



# WORLD AIDS DAY

## ONE WORLD. ONE HOPE



UNAIDS



ROTARY INTL. DIST.-3280 BANGLADESH



Organised by: Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON WORLD AIDS DAY

1ST DECEMBER 1996

DESIGN & DEVELOPED BY: VISION ADVERTISING

### "WORKING WITH NEW GENERATIONS FOR A SAFER WORLD"

Young people are our future. Their future depends on their health. But every day, more than 8,500 people, most of them young people in the prime of life, acquire the HIV virus that causes the deadly disease AIDS. To safeguard the health of the NEW GENERATIONS, we must combat the AIDS epidemic.



This year, I am asking Rotary Clubs worldwide to focus their service efforts on the New Generations. Specifically, I am encouraging clubs to develop programs that address the health, education, human values, and leadership needs of young people. Rotary youth programs cannot ignore the AIDS tragedy. I am happy to say that many of our 28,000 clubs worldwide are already confronting this health crisis.

Our Rotary International theme is 'Build the Future with Action and Vision', working with and for the New Generations. Let us promise young people a brighter tomorrow by removing the ominous shadow of AIDS today. As sponsors of two significant organizations of young people, Interact and Rotaract, Rotary clubs have ready-made partners for the task. With our youthful allies, I know we can rise to the challenge.

LUIS VICENTE GAY  
President, R.I.

### ROTARY BANGLADESH AND AIDS

Rtn. M. Ali Mahub, PHF  
Governor  
R.I. District 3280, Bangladesh



AIDS - a syndrome caused by the human immune deficiency virus (HIV) is one of the major tragic incidence of our time. Each day 8500 people are newly infected with this dreadful disease. Young men and women rich and poor alike in both developed and developing countries are at high risk. The need for a collective action is urgent. Rotary International has risen to this global challenge - so is Rotary Bangladesh.

Rotary International is the largest service organization in the world. Rotary will be celebrating its 100 years in the year 2005. Over these years Rotary has built for itself an enviable record of service to humanity through its program of humanitarian service to the needy.

In combating AIDS hopeful trends are now emerging which indicate that it is preventable. Working with new initiatives Rotary clubs around the world have launched various programs focusing mainly on the younger people with the slogan "Working with New Generations for a Safer world" since it will make the difference between world at risk and world reborn. The District 3280 programs include creating AIDS awareness and educational activities in collaboration with partners -in-service - Interactors, Rotaractors and RVC members.

A prime example of Rotary's service can be seen in the massive undertaking to rid the world of Polio and other children diseases through the Polio Plus program. The dream engulfed more than imagination. With similar spirit Rotary has started its battle against AIDS - "We pledge today because tomorrow will be too late."

Rotary has joined hands with United Nations program on HIV/AIDS by signing an agreement with UNAIDS on 8th July 1996 in Vancouver, Canada during AIDS Conference there. Agreement pledges both the organizations to work together to save lives of millions of young people who are at risk. RI President Luis Vicente Gay said "Rotary understands that no community initiative for youth can ignore the AIDS crises. I am therefore pleased that, in partnership with UNAIDS we can launch campaigns for public awareness about AIDS and promote safe practices among youth, Interact and Rotaract."

Fortunately Bangladesh continues to be a low prevalence area at this point of time but this must not be a cause for complacency, because conditions for an explosive epidemic outburst exists in the country. Therefore, in no way Rotary Bangladesh may ignore this threat. Public awareness campaign is of paramount importance. We know that young people can and do save their own lives when informed and empowered to make the right decision. For example, where public education programs are in place, the incidence of new infections are falling, particularly among young people after years of alarming rise.

Rotary began its journey in Bangladesh in the year 1937-38 with one club of 17 Rotarians. Today it has grown to 91 clubs with over 2700 Rotarians Plus its extended fold of Rotaractors and Interactors encompassing all young people under the age of 30, is a dynamic organisation and a force to be reckoned with on social issues including AIDS. It is further strengthened by the Rotary Village Corps.

Rotary Bangladesh through its network of clubs in association with others have taken the initiative to carry the "Message of Prevention" to young and old alike. "Rotary can help and we are ready to do it because we have been doing these already. Our public health campaigns have known no borders."

The endeavors of Rotary Bangladesh in community service in different areas - education, health, sanitation, child and mother care, family planning, income generation activities, disaster relief etc. and more recently in Polio Plus program are well known.

On the issue of AIDS Rotary Bangladesh is working with Government, UNAIDS and other organisations.

Rotary Bangladesh will do what Rotary does well reaching out, building awareness, mobilizing and turning vision into action.

### WORLD AIDS DAY MESSAGE BY MR. DAVID E. LOCKWOOD CHAIRPERSON UNAIDS THEME GROUP & UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR DECEMBER 1, 1996

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "One world. One hope." Although AIDS is a global problem affecting all countries, we have reason to be optimistic and build on some of the more hopeful trends now emerging in both AIDS prevention and care. "One world. One hope" means working together to prevent the spread of the AIDS virus, and to build a global society which offers care and support to all those whose lives have been affected by the epidemic.

UNAIDS is a new United Nations programme cosponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank. UNAIDS brings together the efforts and resources of these six UN agencies in a coordinated manner in order to more effectively support the national response to HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh. Our mandate is to support a multi-sectoral expanded response involving government, NGOs, the private sector and development partners.

The first prerequisite for prevention is open dialogue about sexual transmission of the AIDS virus. People also need to know the facts about the transmission of the AIDS virus through unclean needles and from mother to child. **Silence surrounding the essential facts of the epidemic is tantamount to complicity in the spread of AIDS.**

The need to combat the spread of AIDS has led to an exhaustive inquiry into aspects of the social environment which collude with the virus' capacity to infiltrate human defenses. Whole communities are vulnerable because of social norms that have become deadly with the advent of AIDS, especially social taboos on discussing sex and the inferior status of women.

World AIDS Day gives us all an opportunity to create awareness within our society, communities, and families by carrying prevention messages, improving care for those infected, and to fight denial and discrimination. It is an opportunity to show solidarity with the over 22 million people who are today estimated to be living with the AIDS virus and to remember the millions who have died. I urge all of you to support AIDS prevention activities within your communities. Thank you.

### HOW ROTARY CLUBS BATTLE AIDS

- Educate the public about the dangers of AIDS and ways to prevent infection.
- Support prevention of drug abuse, a principal means of HIV/AIDS infection.
- Help raise the status of women, which demonstrably curbs the spread of AIDS.
- Provide volunteer and financial assistance to organizations helping AIDS victims.
- Enlist youth in anti-AIDS efforts, to increase the effectiveness of those efforts.

## Rotary Responds to AIDS

Recognizing AIDS as fatal to man, woman and child worldwide, Rotary International encourages and supports the efforts of its clubs, working as appropriate with government health agencies and nongovernmental organizations, to increase awareness among their membership and the broader community about AIDS education and prevention.

### Message for World AIDS Day from the Executive Director of UNAIDS and the Heads of UNAIDS cosponsors 1 December 1996



On this 1 December 1996, World AIDS Day is being commemorated under the banner "One World. One Hope." This year's theme reflects the fact that HIV and AIDS are global problems affecting all countries. However, thanks to the efforts of many courageous individuals and groups around the world, some hopeful trends are beginning to emerge. For the first time, we are seeing drops in new HIV infections in different situations and evidence that preventive strategies can and do work. Furthermore, efforts to ensure a longer and high-quality life for people with HIV are showing some progress. But this is no time for complacency. The epidemic is still spreading dramatically world-wide with an estimated 8,500 people becoming newly infected every day.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was established at the beginning of this year to lead and expand the international response to HIV and AIDS. Working through its six co-sponsors, the task of UNAIDS is to build on these hopeful trends and to help them materialize world-wide. UNAIDS has also a global mission to address the broader causes and consequences of the epidemic and to promote equity. The concentration of resources has often tilted the benefits of research and other efforts away from the less powerful, less vocal and less well-informed groups in societies. The role of UNAIDS in redressing these imbalances is a vital one.

One World. One Hope on World AIDS Day 1996 means working together to prevent the spread of HIV, and to build a global society that offers care and support to all those whose lives have been affected by the epidemic. It is a day of solidarity between the infected and the uninfected, between individuals and organizations, and between countries which are engaged together in the fight against HIV and AIDS. HIV must not be allowed to tear apart families and communities. Nor must it be allowed to tear the world apart into those who can hope for care and support, and those who cannot.

On World AIDS Day, we would like to extend our thanks and encouragement to all those who are joining in this effort to slow the spread of HIV and to alleviate the terrible suffering it causes.

PETER PIOT  
Executive Director  
Joint United Nations Programme of HIV/AIDS

### Statement on AIDS 'WORKING WITH NEW GENERATIONS FOR A SAFER WORLD' Rotary and UNAIDS

Each day more than 8,500 people are newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and 21 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. There is no cure for AIDS and a vaccine for mass distribution will not be ready before the 21st century, young men and women - half the world's population - are most at risk. UNAIDS estimates that half of all infections to date have been in the 15-24 year old population group. If the futures of our youth are to be protected, awareness and safe practices programs must be stepped up. AIDS leaves children without parents, schools without teachers, hospitals without doctors and creative young people with no hope or future. UNAIDS was established by the United Nations in 1996 to solidify and intensify global efforts to stem this epidemic. Cosponsored by six UN agencies, UNAIDS consolidates advocacy efforts, ensures more effective use of UN system resources, and coordinates UN support to national AIDS awareness programs. To succeed, the program must have community support. UNAIDS understands it cannot reach into every nation, every city, every village around this planet with programs specifically designed for each of these peoples. Rotary can help. There are more than 28,000 Rotary clubs with nearly 1.2 million members in 154 countries around the world. Each club is composed of men and women established in their profession who work as volunteers to improve the quality of life in their homes, their communities, and the world. Every day, Rotarians turn vision into action. Rotary can address the specific needs of young people in the local community. Under the leadership of Rotary

International president Luis Vicente Gay, from Argentina, Rotary clubs worldwide are being asked to direct their efforts toward the new generations by expanding and developing targeted youth programs addressing areas such as health, hunger, education, environment, human values, and leadership issues. In this effort, Rotarians will not only work for young people, but also with them. By "Working with New Generations for a Safer World," Rotarians will help save the lives of millions of young people. Rotary understands that no community initiative for youth can ignore the AIDS crisis. With UNAIDS as a primary resource, Rotary will inform and encourage its global, community based grassroots network to launch public awareness campaigns to promote AIDS awareness and safe practices among youth. Interact and Rotaract, Rotary sponsored service clubs for young people, will play an integral role. HIV/AIDS looms as an ominous shadow over the world's more than 400 million children, adolescents and youth. Only by involving the whole of society can we brighten the future for new generations. Rotary International was the leading non governmental organization associated with the founding of the United Nations in 1945. That alliance for the betterment, development and health of humankind continues and is increasing as we look toward the new century. Working together, Rotary clubs and UNAIDS promise new hope for our children and our grandchildren. The commitment is urgent. We pledge this, today, because tomorrow will be too late.

For Rotary International  
Luis Vicente Gay  
1996-97 President

For UNAIDS  
Dr. Peter Piot  
Executive Director