**A216C004\_2301315F\_CANON.mp3**

[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** INTERVIEWER Yeah. So you've been involved in with Rotary for a while. When did you first start to help in Ukraine?

[00:00:08] **Speaker 2** Actually, actually it started at our Rotary International Convention last June in in Houston. Our district governor at the time was approached by one of his colleagues in a district in Florida to join together to work on a grant through the Rotary Foundation for a disaster response grant. And we partnered with the Rotary Rotary District in Florida, a Rotary district in Scotland and excuse me, in India and a Rotary district in Ukraine to do our first project, which was to help fund four generators for four hospitals in Cape. So we were very excited to be part of that project.

[00:00:53] **Speaker 1** And those those generators have made it to keep fresh.

[00:00:56] **Speaker 2** They did close that craft in August of last year and the generators have been installed and improved. And as far as we know to this day or so, providing power for hospitals that otherwise wouldn't have any power.

[00:01:10] **Speaker 1** Yeah. And what are you working on moving forward?

[00:01:13] **Speaker 2** Well, we're very excited to be part of this coalition that you've been talking about today. It's amazing in a relatively short period of time how our Rotary districts working together have been able to raise money to help support the purchase of generators. Are We an angel and very well established nonprofit organization based in Germany to help meet the needs of the Ukrainian people. It really it says a lot about Rotary as an organization. You know, we like to think of ourselves as people of action who work together to really make a difference not only in their communities but communities throughout the world. And I think the response to what we've seen happening in Ukraine through Rotary has been absolutely fantastic. We're very pleased that the disaster response grant program that we originally took part in a year ago has is now in the process of being refunded and will be relaunching here very soon. And we see all kinds of opportunities to partner with Rotary Rotary organizations all across the world to continue doing some really badly needed work in Ukraine.

[00:02:25] **Speaker 1** And how do you feel that Rotary support, either donations or volunteering has changed over the past few months?

[00:02:33] **Speaker 2** Well, I think there's a real interest, obviously, because it's basically in the news every night, every day, I should say, about what's going on in Ukraine. And I think people want to be helpful. And for Rotarians being able to have some established mechanisms through the relationships that Rotary organizations have with each other and the relationship we have with the Rotary Foundation and Rotary International, I think raises the comfort level of individual Rotarians to support these important causes. I think the enthusiasm will continue. The one thing, you know, the longer these things tend to drag out and I think the one thought that that what's happening in Ukraine would still be happening yet today, people sometimes get fatigued. But what I'm seeing is that Rotarians are really responding with a high degree of enthusiasm and a high degree of commitment to really do some some good work and to do some good things. And so it's very gratifying and very heartwarming to see what Rotarians are all about.

[00:03:39] **Speaker 1** Yeah. And once these generators finally make it to Ukraine, what's it like to see them in the hospitals being used?

[00:03:47] **Speaker 2** Well, again, when you think about what would happen if those generators weren't there, where would the power comes from to generate the power necessary to do the things that need to be done? So it's hard to imagine a lot of what I mean. It's bad enough imagining what the Ukrainian people are going through day to day, but to not have a source of power, basic power. It's kind of it's kind of frightening. And if we can make a little bit of a difference in somebody's life, we can make a little bit of a difference in those hospitals providing badly needed medical services day in and day out. Again, I think that's very gratifying, very heartwarming and. I think it it makes everybody who contributes to them feel good about the the efforts are putting forth.

[00:04:36] **Speaker 1** So both both Anya and Doug have mentioned that over the past year, a lot of a lot of people have become desensitized to the war. So what do you have to say to Americans who might believe the war has no effect on them?

[00:04:50] **Speaker 2** Yeah. Well, you know, it goes back to that that fatigue thing that I just mentioned a few minutes ago to that. And I think, you know, you see something day in, day out in the news and you kind of glaze over. But the fact of the matter is the the needs continue to exist. And frankly, I think the needs become more dire. And the longer this conflict drags out, I think the more needs there are that will need to be met. And it's important to remind people that their contribution, whether it's a small individual contribution to support the cause or encouraging the club board of directors to make a club contribution or encouraging their district or your organization to partner with other district organizations to apply for a major disaster response grant, No matter what the level of support that that an individual or an organization provides, it does make a difference, and it's going to continue to make an even greater difference because even when this conflict is over, the cost of rebuilding Ukraine is going to be immense. And the trials and tribulations that people are dealing with day to day now will continue until things really stabilize and get reestablished. So I think the needs are going to be great. And it's a it's a constant battle, I think, to to remind people that that you have to pay attention and you have to be involved. It's not going to end until it ends. And even when it ends are still going to be needs that have to be met. And I again, I with the response that we've seen on this most recent project that we've been a part of, I'm optimistic that the people, particularly Rotarians, understand that and they're getting it and they're willing to support it and will continue to support it.

[00:06:40] **Speaker 1** Thank you very much. Did you have any other comments, though?

[00:06:43] **Speaker 2** No. I think you covered everything from my perspective. Thank you very much. Great.

[00:06:46] **Speaker 1** Thank you.