

First Recipients



Rotarians have moved this prosthetic hand from demonstration to reality as 228 hands have been placed on amputees in Vietnam and East Africa.



For more information about Give Hope—Give a Hand

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To make tax deductible donations earmarked for the LN-4:

The Ashland Community Support Foundation
P.O. Box 511
Ashland, OR 97520

Pleasant Hill Rotary Club Foundation
PO Box 789
Concord, CA 94522-0789

The Rotary Foundation of Klamath County
9202 St. Andrews Circle
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

<http://www.LN-4.org>



Give Hope - Give a Hand.



The LN-4 Prosthetic Hand Transforms Lives

A Cooperative Project
of
Rotary Districts 5110 and 5160

How the hand came to be

After industrial designer Ernie Meadows and his wife Marj lost their 18 year old daughter Ellen in an automobile accident, they set out to create a legacy to her memory. . . a selfless, no-money-to-gain act to benefit children around the world.

2,000 people are involved in land mine accidents every month - one person every 26 minutes. 95% are civilians.

When Ernie learned of the thousands of people who had lost hands and limbs due to land mines, he knew he had found his project. This was the inception of the **LN-4 Prosthetic Hand**.



An estimated 500,000 children worldwide have been maimed by land mines. Even more, both adults and children, are survivors of acts of violence, political oppression, vehicular and other accidents, and birth defects,

In 2005 Ernie gave permission for the hand to become a Rotary project, with the provision that no one would profit from its production or distribution, and no recipient would ever be charged for its use. It costs just \$50 to produce.

How does the hand work?

Two movable mechanical digits interlock between three immobile digits. A ratchet-type mechanism causes the movable digits to grasp incrementally while being closed. To open the grip, pressure to the hand's other side flexes the base and releases the digits' gears.

Progress Report

In March 2005, a small team traveled to Vietnam to test the hands for the first time. Modifications were made, and in November a team of Rotarians traveled to District 9200 where 74 more hands were placed on individuals in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.. In May 2006 148 hands were fit on amputees in Kenya and Uganda, 30 of them upgraded assemblies for returning recipients, Follow-up with these recipients found that 100% were using the hand with success either for specific tasks or continuously. Many reported regaining their independence and a loss of the shame they had felt after losing their hand. Results were presented at

the District 9200 Conference in Mombasa.



Funding is currently being sought for permanent molds which will allow mass production, and an organizational model is being prepared for future worldwide distribution.

This is a joint project of US Districts 5110 and 5160. District 9200 in East Africa helped during the initial development by identifying recipients. Rotarians in Nairobi, Arusha, and Kampala coordinated recipients from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, where other Rotarians and especially Rotaractors and Interactors provided invaluable assistance during the trail period.

After viewing the project at the D5110 conference and meeting with the project's developers, Past RI President Frank J. Devlyn, has given this project his personal approval and support.

