

## **ROTARY CLUB OF ALBUQUERQUE**

### **ETHICS PROJECT: *WHY ETHICS AND WHY NOW?***

Inaugurated May 1, 2006

#### *Philosophy*

Rotary is an organization whose documents support the importance and of high standards of ethical behavior. The leadership of this club listened to a presentation on Ethics in the Workplace by two Rotarians, Ed O’Leary of this club and Bruce Bortner of Rotary del Sol at the Rotary District Convention in April 2004. Their presentation centered on the introduction and application of a vocabulary describing ethical behaviors developed in work done on an Albuquerque community project and a consulting assignment for the New Mexico Department of Labor. After extensively examining the merits of adopting such a vocabulary to focus on behaviors within this club, the Ethics project was inaugurated on May 1, 2006.

#### *Ethics*

The term “ethics” can be used to describe a broad range of ideas including philosophical concepts and moral codes. At a fundamental level, ethics is about personal behaviors associated with membership in a particular organization. As we are developing the program for our club, it means emphasizing those behaviors that Rotarians value as represented in Rotary International’s foundational documents such as the Four Way Test, the Rotary Declaration and the ideal of Service above Self.

#### *Vocabulary*

We refer to our vocabulary as the Traits of Ethical Behavior.

#### **Respect**

As Rotarians, we treat everyone with courtesy, politeness and dignity; we honor individual differences. We appreciate the economic, social and cultural differences of our fellow club members and everyone within our circle of daily activity.

#### **Responsibility**

As Rotarians, we consider ourselves accountable for what we do and say. We fulfill all our obligations no matter how personally inconvenient or onerous they may be.

#### **Trustworthiness:**

As Rotarians, we are honest and truthful in our interpersonal dealings with everyone. We mean what we say and say what we mean; we “walk the talk.” We live by our principles.

**Fairness:**

As Rotarians, we strive to affirm the Four Way Test in all that we do. We are open minded and even handed in our dealings within the Club and in all our personal and professional dealings and relationships.

**Caring:**

As Rotarians we are concerned about the well being of our fellow club members and of all with whom we interact on a daily basis. We seek to build good will and international friendships by applying the Four Way Test to our daily activities. We are known for our practice of "Service above Self."

**Citizenship:**

As Rotarians, we are loyal members of all groups to which we belong. We strive to make our communities better places to live and work. We are loyal to the ideals of the Rotary and are united internationally through Rotary's ideal of service.