

Penrith Rotary Club – Annual Report 2010/11

Since its formation in 1905 Rotary has progressed to be the world's largest service organisation for business and professional people with some 1.2 million members in 168 countries.

In the last financial year the Penrith Rotary Club allocated a net amount of £13,101.52 to good causes. Club President, Malcolm Boyd said,

'Once again we are deeply impressed by the generosity of local people and their willingness to support Rotary events. This allows us to target community needs, such as our support for the development of young people, as well as the opportunity to help local charities. I thank most sincerely all those who have made this possible.'

In the annual report, club trust fund administrator, Jeff Fawcett describes the sources and beneficiaries of this generous funding. Once again the annual golf competition was the centrepiece of the club's fundraising, raising over £5500. Other significant income sources included the Burns Night Supper, the Swimathon and the Lowther Park Trail Run. These main events, together with other fund raisers, donations and Gift Aid revenue all contributed to the impressive overall total.

For many years Penrith Rotary has been very supportive of local young people and endeavours to lend the hand of Rotary to enable young people to fulfill their needs, to extend their aspirations, and to achieve their goals.

In pursuit of this aim the club sent a disabled person and carer for a week to the **Calvert Trust for the Disabled**. Each year we contribute to a day's outing for members of the **Eden District Mencap**; Rotary's **Life Education Caravan** again received a donation. The caravan is manned by two trained educators and visits junior schools within the district to deliver guidance on making healthy life style choices.

Further allocations were made to the **Rotary's Youth Programme of Enrichment**, which is week's course designed to develop group interaction, self confidence and personal challenge and to **Young Enterprise North West**, which is to inspire and educate young people to understand the role of business through practical business projects which develop attitudes and skills for personal success, lifelong learning and employability.

A donation was made to **Cash for Kids** through CNN radio, Carlisle which delivers initiatives for sick and underprivileged children in our local community; **Penrith and District Volunteer Transport with Macmillan Cancer Support** were among other groups and organisations to receive funds.

Rotary continues to be active in helping to relieve the plight of the disadvantaged of the world and works towards making the world a better place for the many who have no hope other than from our Rotary movement. In support of this ideal grants were made to support the following causes:

- Wheelchair Foundation**, our Club has funded some 92 wheelchairs over the last 4 years;
- Shelter boxes** each of which contains one ten-person tent, ten sleeping bags and ancillary associated equipment for use when disasters occur throughout the world;
- **Rotary's Emergency Box Scheme** which provides aid to families involved in civil disasters by means of a box which provides the provisions to enable a family to construct a basic shelter, find food from the land and sea, cook and clothe themselves. The emptied plastic containers can hold 90 litres of water.
- Aqua boxes** which each provide water purification systems to produce 1100 litres of clean water. The boxes are then sent by the charity to other voluntary organisations to be filled with added

welfare aid items such as tools, clothes and hygiene equipment. They are sent to any disaster area in the world;

-**Water Aid** which is an international non governmental organisation, whose mission is to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities.

-**Kaloko Trust UK** which works to advance education and to promote the healthcare of communities in rural Zambia through the development and support of a training centre, schools and health clinics;

-**Jole Rider** towards the charity's purchase of a large trailer required to transport pedal cycles for their flagship programme **bikes4Africa**. This programme refurbishes second hand pedal cycles through their partner, HM Prisons, and ships them to African schools where they enable children to get to school from remote communities. Penrith Rotary, in a joint venture with local **Centre Parcs** holiday centre, has assisted in the provision of 500 cycles to this charity;

Other recipients were the **Jaipur Limb Centre**, the **No More Land Mines Trust** and the **Rotary Charitable Foundation**.

The greatest project being undertaken by Rotary across the world is its commitment to eradicate polio from all countries. Rotary is a spearheading partner with the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. To date, two billion children under the age of five have received the polio vaccine; five million people who might otherwise be paralysed are walking today. From 1,000 cases of polio per day in 1988, fewer than 2,000 cases occur annually; polio infected nations have dropped from 125 to just 4, Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. India has not had a polio case since February 2011. UNICEF is hopeful to finally eradicate polio in the next two years.

Rotary International previously pledged to raise a further \$200 million by this year, 2012, to match \$355 million received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, towards this final phase of polio eradication.

This year **Penrith Rotary Club** donated a further £600, in addition to £2000 over the three previous years.