



2011-2012
JOHN
KRIKORIAN



**Liga, The Flying
Doctors of Mercy**

Endowment Fund



VISIT

www.northfresorotary.org



John Krikorian

My Rotary presidency experience began when Don Henderson, a past president, asked me to become the 2011-2012 North Fresno Rotary president. At first I was reluctant to accept, because of all the time requirements of a Rotary presidency. I run a small real estate company and my time is very precious. After thinking about it over a weekend I accepted the challenge because if every Rotarian said that, who would lead our club.



Of course you start a Rotary year presidency with a nice vacation to a city in the world to meet as many as 20,000 plus other Rotarians from all around the world. My year the Rotary World Conference was in New Orleans. It was a great experience to see all the good works Rotary does around the world. It seemed like what little we do at North Fresno Rotary is a drop in the bucket, but the ocean is made of small drops of water.

One of most important projects North Fresno Rotary has supported, marking its 20th years this year has been Liga, The Flying Doctors of Mercy. This project is close to my heart as I'm involved in the flying of doctors, nurses and interpreters to Ocoroni Mexico nine months out of the year. NFR financially supports this project on a quarterly basis, in addition to many



other one time projects. I know NFR's involvement is very much appreciated in Mexico because I see in the eyes of people who are treated there and the amount of appreciation shown to us by Rotarians in Guasave Mexico, who are partners with us in this effort.

For NFR the granddaddy of all fund raisers has been The Pancake Breakfast held on the second



weekend of every July for 27 years. This is a great time for all of us as well as the public who enjoys a wonderful pancake breakfast. Perhaps the members who organize and put the whole thing together for it to be a smooth event are stressed for a few weeks ahead of time, but it's one of those things where you are so stressed to put on a good show that you vow you'll never do it again, but come the next year, forgetting all the stress, you do it all over again. Bravo!!!



One of the most important things that NFR does is a very quiet endeavor that does not get much notoriety; the Endowment Fund. This fund currently has over \$550,000, which is invested and the proceeds are used for supporting worthy projects in the greater Fresno area. Within this fund, there is also a donated house being held which will be liquidated for cash to be added to the fund. One of the projects that this

fund supported this year is a large gift for the construction of the Bill Smilie Aviation Center for the advancement of aviation to younger people. Included in this hangar will also be exhibited parts of the rich aviation legacy of Fresno.

These are some of the projects highlighted in this report but there are many more that we do that are worthwhile. We never know who some day will come up to us and say "because of what you did my life is better".

North Fresno Rotary means a lot to me because it supports people, organizations and projects that make a positive difference in the world. I also want to thank my wife, Lynn and two sons, Philip & Kyle who have supported my efforts with everything Rotary this year. Thank you NFR.