

## The Four-Way Test Program

Each year, The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley, in partnership with Baltimore County Public Schools and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, presents *The Four-Way Test Program* as an ethics-enrichment program in local elementary, middle, and high schools.

The Four-Way Test, which has been a guiding principle of Rotary International since 1943, asks its members to ask themselves four questions when making any decision. The *Four-Way Test Program* was initiated by Rotarian Jim Houck in 1968 as a way of promoting those guiding principles.

This year, seventy-six winners will be selected from over one thousand entries submitted by area schools who participate in the poster, essay, and speech contest. The schools for 2010 include:

### Elementary Schools

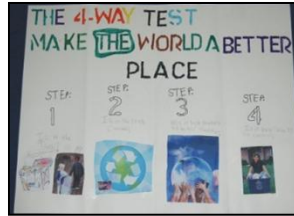
Fifth District • Pot Spring • Prettyboy • Sparks  
Seventh District • St. Stephen's • Warren

### Middle Schools

Cockeysville • Hereford • St. Stephen's

### High Schools

Dulaney • Hereford • Loch Raven • Towson



In January, schools launch contests that encourage students to creatively express their thoughts about the Four-Way Test.

Elementary school students in grades 3 through 5 can create a poster, 8th-grade middle school students write a short essay, and high school students write and present a speech. Entries are judged by Rotarians who select the first, second, and third-place winners for each grade.



In April, the Rotary Club of Hunt Valley hosts an awards ceremony for all winners, their families, teachers and administrators. Winning entries are displayed, and high school finalists perform their speeches. Prizes are awarded to all finalists, and one winning speech contestant is selected to compete at the Rotary District finals for additional awards and scholarships.



## The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley

The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley is a group of area business people, educators, community leaders, and citizens committed to making our world a healthier, safer, and more peaceful place. We are equally committed to making a difference right here in Maryland, and we value our partnerships with local schools and organizations that serve our community. In addition to the *Four-Way Test Program*, our educational and student-leadership programs include:



***The Dictionary Project*** – Distributing over 2,000 dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in Baltimore County.

### ***Interact Club***

Rotary-sponsored group of Loch Raven HS students active in community and international service and leadership development.



***Internship Network*** – In conjunction with the Central-Area schools in Baltimore Co., we partner to connect quality interns with local business partners.

***Rotary Youth Leadership Awards*** – A leadership development program for high school students.

### ***Student-Exchange Programs***

Supporting China Exchange Programs at Dulaney and Hereford HS.



## THE JAMES W. HOUCK FOUNDATION, INC.

Jim Houck was born on February 21, 1906 in Walkersville, MD, and lived a life of accomplishment through service to others. In 1930, Jim committed to the Oxford Group, a



Christian Fellowship organization where, on December 12, 1934, he met Bill Wilson, who would later organize Alcoholics Anonymous. The ethical precepts of the Oxford Group – the Four Standards of Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love and the Four Steps of Surrender, Sharing, Restitution and Guidance - became the

foundation of his life. The Oxford Group changed Jim's life and set him on the path of changing the lives of countless others. A 2004 *Time Magazine* article about Jim quotes his mission to "put right what's wrong in your life."

Jim first joined Rotary in 1948 and was a member of the Towson and Timonium clubs. Because of Jim's commitment to the Four Standards and the Four Steps of the Oxford Group, he felt a special affinity for the Four-Way Test, the set of principles intended to guide the conduct of Rotarians everywhere. Jim knew that the Four-Way Test must reach kids as well as adults. In 1968, through the Timonium Rotary, Jim initiated a Four-Way Test poster contest in St. Stephen School, a nearby Catholic elementary school. He later established a Four-Way Test oratorical contest at Dulaney Valley High School. Now in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year, fourteen schools participate in the program, and the Rotary District for Maryland and the District of Columbia (7620) has adopted the oratorical contest as a district-wide activity.

Jim transferred to the Rotary Club of Hunt Valley in 1993 and later served as president. In 1996, Jim and the Club established The James W. Houck Foundation, Inc. as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization to continue Jim's mission and vision. Jim has been recognized by many for his accomplishments, and in 1999 Rotary International awarded him its highest award, the "Service Above Self" award.

On July 30, 2006, Jim passed away at the age of 100.

## SPONSORS AND SUPPORT

The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley and the James W. Houck Foundation, Inc. are grateful for the participation of our sponsors and partners who help make our programs possible.



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Towson Rotary  
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We ask for your support of the Houck Foundation and the Four-Way Test Program by sponsoring a school and participating in our Awards Ceremony to be held on April 6, 2011, at Hereford High School. Please contact Greg Pierce at 410-244-5111 for information.

The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley meets each Wednesday at 12 noon at Hayfields Country Club, 700 Hayfields Road, in Hunt Valley, MD. For additional information please visit [www.HuntValleyRotary.com](http://www.HuntValleyRotary.com) or [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org).

Rotary Club of Hunt Valley  
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# The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual FOUR-WAY TEST PROGRAM

Presented by

The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley &  
The James W. Houck Foundation, Inc.

