



## RFMA AT THE CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

There are several opportunities at the Chicago Conference to learn more about landmines and the way that the Fellowship is working with Rotary Clubs and professionals in the field to eliminate this threat from the lives of people around the world.

An RFMA networking meeting will be held at Roosevelt University, 430 South Michigan Avenue (corner of S. Michigan and Congress Parkway in downtown Chicago) on Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. See the new RFMA video and hear from NGO's currently working on landmine eradication, survivor assistance, mine risk education and post-clearance development. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. For details and to register visit [rfma.org](http://rfma.org).

Make a point of attending the Mine Action Symposium as part of the formal program at the Convention Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2:45 - 4:15 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Martin Barber, Head of the United Nations Mine Action Service. Rotarian panellists include:

**TRF Trustee Fumio Tamamura** (RC of Tokyo) who will speak about Japanese Rotarians' landmine action efforts in Cambodia and the TRF's support for landmine action projects;

**Chuck Meadows** (RC of Bainbridge Island), a decorated Vietnam combat veteran, Retired Marine Colonel and volunteer Exec Director of PeaceTrees Vietnam, Rtn Meadows will speak about Rotary's support for their efforts to assist capacity building in Vietnamese communities that have been affected by landmines and other remnants of war;

**Christo Schutte** (RC of East Preoria) Co-Founder and Director of Africa Medical Assistance, Rtn Schutte will speak to Rotary's support of landmine action in southern Africa and particularly Burundi.

**Mahendra Mehta** (RC of Mumbai) Founder and President of Help Handicapped International, Rtn Mehta will speak about Rotary's support of HHI's efforts to enhance the mobility of landmine survivors in countries such as Afghanistan and Sudan using the Jaipur Foot, tricycles and other devices.

**Scott Fairweather** (RC of Toronto-Forest Hill) President of the Canadian Landmine Foundation, a Director of the Global Adopt-A-Minefield Campaign, and a Founder of Rotarians for Mine Action, Rtn Fairweather will speak about Rotary's partnership with Adopt-A-Minefield to clear landmines and assist survivors in places such as Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia Mozambique & Vietnam.

1 RFMA at the Centennial Conference

2 International Children's Day Campout And Art Poster/ Essay Contest In Quang Tri Province, Vietnam

3. RFMA launches Project Database/ First project profile

4 District Chapters and Club Champions



The Fellowship of Rotarians for Mine Action is a voluntary not-for-profit association dedicated to building fellowship and landmine awareness amongst Rotarians and Rotaractors.

## **INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY CAMPOUT AND ART POSTER/ESSAY CONTEST IN QUANG TRI PROVINCE, VIETNAM**

DONG HA, Vietnam – It's a warm, star-filled evening at the foot of the Danaan Parry Landmines Education Center. The whirring of cicadas resonates through the lush forest park planted seven years ago by the first group of PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN) volunteers. Under the gently swaying canopy, 235 disabled and disadvantaged children circle around a bonfire. The fire's orange glow outlines the tents they have pitched for the night.

Just a few years ago, his scene within 20 miles of the former Demilitarized Zone would have been unimaginable. Built in the perimeter of a former Marine Corps logistics base that was once at the heart of one of the fieriest battlegrounds of the war, the center and park now stand as a symbol of peace, friendship and renewal. Today, they are at the heart of a PeaceTrees effort to bring about a safe and healthy future for the children and families in Quang Tri Province. The Danaan Parry Landmines Education Center, named after the late co-founder of PeaceTrees Vietnam, was built to reach out to communities in Quang Tri Province and educate people, particularly children, about the lethal power of the leftover unexploded ordnance (UXO) that still surrounds them. This education center was the first and remains the only dedicated educational outreach center for mine risk education in Vietnam

These young children, all between 6 and 18, came to participate in a campout weekend of special activities as part of International Children's Day. They are "special" children -- some of whom are blind, deaf, mentally and physically handicapped, orphans and victims of landmine and UXO accidents. They enjoyed games, dancing, and singing and were actively involved in an art contest painting pictures on the theme of a "Clean and Safe Environment for the Children". Theirs is a gathering with a special mission. They are learning about the dangers of landmines and UXO that still pose an everyday threat to the people of Quang Tri Province. A small PeaceTrees delegation led by Alyson McGregor, a Seattle artist and teacher, worked and played with the children during this extraordinary weekend, which for the first time was centered on these special needs children. Also in attendance to help the children were several prominent local Vietnamese artists. The children are invited to engage in drawing, writing and other contests and activities so they can express their newly acquired knowledge about UXO and its effect on their community and the environment.

"We use cultural activities such as art, music, movement and play to educate the children about the dangers of leftover mines and bombs," says Madame Le Thi My Le, chairman of the Quang Tri Province Committee for Population, Family and Children (CPFC). Madame Le says at least 12,000 children have learned about safety around so-called "UXO" through the series of activities sponsored by PeaceTrees Vietnam since 1998.



Mine Risk Education (MRE) is an essential component of PTVN's mine action activities. Over the past seven years, PTVN in cooperation with CPFC have developed and implemented a sustainable model for MRE. PeaceTrees aim is to encourage the adoption of mine-safe behavior. Mine risk education is defined as "a process that promotes the adoption of safer behaviors by at-risk groups, and which provides the links between affected communities, other mine action components and other sectors." Thus, at the heart of MRE are two elements: a communication strategy to promote safer behavior (public education), and community liaison activities. One of the key tools in seeking to achieve this objective is a clear communication strategy. Communication is the process of sharing information and understanding. It is used to inform people on the dangers of mines and UXO, to demonstrate safe behavior, to teach mine-safe skills and to create support for mine-safety behavior among communities and leaders.

Quang Tri Province authorities estimate that thousands of landmines and millions of UXO are still left in the ground. Even now, nearly every week, a child gets injured or killed by an accidental explosion. PeaceTrees understands that to achieve mine-safe behavior it is important to not only to inform and educate communities on safe behavior but also to provide an environment that supports this behavior. The PeaceTrees Vietnam model of using artistic methods of communication has proven to be an effective way to educate while still having a good time together.

## RFMA Launches Project Database

A database has been created by a team under the direction of RFMA Treasurer Sandy Boucher (RC Toronto) and with the support of the staff of James Madison University and funding from the U.S. Department of State.

The initial phase of this project involved the creation of an on-line, public, searchable database containing program descriptions for landmine related projects that Rotary Clubs have implemented. Initially this database will be populated with projects known to Rotarians For Mine Action. As the database matures, emphasis will be placed on encouraging Rotary Clubs to list their own projects.

### Project Goals

- To provide a collaborative communication tool that will help increase awareness of the extent of Rotary's involvement in landmine action and potentially facilitate partnerships.
- To develop a planning tool for organizations that are interested in undertaking new landmine action projects and would like to benefit from other Rotarians experiences.
- To offer a forum for facilitating awareness between Rotary Clubs around the world which are increasingly working towards common goals.
- To supply a good source of documentation for pinpointing underserved regions and populations in efforts to support new mine action efforts.

**HAVE A LOOK AT THE DATABASE – entry through [rfma.org](http://rfma.org). Enter any mine action projects your Club has undertaken!**

Here is the story of the very first project noted in the RFMA Database:



The Rotary Club of Toronto, supported by Night of A Thousand Dinners, The Rotary Club of Mumbai and the Rotary Foundation funded a Jaipur Limb Camp in Afghanistan.

The objective of the project is to fit 1,000 amputees in the area of Kabul, Afghanistan with the Jaipur Foot, an inexpensive limb prostheses developed in India by Help Handicap International.



Trained technicians were sent from India to measure and fit the artificial limb, either above or below the knee. These technicians also train local technicians and provide technical manuals printed in the local language. The limbs are custom designed for the amputees. Local interpreters help with communications. Brochures in the local language explain proper maintenance of the limb.



HHI reports that the project is going well despite the fact that the weather has been cold and wet. Amputees from small rural towns are traveling to the camp and being fitted with artificial limbs.

## **District Chapters & Club Champions**

### **What is a RFMA District Chapter?**

A Chapter is a policy and coordinating group, made up of RFMA members, within a District. Its role is to:

- Keep the District Governor informed of progress;
- Build awareness of the landmine issue in the District through sending emails to Champions, and identifying speakers within the District;
- Build membership for RFMA either directly or through the Champions;
- Learn more about landmine action and Rotary activities such as limb centres.
- Serve as District liaison with RFMA.
- Provide advice and support for District-wide mine action including recommending type of mine action and country to benefit.
- Recommend projects to be funded and report results back through the Champions;
- Build a network of Club Champions to promote and support mine action activities (see below);

### **How do we establish a RFMA District Chapter?**

The Chapter starts with someone prepared to provide mine action leadership in the District:

- Recruitment of members may include strategic (such as including a former Governor, former WCS Chairs) and geographic (regional representatives within the District).
- You might even find that it is appropriate to have more than one chapter due to the size of the District
- Contact RFMA to get a list of current RFMA members in their district

**To register a RFMA District Chapter email us at [info@rotariansformineaction.org](mailto:info@rotariansformineaction.org)**

### **What is a Club Champion?**

A Champion is a Rotarian who:

- Is in a District with a RFMA Chapter, or who first agrees to organize a Chapter;
- Raises awareness of the landmine issue within the Club;
- promotes RFMA membership within a Club;
- serves as Club liaison with the RFMA District Chapter;
- encourages Club participation in Night of A Thousand Dinners ([www.1000dinners.com](http://www.1000dinners.com)).

District 7070 Governor Lars Henriksson challenged District Governors across Canada to participate in Night of A Thousand Dinners 2004. Participation in Zone 22 jumped from 8 of 22 to 17 of 22 Districts participating. Thanks Governor Lars!

### **WELCOME NEW RFMA DISTRICT CHAPTERS:**

**DISTRICT 7080** – CHAIR: VERNA ANDREWS, RC OAKVILLE- TRAFALGAR

**DISTRICT 7090** – CHAIR: ROD HOLLICK, RC ST.CATHARINES A.M.