

## Up Front

### California Rotarian named a 'Hometown Hero'

The extraordinary work of Fary Moini, a member of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, Calif., garnered national recognition in the United States when Moini received the National Hometown Hero award from the Lifetime cable television network. Moini, who has led an effort to aid Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Afghanistan, accepted the award during the network's telecast of its "Lifetime's Achievement Awards" show in May.



**Fary Moini**

"Mother Teresa said we all cannot do great things, but we can do small things with love," a tearful Moini said at the award presentation. "I belong to a great organization, Rotary International, and with their encouragement, with their support, I was able to do these small things with love."

The awards were created to honor women who work to improve the lives of others. Moini was chosen for the award from among 43 women who had earlier received local Hometown Hero awards. She told the cheering audience that she was accepting the award "on behalf of the children and women in Afghanistan."

A registered nurse, Moini spent two months as a Rotary Volunteer in Pakistan in early 2002 helping families in refugee camps. Upon her return to California, she raised money to help build a school near Jalalabad, Afghanistan, for the children in the camps to attend after they return to their home country. Construction began earlier this year.

Before the presentation of the award, viewers were shown a short documentary about Moini and her work. Three La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotarians — Past District Governor Stephen Brown, past club president Bonnie Brunner, and Barbara Levin — were featured speakers in the profile.

Moini was grateful for the recognition but said that her most significant reward came during time spent with the people she helped.

"When a mother hugs you, when a child smiles at you, that's the best reward



**Moini put her nursing skills to work while serving as a Rotary Volunteer.**

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you can get."

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## Letter from England

*Shortly after Prince Charles spoke about WaterAid, a United Kingdom-based charity, at the annual conference of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) in April, we received the following correspondence from Rodney Howell, honorary editor of The Rotary Magazine, RIBI's official publication. Howell's report demonstrates the dry wit and ironic observation that, when properly executed, can make British journalism as entertaining as it is informative. — Ed.*

Popular as 2002-03 RIBI President Tony de St. Dalmas undoubtedly is, one would not normally assume that the use of metal crash barriers to restrain the crowd outside the 78th annual Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland conference would prove necessary.

Yet this was exactly what greeted delegates as they arrived at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool for the first plenary session on Friday, 11 April. The reason for their deployment, together with the tight security provided by a multitude of police and sniffer dogs, was that the conference was to be addressed later that morning by HRH the Prince of Wales. His attendance also ensured that every seat was taken well in advance of the scheduled 9:30 a.m. commencement of proceedings.

Prince Charles arrived midmorning and was escorted onto the stage and formally greeted by President Tony, during which time the prince gazed around in evident delight at the gilded rococo splendour of the Empress Ballroom. When he spoke, Prince Charles confirmed his admiration for the décor (no "monstrous carbuncle" — as he once characterized a proposed extension to London's National Gallery — here) and stated that this was his first time in the building, leading to the conclusion that, up to now, Blackpool had not featured highly when the Windsor family were booking their holidays. He went on to give a well-informed talk on WaterAid and the pressing need for its continued work, together with that of Rotary International, and also revealed that, since 1992, he had been an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Banchory-Ternan in Aberdeenshire.

He noted that while nobody needs reminding that water is essential for life, affluent societies easily forget that in much of the world many people do not have access to a safe, clean, and reliable water supply. "[For] many communities across the developing world, the provision of clean water is the first and most essential step out of a life of poverty," he said. "On behalf of WaterAid and all the beneficiaries in Tanzania, I would like to thank Rotarians most warmly and with heartfelt enthusiasm for their dedication and support, and for working together in partnership with WaterAid."

After his speech, the prince watched a video on the work of WaterAid, which told us more about open-air latrines in India than a lady near me clearly needed to know. He then left the hall, accompanied by his entourage, and toured the Hall of Friendship, where he chatted with many of the exhibitors and had a bottle of



**Prince Charles, before being offered a Rotary malt.**

Rotary malt pressed into his hand. Then, pausing only for a word with some of the Secretariat staff, he was escorted from the building by our president.

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