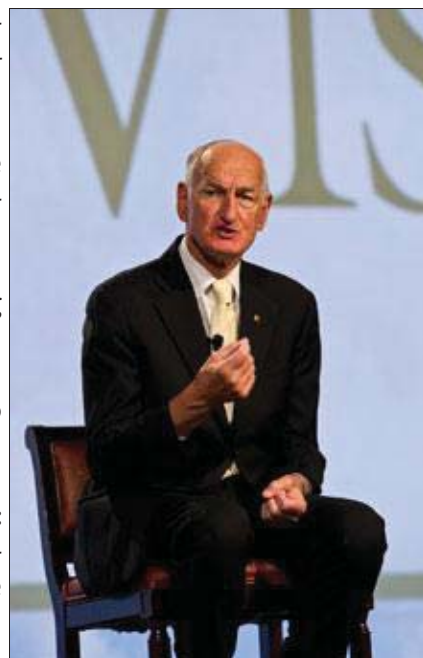
Boyd described the service activities of District 5020 (parts of British Columbia, Canada, and Washington, USA), one of the 100 districts participating in the Future Vision pilot. Through a dozen global grants, district Rotarians have supplied schools in Kenya with books in English and Swahili, installed solar panels at schools in Peru and the Philippines, and furnished classrooms and washrooms at a vocational and literacy school in Honduras.

"We are seeing Future Vision re-energizing clubs, so that they are breaking from the cycle of doing last year's projects this year and again next year," Boyd said.

Boyd told incoming district governors that they can prepare for the global launch of Future Vision by closing old Matching Grant reports so they can focus on new projects, and by tapping resources like the [regional Rotary Foundation coordinators](#). He also encouraged them to think big, to keep pushing boundaries, and to avoid trying to fit old procedures into the new model.

"We are here to serve, and each one of us is a Rotarian because we know that our lives are measured by what we do for others and not by what we do for ourselves," he said.

During the assembly's third plenary session, Trustee Chair-elect Wilfrid J. Wilkinson also set out the Foundation's goals for 2012 - 13, which are eradicating polio, achieving *Peace Through Service*, strengthening the Foundation through the [Annual Fund](#), and providing good stewardship of Foundation funds at the district level.



William B. Boyd, Rotary Foundation trustee chair, gave incoming district governors an update on the Future Vision Plan. *Rotary Images/Alyce Henson*

'Peace Through Service' is 2012-13 RI theme

By Megan Ferringer and Arnold R. Grahl
Rotary International News -- 16 January 2012



RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka will ask Rotarians to build *Peace Through Service* in 2012-13.

Tanaka unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2012 International Assembly, a training event for incoming Rotary district governors.

"Peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real goal and a realistic goal for Rotary," he said. "Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in many simple ways."

Peace has different meanings for different people, Tanaka said.

"No definition is right, and no definition is wrong," he said. "However we use the word, this is what peace means for us."

"No matter how we use, or understand the word, Rotary can help us to achieve it," he added.

Tanaka, a businessman from the greater Tokyo metropolitan area, shared how becoming a Rotarian broadened his understanding of the world. After joining the Rotary Club of Yashio, in 1975, he said, he began to realize that his life's purpose was not to make more money, but to be useful to other people.

"I realized that by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help to build peace," Tanaka said.

He noted that the Japanese tradition of putting the needs of society above the needs of the individual helped his country rebuild after the tsunami and earthquake in March.

"This is a lesson that I think the whole world can learn from, in a positive way. When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs -- when we focus our energies on a shared goal that is for the good of all -- this changes everything," he said. "It changes our priorities in a completely fundamental way. And it changes how we understand the idea of peace."

Tanaka will ask Rotarians to focus their energy on supporting the three priorities of the [RI Strategic Plan](#), he said. He added that he will ask the incoming leaders to promote three Rotary peace forums, to be held in Hiroshima, Japan; Berlin; and Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

"In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace," he said. "Our reward is not financial, but the happiness and satisfaction of seeing a better, more peaceful world, one that we have achieved through our own efforts."

Watch a [video excerpt of the theme speech](#) / Send a [theme e-card](#) / Get [Rotary graphics](#) / Download the [theme speech](#) (PDF) / Learn more about [Rotary Peace Centers](#) / Order [RI Theme materials](#)



RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka unveiled the 2012-13 RI theme, *Peace Through Service*, during the opening plenary session of the 2012 International Assembly, a training event for incoming Rotary district governors. *Rotary Images/ Alyce Henson*

ROTARY CLUBS WORLDWIDE MEET US\$200 MILLION FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE



Jeff Raikes, chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (left), shakes hands with Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ during the fourth plenary session of the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Rotary International has succeeded in meeting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US\$200 million match in funding for polio eradication, raising more than \$202.6 million as of 17 January.

"We'll celebrate this milestone, but it doesn't mean that we'll stop raising money or spreading the word about polio eradication," Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ told Rotary leaders at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. "We can't stop until our entire world is certified as polio-free."

The fundraising milestone was reached in response to \$355 million in challenge grants awarded to The Rotary Foundation by the Gates Foundation. All funds have been earmarked to support polio immunization activities in affected countries where the vaccine-preventable disease continues to paralyze children.

"In recognition of Rotary's great work, and to inspire Rotarians in the future, the [Gates] foundation is committing an additional \$50 million to extend our partnership," said Jeff Raikes, chief executive officer of the Gates Foundation. "Rotary started the global fight against polio, and continues to set the tone for private fundraising, grassroots engagement, and maintaining polio at the top of the agenda with key policymakers." Raikes also addressed Rotary leaders at the International Assembly.

The new \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation is not a challenge grant.

Since 1988, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 cases annually to fewer than 650 cases reported so far for 2011. The wild poliovirus is now endemic in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, India on 13 January marked a full calendar year without a case, paving the way for its removal from the endemic list.

But other countries also remain at risk for polio cases imported from the endemic countries. In Africa in 2011, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had significant outbreaks. Also in 2011, a small cluster of polio cases in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was traced to Pakistan.

Rotary club members not only reached into their own pockets to support the Gates challenge, but also engaged their communities in a variety of creative fundraising projects, such as a fashion show in California that raised \$52,000, benefit film screenings in New Zealand and Australia that netted \$54,000, and a pledge-supported hike through Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, that brought in \$38,000. Many events were planned around 24 October, widely observed as World Polio Day.

To date, Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio, a cause Rotary took on in 1985. In 1988, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined Rotary as spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. More recently, the Gates Foundation has become a major supporter. In 2007, the Gates Foundation gave Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication, increasing it to \$355 million in 2009. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million in matching funds by 30 June 2012.

Reaching children with the oral polio vaccine in the disease's remaining strongholds is labor- and resource-intensive due to a host of challenges, including poor infrastructure, geographical isolation, armed conflict, and cultural misunderstanding about the eradication campaign.

Learn about [Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio](#), Read "[Rotary celebrates India's first polio-free year](#)", Check out the new [Rotary Voices](#) blog and get insider details from India National PolioPlus Committee Chair Deepak Kapur and Bill Gates of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Help [End Polio Now](#)



76th District 2450 Conference

17-20 May 2012, Aqaba

Message from District Governor 2011-12
USAMA BARGHOUTHI



Fellow Rotarians,

I am honored and privileged to invite you to our 76th Conference for District 2450 which will be held between 17th - 20th May 2012 in Aqaba, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's Resort city on the Red Sea. In the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which in 2011 has the honour of being Arab Tourism Capital, Aqaba is one of those wonderful places that leave lasting memories, it is a year-round resort that has something for everyone; this seaside city is blessed with great weather throughout the year.

Aqaba's strategic location at the junction of land and sea routes linking Asia, Africa and Europe, has resulted in human habitation in the area dating back at least 5,500 years. Known for many years as Ayla, a Mamlouk Fort that has transformed into a modern city with luxury five-star hotels, restaurants, entertainment, and modern malls offering plenty of shopping options and the best part that it is all tax-free.

It's very close proximity to the Red Rose City of Petra and the fabulous Wadi Rum, makes it more worthwhile to visit.

I invite you to come to Aqaba in 2012 to celebrate the achievements that each and every one of you has helped his or her club to accomplish, the achievements of our year together, the changes we made in our communities and countries, and the achievements with which we all as Changemakers embraced our communities and our fellow citizens.

It is time to meet again and to enjoy our fellowships, so bring your families and friends and enjoy the famous Jordanian hospitality. The Rotarians of Jordan look forward with enthusiasm to welcome you all in our unforgettable Aqaba. Ahlan wa Sahlan

Usama Barghouthi
District Governor 2011-12



ROTARY CLUB NICOSIA-SALAMIS

President : Tassos Partzilis

Secretary : Panicos Hadjipanayis

FUND RAISING EVENTS (RotaryYear 2011-12)

25/07/2011

**Fund Raising Dinner at
the house of Rotarians Elena
& Panicos Nicolaides**



22/08/2011

**Fund Raising Dinner at
the house of Rotarian
Costa & his wife Shannon**



09/10/2011

**Fund Raising BBQ at the house
(Agia Thekla) of the Incoming
President Antonis and his wife
Maria Toumazis**



05/12/2011

**Fund Raising Christmas cocktail
party at the house of the Rotarians
Theodora & Takis Taousani**



02/01/2012

**«Kopsimo Vasilopittas» -
fund raising cocktail
party at the house of the
Rotarian Antigoni Kiliari**



ROTARY CLUB LIMASSOL-BERENGARIA COSMOPOLITAN

President : Tim Drohan

Secretary : Duncan Peacock

Berengaria Rotarians helping local and international communities

Local Rotarians from the Limassol Berengaria-Cosmopolitan Club are seeing one of their latest international projects bring benefits to a remote African community in Malawi, thanks to the pump and borehole which it provided at a cost of €6,000.

With the project now complete, supplying fresh drinking water to one of its orphan centres has improved the quality of life for the local community.

The Club took on the project following several visits to the area by Chris Clapham, a member of the Limassol Berengaria-Cosmopolitan Rotary Club. He was so impressed with the Friends of Mulanje Orphans (FOMO) project that his suggestion to help the organisation was taken on board by the Club as one of their international community projects.

FOMO aims to provide and enhance the health, education, food and security, offer basic human needs and develop the potential of all the needy and orphaned children of Mulanje. It was founded by Mary Woodworth who, together with her husband Keith, established the organisation in 2000. From its early days, FOMO has since developed and it now cares for more than 5,000 orphaned children through a network of 13 centres, covering about 85 villages in the Mulanje district of Malawi.

The local community is also going to benefit from the fund-raising activities of the Limassol Berengaria Rotarians.

Its major annual project for 2012 is to provide a much needed Ford Transit 350LWB Minibus for PASYKAF (Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends). At a cost of €50,000, PASYKAF will be able to use the mini-bus to ferry cancer patients between the towns and villages of Paphos, Limassol and Larnaca to the specialist Oncology treatment centre in Nicosia.

The efforts of the Club have already seen much of the money raised "We have already raised almost €40,000, but of course more donations are always welcome" said Roulla Dagfal, Membership Ambassador for the Club.

The Rotarians are also committed to providing assistance to smaller local projects, one of which is the Fama-gusta Kayak Club which will shortly receive a new kayak thanks to a considerable contribution from the Rotary club. The FKC is currently practising to qualify for the London Olympic Games, and offers children from less affluent families, as well as its regular members, an opportunity to participate in national and international competitions.

The club is currently preparing for the 4th Environmental Fair competition which it hosts every year between schools in the city. A popular event, this will be held on March 4, and give pupils the opportunity to create projects on improving the environment and health which are judged by top environmental and business leaders.

The Rotary Club of Limassol Berengaria Cosmopolitan is one of 19 Rotary Clubs in Cyprus. According to Club President, Tim Drohan, "It's a mini United Nations with a mix of nationalities and cultures from countries around the globe, including: Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland, Lebanon, Montenegro, Netherlands, Russia, Scotland, Serbia, South Africa, Syria, Ukraine and the USA." Meetings are conducted in English.

For more information visit www.rotary-cyprus.org/berengaria

ROTARACT CLUB NICOSIA ASPELIA

President : Chrysanthi Danou

Secretary : Charis Michael

Christmas Bazaar 2011

Choose Love, Stand with us Against Domestic Violence

If ever there was the Christmas Spirit in the air it was at our Christmas Bazaar! Everyone was filled with joy, happiness and the Christmas Spirit of Love and giving. It was a day filled with fun and the satisfaction you get when you know you are making a difference.

But let's take things from the start following last years success we decided to participate once again at the Stasikratous Street party on the 4th of December this time in order to help the "Association for the Prevention and Handling of Domestic Violence". Apart from homemade sweets baked by our members on sale this year were handmade good-luck charms, homemade Sundried Tomatoes provided by our dear friend Alex Daskalakis as well as Hot Chocolate sponsored by Da Capo. But our star attractions was our very own Santa Claus, Scooby Doo and Angry Bird with whom people could take pictures and buy there own photo/stickers.



During the days leading to the event two teams were made up in order to help with the preparations, the charms making team and the sweets packing team. Most members participated on either one of the teams and in some cases in both!!

However the club really came together as a team on the day of the event complimenting and reinforcing one and other. We all worked together towards a common goal to sell out and help the "Association for the Prevention and Handling of Domestic Violence" as much as possible. The event was a huge success we sold out before the end of the bazaar and we managed to raise over 1600!!

The conclusion, through team work and team spirit we managed to succeed 100%, as a person we can make a difference but as a team we can make changes happen.

Margarita Paraskevaides

ROTARACT CLUB NICOSIA ASPELIA

President : Chrysanthi Danou

Secretary : Charis Michael

The Way to Success *Vocational project*

Rotaract Club Nicosia Aspelia organised a professional development workshop on the 12th of November 2011. The idea began early on in the year, when we were brainstorming on project ideas where we could do some fundraising and learn at the same time. At a time when youth unemployment in Cyprus is rising fast - currently is at 23% for people below 25 years old, the goal was to offer to young people the chance to advance their skills and give a kick-start to their career. Our members have contacts with some renowned professionals and entrepreneurs in Cyprus and we were able to approach them in participating at our event.

We managed to create a custom made workshop with the participation of experienced speakers with leading positions in a variety of companies, where each would be there to offer their useful tips to help young professionals «ride the wave» to success in volatile times. Our speakers were Marios Loucaides - Managing Director of Cyprus Trading Corporation Plc, Elena Tanou – Vice President of Top Kinisis Travel Plc, Andrie Penta – Director at Penta Marketing Art Ltd and Cyprus Image Institute, Michael Virardi – Motivational Coach and CEO at MRV Simple Techniques Ltd, Julia Papageorgiou – Director at JPP Marketing Ltd and Theofanis Giotis - CEO and Founder of 12PM Consulting. The subjects that were discussed at the workshop were entrepreneurial skills, sales techniques, personal branding, social media, how to handle the economic crisis and how technology plays an important role in our lives.

With the help of our sponsors, Cyprus Institute of Marketing and Nea Stereotis Ltd, we managed to bring our costs to a minimum and raise almost €1400 for Cyprus Association for Dyslexia. Dyslexia is not a disease, but merely a learning disability that affects reading and comprehension of text and as a result slows down learning in general. When its detected early on in a child's life it can be easily dealt with, but unfortunately in Cyprus very few teachers are properly trained to detect this and sometimes they end up making it worse. If dyslexia is treated by professionals, then a person can go on living his life like anyone else. Some of the most famous people in history had dyslexia, like Agatha Christie, Albert Einstein and Leonardo da Vinci.--- The Dyslexia Association in Cyprus aims to educate people regarding Dyslexia and help provide professional assistance to children with Dyslexia. However, funding is difficult and our attempt with this event was to help in creating awareness while raising some money to support the association.

During the organisation of the workshop we worked together as a team, each one of us taking on different responsibilities: advertising the event, designing and printing invitations and necessary forms, meeting with the speakers, arranging the food and coffee, finding the venue etc. Each one's small but important contribution made this event a great success, as we had over 60 participants and received almost 100% satisfaction in feedback forms that we gave to the participants at the end of the workshop. We also had the pleasure to share this workshop with members of Rotaract Club Kifissia from Athens, who were in Cyprus during those days for the twinning of our clubs. The event had a very good media coverage on newspapers and TV.



Chrysanthi Danou

ROTARACT CLUB NICOSIA ASPELIA

President : Chrysanthi Danou

Secretary : Charis Michael

Rotaract Club Nicosia Aspelia "Reached Within and Embraced" 25 Japanese orphans from Fukosima

Nicosia Aspelia Rotaractors had the pleasure of meeting and hosting 25 Japanese orphans aged 7-18 years old, who lost their parents in the destructive earthquake and resulting tsunami in Fukushima Japan, in March 2011, at three special events.

The children who were hosted in Cyprus by the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with the Rotaractors on the 28th of December at Pizza Hut, which through arrangement with the Rotaractors, treated the children with free pizza and drinks. On that day Rotaractors gave as gifts to each child a replica of the cross-shaped idol, dating back to the Cypriot Chalcolithic period (3000 -2500 B.C.) found in Pomos, Pafos. The children expressed their gratitude for the hospitality and the warm welcome of the Rotaractors, both by words and by offering gifts from Japan in return.

On New Year's Eve, the Rotaractors surprised the children with a special Sushi Dinner, partly sponsored by Akakiko restaurant, whilst on the 4th of January the children enjoyed a historical tour at the Bank of Cyprus Culture Centre in Phaneromeni, again arranged by the Rotaractors. The children enjoyed an ice cream at Ledra Street sponsored by Bank of Cyprus. Farewell gifts and sweets were also offered to the children on this last day.

Rotary International's Moto for the year 2011-2012 "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity" was fully adopted by the Nicosia Aspelia Rotaractors who strongly feel that by 'Embracing these admirable children provided them with inner strength to proceed with their goal to serve communities locally and internationally'.



Elena Arotis

Community Service Director

Rotaract Club Nicosia Aspelia