



扶輪基金保管委員會主委文告

人類是我們的事

在維多利亞女王時代的倫敦，一個起霧的聖誕夜，一位年邁的吝嗇鬼坐在桌前。

對世界感到憤怒且幻滅的史古基只有一項興趣：他的收入。他拒絕他侄兒共享聖誕節晚餐的邀請，拒絕支持貧窮的人，讓他低薪的員工克拉奇在聖誕節放一天假還心不甘情不願。

在他回到家之後，奇怪的事開始發生。他去世的事業夥伴馬里以拴著鎖鏈的鬼魂之姿出現，告訴史古基要改變他自我中心的行為，以免落得跟他同樣的命運。

這就是《耶誕頌歌》（A Christmas Carol，又譯《小氣財神》）的設定，在這個經典故事裡，作者狄更斯描述一個人從鐵石心腸的孤僻者幡然轉變為慷慨的人道主義者。對我來說，它提供所有人一個寶貴的教訓，無論你的信仰是什麼，或是在一年的什麼時刻。

在我最喜歡的一段中，一個鬼魂以魔法把史古基帶到克拉奇家。在那裡，他從全新的觀點看到他的職員，觀察一個簡樸但溫馨的佳節聚會。史古基便瞭解到像友誼、家人，及感激的禮物不能記錄到任何帳本裡。到了故事結尾，史古基學會最重要的一課：只要我們還活著，要奉獻自我

服務人類永遠不會太遲。

年底的假期即將來臨。這是奉獻及分享的時刻，可是對象不限於我們愛的人。它也應該適用於我們從未謀面且將永遠不會見到面的人，那些不如我們幸運、需要我們伸出援手的人。史古基在聖誕夜發現的奉獻奇蹟，正是扶輪基金會 365 天都在做的事。

我們的基金會同時是慈善機構，也是現場的執行者；扶輪社員在最前線，自願奉獻他們的技能及商業知識來支持各位所資助的獎助金計畫。用這種方式，我們執行扶輪最重要的工作，例如保護母親及他們的嬰兒，並幫助社區從新冠病毒的震撼中走出來。

在這個慷慨解囊的季節，請記得扶輪基金會。記得你對基金會的捐款會強化我們在所有焦點領域的工作。它們是永續的，不是只在今天，而是持續到我們離開人世很久以後。只要我們在今天繼續支持，基金會在明天將持續為他人創造服務的奇蹟。我謹代表扶輪基金會，感謝各位在 12 月 31 日之前送出你們的慷慨捐款。

雷文壯 K.R. RAVINDRAN

扶輪基金保管委員會主委



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Humankind is our business

On a foggy Christmas Eve in Victorian London, the old miser sits at his desk.

Bitter and disillusioned with the world, Ebenezer Scrooge has only one interest: his bottom line. He declines his nephew's invitation to Christmas dinner, refuses to support the poor and deprived, and reluctantly grants his underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit, time off for Christmas Day.

After he arrives home, strange things begin to happen. Jacob Marley, his deceased business partner, appears as a ghost tethered to a chain, telling Scrooge to change his self-centered ways, lest he meet the same fate.

That is the premise of *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' classic tale of a man's transformation from hardened recluse to generous humanitarian. To me, it offers valuable lessons for all, regardless of belief or time of year.

In one of my favorite passages, a spirit magically transports Scrooge to the Cratchit household. There, he sees his clerk from a new vantage point, observing a humble but heartfelt holiday gathering. Scrooge then understands that gifts like friendship, family, and gratitude can't be recorded into any ledger. By the end of the story, Scrooge has learned the most important lesson of all: that as long as we are still alive, it's not too late to

devote ourselves to serving humankind.

The year-end holidays are upon us. It is a time of giving and sharing, but it is not limited to our loved ones. It is also for the people we have never met and will never see, for those who are not so fortunate as we and could use a helping hand. The miracle of giving that Scrooge discovered on Christmas Eve is exactly what The Rotary Foundation does 365 days a year.

Our Foundation serves simultaneously as charity and performer in the field; Rotarians are on the ground, volunteering their skills and business expertise in support of grants that are funded by you. In this way, we carry out some of Rotary's most important work, such as protecting mothers and their babies and helping communities recover from the shocks of COVID-19.

Please remember The Rotary Foundation during this season of generosity. Remember that your gifts to the Foundation amplify our work in all areas of focus. They are perpetuated, not just today but long after we are gone. And the Foundation will continue to work its miracles in service to others tomorrow as long as we keep supporting it today. On behalf of The Rotary Foundation Trustees, I thank you for sending your generous contribution before 31 December.

K.R. RAVINDRAN

Foundation trustee chair

Illustration by Luke Wilson