

## **First Zone 33 Million Dollar Dinner nets almost \$4 million**

How to describe our Zone's first Million Dollar Dinner campaign? Successful doesn't sound strong enough. Magnificent might be overkill. However you describe it, in a fundraising effort that lasted barely 10 weeks, we raised \$3,955,500 for our Rotary Foundation.

The Million Dollar Dinner was the idea of RI Vice President Anne L. Matthews, who told key leaders in Zone 33 in July that she wanted us to organize the first Zone Million Dollar Dinner campaign in the Rotary world. (There have been district Million Dollar Dinners but no Zone Million Dollar Dinners.) She believed the Zone could raise millions before Foundation Month in November and she challenged the group to do this.

Anne appointed Endowment/Major Gift Advisor for Zone 33 Firoz Peera to chair the event, and Firoz quickly gathered a team to work with Rotarians in our 15 districts. Through their efforts, 168 Rotarians in our zone stepped up to donate or pledge a minimum of \$10,000 each between July 1, 2013 and May 15, 2014.

Outright gifts were \$1,503,500 and bequests are valued at \$2,452,000. We also acquired two new Arch Klumph Society members, increasing our zone's AKS membership from 10 to 12.

Rotary International President Ron Burton spoke at the Oct. 19 Million Dollar Dinner held at the Renaissance Hotel in Charlotte and attended by about 150 donors and guests.

"It was an honor to create an event to thank the generosity of so many of our Rotarians," said John Tabor, president of the Charlotte Rotary Club who was local arrangements chair for the event. "It is the beginning of a paradigm shift of establishing Rotary legacies for each of us."

"An endeavor like our Million Dollar Dinner Drive requires a good team and great teamwork to succeed, and it was a privilege for me to work with the very best," Firoz said. "Considering the short duration of our fundraising drive for \$10K+ contributions, the results reflect the remarkable work done by this team."

"I hope our districts will celebrate the tremendous generosity of the many Rotarians who have responded with gifts and bequests during the MDD, and will continue to promote major contributions as a very worthwhile way for Rotarians to establish their Rotary legacy and make a lasting impact," Firoz said. "Together, we have set the stage for a Rotary year of remarkable achievements."

Firoz is willing to consult with any Rotarian in our Zone about a major gift. He can be reached at 704.341.8407 or [fpeera@carolina.rr.com](mailto:fpeera@carolina.rr.com).



Endowment/Major Gift Advisor Firoz Peera watches as RI president Ron Burton and vice president Anne L. Matthews hold up a check for \$3,955,500, the amount raised for The Rotary Foundation during a 10-week major gifts fundraising effort in Zone 33.



#### TREE PLANTING

Rotary International President Ron Burton continued a tradition begun by Paul Harris when he planted two trees in Charlotte on Oct. 19. Ron planted one tree at the Mint Museum and one at Central Piedmont Community College. In 1939, Paul Harris visited Charlotte and planted a friendship tree that still stands today at the Mint Museum. Since then, two additional Rotary presidents have planted trees at the Mint. From left in the photo are Rotary International Vice President Anne L. Matthews, President Ron Burton, and Luther Moore, Governor of District 7680 in Charlotte. Ron and Anne were in Charlotte to participate in the Zone 33 Million Dollar Dinner.



### **Burton and Matthews pay surprise visit to new club**

Formerly known as Charlotte for Haiti Rotary Club, District 7680's newest club was surprised by a visit from Rotary International president Ron Burton and vice president Anne Matthews at its Saturday morning, Oct. 19, meeting. Chartered just three weeks earlier as the Charlotte End of the Week Club, it is comprised primarily of members of the Haitian community in Charlotte.