



扶輪基金保管委員會主委文告

## 向上提升的滿足感

給予不只是一項活動。它還是一種生活方式，也是在亂世尋找希望的火炬。今日世局動盪，可是在人類漫長的歷史中這並不算不尋常的時代。古老的智慧在設定路線及目標時尤其重要。

這樣的智慧來自於 12 世紀的哲學家邁蒙尼德 Maimonides。生於西班牙哥多華，他與家人為躲避宗教迫害流亡到摩洛哥。年輕時，他便精通亞里斯多德、天文學，後來還專攻醫學。在搬到開羅之後，邁蒙尼德成為該市最偉大的拉比（猶太教祭司），製作多本有關猶太教律法《摩西五書》的評論巨著，晚年還成為一位知名的醫師。

可是他獻給人類最大的禮物就在於他關於給予本身的想法。他的「慈善的八種層次」是一篇傑作，教導我們關於給予的意義，以及我們給予的動機。

邁蒙尼德的階梯最底下一階是出於憐憫或不情願地給予。往上一階是給的比應該的少但是愉快為之。爬到第五階時，你在別人開口前就給予。更往上是匿名的方式來給予。第八階同時也是最高階的慈善是預期會發生痛苦，然後給予來避免或預防痛苦的發生。

當我們讓兒童服用小兒麻痺疫苗，便是在預期可能會發生疾病。我們其他的行動也是如此，例如減少瘧疾或子宮頸癌發生的扶輪計畫。

當我們教導他人學會一個足以謀生的職業，我們便是在實踐第八階的給予。從小額貸款到教育，扶輪基金會協助我們給予自立自強的禮物。

所有這些善行都在等著我們，就像支持新生兒、清潔飲水來源、新冠疫情重建工作，以及我們主導的其他無數行動一樣。

我很驕傲說許多扶輪社員都爬到邁蒙尼德階梯的最頂端。他們有許多人都是匿名在做。無論他們是誰，無論他們為了什麼理由與基金會分享他們的禮物，我都衷心感謝。

作為一個組織，扶輪也爬上那個階梯。各位的每一筆捐獻都幫助我們爬到更高的層次。當我們全體爬上這個階梯，我們便可獲得更寬廣的視野。我們看到所有需要拉一把的人，也可看到我們在扶輪可以協助他們的無數機會。在我們這麼做之際，我們會找到我們自己的意義及目的。

**雷文壯 K.R. RAVINDRAN**

扶輪基金保管委員會主委



#### TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

## The satisfaction of stepping up

**Giving is more than an activity.** It is a way of life and a beacon in the search for hope in troubled times. There is great turmoil today, but these are not unusual times, not in the span of human history. The wisdom of the ages is especially important to help us set our path and purpose.

Such wisdom comes from the 12th century philosopher known as Maimonides. Born in Córdoba, Spain, he and his family went into exile in Morocco to escape religious persecution. As a young man, he mastered Aristotle, astronomy, and later medicine. After moving to Cairo, Maimonides became known as the city's greatest rabbi, producing tomes of commentary on the Torah, and he lived out his final days as a renowned doctor.

But his greatest gift to humanity captured his thoughts about giving itself. His Eight Levels of Charity is a masterpiece that teaches us about what giving means and what motivates us to do it.

The bottom rung of Maimonides' ladder is giving out of pity or grudgingly. The next step up is giving less than one should, but doing so cheerfully. Climb up to the fifth rung and you are giving before being asked. Further up the ladder is giving in a way that the receiver does not know who the giver is. The eighth and highest level of charity is to anticipate distress and giving to avoid or prevent it.

When we immunize children against polio, we are anticipating potential illness. We do so with other efforts, such as Rotary projects that reduce the incidence of malaria or cervical cancer.

When we teach someone a profession that enables them to earn a living, we apply the eighth step. From microfinance to education, The Rotary Foundation helps us give the gift of self-reliance.

All of this good work awaits us, as does the work of supporting newborns, cleaning water sources, recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and countless other efforts we lead.

I am proud to say that many Rotary members climb to the top of Maimonides' ladder. Many of them do so anonymously. Whoever they are and for whatever reason they share their gifts with the Foundation, I thank them.

As an organization, Rotary climbs that ladder as well. Every one of your donations helps us reach higher levels. As we climb this ladder as one, we gain a wider perspective. We see all those who need to be uplifted as well as the countless opportunities we have to help them in Rotary. And as we do so, we find our own meaning and purpose.

**K.R. RAVINDRAN**

*Foundation trustee chair*

*Illustration by Luke Wilson*