To: Jerrold DeWease, Rotary Club of Space Center

I am elated to share some exciting news. Last Saturday at the North American Youth Exchange Network conference, our District 5890 Rotary Youth Exchange committee was awarded the outstanding youth exchange district award for all of North America – United States, Canada, and Mexico. Rotarians all across North America and Rotarians attending the conference from all over the world (including many of our exchange partners) were excited to share in this outstanding recognition for our district.

I would like to CONGRATULATE our Youth Exchange committee, especially Alan Wylie, Tony Sortino and Mindy Snyder for their leadership and hard work. Of course, no Youth Exchange program will be successful unless our CLUBS and their members will participate and support these future leaders of tomorrow. I would like to command my club PRESIDENTS and all Rotarians who have a passion for our youth and continue to serve by participating and hosting students.

I have some more exciting news. Our youth exchange students, along with the other Rotary exchange students in South Central Rotary Youth Exchange (SCRYE), are being given the opportunity to participate in the opening ceremonies for the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans in May. RI president Ray Klingensmith is one of the Rotarians who founded SCRYE. He is a strong believer and supporter of our Rotary youth exchange program and is excited that the 200 SCRYE youth exchange students will carry the country flags and sing 4 songs as part of the opening ceremonies. The students rehearsed the songs at the recent conference in Tulsa. Their performance will have a resounding effect at the convention. What an opportunity this is for the convention and for our students.

Rotary International is covering most of the transportation, lodging, and food costs for the students to participate, but a \$375 cost per student still remains. The opportunity now exists for 23 clubs to pledge to cover the cost for one student to attend the convention, or your club can partner with other clubs by pledging \$100.

Please give consideration to this opportunity. Should your club wish to pledge your support, please inform Rotarian Tony Sortino (Sortino@cdstexas.com) by March 15. After receiving the pledges, Tony will contact the Rotary clubs who have pledged their support to arrange for the club payments.

Thank you my fellow Rotarians for building communities and bridging continents through our Youth Exchange program, one of the BEST in the world!!!!

Sunny Sharma District Governor

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