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*1 minute to discover an aspect of Rotary history*

## **The first gift to the Rotary Foundation**

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The first gift to the Rotary Foundation dates back to 1917, when Rotary President Arch C. Klumph proposed creating an endowment fund dedicated to “doing good in the world.”

That same year, the foundation received its very first contribution: a modest donation of 26.50 US dollars from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri.

Though small in amount, this symbolic gift marked the beginning of one of the most influential philanthropic efforts in global civil society.

Arch Klumph envisioned a fund that would support education, peace, and humanitarian action beyond local club projects.

Over time, the foundation grew steadily, fueled by Rotarians’ belief in international understanding and service above self.

From that humble first donation, the Rotary Foundation evolved into a major force supporting scholarships, health campaigns, and global initiatives such as the fight against polio, demonstrating how a small act of generosity can inspire lasting impact.

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation

