



My Fellow Rotarians,

Although I have not been physically visible to you this past week, I am with you in spirit and solidarity. As many of you know, I have been working, behind the scene, since "day one" of this horrendous tragedy.

I have received over one hundred E-mails from Rotary clubs all over the world, expressing their sorrow and eagerness to help. I have been attempting to answer as many as I can, personally. Andreas and Mats have also been doing an outstanding job in this respect. I have also been in contact with our partner in tragedy, Tim Hanson, President of the Washington D.C. Rotary Club.

In response to all the requests to help, Werner Kobelt and I set up a special fund to address the needs that will be resulting from this unprecedented crisis. I have had the information publicized in various places including our Website. It is also being included in the E-mail responses. Checks or wire transfers will be sent to "The New York Rotary Foundation of the Rotary Club of New York" and our club's Board of Directors, with the Foundation, will analyze where the money is most needed.

You will also be proud to know that we have individual members who have been actively involved in helping the rescue workers and the victims, all week. Clarence Plummer has been delivering water and food to the site; Jeff Burkes, our forensic dental consultant, has been identifying victims who would otherwise be unrecognizable; Cindy Erickson is involved in respiratory assistance; our Fraternalite' has been manning the soup kitchen and collecting supplies, Bill DeLong is volunteering at the Salvation Army; Serge is giving free grief counseling; Bill Currie is doing crisis management; Greg Lynch and Giorgio have been actively helping wherever needed. I know there must be others who have not contacted us, as yet, who are also contributing.

I have also spent hours trying to track down our member, David Serko, who had offices in the World Trade Center. I made countless calls and posted notices on the web. It was Ted Andrews who used his "detective skills" and got me the word that David and Joan were safe, evacuated from their apartment, and in the process of relocating the office. I was then able to also help others who were concerned, after they spotted my message and contacted me.

Perhaps, now, you can all feel a real sense of pride, not only in being a New York Rotarian, but in being part of the "Rotary World"-----a special world composed of special people who do not gather just to do business, but to do the "Business of Mankind."

Yours in Rotary,
Helen Reisler
President
Rotary Club of New York.

