RESOLUTION 19R-24

To request the Trustees to consider adding the elderly and aging as a seventh area of focus

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Santa Cruz do Sul, District 4680, Brazil
**Endorsed by:** District 4680 through a district legislation meeting, Camaquã, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 15 June 2019

WHEREAS, the world’s population is aging, and

WHEREAS, a large proportion of the elderly are vulnerable and in need of support, and

WHEREAS, the elderly are largely no longer in the labor market and are dependent upon retirement and pension income or financial assistance from relatives or third parties, and

WHEREAS, the public sector’s investment in senior citizens, eldercare and housing for older people without families, or with distant family members, is too small to meet the needs of seniors, and

WHEREAS, there is increasing global demand for projects and services that support the elderly: nursing homes, housing, health care, disease prevention and treatment, education, recreation, and sports activities for the elderly, and

WHEREAS, the elderly are not included in any of Rotary’s areas of focus and are therefore ineligible to receive financial assistance in the form of global grants. This makes it impossible for Rotary clubs and districts to carry out projects with Rotary Foundation funds to meet the growing demands of a population whose aging is now accelerating due to recent advances in healthcare

IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary International consider requesting the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation to consider adding the elderly and aging as a seventh area of focus to provide funding and support for projects that allow Rotary clubs and partners to prepare people for aging, and create facilities that can meet their needs, so that the aging can experience the joy of their later years in a safe, healthy, comfortable environment that enables them to interact positively with people of different generations.

(End of Text)
PURPOSE AND EFFECT

Clubs often come to districts with projects for the elderly, especially the creation of retirement and assisted-living communities; their requests are generally not economic in nature. Frequently, they are faced with the reality that the elderly are not included in any of the areas of focus, and are therefore unable to benefit from global grant funding. After years of research and exchanging ideas with fellow members from various clubs around the world, we have realized this experience is common to all Rotarians and came to the conclusion that the best way to meet the needs of this large and significant segment of the world community is to propose to the Council on Resolutions a resolution requesting the Trustees to consider adding the elderly and aging as a new area of focus. If this proposal is approved, we can all present global projects, form partnerships with districts and clubs in other countries, and count on The Rotary Foundation to match funds raised by clubs, districts, and partners. Thus, our projects will meet the needs of all people, from prenatal to aged, not leaving any unattended.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If implemented, this resolution would result in an increase in expenses for The Rotary Foundation. An additional area of focus would be required in order to provide global grants for activities in the elderly and aging field. Annual administrative expenses to support an additional area of focus are estimated at US$300,000, which includes the modification of the existing grant application software. Although we are focusing on grant processing impact, there are additional administrative impacts in other areas, such as finance.