



Give Hope – Give a Hand

Providing functional prosthetic hands at no cost to recipients.

Give Hope - Give a Hand!

News about the LN-4 from the
Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation

First Edition
February 2008

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Welcome!

We begin with a heartfelt **Thank You** to all of you - our sponsors, our allies, and our friends - for all your support and patience as we build the LN-4 program.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and will pass it on to your friends and neighbors. All are invited to join the mailing list by [clicking here](#).

It is important to point out that the Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 separate from Rotary. We are grateful to the many Rotarians who are major benefactors in both money and volunteer energy.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and of course, your suggestions for future newsletters are invited.

Michael E Mendonça, President

Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation

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Major Milestones Achieved

The fourth quarter of 2007 marks three major milestones for the LN-4 prosthetic hand.

First, we are pleased to report that the new production molds for the LN-4 hand are in service and working well. Components for 1,000 hands are now in the supply chain, with many hands already assembled and shipped. Development continues on the design and drawings for the larger LN-4A hand.



Our second exciting milestone is the successful assembly of hands by groups of volunteers at *work parties*.

And third, the Rotary Clubs of Fig Garden (Fresno, CA) and Muyenga (Kampala, Uganda) have received approval for the first Rotary Foundation matching grant for the LN-4 allowing us to send 300 hands to Uganda in the weeks to come.

Assembly Parties Flourishing

In mid-November 2007, the Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill (CA) sponsored the very first party, assembling 106 hands in the morning and part of the afternoon.

Lessons learned in the early sessions have translated into improved techniques requiring less familiarization and improving assembly time.

In mid-December, Monte Vista High School (Danville, CA) Interact students (a Rotary youth organization) met after school to assemble 26 hands as part of a series of projects working with the Rotary Club of Alamo (CA).

In January, three Rotarians from different clubs, working with two spouses and a college student, gathered around a kitchen table to assemble 47 hands prior to chowing down on carry-in Chinese food. This is but one of three or four similar kitchen table sessions in January.



In early February, the Rotary Club of Walnut Creek Sunrise (CA) conducted its first assembly party, completing 93 hands in three hours. During assembly parties, the room is fairly quiet as volunteers assemble their first hand. As familiarity is achieved, conversations start up and continue throughout the event. The pizza is always popular.

Outreach Increasing



In March, 2007 an eight person team carrying 54 LN-4 hands visited three clinics in Vietnam, training local professionals and volunteers, and fitting 37 hands.

In September 2007 Carol Fellows and Rotary District 5110 Governor Tim Bewley carried 50 hands to East Africa for distribution in Kenya and Uganda. While in Nairobi, Tim and Carol presented the LN-4 project at

the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference and Zone Institute for Sub Saharan Africa.



In November 2007, a Rotary team visited Amman Jordan, familiarizing local prosthetics technicians who

fitted 15 hands and scheduled five other candidates to return for further evaluation.



In January, the Rotary Club of Bangalore, Peenya, at its 11th annual prosthetics camp, fitted 14 LN-4 hands working only from printed instructions and training videos available at www.youtube.com.

Forty-seven hands have found their way to Nigeria and six to St Lucia, USVI. The Rotary Club of Gbagada (Nigeria) is flying a past recipient, Francis Nzioka, from Nairobi to Lagos to train providers and new recipients.

Big Things Coming

In March, six members of Rotary Club of Redding (CA) plus three members of other clubs will visit two cities in Colombia where there are around 100 candidates who will receive LN-4 hands. We will give you the full story after the mission.

Later this year, Rotarians in Sydney, Australia are holding a fundraiser to take LN-4 hands to Vietnam.

In Rotary year 2008-2009, Jim Campbell, USA Rotary District 5160 Governor and East Africa District 9200 Governor Kaushik Manek will be working on an LN-4 project in Ethiopia. Dates and locations are yet to be determined.

In Rotary year 2009-2010, Earl Kilmer, USA Rotary District 5160 Governor 2009-2010 and Jorge Garza, Mexico Rotary District 4130 Governor 2009-2010 have agreed to do an LN-4 matching grant project in Mexico. This follows a January 2008 visit to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico by 60 Rotarians from California, Nevada, and New York to tour completed Rotary funded projects, deliver wheelchairs and plan future joint activities.

LN-4 on Rotary TV

Rotary Today TV in Fremont, CA has prepared for television a very interesting 15 minute segment on the LN-4 project. It is now available for viewing from the internet at <http://www.rotarytoday.tv/videos.html>. Check it out

Helpful Links

[Ellen Meadows Prosthetic Hand Foundation](http://www.ellenmeadows.org/)

[Video - LN-4 Hand Overview](#)

Rotary Links to Districts mentioned in this newsletter

[Rotary District 5110 Southern Oregon and Northern California](#)

[Rotary District 5160 Northern California](#)

[Rotary District 4330 Northern Mexico](#)

[Rotary District 9200 East Africa.](#)