

RESOLUTION 21R-19

To request the Trustees to consider amending the fourth area of focus to include senior health

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Toulouse Lauragais, District 1700, France

1 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
2 International consider requesting the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation to
3 consider amending the fourth area of focus to include senior health as follows:
4 Senior, maternal, and child health.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

5 In 2020, 10 percent of the world's population was 65 years of age or older; in
6 2050, this demographic will represent 18 percent of the world's population, or 1.8
7 billion people.

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9 Seniors are, by their very nature, vulnerable, and suffer from a decrease of their
10 physiological abilities, often associated with aging. They can be prone to
11 accidents, and neurocognitive decline, and may have a lower resistance to disease
12 (viral infection, vascular dysfunction, etc).

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14 The loss of autonomy and income experienced by the aged, along with the
15 deterioration of their intellectual and physical capabilities, and perhaps even
16 their technological maladaptivity, can interfere with their participation in social
17 activities and can cause them to become socially withdrawn.

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19 This is particularly true for the poorest seniors (in 2020, 70 million seniors were
20 living below the poverty line worldwide). These individuals are excluded from
21 society and depend on others for care.

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23 These dependent individuals are typically no longer in the labor market, and
24 therefore rely upon retirement income or financial assistance from relatives, the
25 government, or other third parties. Without such financial support, however, they
26 would be condemned to a life of great misery.

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28 Acceptance of generational differences can be a first step toward outreach and the
29 development of a mutually beneficial association between those of different
30 generations.

1 Rotarians, through community service, help to improve the quality of life around
2 them, which is why Rotary should support any project that helps those most in
3 need: Mothers, Children, and Seniors.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

4 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on
5 The Rotary Foundation. While expanding an existing area of focus could lead to
6 an increase in grant activity for that area of focus, it would not require additional
7 resources; therefore, expenses will not increase.