



# THE ROTARY JAIPUR LIMB PROJECT

## Facts, Questions & Answers

Registered British Charity No. 1037735

1984 – 2009 25 Years of Service



### 1. WHAT IS THE ROTARY JAIPUR LIMB PROJECT?

The Rotary Jaipur Limb Project was started in 1984 to give financial support to the **Mahaveer Society for the Physically Handicapped**. That Society provides artificial limbs, callipers and other mobility aids to the poor in India. The support was for their Permanent Centres in Jaipur & Delhi. In 1990, the Project extended into sponsorship of Rotary **Limb Camps** in India and to the establishment of **Permanent Limb Centres** in other countries with Master Technicians from Jaipur travelling to these centres to train the new staff. Co-ordination of this support, by Rotary Clubs in Britain & Ireland (RIBI), is through the **Rotary Jaipur Limb Project**. The detailed work of organising Camps and Centres, giving talks to voluntary organisations and attending Conferences and Exhibitions to raise awareness and funds is carried out by a Management Committee of Rotarians, appointed by the Trustees of this Registered Charitable Trust.

### 2. WHAT IS A LIMB CAMP?

To avoid amputees travelling many miles to the Permanent Centres, Limb Camps take the treatment to the patients. A local Rotary club or clubs will manage these temporary Camps which last up to about two weeks. In that time an average of 600 local amputees and polio victims will be treated. Sometimes many more are treated in a single camp. A team of Permanent Centre Technicians will travel to the camp with material and equipment and carry out the fitting of the artificial limbs and callipers. More than fifty such Rotary Limb Camps have been held in India alone and as funds become available, more are organized by the Project Managers.

### 3. WHO ARE THE PATIENTS?

The disabled literally come in off the streets to be fitted with artificial limbs. They are usually the very poor, unable to pay for their treatment and frequently travel thousand of miles to reach the Centres. Many patients have lost legs through road and railway accidents with others incapacitated by disease, civil strife, farming and other accidents.

### 4. WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING?

Support continues for the Permanent Centres operating or newly opened in Khatmandu, **Nepal**, at Mannar in **Sri Lanka** and at **Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Nahan, Changanacherry, Vijayawada and Dhanbad** in **India**. Outside of the Indian sub-continent we establish **Permanent Limb Centres**. That is very important so patients can return for worn or damaged foot replacement, adjustment to an uncomfortable socket and where children can be fitted with a new bigger leg and foot each year. Significant numbers are being treated at centres in Central America and particularly across Africa. There centres have been established in **Kenya(2), Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda(2), Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**. Further centres have been established in **Abeokuta, Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania, Togoland, and Uganda**. The prestigious 'Ade Majiyagbe Memorial Limb Centre' in **Kano, Nigeria** opened in June 2007 and a workshop in **Gbagada, Lagos State, Nigeria** is to be commissioned in 2009. Centres are, or will be, operational in 2009 in **Abidjan & San Pedro** in **Cote d'Ivoire** and planned for **Benin** and **Ho** in **Ghana**. The Kenneth Gambles mobile clinic recently provided is working well out of Dharmasala, as is the vehicle recently fund supported in Mysore.

### 5. HOW MUCH DOES THE PATIENT PAY?

All limbs, callipers, crutches and other appliances are **FREE** to all patients at Limb Camps and usually at Limb Centres. Sometimes, patients who can afford to make a voluntary contribution for their appliances at Limb Centres do so to assist the every day running costs of that Centre. In addition, board and lodging for the patient and an able-bodied helper, during their 2 to 4 day stay in the Permanent Centre or at a Limb Camp, is **FREE**. Contributions for travel costs are also made.

### 6. WHAT IS THE COST OF A ROTARY JAIPUR LIMB CAMP or PERMANENT CENTRE?

A typical **LIMB CAMP**, to treat **600** amputees and provide 100 pairs of crutches, will cost about **£18,000 (US\$33,000)** – an average of just **£25-£30 (US\$55)** each. Under Rotary Foundation rules a Camp can qualify for a Matching Grant. Club or District funds attract a 50% grant while District Designated Funds attract a 100% grant. The cost of a **PERMANENT CENTRE** varies from **£12,000.00 - £ 24,000.00 (US\$ 22,000 – 44,000)**. The final figure depends partly on location and whether it is to be a 'stand-alone' venture or an additional Jaipur Limb facility within an existing Orthopaedic unit. *All will appreciate that currency exchange rates have an effect year on year.*

### 7. WHAT DO APPLIANCES COST? (Using an '5 year Average' Exchange Rate for comparison)

Jaipur Limb – (average cost) above knee and below knee limbs.....	£ 25.00	(US\$45)
Callipers for Polio victims.....	£ 25.00	(US\$45)
Pair of crutches, where limbs or callipers are unsuitable.....	£ 12.00	(US\$22)
Hand-powered invalid tricycles for certain double-amputees....	£ 40.00	(US\$72)

### 8. IS ANY ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO PATIENTS TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT?

Many patients are able to resume their old occupations, but in India patients who cannot resume work upon their return home, as assessed by the doctor, are given an economic "starter pack". That could be a portable cooker, pans and utensils to set up a roadside tea-stall, a sewing machine or weighing scales or other small business kit. *(Please turn over)*

## 9. HOW ARE THE APPLIANCES MADE?

Legs were once made from aluminium sheet, and a few are made like that for the older patients who are used to them. Now legs are made from high-density polyethylene, to which the Jaipur Foot is fitted. The plastic leg is 'heat-formed' around the plaster mould of the patients remaining limb to ensure a perfect and individual fit of that and the leg socket. The foot is a combination of a small ankle block with different density vulcanized rubber compounds made in a very realistic shape and appropriate colour. Legs for above-knee amputees had lockable metal hinges but now increasingly use sophisticated nylon joints. The 'bespoke' Jaipur Limbs are light and flexible and allow the patients to walk, even run, over rough ground and through water, sit cross-legged, squat, cycle and even dance. Callipers were formerly made from high tensile steel but now can be made from moulded lightweight sheets and fitted with modern Velcro-type fastenings.

## 10. WHAT ABOUT POLIO VICTIMS?

Special callipers can be made for some polio patients, to give support to their legs to allow them to walk again. Recently-developed plastic callipers, heat-moulded to individual patient leg shape and size, are very lightweight allowing the wear of ordinary shoes. Where polio victims have seriously misshapen legs they are sent for corrective surgery to specialist Camps, often Rotary supported, then fitted with callipers after surgery has made that possible. The Project maintains contacts to establish special Calliper Camps in conjunction with Polio Corrective Surgery Camps.

## 11. ARE THERE ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS?

The Jaipur Foot is recognised by International Organisations as the best available low-cost prosthesis for use in low income countries and is uniquely appropriate for those who do not wear shoes. There is always ongoing work to improve the type and style of both above and below the knee support and through effective research both in India and in prestigious Universities in the USA new style feet at equivalent low cost are now being fitted. Research and application of prosthetic hands and an increased mobility above knee limb are also coming through. The Jaipur Limb Centres are in the forefront of proving the value of these developments and are recognised as Consultants by the World Health Organisation.

## 13. HOW LONG DO THE LIMBS NORMALLY LAST?

A Jaipur foot can last for two or three years, and longer if worn with a sandal, although many have exceeded that. Legs outlast the feet but natural shrinkage problems around the stump can necessitate a new shank. Patients travel to one of the Permanent Centres or to a Limb Camp for free refitting. Such free service is under review as, following the provision of the limbs, many amputees are able to work and earn and so have the ability to pay. Children's artificial legs are made to be progressively modified as the child grows. However, because the length of legs cannot be adjusted, it is important that young patients have access to Follow-up Camps, or a Permanent Centre, for regular leg replacement.

## 14. WHAT ABOUT THE VICTIMS OF LAND MINES?

Trustees and Managers are in contact with groups who are directly involved in rehabilitation of Land-mine victims. Our most active involvement is in the Rotary-sponsored Permanent centres at Kigali, in Rwanda, Kumi, in Uganda, and Mannar, in Sri Lanka, - which all have a high proportion of land-mine victims among their patients.

## 15. WHAT HELP IS NEEDED FROM ROTARY?

Donations from Clubs and Districts and from individuals help fund the work of the Permanent Limb Centres and the continuing Limb Camp programmes. Supporting a camp is usually a multi-club project and the Project members help in bringing clubs together. Much of the income comes from small donations from which the Trust makes an annual donation of around £10,000.00 (US\$18,000) to support the Jaipur Centre and provide occasional support to other Permanent Centres as need arises. Donations also 'top-up', as necessary current camps which overflow, fund major new projects, finance new buildings, assist with expenses of 'trainer' technicians establishing the new permanent centres, and meet the modest overhead expenses of the Project.



*Help me be next*

## 16. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**Contact:- Trustee Secretary - Rotarian Margaret Webb**  
**3, The Chase, Bishop's Stortford, Herts, England CM23 3HT**  
Tel:- 44 (0) 01279 503225

or .....

**Send a Donation to:-**  
**Trustee Treasurer - Rotarian Ron Marshall PDG**  
**2 Gorsty Hill Close, Balterley, Crewe, Cheshire, England CW2 5QS**  
Tel:- 44 (0) 1270 829004

*That will give him a real leg up in his life*

*Thanks for reading this - please pass it on to a friend*