ARCH C. KLUMPH SOCIETY MEMBERS are among The Rotary Foundation's top leaders and innovators. Members believe in the work of The Rotary Foundation and have made supporting peace, education, and humanitarian assistance part of their personal mission. They are key supporters of the Foundation, and their involvement is vital to its work.

“The Rotary Foundation makes it honorable for a man to build up a fortune in the community, because it provides the means for the return of that fortune as a whole, or in part, for the permanent service of humanity.”

— Arch C. Klumph
Arch C. Klumph was born on 6 June 1869 in Conneautville, Pennsylvania, USA. His family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, when he was a child. Klumph left school when he was 12 years old and took a job to help support his family. In 1884, at the age of 15, he started in the lumber business. When he was 18, he accepted a position as an office boy at Cuyahoga Lumber Company, where he would later become president and, eventually, sole owner.

Musically gifted, Klumph took up the flute at age 16 and later co-chartered the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, where he performed for 17 years. He served as a community leader in a variety of cultural and professional organizations in the Cleveland area. He and his wife, Eva, had two daughters: Kathryn McGuire and Mary Watson.

His Rotary Experience

Arch C. Klumph joined the Rotary Club of Cleveland in 1911 and was appointed its president in 1913. In 1916, he was elected as the sixth president of Rotary International. The first Rotary leader to propose a foundation, he eloquently promoted "endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world" at the 1917 convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1918, the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA, made the first gift of US$26.50 to a fledgling fund that by 1928 grew to more than $5,000. The endowment was significant enough to require administrators to manage it. Thus, The Rotary Foundation was born, and Klumph was selected as one of its first Trustees, serving as chairman from 1928 to 1934.

Klumph passed away on 3 June 1951 at the age of 81, but his influence still echoes through his beloved Foundation and the many Rotarians who are tirelessly dedicated to advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace. His vision has grown into an impressive reality, and we are able to witness all of the good works the Foundation has produced in over 200 countries and geographical areas throughout the world.

His Legacy

During Rotary International's centennial celebration, the Rotary Foundation Trustees sought a meaningful way to recognize the Foundation's highest-level donors. The Trustees inaugurated the Arch C. Klumph Society in 2005. Today, members' portraits hang in the Arch C. Klumph Gallery at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois. A display case featuring memorabilia from Klumph's career is now a prominent part of the gallery.
Arch C. Klumph Society members support The Rotary Foundation for a variety of reasons. With their help, the Foundation is fulfilling Rotary’s promise of creating a polio-free world. Children and families are living healthier lives through the Foundation’s Humanitarian Grants Program. Educational and cultural exchange programs are helping young people build lasting friendships and mutual understanding with their peers around the world. Member support enables tomorrow’s leaders to live and study together as Rotary World Peace Fellows and provides them the opportunity to begin building a more peaceful world.

Yusuf Kodwavwala and his wife, Marie, of Nairobi, Kenya, established an endowed Group Study Exchange (GSE) for District 9200. “We wanted to do something for The Rotary Foundation because so much good work is being done by the Foundation,” said Past District Governor Kodwavwala. “I believe that GSE is cost-effective, it promotes cultural and world understanding, and it encourages participants to become Rotarians.”

Foundation Trustee for 2006-10 Sakuji Tanaka, of Yashioshi, Japan, created an endowment for the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. Tanaka has a personal goal of endowing at least 10 peace fellows during his lifetime, and he is already making steady progress toward that achievement. During his induction into the Arch C. Klumph Society, he stressed the importance of the Rotary Centers program. “Our fellows are taught to handle many of the issues related to conflict, including poverty, literacy, hunger, population, disease, human rights, water resources, nuclear energy, and food. In 15 to 20 years, I believe that this will be the Foundation’s most valuable program.”

2007-10 RRFC Yusuf and Marie Kodwavwala
David and Lis Ker of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, set up an endowed fund within the Foundation’s Permanent Fund that provides cultural scholarships for students from Barnaul and Novosibirsk, Russia. The scholarships give students the opportunity to learn business skills they could not get at home. One of the Kers’ scholars, Roman Romanenko, participated in a cultural exchange between Canada and Russia and went on to become a manager at Ernst and Young in his native country. “I cannot even imagine today how big the impact of this trip will be on my life and how many advantages it will give me,” Romanenko said. “I will never forget what the Kers have done for me, and I hope sometime in the future I will be able to pay them back for everything.”

Every member of the Arch C. Klumph Society has a personal commitment to “doing good in the world.” Through the commitment and leadership of the society’s members, the Foundation is able to continue its work toward a more humane and peaceful world. Members have varied backgrounds and interests which together ensure a strong impact in the world through the Foundation’s mission: to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

“Our fellows are taught to handle many of the issues related to conflict, including poverty, literacy, hunger, population, disease, human rights, water resources, nuclear energy, and food. In 15 to 20 years, I believe that this will be the Foundation’s most valuable program.”

— 2006-10 ROTARY FOUNDATION TRUSTEE SAKUJI TANAKA
Induction Ceremonies

The Rotary Foundation hosts portrait installation ceremonies to celebrate the induction of new members into the Arch C. Klumph Society. Each ceremony is an opportunity for The Rotary Foundation to recognize all that the new member has done for the Foundation and to celebrate his or her spirit of Service Above Self.

Many of the society’s new members choose to visit Evanston for a ceremony in their honor, which is attended by Rotary senior leaders, the inductee’s family members, friends, fellow Rotarians, and Foundation staff. During the ceremony, the new member’s portrait is officially placed in the gallery and the member receives an Arch C. Klumph Society Certificate of Membership. If a new member is unable to attend a ceremony, the Foundation can still arrange for his or her portrait to be hung in the gallery.

Celebrate the spirit of Service Above Self

Past District Governor Sung Soo Kim and Mrs. Gye-Soon Nam
Virgílio Gonçalves Pina Filho and Nina Pina with IPPC Chair Robert S. Scott (second from left) and 2008-12 Rotary Foundation Trustee William B. Boyd (right)
“Upon our arrival in Evanston, The Rotary Foundation’s chairman and
Trustees, along with the staff, made us feel extremely welcome, and we had
a splendid time. It was a pleasure meeting the dignitaries and an honor to be
inducted into the Arch C. Klumph Society. You can count on our continued
support of The Rotary Foundation.”

— PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR HARVEY AND JANET JUBIE
“Susan and I were truly overwhelmed by the beautiful setting for the 2007 Arch C. Klumph Society Dinner. With peacocks and turkeys, the stunning landscape and lake, and lovely music in the background, we felt as if we had all stepped into a fairy tale! The Foundation outdid itself in making us all feel appreciated by creating an enchanting evening that we will long remember.”

— PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR STEVE AND SUSAN LEONARD
Arch C. Klumph Society Dinner

Another exciting feature of society membership is the annual Arch C. Klumph Society Dinner, held each year during the International Convention. This intimate event is an excellent way for members to meet like-minded Rotary leaders and celebrate all that has been done through their Foundation.
The Arch C. Klumph Society has grown to include more than 200 distinguished members from all over the world. Their home countries include Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, and the United States. As the Foundation’s reach expands every day, so do the ranks of the Arch C. Klumph Society.

Arch C. Klumph Gallery
The cornerstone of the society is the Arch C. Klumph Gallery on the 17th floor of One Rotary Center in Evanston. The gallery is the proud home of the society members’ portraits. Special memorabilia from Past RI President Klumph’s Rotary career is featured in a display case. Members of the society will be featured in an interactive biographical display in the 17th floor gallery. This electronic kiosk will enable visitors to learn about the donors whose portraits adorn the walls and the great difference they have made in others’ lives.
Rotary Foundation Reports

Arch C. Klumph Society members receive annual stewardship reports summarizing their personal contribution histories, exploring the good works their gifts have made possible, and bringing them the latest updates on the Foundation’s activities.

Qualifying for Arch C. Klumph Society Membership

Donors whose cumulative contributions amount to US$250,000 or more qualify for the Arch C. Klumph Society. Please contact The Rotary Foundation for further information.

Members’ contributions echo through generations to come: strengthening bodies, brightening minds, doing good in the world.