



社長文告



親愛的扶輪社友，

每 2 分鐘，在世界的某個地方，就有一名女性因懷孕及生產相關的可預防原因而死亡。母親在生產後 6 個星期死亡的嬰兒，本身死亡的機率比母親存活的嬰兒高出許多。在我以國際扶輪社長身分環遊世界之際，我見過這些人的家屬，對他們來說這不只是悲傷的統計數字而已。可是我也見到全心全意幫助母親及孩童的人——因為有他們，我充滿希望。因為其中許多人都是扶輪社員，我也感到與有榮焉。4 月是扶輪的母嬰健康月，也正是適當的時機來告訴各位一些扶輪社員所為、讓你也與有榮焉的事。

去年秋天，我拜訪拉脫維亞傑卡皮爾斯鎮的一家醫院。它是一家現代醫院，那裡的醫師和護理師都很有愛心、投入工作、醫術高明。可是儘管他們非常努力，該院的產婦死亡率一直居高不下，起因是一個他們無法控制的因素：缺乏重要的診斷設備，甚至欠缺保溫箱等基本物資。

那就是扶輪著力之處。來自世界各地 21 個扶輪社合力推動一項全球獎助金計畫，提供該院所需物資。去年 9 月，當我走進該院的產婦病房，我看到最新穎的設備，我看到病患獲得他們所需的醫療照護——世界上每一個母親和孩子都值得擁有的照護。

在巴西，扶輪社員和日本的扶輪社員合作進行一項全球獎助金計畫，大大增加一間負荷過度的新生兒加護病房的照護能力。新的保溫箱、監視器及其他設備讓這家地方醫院每年都能拯救更多嬰兒的生命。

在蒙古，紐西蘭的一個職業訓練小組為醫師及助產士辦理緊急處理技巧教學、設立一個教導助產士現代最佳措施的課程，並研究及撰寫一份配合當地文化的生產教育手冊。在該小組初次到蒙古的 2013 年到 2017 年之間，該國的新生兒死亡率從每千人 11.2 人下降至 9.1 人，產婦死亡率也下降不少。

這就是我所謂的轉變型服務，那是扶輪社員最擅長的事。因為我們的人際網絡遍佈全球，我們扎根在社區讓我們能夠看見最需要的事物，以及我們的專業知識涵蓋無數的技能及職業，我們能夠以他人所不能及的方式來服務。我們能夠成為勵志領導者，幫助最需要我們的人。

BARRY RASSIN 巴利·拉辛

國際扶輪社長



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow Rotarians,

Every two minutes, somewhere in the world, a woman dies from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. And babies whose mothers die within the first six weeks of their lives are far more likely to die themselves than babies whose mothers survive. As I've traveled around the world as president of Rotary, I've met families for whom these aren't simply tragic statistics. But I've also met people who are devoting themselves to helping mothers and children — and because of them, I'm hopeful. And because many of those people are Rotarians, I'm also proud. April is Maternal and Child Health Month in Rotary, so it's a perfect time to tell you about some things Rotarians are doing that will make you proud too.

Last fall, I paid a visit to a hospital in the town of Jekabpils, in Latvia. It's a modern hospital, and the doctors and nurses there are caring, dedicated, and skilled. But despite all their hard work, the maternal mortality rate at the hospital had remained stubbornly high, due to a factor that was beyond their control: a lack of vital diagnostic equipment and even basic items like incubators.

And that's where Rotary came in. Twenty-one clubs from around the world joined forces for a global grant that provided what the hospital required. And in September, when I walked into the maternity ward there, I saw state-of-the-art equipment, and I met patients who were getting the care that they needed — and that every mother and child in the world deserves to have.

In Brazil, club members worked with fellow Rotarians in Japan on a global grant project that dramatically increased the capacity of an overstretched neonatal intensive care unit. New incubators, monitors, and other equipment have enabled the local hospital to save many more babies' lives each year.

And in Mongolia, a vocational training team from New Zealand organized instruction in emergency response techniques for doctors and midwives, set up a program that taught midwives modern best practices, and researched and wrote a culturally relevant childbirth education manual. Between 2013, when the team first went to Mongolia, and 2017, the neonatal mortality rate in the country fell from 11.2 to 9.1 per 1,000 births, and the maternal mortality rate has decreased as well.

That's what I mean when I talk about transformational service, and it's what Rotarians do best. Because of our networks, which span the globe; our community presence, which allows us to see what's most needed; and our expertise, which encompasses countless skills and professions, we're able to serve in a manner that has no equal. And we're able to *Be the Inspiration* as we help those who need us most.

BARRY RASSIN

President, Rotary International