

# What does Rotary do here in Stevenage?

We enjoy a range of service and social activities.  
Here's a flavour



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## Internationally

### *Emergency relief for the Tsunami (26th December 2005)*

Early in the New year of 2005, Club members were out in force helping to collect funds to help the many hundreds of thousands affected by this worst natural disaster in living memory. The Club, not content to simply pass monies across looked to its Rotary links to ensure that the most effective use was made of the funds.

As a result, teaming up with Rotary Members in the worst affected areas, the Club, in addition to public donations, voted a significant sum from its Charity Reserve Account to purchase not one, but two, fishing boats. Suitably named the boats not only provided much needed employment for the boat-building and fishing economies, but also a local food supply for their families. Surplus catches now help sustain the families and help feed a wider population on a long term basis.

**Support for the town of Laz in Romania.** For over 14 years, Rotarians in Stevenage have raised funds and physically helped install many basic facilities in Laz. Following a UN Appeal in 1990 for charities around the world to help rebuild the country's infrastructure, Stevenage was the first Rotary Club to respond. Since then, apart from providing materials, a group of our Rotarians spend a week or so each year getting stuck-in to building and other projects. Rotarians from both Clubs have been awarded the Freedom of the Town.

**Support for our twined friends in Kadoma, Zimbabwe.** Linking with the local Club in Kadoma, together with the Calgary Club in Ontario, we obtained a Rotary Foundation match-funding grant to finance & donate an ambulance to the people in Kadoma. We have hosted and greatly enjoyed the company of 18 friends of all ages from the town and have sponsored their travel costs to attend and perform at their national music festival.

**Purchase of Shelter boxes for disaster stricken areas.** We have purchased 4 boxes which have been despatched to Haiti, Algeria, Madras (Tsunami) and Islamabad (Pakistan earthquake). For details of what a Shelter Box is [view this site](#)

**Support for international fellowship and co-operation.** We sponsored Stevenage's PC Phil Waite visit to Houston, Texas, and [name to ?]. They, along with 3 other young professionals, took part in Rotary's annual Group Study Exchange programme. We financially support Rotary Foundation: This oversees the largest educational charity in the world. Foundation is publicly recognised as being responsible for the near eradication of polio world-wide through its Polio+ campaign. We send 'Aqua' boxes, containing emergency items and water tablets to provide first line support for disaster hit areas as well as 'Shelter' boxes providing 1st line disaster cover. We will often respond to major international disaster campaigns within days of an appeal. The Grange supports 'Farm Africa', a Rotary programme to improve livestock quality, milk yields & the local economy.

### **Support of innovative developments having wide-scale benefit**

From 2003 to its launch in January 2006, the Grange actively encouraged and supported a sight saving invention, pioneered by Dr Roger Armour, retired Surgeon at the Lister Hospital.

In January 2006, the Club launched the Rotary Ophthalmos Initiative (ROI). This facilitates the donation by Rotary Clubs worldwide of the Optsye™ lens free ophthalmoscope for distribution by SightSavers International, & other approved agencies to the developing world. The low cost, pen sized ophthalmoscope has the potential to improve the sight and general health of millions worldwide. See our web page entitled *Ophthalmoscope* for more details.

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