



Facts, Questions & Answers

Registered British Charity No. 1037735



Rotary International
In Great Britain & Ireland

Since 1984 providing Rotary 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, calipers and other 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 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 arrange and manage these temporary Camps which last about two weeks. In that time an average of 600 local amputees and polio victims will be treated but 2,000 or more are not uncommon. A team of Permanent Centre Technicians will travel to the camp with materials and equipment and carry out the fitting of artificial limbs and calipers. More than sixty such Rotary Limb Camps have been held in India alone and, as funds become available, more are sponsored by the Project Managers.

3. WHO ARE THE PATIENTS?

At the permanent limb centres, 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 some may have travelled thousands of miles to reach the Centre. Many patients have lost legs through road and railway accidents while others have been incapacitated by disease, civil strife, farming and other accidents.

4. WHAT IS CURRENTLY HAPPENING?

Support continues for the Permanent Centres in Delhi and Jaipur. When funds permit, trustees also authorise financial help to permanent centres elsewhere in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. In Africa the Trust will only establish **Permanent Limb Centres** as the infrastructure of local competent workshops found in India does not exist. It is very important that patients can return to a local workshop 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, where centres have been established in **Cote d'Ivoire (2), Ghana, Kenya (2), Rwanda, Malawi (2), Nigeria (3), Tanzania (2), Uganda (6), and Zambia**. Further centres are planned or under consideration in **Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Morocco and Zimbabwe**. Following the earthquake in **Haiti** in January 2010, the Trust were asked to spearhead a major initiative to establish a workshop and Training School at **Pignon**. The buildings for this \$500,000 project are now complete and fitting has started.

5. HOW MUCH DOES THE PATIENT PAY?

At the **BMVSS centre in Jaipur**, all Limbs, calipers, crutches and other appliances are **FREE** to the patients. In addition, board and lodging for the patient and an able-bodied helper, during their 2 to 4 day stay in Jaipur, is **FREE**. Where appropriate, help with travel costs is also made. In other parts of the world, patients are expected to pay as much as they can afford towards the costs involved, but the 'golden rule' is that **no one is refused treatment for lack of money** – the local sponsoring Rotary Club will work with the Centre Management to make up the shortfall.

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 **£30 (US\$48)** 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.

7. WHAT DO APPLIANCES COST? (Using 'Average' Exchange Rates)

- Jaipur Limb – (average cost) above knee and below knee limbs..... **£ 30.00 (US\$48)**
- Calipers for Polio victims..... **£ 25.00 (US\$40)**
- Pair of crutches, where limbs or calipers are unsuitable..... **£ 15.00 (US\$24)**
- Hand-powered invalid tricycles for certain double-amputees..... **£ 50.00 (US\$80)**

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 a business 'starter pack'. This 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

9. HOW ARE THE APPLIANCES MADE?

Legs were once made from aluminium sheet, and a few are still made like that for older patients who are used to them. Today, legs are made from high-density polyethylene pipe, to which the Jaipur Foot is fitted. The plastic leg is 'heat-formed' around a plaster mould of a shank and separate, total-contact, socket is vacuum-moulded around a plaster cast of the patient's stump. The foot is a combination of wood blocks and different density vulcanized rubber compounds made in a realistic shape. Legs for above-knee amputees have side-fitting 'drop-lock' metal hinges but, increasingly, are being fitted with sophisticated nylon joints.

The 'bespoke' Jaipur Limbs are light and flexible and allow the patients to walk/run over rough ground and through water, sit cross-legged, squat, cycle and even dance. Calipers were formerly made from high tensile steel but now are made from moulded lightweight pipes and fitted with modern Velcro-type fastenings.

10. WHAT ABOUT POLIO VICTIMS?

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

11. ARE THERE ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS?

The Jaipur Foot is widely recognised by International Organisations as the best available low-cost prostheses 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 the Jaipur Limb Centres are in the forefront of proving the value of these developments. There is now a much better knee joint with improved flexibility for above knee limbs and the LP4 hand is proving a great success at about £60

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 socket and shank. Patients travel to one of the Permanent Centres or to a Limb Camp for refitting. This refitting service may not be free 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. It is very 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, - all of which have many 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 Trustees/Managers help in bringing clubs together. Much of the income is designated by clubs for particular projects but much also comes from small donations allowing the Trust to make an annual donation of around £10,000.00 (US\$16,000) to support the Jaipur Centre and provide occasional support to other Permanent Centres as need arises. These donations also allow the Trustees to 'top-up' larger projects where necessary, provide 'seed money' for 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 - the Trust needs a flow of un-designated donations.

16. WHAT CAN YOU DO?



Help me be next please !

Contacting:- Trustee Secretary - Mrs. 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
33, Grosvenor Ave, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, England ST7 2BZ
Tel:- 44 (0) 1270 875926

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