



Serving Delaware County, PA

## Opinion

# Happy 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Published: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Feb. 23 marked the 105th anniversary of Rotary, a day when 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs in 200 countries around the world celebrated the remarkable and ongoing humanitarian accomplishments and achievements of this organization.

Rotary's global network of business, professional and community leaders have one simple goal: To volunteer their spirit and time and talent for local projects and for international initiatives to make a better world.

At the local level, the 54 Rotary Clubs of the Greater Philadelphia area (Rotary District 7450) annually generate hundreds of community service efforts to benefit those in need.

Internationally, strictly through the contributions of its members, it is typical for Rotary to expend more than \$200 million annually for disaster relief, humanitarian outreach, disease prevention, and educational programs.

Rotary, whose relationship with the U.N. dates back to 1945, holds the highest consultative status offered to any non-governmental organization by the Economic and Social Council, which oversees many U.N. agencies.

Rotary's longstanding relationship with the United Nations is a great testament to the achievements that can be attained when civil societies work hand-in-hand with international organizations.

Former U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan has succinctly stated: "Rotary has the demonstrated the consistent ability to organize campaigns to mobilize support for some of the worthiest causes that exist and that is what makes Rotary a precious resource in the world."

JOSEPH P. BATORY

Rotary District 7450