



A Joint Initiative of Districts 5110 & 5160



Volume I Number 2

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The LN-4 Hand

The LN-4 hand is operated with the remaining hand or by pushing it against any object or body part. The three curved, fixed digits are opposed by two moveable digits that stay locked on an object until the whole hand is tipped back at the wrist, freeing the grip.

The unique design allows

Dear Friends of the Give Hope - Give a Hand project,

Welcome to our second newsletter! Since we have almost doubled our mailing list, many of you are receiving it for the first time. We hope you will enjoy meeting some of our recipients and hearing the latest news about the Give Hope - Give a Hand project and the LN-4 hand.

Although we are a stand alone 501(c)3, the newsletter reflects that most of our support has come from Rotarians. We value every one of you, Rotarian or not! Please send your comments, your stories and your photos for future newsletters.

Without all of you, none of this life changing work would be possible. Thank you.

Carol Fellows, Editor

District 5160 Makes Dreams Real!

For three years in a row, under the leadership of District Governors Candy Pierce, Stan Smalley, and now Jim Campbell, District 5160 and its Rotary and Interact clubs have provided incredible sustained support for the LN-4 project.

This year DG Jim is encouraging district Rotarians to take up to 1000 hands to East Africa, with a focus on Ethiopia and Kenya, giving them the opportunity to change lives....their own as well as others. Rotarians will also be able to participate in other "hands-on" projects while there and potentially attend the District 9200 Conference in Nairobi from May 14-17, 2009.

Assembly parties will also be part of the District 5160 Conference in Concord, CA. October 24-25, 2008. Plan to register and take part!
<http://www.rotary5160.org/events/2008Conference.php>

users to adapt and employ the hands immediately in many practical daily tasks, such as writing, driving, eating, and even tying shoes! Follow up confirms recipients continuing to use the LN-4, some wearing it 24 hours a day.



photo by Kresta C..K. Venning

Giving a Hand: a few statistics

To date we, and you, have distributed 1259 LN-4 prosthetic hands in various locations in 28 countries (some of them as demos). Over 1800 more have been requested for delivery in the next nine months. Our fourth 1000 hand manufacturing run is underway.

Where in the World?

Check out our [Google map](#) and watch the stickpins add up. As we build this map, if a pin in your area is missing, please let us know at emphf@ln-4.org.

Meet our Board

With an overhead for

Giving a Hand in India

This July, Foundation President Michael Mendonça, accompanied by his wife Janet and Rotarians Preston and Suma Canzius, delivered 170 hands in India, partnering with the Rotary clubs of Bangalore Peenya (District 3190), Salem (District 2980), Kothagudem and Hyderabad South (District 3150), along with the AIIMS Medical Centre in Delhi. All distributions occurred at hospitals, where Rotarians, medical and prosthetic staff and hospital directors were trained in the assembly and fitting of the LN-4 prosthetic hand.



The team and trainees witnessed the impact this simple, yet effective functional prosthetic hand has on people who have lost their own. Within minutes of receiving the LN-4, one recipient took to the street on his motor scooter for the first time in years. Children delighted in being able to draw and write again. Many of the people encountered in India had lost their hands from electrocution, as had this boy who lost both hands when he touched a live wire.



"It was amazing to see the immediate improvement in people's lives. Double amputees who had been dependent on others for so much could now write, drive, use utensils and tools and tie their shoes. It was an honor and privilege to make these recipients happy, and give them a bit of self sufficiency," said Preston, able to give a hand personally for the first time.

The LN-4 Has No Thumbs, but!

It was thumbs up at the Rotary Convention in Los Angeles in June. "At the heart of every convention is the House of Friendship, a market place for information on fellowships, action groups, and projects. Popular booths this year included those promoting the LN-4 prosthetic hand, Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, and Shelterbox." (September Rotarian Magazine, p.40) Located in a very visible corner on the central courtyard, the LN-4 booth was busy from the opening hour to closing each day and allowed very little time to sit down or get away for a snack. Many visitors requested hands or DVD's to take home--35 demo hands went out to 16 different countries, and one was taken on a medical mission on the USNS Mercy and put on a child en route.

The Rotary Club of Gbagada in Lagos, Nigeria, (District 9110) brought

administrative and fundraising expenses of less than five per cent, almost all of your contributions go directly to providing hands to those in need. We have an all volunteer working board and no paid staff. Let us introduce you to them. [EMPHF Board](#)

Notable Volunteer Quotes:

"What a wonderful experience we had with the Rotarians and Dr. and Mrs. Dunn as we helped them placing hands on 17 victims of mines and labor accidents in Binh Dinh Province. My favorite memory is of a man who once he got his hand on, started drawing. He had suddenly gotten something back that had been taken from him: art and self-expression."

Nguyen Thi Thanh Nga,
Founder and Director of NNC

Reach Out to Africa

We are pleased to announce that Board officers Tim Bewley and Carol Fellows have been appointed to a three year term as Functional Coordinators of the Disabilities Subcommittee of the Rotary Reach Out to Africa Initiative. They will serve along with friend Kundan Doshi of District 9200.

materials--recipient records, posters, T shirts--from their successful first fitting in February and donated funds for an additional 50 hands to take back with them. The club is exploring doing a TRF matching grant with the Rotary Club of Freetown in Sierra Leone (District 9100). And as part of a TRF matching grant between the Rotary Club of Fig Garden in Fresno, CA (District 5230) and the Rotary Club of Muyenga in Kampala, Uganda, another 200 hands were carried to District 9200 to supplement the 100 already delivered in Nsambya, Uganda.



Birmingham, here we come!

Volunteering in Vietnam

"The highlights of my day were the many smiling and appreciative faces of those recipients, but especially of Phoung, a double amputee in his late twenties. When I helped him place a pencil in his new hand, he immediately began copying a design in a page from a coloring book they were given. His pencil moved smoothly and deftly over the blank page and filled it with an exact copy of the design. The artistry that had been so tragically taken from him was his once more. The joy and pride that showed in his face could have been a poster card for 'Give Hope - Give a Hand' and for Rotary International."



David Frazier, volunteer, HCMC, Nha Trang, Vietnam

Giving money to Give a Hand

Rotary clubs

Give a hand as a speaker gift-we'll supply the gift cards.
Sell fingers like the Rotary Club of Redding does!
Have a casino night for hands like the Rotary Club of Pleasant Hill
does!
Identify the need in your area, and let us know if you want to participate
in a matching grant through The Rotary Foundation.

Individuals

Give a hand as an individual gift, Christmas, birthday, anniversary,
memorial, or for no special occasion at all-we will send a gift card to
you or to the person(s) you'd like to honor.

*While we move to our new website, please send all contributions
directly to EMPHF
1983 Crestview Drive
Ashland, OR 97520*



Coming Soon: A New Website

We are in transition! A District 5110 Rotarian is developing a new website for us which will be integrated with our data management. As our project grows, our technology needs to grow with it. Online donations will not be possible until the new system is in place-it will be snail mail for a while. Please bear with us during the transition period and send checks made out to EMPHF or LN-4 and designees you wish to honor, if any, to our official address.

Every gift of a hand is a gift of hope to those in need.

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