

"Global Impact Through Local Commitment"

Inspirational Talk for Rotary Club of Ann Arbor – July 30, 2025

Good afternoon fellow Rotarians:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer a brief word as we begin today's meeting. I want to direct our focus to a defining feature of Rotary's mission: **international humanitarian service.**

We live in a world where needs cross borders—clean water, education, disease prevention, peacebuilding. These are not issues confined by geography; they are global challenges. And Rotary, through its international reach, like our own International Humanitarian Projects Committee, addresses them with tangible, coordinated action.

Take, for example, our role in the eradication of polio. What began as a bold vision has now become one of the most successful global health initiatives in history. Rotary has contributed over \$2.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to reduce polio cases by over 99%. That is not an abstract achievement—it is a measurable, global result driven by Rotarians like you.

Or consider our work in water and sanitation. Rotary projects have helped provide access to clean drinking water in rural communities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. These efforts reduce waterborne diseases, increase school attendance—particularly for girls—and improve public health outcomes in lasting ways.

Through partnerships with organizations Rotary ensures that our contributions are not only charitable but also strategic. We invest in sustainability, training local leaders, and ensuring that progress continues long after a project is completed.

But none of this global work happens without local commitment. It is the effort of every member, every club, every contribution—no matter the size—that builds our international capacity. Each meeting we hold, each dollar we raise, each connection we strengthen contributes to a broader network of global service.

As we begin this meeting, I ask you to keep in mind: the work we do here is not isolated. It is part of a global system of service that has saved lives, lifted communities, and advanced peace and understanding.

Let's continue to act with that global vision and local responsibility. The world is not just watching Rotary—it is depending on it. ***Thank you!***