

9 February 2009

Subject: District Mailing from Humanitarian Grants – District [add district number]

Greetings District Leaders,

I hope this finds you well and ready for the busiest months of the Rotary year for Humanitarian Grants. I am writing to share with you some important updates.

Humanitarian Grants Budget

Due to the global economic downturn and volatile investment climate, Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, like many charitable organizations, must make some difficult decisions in response to the current financial situation. The Rotary Foundation (TRF) has experienced significant unrealized investment losses and General Secretary Ed Futa has provided regular updates to Rotarians regarding the situation as part of an ongoing effort to keep the Rotary world informed.

At their January 2009 meeting, the Trustees reduced the Humanitarian Grants budget by US \$16.3 million for the 2008-09 Rotary year in an effort to minimize the impact of unrealized losses to Foundation assets. Matching Grants and Volunteer Service Grants will be most immediately impacted by this decision. District Simplified Grants and 3-H Grants will not be impacted in 2008-09.

Matching Grants

The Foundation will continue to approve complete Matching Grant applications that meet all requirements on a first-come first-serve basis until the remaining budget has been committed. Once the budget is committed for 2008-09 applications will be processed as follows:

- Any applications that have been received by TRF and are currently pending will be kept on file, and subsequently reviewed after the start of the new Rotary year. These applications will be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis when all requirements are complete. An email communication will be sent to the sponsors of pending applications providing them with these details.
- Any new applications that arrive after the budget has been fully committed will be returned to the sponsors, and they will be asked to re-submit the application after 1 July 2009 for consideration at that time.
- Any grants that have already been approved this Rotary year will not be affected and will be processed for payment.

Volunteer Service Grants (VSG)

At this time, the budget for Volunteer Service Grants has been fully committed for the 2008-09 Rotary year, and **no further applications will be accepted.** In light of this development, please note the following moving forward:

- The sponsors of pending VSG applications will be notified that their applications cannot be considered for funding in the 2008-09 Rotary year.
- Any new VSG applications received by TRF will be returned to the sponsors with an explanation.
- Any Volunteer Service Grants that are already approved will not be affected and will be processed for payment.

Information about Humanitarian Grants funding for the 2009-10 Rotary year will not be available until after the April 2009 Trustee meeting. Any decisions taken at that meeting will be communicated to Rotarians well in advance of the start of the 2009-10 Rotary year.

Sponsors of applications that do not receive a grant in the current Rotary year are encouraged to fund their humanitarian efforts via other sources if possible. The RI website will be updated regularly as soon as new information is available. In addition, a frequently asked questions document is attached and will be available for download at: www.rotary.org Should you have further questions about Humanitarian Grant processing in 2008-09 please contact us at grants@rotary.org or contact the grant coordinator for your application. For further information on the financial statements of The Rotary Foundation visit www.rotary.org

World Reporting

The next world reporting analysis will be conducted in March 2009 for consideration at the April 2009 Trustee meeting. According to the Trustee guidelines, a district below 70% compliance on grant reporting after two semi-annual analyses will be suspended from participating in Humanitarian Grants. In order to ensure that your district's percentage is above 70%, I am enclosing File Activity Reports of open and in process grants in your district and the Guide to Understanding Activity Reports. Please review these documents carefully and use them as you work with clubs in your district to ensure that they are meeting their grant reporting requirements. If your district's reporting percentage was below 70% in October 2008, it is critical that your district increase its reporting percentage above 70% before the next world reporting analysis to avoid a possible suspension from Humanitarian Grants.

31 March Application Submission Deadline

Humanitarian Grants would like to bring your attention to the 31 March 2009 deadline for receipt of Matching Grant applications, District Simplified Grant requests and 3-H proposals. Applications received for Matching Grant funding will be processed as noted above.

Submission of District Simplified Grant Requests for 2009-10

If your district has not yet submitted its DSG request for 2009-10, now is the time to do so. The deadline for submitting these requests is 31 March 2009. Your district received a mailing in August 2008 that contained the District Simplified Grant request form as well as the maximum amount of funds that your district may request for 2009-10. Districts with approved DSGs for 2008-09 must submit payment requirements by 15 May 2009. Any questions that you have regarding this process may be directed to your grant coordinator.

Humanitarian Grants District Support Forum

In July 2007, TRF launched the Humanitarian Grants District Support Forum, an online forum available through Member Access, intended to provide information and resources to those leaders that work most closely with Humanitarian Grants: district governors, district governors-elect, district Rotary Foundation committee chairs, district grants subcommittee chairs and regional Rotary Foundation coordinators. Leaders in those positions are encouraged to visit the site often as new content is being added on a regular basis. In an effort to improve this forum, I would appreciate your feedback via a brief online survey. Even if you have not used the Forum, I encourage you to complete the survey. The survey is accessible via the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=S4duXeO29PVy5fWp2n2bJA_3d_3d

Thank you for your support of the Humanitarian Grants Program of The Rotary Foundation and for your patience and understanding in this difficult time. The world is a better place thanks to dedicated Rotarians such as you.

Best regards,

James Robinson
Division Manager
Humanitarian Grants Program

Enclosures: File Activity Reports, Guide to Understanding Activity Reports, Frequently Asked Questions on Humanitarian Grants Budget