

LIONS ROTARY PROCLAMATION

For nearly a century, Lions Clubs International and Rotary International have demonstrated commendable leadership in providing a wide range of community and humanitarian services. In the years to come, society will undoubtedly expect that Rotarians and Lions will give even more of themselves on behalf of humanity.

Lions are best known for their magnificent accomplishments in answering sight-related needs ever since 1925, when Helen Keller challenged them to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness". Lions readily accepted this challenge and their enduring commitment is witnessed today in the monumental Sightfirst Program, which aspires to conquer preventable and reversible blindness.

Rotarians are being known for their outstanding achievements in becoming a major partner in the campaign to eradicate poliomyelitis from the Earth. Rotarians willingly undertook this challenge and their uncompromising commitment is seen today in the noble Polio Plus program, which plans to eliminate this terrible disease.

Through these and many other programs in thousands of communities, Rotarians and Lions have built enduring partnerships between them and other civic leaders - partnerships that have strengthened the fabric of life in those communities. In such cases, Lions and Rotarians have frequently found each other to be excellent partners in community leadership and humanitarian sharing an intense dedication to meeting real needs throughout the world.

Service Above Self, the motto of Rotary International and **We Serve**, the motto of Lions Clubs International, demonstrate that volunteerism has become the cornerstone for the health and well-being of communities worldwide.

By any measure the high successful SightFirst Program of Lions Clubs International and the Polio Plus Program of Rotary International, have proven that volunteerism is no longer an optional luxury for every community. It is an imperative !

Rotarians and Lions have exemplified the true spirit of volunteerism and have conducted themselves, both as individuals and as organizations, in a fashion that has earned them global admiration and respect.

In demonstrating what society expects of volunteers, Lions and Rotarians around the world have, in turn, generated a response from the public at large that complements their work in responding to urgent human needs.

This partnership between the public and the private sectors has been an absolute necessity. To attain their goals with optimum success, Rotary International and

Lions Clubs International have found it essential and beneficial to cooperate extensively with many public and private organizations.

Lions and Rotary will support very strongly any activities by government that promote the social welfare of the people and will always support fairness and honesty and voluntary service where "give" is more important than "take".

It is with a profound sense of responsibility and moral obligation that Lions and Rotarians acknowledge the increasing expectations society has for them as leaders in the field of voluntary assistance and the unlimited possibilities for humanitarian service.

Consequently, it is with unbounded eagerness and enthusiasm that Lions Clubs International and Rotary International now join together in proclaiming the spirit of volunteerism to be the very highest standard of care and compassion, because it works to serve the cause of humanity.