



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7230

SERVING THE BRONX, MANHATTAN, STATEN ISLAND, WESTCHESTER AND BERMUDA

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District Governor, 2003-2004
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Mother's Day 2004

Mats Ingemanson
561 Hudson St.
Ste. 112
New York, NY 10014

Dear Mats:

Have you ever had a cramp in your leg, knee, and toes? If so, you know how painful that can be! Multiply your pain 1000 times, and that is what a child born with tetanus experiences. Severe pain for 7-21 days before its life ends.

In the U.S. we think of tetanus as a thing of the past—but in the developing world, it kills! Innocent newborns and often their mothers suffer a tortuous but unnecessary death. For a mere \$1.20, you could save a life!

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT), is responsible for the deaths of approximately 180,000 infants and 30,000 mothers each year. The tetanus vaccine is inexpensive and has been available for the past 70 years. However, women in many developing countries have limited or no access to immunization or prenatal care.

Rotarians know the tremendous impact immunization can have in helping raise healthy children. Immunizations are some of the most cost-effective health interventions we have today.

As you may recall, Kirsten Edstrom, President, Rotary Club of Metro New York City and Kate Weber, NGO Manager, U.S. Fund for UNICEF presented a compelling briefing to District Presidents last November on Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) care. In 1999, UNICEF launched its initiative to wipe out MNT worldwide by targeting 57 countries where the threat is prevalent.

New momentum to the campaign was recently gained when the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provided a \$10 million grant to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF towards the worldwide elimination of MNT. The U.S. Fund for UNICEF is issuing a challenge to donors to match that grant with an additional \$10 million to secure a total of \$20 million for the program. This grant supplements the Gates Foundation's first gift of \$26 million in 1999.

After November's briefing, several of you voiced surprise that tetanus was still a deadly killer and asked what you could do to help?

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As I mentioned in my first paragraph, a mere \$1.20 would have saved the life of a child born with tetanus.....and here is how you can help! Making a gift of \$60 would save 50 mothers and their newborns from this horrible death. If every Rotarian in our district made a \$60 contribution (if you wish to give more that would be great!), approximately 50,000 mothers and their newborns would be saved from a painful death.

I encourage you to participate in the challenge presented by the Gates Foundation and support the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's MNT campaign. Right now, the U.S. Fund and their partners are focusing their fund-raising efforts around a **Mother's Day 2004 appeal** – and truly, what better time is there to educate and advocate on behalf of the MNT program than during Mother's Day?

Please join me and other Rotarians support the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's MNT Campaign. I've included a program brochure for your information and if you have any questions, feel free to contact Joan Fyfe, Rotary International's alternate representative at the UN/NY at 914-962-3917 or e-mail: alf1504@optonline.net or call Kirsten Edstrom at 718-335-0055.

LEND A HAND

Sully

P.S. Please join me and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's MNT **Mother's Day 2004** appeal with a contribution of \$60 or whatever you can afford. Make your check payable to "U.S. Fund for UNICEF" with the notation "MNT." If your company has a matching gift program, you can double or even triple your gift. Thank you for your consideration.

P.P.S. Please use the return envelope, attached to the enclosed brochure, to mail your contribution. This envelope will allow us to track Rotary donations for this special appeal. Thank you for your thoughtful gift.



Lend a Hand

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