

Rotarians share Afghan challenge with local high school students

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Rotarians on P.E.I. and across Canada are reaching out to 100, 000 high school students to bring the message that education is the pathway to peace and understanding among cultures.

Duncan Conrad, a member of the Rotary club of Charlottetown Royalty and a board member of the Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development, an organization that works to build sustainable international development projects around the world, spoke recently with the high school students at Grace Christian School in Charlottetown to share this message.

“Rotary, as part of its centennial celebration in Canada and in response to needs identified by the people of Afghanistan, undertook to build a school to educate some 4, 000 students, many of them young women who had never had the opportunity for an education,” said Conrad.

“Education is the greatest inoculation against ongoing conflict and poverty.”

Their interest in learning more about the Afghan challenge and the issues facing young Afghan students comes not just from reading about these experiences but from hands-on experience that many of them have had or will experience in working with orphans and the disabled in Jamacia, a project they have been working on for the past eight years.

“I was inspired by their interest and enthusiasm in Rotary’s Afghan project but even more so by the message of hope and a greater understanding of the need to reach out to those of other cultures around the world.” said Conrad, adding that these young men and women truly reflect what rotary is all about—service above self.

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