

Dear Rotarians,

Greetings! My name is Adam Hennings, and I am your Global Grant Scholar beginning fall 2012. I am very excited to introduce myself to you, and even more excited to meet you in Geneva.

First, let me express my sincere gratitude and deepest appreciation for your generosity in agreeing to host me during my time in Geneva. Having been involved with Rotary for nearly the last ten years, I understand your portfolios of service activities and sponsorships are always beyond capacity. Your decision to expand these portfolios even further by hosting me is a testament to your dedication to "Service Above Self." Thank you.

Please allow me to tell you a bit about myself. I hail from White Bear Lake, Minnesota, a suburb of our state capital St. Paul. I was a very active youth involved with various activities, including helping my mother run her small store in town. My father works for the state natural resources department. I also have two older sisters who work in health care and media. I am recently married to a television reporter who will not be joining me during my time in Geneva. Some of my hobbies and interests include literature, reading about current events, politics, and human rights.

I grew up nearly entirely in my hometown, before I departed on my first adventure with Rotary International. At 15 I was selected to serve as a Rotary International Youth Exchange student in Austria. I spent a year living in the Baden bei Wien area, exploring the foothills of the Alps and the excitement of Vienna. In Austria I learned the importance of international diplomacy and how increasing global ties and connections is a key to securing lasting global peace. In addition to learning German, I learned how to diplomatically represent my home country while respecting the traditions and beliefs of my host country. This early lesson in diplomacy was a cornerstone in my subsequent university education.

Shortly after returning from Austria I enrolled at the University of Minnesota and commenced my education in global politics. I learned the importance non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations play in international relations, as well as the value of the dignity and rights of the individual. My studies brought me back to Europe where I studied the anti-torture efforts of medical practitioners in Berlin. I also studied in Nairobi, Kenya where I was confronted with bitter poverty for the first time. At this point my interest in international affairs shifted from a eurocentric focus to one much more global. I began to place a premium on the recognition of the rights of the individual as a primary means to secure peace and security for many.

I aim to continue my studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (*Institut de Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement*, or IHEID) and to earn a Master of International Affairs. In my

graduate studies I hope to wed my experiences in the developed world, namely the United States and Western Europe, with those in the developing world. I hope to conduct research in human rights as a means to global peace.

My professional work experience has been in higher education. I hope my education at IHEID, made possible by your support, will allow me to transition to a career in diplomacy and peace. Your generous sponsorship has made it possible for me to gain the necessary training I need to parlay my international experiences and passion to a career in peace and diplomacy.

I sincerely welcome communication from you prior to my arrival in fall 2012. Please feel free to email me at adam.hennings@gmail.com should you have any questions about my goals or background, or if you advice for preparing for life in Geneva and at IHEID. Once again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity and I look forward to meeting you.

Warmly,
Adam Hennings