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International Prize Jury
Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
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Esteemed Jurors:

It is a great privilege to nominate Rotary International (Rotary) for the prestigious Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize for 2011.

Rotary, the first and largest international service organization, was founded in 1905. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International (TRF), the 501(c)(3) fund raising arm of Rotary International, was introduced in 1917. Today there are 1.25 million members and 33,500 Rotary clubs in 200 territories and countries worldwide. Additionally, Rotary has 468,500 Rotaract (18-30 year olds) and Interact (14-18 year olds) members in over 20,000 clubs in 163 countries.

Rotary International is a complex and a substantially volunteer-driven organization. Because of its size and scope, coupled with the diversity and innovativeness of its programs and projects around the globe, Rotary has consistently demonstrated its ability to make an extraordinary impact in the alleviation of human suffering.

Rotarians volunteer their expertise, time, and money to support local and international projects that help people in need and foster understanding and peace among cultures. In recent decades Rotary International and its clubs have been functioning in what might appropriately be called a global incubator enterprise. They have been developing and successfully field-testing potential solutions to some of the world's most serious issues including poverty, water and sanitation, literacy and education, health and hunger.

Together with select partners, Rotary International and its clubs have been refining their skills and know-how in programs which address global challenges in the following core areas of focus:

- Peace and conflict prevention and resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Maternal and child health care
- Water and sanitation
- Basic education and literacy

- Economic and community development

Bill Gates, Sr. described Rotary well several years ago when he said: *"I have spent the last decade traveling around the world, thinking about monstrous problems. It boggles the mind to try to make sense of how dramatically you Rotarians have changed millions of lives. Rotary is simply one of the finest organizations on the planet. Rotarians are an army of activists who place Service Above Self."*

Rotary's entrepreneurial approach has been recognized by Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, former Director of the United Nations Millennium Project Millennium Goals. Sachs said "... I refer to the 'Rotary Model' that was developed to eradicate Polio and represents a valuable resource when it comes to reaching goals." His point was that the 'Rotary model' will serve as an invaluable guide for tackling other global issues in the future.

Rotary (including TRF) has been recognized around the world for its efforts to alleviate human suffering and promote education, health, and development programs. It was the recipient of the 2008 US Congress Open World National Grantee of Merit Award and the 2007 United Nations Association Humanitarian Award; and The Rotary Foundation received the 2002 Gates Award for Global Health.

Peace and Conflict Prevention and Resolution

Rotary's educational and cultural exchange programs have promoted international friendship for decades. Exposure to different cultures ranks as one of the most powerful ways to promote international understanding and peace. Below are three of Rotary's programs designed to address this objective.

Rotary sponsors one of the largest international scholarship programs in the world. Scholars study in a country, other than their own, where they serve as unofficial ambassadors of goodwill. Since 1947 almost 40,000 scholars from over 130 countries have received Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships. (In 2008-09 alone, 651 scholars from 71 countries studied in 87 countries.)

For over 80 years Rotary has been involved with Youth Exchange programs. Today more than 8,000 Youth Exchange youth (ages 15-25) travel abroad each year to live and study in about 75 countries.

In 2002 seven Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution were established in universities around the globe. Over 450 Rotary Peace Fellows from more than 80 countries are currently promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict as humanitarian leaders, diplomats, and government officials.

Rotary Peace Fellows can be found working on peace and reconciliation projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, assisting orphaned and vulnerable children and people affected by HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe, working for the World Bank's Justice for the Poor project in Cambodia, and serving as the senior legal adviser to the chief electoral officer for Afghanistan.

The president of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, told a recent president of Rotary International: *“When it comes to peace, Rotary has the right answer. Your organization includes men and women on an equal basis, and you have members from countries who represent every race, color, and creed. What the world needs is more Rotarians!”*

Disease Prevention and Treatment

Since 1985, Rotary’s global polio eradication program, PolioPlus, has contributed \$600 million for the immunization of 2.2 billion children in 122 countries. The funds raised by Rotarians around the world, together with their army of volunteers on the ground providing immunizations in polio-endemic countries—along with the very generous support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—will support the final push to completely eradicate polio from the face of the earth. To date the incidence of polio has been decreased more than 99 percent since 1988 when the global initiative against the disease began.

In the words of Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, *“In the world of global health, success builds on success, and Rotary, in its commitment to eliminate polio, is unique. Rotary has taken a very strong leadership role, and we knew, based on Rotary’s track record, that they would obviously be the key partner.”*

Rotary International has earned the trust and respect of nations around the globe, making it possible to broker peace initiatives that allow immunization campaigns to take place in war-torn nations. It also is engaged in a wide range of programs including the alleviation of hunger and the elimination of malaria.

Maternal and Child Health Care

In addition to immunizing children against polio, Rotary supports projects around the world to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, encourage good nutrition and prenatal care for impoverished women and girls, and reduce infant and child mortality. Other projects focus on nutrition and prenatal care, along with the provision of vitamin A, insecticide-treated bed nets, and other relatively low-cost measures for promoting good health.

One example: In mountainous Nepal where infant mortality is severe, Rotarians have created an extensive training program to bring much needed prenatal and postnatal services to 10 remote regions. The program is training 52 young women as professional auxiliary nurse midwives and includes on-the-job training at hospitals in Baeda and Kathmandu.

Water and Sanitation

Providing greater access to clean water and sanitation facilities has been a goal for many Rotary clubs, knowing their importance to basic health and the reduction of child mortality. Rotary has been working on water and sanitation projects in areas where they are most needed. In the process they have learned what has worked well, what has not and what will best ensure long-term sustainability and affordability in different community environments.

In response to Rotarians' desire to have a more significant and focused impact on the life and livelihood of people in developing countries through the provision of safe water and sanitation, the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group was launched on March 22, 2007.

They established a set of core values for considering water and sanitation projects that includes: emphasis being placed on a “bottoms-up” approach, particularly empowering the local community, especially women; focus on community health and economic well-being; utilize appropriate technologies which will promote sustainability; make every effort to leverage funding, expertise and resources within the capacity of the local community and culture; and emphasize training and behavior change that will lead to healthy and prosperous communities.

Basic Education and Literacy

Longtime champions of literacy and basic educational opportunities, Rotary clubs conduct tutoring and mentoring programs in local schools, collect books for disadvantaged children at home and abroad, distribute dictionaries to elementary school children. In addition, between 2004-2009, nearly 2,700 matching grants totaling \$28 million were provided to Rotary clubs by TRF to support literacy projects around the world.

Rotary's flagship literacy project, Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE), is a revolutionary teaching method developed by Rotary club members and implemented by clubs in many developing countries.

CLE programs are “immersion” programs in which students do new and increasingly more difficult things with spoken and written language in the course of group activity. Another strong feature of the methodology is called “scaffolding” whereby the teacher first models what students are expected to do, and then provides less and less guidance as students become more and more able to work without support.

Economic and Community Development

Helping people help themselves is a cornerstone of Rotary service. Among the club projects currently underway are vocational training programs and projects to assist with almost every aspect of business and community life, from finance to livestock.

Understanding how they are important and a successful mechanism to alleviate poverty, Rotary has been active in promoting and utilizing microcredit, village banks and other programs to facilitate small economic development self-help enterprises.

Rotary's Cost Efficiency: Rotary is an exceptionally cost effective organization with very low overhead costs. Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator, has placed Rotary third on its list “10 of the Best Charities Everyone's Heard Of.” Over 90 percent of every dollar raised goes directly into the vast array of Rotary sustainable humanitarian, educational, health, peace and conflict resolution, economic development, polio eradication and other programs.

Further, Rotary looks to undertake and fund projects that have long term sustainability, as appropriate. It also endeavors to leverage every dollar it spends through matching grants by

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requiring local Rotary clubs initiating a project and the beneficiary Rotary club to contribute additional funds consistent with their capabilities. In addition, as noted previously, the vast majority of Rotary projects typically include extensive hands-on involvement and expertise of volunteers, providing substantial cost savings.

In conclusion, the contributions and work of Rotary International over the past 105 years have done much to improve the lives of millions of people around the world. Rotary stands alone among international organizations with its successful and sustainable programs. I would be honored to share with you further details and examples of the fine work Rotarians have accomplished.

For the past 11 years, I have personally led groups of Rotarians to East Africa on the campaign to eradicate polio. Each individual pays their own way and all their own expenses. The Rotarians work 18 hours a day, never complain, assist with a variety of projects in addition to immunization, and fall in love with the local children and families. Many of these Rotarians return, again and again, to assist in some of the world's most remote places. It is simply incredible.

We are committed. Rotary is committed. The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation is committed. Together we can build a better world.

If I can provide additional information or answer questions about Rotary International, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

My very best to you,

Ralph Munro
Washington State Secretary of State
1980-2001