



The Beacon

Ernestine T. "Ernie" Luise
District Governor 2007-08

Rotary District 7980

Listen With  Your Heart



December 2007

www.rotary7980.org

DG Ernie's Corner.....

Unbelievable that one-third of the Rotary year is already gone! We all rolled up our sleeves and hit the ground running on July 1st. Look out world – we were on the move. Quite aggressively our schedules allowed me to visit each and every one of you. What a joy it was to get to know you...and to be greeted with song and flowers and cheers and pranks! You also greeted me with warmth and kindness and hospitality. You beamed with pride as you talked about your favorite activities and projects; showed optimism when you discussed your concerns; and you always displayed a commitment to the Rotary mission.



Photo by Dave Matlow

Lobster and Octoberfests were aplenty in the district; street fairs and spelling bees and golf outings were evident in every corner of southern Connecticut. You distributed dictionaries and served at soup kitchens; welcomed our Youth Exchange students and congratulated our Ambassadorial Scholars; gave Paul Harris recognitions and applied for Matching and Managed Grants; recognized people in the community who protect our way of life; RYLA, Interact Advisors Meeting and the very first Foundation Alumni event were held; and you continue to support the bio-sand filter for the school children in the Kolar region of India.

Membership is one of our priorities and you and your clubs are rock'n! Our district grew from 2617 on July 1st to 2713 the end of September. That is a growth of **96** members in three months. Keep up the great work – we can meet President Wilf's challenge to grow Rotary.

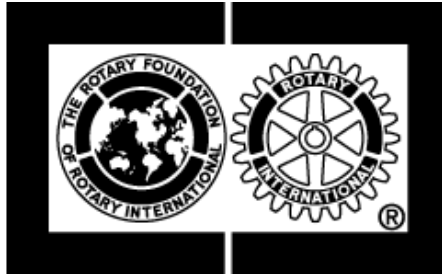


Our district was honored when Zone Institute came to Mystic and welcomed President Wilf and Joan, RIVP Mike McGovern, Trustee Carolyn Jones and several directors. It was a proud week for District 7980 as the President of RI helped load the food truck for a soup kitchen in New London and read to and gave dictionaries to youngsters in the Mystic/Stonington area.

Support of the Foundation remains paramount on the list of things to be accomplished. Clubs are working on meeting their goals while some have already met those goals and are going above and beyond. Our Foundation is the heart of Rotary...we need everyone's support.

As we move into the upcoming months, plan to send a candidate to the 4 Way Test Speech Contest. December is Family of Rotary month...remember to reach out to each other and the extended Rotary Family. Encourage everyone to be involved. The Presidents Elect will be actively starting their preparation for next year with PrePETS in January and PETS in March...make sure each and every one of them attends. DGE Rick Benson will provide the tools they need for a successful year. It is up to the clubs to provide the support as we all *Share Rotary* with each other and our communities.

Listen with your heart, and together, we can make this world a little bit better, a little bit healthier and a little bit more peace-filled. *Rotary Shares*



John (Mac) Leask, PDG
District Foundation Chairperson

Funds for YOUR Club's Projects.....

Submitted by: Jeffrey Kass, District 7980 Grants Subcommittee Chair

Has your club been stymied on new fund raisers? How about asking District 7980 and The Rotary Foundation to contribute to your club? Matching grants can even be used to support projects in your own community. All you have to do is find an international partner club.

You can do this by applying for a Matching Grant. To be eligible for a Matching Grant, you must undertake a project which serves a humanitarian need and in which you partner with a Rotary Club from abroad. As an example, if your club contributes \$4,000, the district will match it, and The Rotary Foundation will contribute \$6,000 (a 50% match of your club's contribution and a dollar for dollar match of the District's contribution). Thus you get to run a \$14,000 project while your club contributed only \$4,000. Thus you have just run a \$10,000 fund raiser.

The Matching Grant application can be found on the RI website and should reach me no later than March 1st. This year, our District has allocated \$50,000 in matching grant funds. The sooner your application reaches me, the more likely that there will be funds available for your project. If you have any questions about the application, whether your project qualifies or just need ideas for a project, contact me at 203-775-0826 or jeffkass2@charter.net.

You may have a project which does not qualify for a Matching Grant. The most common reasons are that you would like to do the project locally rather than abroad or that the funds required for your project are below the Matching Grant threshold. In the example above, The Rotary Foundation's contribution was \$6,000. The Foundation will not consider a grant where it's contribution is less than \$5,000. Thus smaller projects will not qualify for a Matching Grant.

However, you can still get assistance for projects like these by applying for a District Managed Grant. With these grants, District 7980 will match your club's contribution dollar for dollar, up to \$2,500. There is no additional contribution by The Rotary Foundation. These funds can be used for any humanitarian project. The funds can be used locally and there does not need to be a partnering Rotary Club.

The District Managed Grant application can be found on our district's website. This year, we have allocated \$24,900 for District Managed Grants. The sooner your application reaches me, the more likely that there will be funds available. District Managed Grant projects must be completed no later than the end of the Rotary year. Again, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you may have.

First Annual Foundation Alumni Reunion

Submitted by: Alan Hurst, PDG

Photograph by: Paul Burns, PDG

We were treated to short speeches by Rachel Lyle (Ambassadorial Scholar in 2003-2004 to Trinity College in Ireland) and Abe Gordon (1986 GSE Team Leader to Australia) that were stories and anecdotes about how life changing it is to be a Foundation Alum. Our District should recognize Governor Ernie Luise for hosting this first-ever reunion.





Permanent Fund

Levinson announces 1 Million Dollar Goal

Barry Levinson, District 7980's new Permanent Fund Chairman, has announced the goal for years 2007-2010. At first Levinson thought the goal of 1 million dollars was very high. However, after talking with area Rotarians, the goal seems reasonable with the support of our membership. Levinson said, "We already have identified several people that are excited about becoming Major Donors and there are a number of people willing to consider a bequest to the Rotary Foundation."

The goal is made up of pledges to the Bequest Society, and major outright gifts to the Permanent Fund of the Foundation. Rotarian Levinson is forming a committee to cover the district and be available to support those Rotarians seeking out more information about leaving a Rotary Legacy.

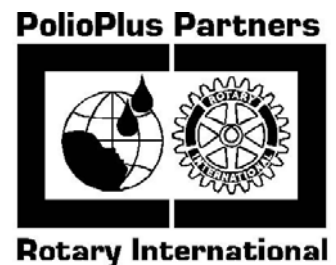
Both Barry and his wife, Past District Centennial Governor Pamela Akins are Major Donors and Level 3 members of the Bequest Society. Levinson looks forward to hearing from any district Rotarians interested in assisting on this committee. He can be reached at 860-442-5314 (days) or by email: barry@robertsav.com.

2007-08 PolioPlus Partners Challenge

Henry Scopp, PDG
Chairperson

The Need – PolioPlus Partners in 2007-08: Contributions to PPP go directly to Rotarians conducting social mobilization and surveillance activities in the polio-endemic, importation, and high risk countries. Social mobilization is organized community activities designed to help make immunization activities successful. Rotarians play a critical role in these activities by using PPP contributions to purchase:

- Media and posters to communicate when and where the immunization activities will occur.
- Caps, aprons, badges, and megaphones to identify health workers and volunteers.
- Stickers or balloons to reward children and parents to encourage future participation.
- Bicycles, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and motorcycles to distribute the vaccine.
- Vaccine carriers, refrigerators, and ice packs to maintain the integrity of the vaccine. These tools are provided through the PolioPlus Partners program. Additional funding of at least US\$5 million will be needed to purchase these tools in 2007-08.



The 2007-08 PolioPlus Partners Challenge – What Can Rotarians Do?

Funding for PolioPlus Partners is essential to help all Rotarians achieve the goal of a polio-free world. To help meet the significant and ongoing funding needs, we are extending a Challenge to all Rotarians, clubs, and districts to become *2007-08 PolioPlus Partners*:

- Asking for 100% participation from all Rotary districts to allocate a minimum of 10% of their available DDF.
- Asking all Rotary clubs and districts, Interact and Rotaract clubs to have a club program for PolioPlus Partners by March 2008.
- Requesting district leaders to encourage all clubs chartered after 1 July 2003 to consider making a club contribution, having a fundraiser, or making individual contributions to PolioPlus Partners.
- Requesting zone, district, and club leaders to encourage new members after 1 July 2003 to contribute and become a part of Rotary's number one goal of global polio eradication.
- Encouraging all Rotarians that view PolioPlus as their primary Rotary interest to make another contribution to PolioPlus Partners.

District 7980 Scholarships

Scholars Selected for 2008-2009

Vince Ganci

District Scholarship Chairperson
Ambassadorial and Cultural Scholarships
VincentLG56@aol.com

Alan Hurst, PDG

World Peace Scholarships
Alanhinct@aol.com



The district scholarship selection committee has selected the three outstanding scholars pictured above.

Elizabeth Hart Dahill is the one year ambassadorial scholar, sponsored by the New Canaan Club. She attends the University of Southern California and hopes to be assigned in South Africa.

Like all winners she is committed to community service. In the future she plans to be involved in international study projects that support community life through sound environmental and agricultural use.

Garland Elizabeth Walton, who is being sponsored by the Stamford Club, plans to study for three months as one of our cultural scholarship winners. She has worked with culturally disadvantaged young people and wants to enhance her language skills to better serve others. Her goal is to develop resource cultural material to use in community work.



Easha Anand received the support of the Milford Club to study for three months in a Spanish speaking country. She is a student at Yale with many interests ranging from law to journalism. She has a strong desire to use her skills to influence positive changes that can help reduce crime through research and direct work with others.

All clubs are encouraged to begin seeking candidates for district scholarships the 2009-2010 year. Winter and early spring contacts can satisfy the July 1 submission for Cultural and Ambassadorial scholars. World Peace Scholar applications are due May 1.

Publicity is important. Soon a sample press release will be going to presidents and others. It will be posted on the district web site. Contacts with past high school scholarship winners can be helpful when seeking candidates. Application forms and information are available at www.rotary7980.org or www.Rotary.org. Use the foundation and education links.

Participating clubs are required to name a Rotarian sponsor for a winning candidate, establish an interview and selection committee, and properly submit all application forms. Three month Cultural Scholarship Awards are for \$12,000 and the one year Ambassadorial Scholarships provide \$25,000.

Upcoming District Events

December – Family of Rotary Month		March – Literacy Month	
11	College of Governors, Graduate Club, New Haven	13-15	Northeast Multi-District PETS: Mandatory for 2008-09 Presidents
31	Clubs Complete Officer Selection/Report to RI and District	20	Council of Presidents (for all current presidents) Graduate Club
January – Rotary Awareness Month		27	Rotary Leadership Institute, Post University
26	Pre-PETS: Mandatory for 2008-09 Presidents	April – Magazine Month	
February – World Understanding Month		2	Deadline for award submissions
16	District Team Training – All incoming District Leadership, including AGs – The Depot, Madison		

Foundation Dinner – 2007 – Club Recognition

Submitted by: Mac Leask, Foundation Chairperson

Rotary dreams of a wonderful world! It's a world where little children never go hungry. Where children are warm and secure. Where they grow up! Where they grow up healthy and strong. Where polio, AIDS, malaria, dysentery, and all the diseases that cut short young lives are gone!

In this dream there are no selfish Warlords, only Peace Lords. In this dream every child can read, write, calculate, and use a computer. In this dream no matter how humble their origins each child has the opportunity to be educated, to succeed, and to rise as high as their abilities can take them. With no walls and no ceilings, they have no barriers. In this dream everyone believes in helping others, especially those who are less fortunate.

Rotarians must not be just dreamers. We can, we must become 'Dream Makers.' Never were dream makers more important! The only way to end terrorism forever is to teach tolerance to the intolerant, to provide hope to the hopeless, good dreams to those whose lives are a living nightmare, and to give opportunity to those who are sure they have no way but violence to improve their sad lives. Never was it more important to make Rotary's dream a reality!

It's the dollars given to our Rotary Foundation that allow us to Fund Scholarships, GSE Teams and Grants that Save and Change Lives. The money is what helps to make Rotary's Dream a reality.

Annual Fund 2005-06 Best Clubs for Total Dollars Contributed		Annual Fund 2005-06 Total Number of Sustaining vs Total Membership		Annual Fund 2005-06 Highest per capita giving		Annual Fund 2005-06 100% Sustaining membership EREY
Milford	\$32,546	Milford	66 / 100	Hamden	\$653.95	Clinton Seymour-Oxford
Hamden	\$24,850	Trumbull	60 / 66	Milford	\$320.06	
Fairfield	\$18,258	Bridgeport	59 / 69	Stoningtons	\$286.00	

Last year our District was the top District in Zones 31 and 32 in support for the Annual Fund with an average gift of \$133.18 per Rotarian. Lest you feel too good about it, 24 American Districts from the Midwest, South and West gave over \$150 per Rotarian. We had eleven Rotary clubs that gave over \$175 per capita to our Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund to 'Save and Change Lives'. Each of these clubs is committed to being Dream makers, not dreamers. Each of the following clubs gave more than \$175 per member to our Rotary Foundation:

Bridgeport	Hamden	North Branford	Westport
Danbury	Milford	Ridgefield	Westport Sunrise
Fairfield	Niantic	Stoningtons	

Last year 46% of all District Rotarians became sustaining members. Sustaining members are Rotarians who want to make the Dream of Rotary a reality so they each gave over \$100 to our Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund to Save and Change Lives. We had eight clubs that had over 70% of their Club's members become sustaining members. Each of these clubs is also committed to being Dream makers, not dreamers.

Bridgeport	Naugatuck	Trumbull
Clinton	Newtown	Westport Sunrise
Hamden	Seymour/Oxford	

This year we have created the "White Knight Society." Any Rotary Club this year that reaches or exceeds \$175 per member, and has 70% or more of their members become sustaining members will be presented with a patch for their Rotary Club Flag symbolizing that for the year 2007-08 the Club is a member of the District 7980 "White Knight Society." **In addition, at the next Foundation Dinner it will be my pleasure to buy each of the Club Foundation Chairs of those Clubs, and their guest, a drink to celebrate the fact that their Rotary Club is filled with dream makers.**



Bob Runde
District 7980
Community Service Director



The Dictionary Project Is ThrivingYou could look it up!

Submitted by: Bob Runde

The idea for what is now an enormous (and hugely successful) national literacy effort began humbly in 1992 when Annie Plummer took it in her head to give 50 dictionaries to school children near her Savannah, Ga. home.

Her idea gathered steam regionally, and in 1995 the non-profit Dictionary Project (www.dictionaryproject.org) was formed. Over Annie's lifetime, she raised enough money to buy and distribute 17,000 dictionaries for

local children.

Since 1995, a staggering 6,000,000 dictionaries have been given out, mostly to third-graders. Why 3rd grade? Educators believe that that's the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn.

The program has been adopted by civic and service organizations all over the country. Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs and Granges have given most of the dictionaries away.

In Connecticut, more than 34,600 dictionaries were distributed to children last school year. Nearly two-thirds of them (more than 20,000) were donated by Rotary clubs. Our local champ: the Bridgeport Rotary Club, which gave out more than 2,000 dictionaries!

"When I first started The Dictionary Project," says Mary French of Charleston, South Carolina, "my biggest obstacle was the publishing industry. The profit margin is very small, and back then, they thought that pretty soon, everything would be on-line."

Dear Rotary Club Members,

Dear Rotary Club,

Thank you for the dictionaries. I really like them. I use it a lot to help with countries, words, multiplication, the constitution and other stuff it could teach me. I use it every day, every minute every second, every hour.

*Sincerely,
Laquisha McFarlane*

Thank you so much for visiting my classroom to give me a dictionary. It was very generous of the Rotary Club to do that. Let me tell you some of the ways I plan to use it. First, I will look for the word I want. It will help me spell the word I am looking for. I will look up the definition of words when I don't know what they mean. It will help me do my homework so I will know how to spell words correctly.

Sincerely,

E. J. Richardson

Dear Rotary,

Thank you so very much for that lovely dictionary you gave me. I look forward to using it all through my life. The first word I looked up was tame. My favorite part of the dictionary is Five Big Words.

*I like looking at the word:
supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.*

*Sincerely,
Katie Sullivan*

Mrs. French's husband, Arno, formed The Dictionary Project as a 503(c)(3) organization, but she has been the moving force for the past dozen years as its director. "My children were 1 and 3 back then (in 1995). Now, they're 13 and 15 and they've helped out a lot through their lives."

It's a lot more than a family project now, though. Mary French estimates that up to 2.5 million of the nation's 3 million third-graders will be given dictionaries this year, mostly between September and Thanksgiving. Of the total, she believes that Rotarians nationwide account for about 45% of all dictionaries distributed. Clubs participating in the program can choose from 5 different dictionaries. They typically cost a club \$1.25 to \$2 per book, and come in cases of 24 books. Many clubs print labels with the Rotary logo and words like: This book is a gift of the Rotary Club of . . .

The labels can be pasted inside the front cover of each book before it is given out. (continue next page)

If your club would like more information, you can contact The Dictionary Project directly by emailing Mary French at wordpower@dictionaryproject.org.

Or, call her at (843) 856-2706. In our District 7980, two excellent contacts are Sue Wheeler sdwheeler@sbcglobal.net and Ann Brignola (ann@galaxystar.com).

By the time you read this, it will be a little late to initiate a Dictionary Project for this school year. On the other hand, it's really never too late. Just ask your friendly neighborhood 8-year-old.

AMBER Alert ID – Big E 2007

Submitted by: John Judd Chairperson AMBER Alert ID Program
Jim Satterwhite, President Madison Rotary Club



Another fantastic year at the Big E! Program Coordinator Jack Eagan of the Rotary Club of Clinton reported that during the 17 days the Big E was in operation; a total of 3882 children were registered in the State Police national data base stored in Long Island, New York.

One hundred and four volunteers from Connecticut and Massachusetts representing 18 Rotary Clubs and 24 Coast Guard Cadets participated in this year's event.

Connecticut Day at the Big E

On September 19th, Connecticut Day, Governor Jodi Rell and Lt. Governor Michael Fedele visited our registration area showing their support for the Rotary AMBER Alert ID program. Miss Connecticut, Dana Elaine Daunis, whose platform is "Child Abuse - Prevention and Recovery," spent time with our volunteers learning about our program. She will represent Connecticut in the Miss America Pageant to be held later this year.

Volunteers shown from left to right: Herbert Hicks of the Rotary Club of the Stoningtons and Amber Alert Coordinator at the Big E, Jack Eagan of the Rotary Club of Clinton. A special thanks to Rotarian Jack Eagan for all of his hard work and dedication to the Rotary AMBER Alert ID program making our kids just a bit safer every day.



Rotary Food Drive Replenishes New London Food Center

Submitted by: PDG Pam Akins

Rotarians from Maine to Maryland, including District 7980, converged on the Mystic Marriott in Groton, CT during the first week of October for the Rotary Zone Institute. And as part of the Institute, they helped raise over a ton of food for the Gemma Moran United Way/Labor Food Center which serves over 80 soup kitchens, homeless shelters, food pantries and other nonprofits throughout eastern Connecticut.

The food drive was promoted to the general public by Kool 101 FM and WICH-AM radio stations through on-air announcements, interviews and a live-remote broadcast from the parking lot of the Mystic Marriott.

Additional donations were made by District 7980 Rotary Clubs, and New London Rotarians and Mystic Interactors helped man and load the Food Center truck over a three-day period. Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson, Vice President Michael McGovern, and attending directors from around the world also helped load and pack the collected canned goods into the truck.

Figure 1



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Derby-Shelton Rotarians*

An additional \$1000 was collected from the Institute attendees and radio listeners to purchase more canned goods for the regional food bank.

Figure 1: Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson loads the United Way Gemma Moran Food Center truck with the help of Rotary Governor Ernestine Luise and New London Rotarian John Bysko.

Website Offers Hi-Tech Access to Community Service Options

Ed Davies, Rotary Club of Bridgeport

I recently attended a Board meeting of the Bridgeport School Volunteer Association and learned about a website, www.donorschoose.org that presents an excellent opportunity for Rotary Clubs looking to identify Community Service needs in their local schools.

Donorschoose.org was established in 2000 and enables teachers in communities throughout the United States to develop and publish modest grant requests to enhance their teaching. Once accepted and posted on the site, these projects are searchable using keywords (like Shakespeare, guitar, weather, etc.). Potential donors can select and review several or thousands of these classroom projects. Once the donor identifies a project that they'd like to support, they can make a gift to partially or fully fund the project. Some grant requests that I have seen are as small as \$200!

Another nice feature of donorschoose.org is the ability to purchase a "Gift Certificate." Recipients of this gift can then search out a project that resonates for them and direct funds to that cause. It occurs to me that one of these Gift Certificates would be a perfect way to honor or recognize a Rotarian, friend or family member. You can literally give the gift of giving! Got it?


If you or your club is looking for a unique new way to make a difference in the lives of children I heartily recommend that you give Donorschoose.org a browse!

**Rotary District 7980
District Conference**

May 16-18, 2008

The Thayer Hotel
674 Thayer Road
West Point, NY 10996

Register now.... directly on our secure website
www.Rotary7980.org or obtain a registration
form from your club's President.

Listen With  *Your Heart*

- Scenic Hudson River
- Private Tours
- Golf Tournament
- Cahal Dunne
- Dinner at the Officers Club



Ed Davies
District 7980 Club
Service Director

Membership Minute

Julie Reppenhagen, District Membership Chairperson

Ask...all we want you to do is to ask!

This summer and fall I have had the privilege to visit clubs throughout our District to talk about Membership. We discuss many "Tricks of the Trade" to help a club position itself (PR and lots of it), have membership events, do meaningful projects for their local communities, have well run (and fun) meetings – and I could go on – but it all comes down to two things. One, is your club meeting a place to invite guests? And two, have you asked someone to come to a Rotary meeting with you to share the Rotary experience?

So many Rotarians reply to the question "Why are you a Rotarian?" with the answer "Because someone asked me." The buck stops there. If you want someone to join Rotary, you must ASK them, one-on-one...more than a letter in the mail, an article in the paper. Think of who would make a good Rotarian. It needs to be someone who already lives by the Rotary principles and 4 Way Test. And now, one-on-one, ASK them to join you at a Rotary Club meeting to meet your fellow Rotarians and learn what Rotary is all about. And ultimately, ASK them to become a Rotarian.

A simple word, ASK. And that is how Rotary has become such a wonderful world wide organization that has accomplished unbelievable things. Share the Magic of Rotary – ASK someone to join you.

Family of Rotary

Submitted by: **Edward J. Sheehy, Jr.**
District 7980 Family of Rotary Chairman

One of the directions Rotary International has ventured over the last few years is to understand how important family is to everything we do. In business, community and life you can conquer any obstacle with a strong family support group alongside you. Just like having dinner every Sunday with your extended family to help you stay connected, joining a local Rotary Club and adopting them as part of your family helps you stay connected and give back to the community.

This has become so important that Rotary International has adopted December as Family in Rotary Month. The month of giving and sharing is a great month to celebrate our bond with each other in Rotary and each Rotarian's family. So let's focus our efforts this month on what we can do for each other and our families. There are several events that can help each other not only this month but throughout the year.



First of all, create a Family of Rotary Committee, which can be an out reach committee to help families in the community. This committee can also create a "Family and Community Service Award" that can be given to individuals or organizations for outstanding service to families and communities, or in recognition of the positive contributions to individual Rotary Clubs made by spouses or family members of Rotarians. To incorporate "Family in Rotary," the month of December and giving around the holiday, have a Christmas Pasta Party with every family bringing a gift to help a homeless shelter. Other ways to promote Family in Rotary is to have events with other clubs. Have a cocktail hour or picnic with neighboring clubs and their families.

One of the most important times in our life, when we need family, is when a tragedy happens. For instance, if one of our active members dies we should show his or her family support, along with showing how proud we were to have them as part of our Rotary Family by sending a flower in the shape of a Rotary symbol to the visitation. A month or so later, invite the widow/widower or family to a Rotary meeting to present them with their loved one's badge and remember the Rotarian with stories of his years in Rotary. You may also like to invite the spouse or a child to take his spot in Rotary.

Another great activity is to have a Valentine meeting where the Rotarian invites their spouse or significant other. Have the Rotarian present their loved one with a flower and have them touch on how they met or how they proposed or got proposed to. You will hear a lot of great stories, especially with a wide age range of Rotarians.

A least for me there is nothing better than getting the two families I love together anytime I can throughout the year. As my grandfather always said, "There is nothing that family cannot accomplish together."

I hope you will take some of these suggestions and build on them in your club.

Information Resources for new Club Presidents and Secretaries

Are you aware that Club and District Support (CDS) staff serve as your primary contact at Rotary? Staff can answer any question about Rotary as well as provide advice on club elections, constitutional matters, club traditions and customs, club operations, and RI Board policy. Below are some critical web resources to assist in leading and supporting your club in the year ahead.

- Discover the names and contact information for your CDS team members by using this web link:
<http://www.rotary.org/support/CDAREps/index.html>
- A list of helpful resources for club presidents and secretaries is attached and on the web:
http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/club_pres_sec_resources.pdf.
- Make changes to your club's membership records, reference various Rotary Foundation reports, pay your club's dues, and report next year's club officers using Member Access. Full instructions and helpful suggestions are found: <https://riweb.rotaryintl.org/faq.asp>
- Find club publications, audiovisuals, software, forms and supplies:
<http://shop.rotary.org/catalog/default.php?cPath=37>
- Use the Club President's Checklist, a monthly calendar for both presidents and presidents-elect, with reminders of club and district functions, as well as RI and The Rotary Foundation deadlines:
http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/pres_checklist.pdf
- The Club Leadership Plan is a strategic planning tool based on the best practices of actual Rotary clubs:
<http://www.rotary.org/support/club/clubplan.html>
- IRS information regarding US club's tax status and mandatory yearly reports is attached and on the web – **with new IRS requirements for 2008:**
http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/info_paper_clubs_irs.pdf

Rotary staff looks forward to working with you and supporting your club's service efforts. Be sure to contact your CDS representative whenever you need assistance.



Lois Ann Murray
District 7980
Vocational Service Director



What is Vocational Service anyway?

Submitted by Lois Ann Murray

District Governor Ernie Luise asked me to be the chairperson for Vocational Service and I said yes not really knowing what Vocational Service was. Is it the 4-Way Speech Contest, is it Rotaract, is it RYLA, or is it New Generations? The answer is yes, yes, yes, and yes, but.... it is a great deal more: it is what we do every day in our professional and personal lives.

RI President Wilf Wilkinson cleared my thinking in his letter to us in the October issue of the Rotarian. "The principle of 'first the classification then the member' is one that has served Rotary well for many decades. It is time to remind ourselves that our business, professional, and community callings are the foundation of our clubs' organization. Through serving well in our vocations, we serve as Rotarians."

Let's all take a look at the classifications in our clubs. What are we missing? Membership is the top emphasis for the year 2007-2008. Who do you know, who would be a good Rotarian? Invite that person to your club. The classification are: Accounting and Financial Service; Advertising/Public Relations; Agriculture, Fishing, and Forestry; Architecture and Engineering; Art and Design; Banking and Money Management; Clergy and Other Religious; Computer and Information Systems; Communications/News Media; Community and Social Services; Construction, Repair and Maintenance; Education; Entertainment and Sports; Food Industry; Government; Human Resources/Personnel Management; Insurance and Risk Management; Legal; Management and Administration; Manufacturing; Marketing and Sales; Medical/Health Care; Military; Protective Services; Real Estate; Science, Math and Technology; Service Industries; Social Sciences; and Transportation.

Please review the list of classifications; then being the great Rotarians that you are, swing into action! Add a classification category to your club and a new member at the same time.

New Generations

Bernadette Casella
Dave Ullman

New Generations update: The NEW GENERATIONS conference is scheduled for March 8, 2008. Presidents should be receiving correspondence on this sometime in January, 2008. If you are free that Friday night (March 7th) or Saturday (March 8th) morning stop by and visit! The facilitators will be organizing their workshops on Friday night (the 7th of March) at the Homewood Suites in Wallingford. The conference will be held on Saturday March 8th at Choate Rosemary Hall. Volunteers are always welcome! This is a great student generated event, please be sure to have your club send a group of students from your local high school. Hope to see fellow Rotarians attend and see our future in action.

What's New Generations?

The facilitators for this year have chosen the following topics and have already begun organizing and planning for the conference. The topics include: Lifestyle Issues, Substance Abuse, Sexuality and Relationships. The group will meet once again in the beginning of February to share the information with each other and begin final planning for March. Try to make the Friday evening planning session (March 8th) to see how hard these facilitators have worked for the all day conference.

Club Chatter



Hamden Rotarian Ossie Roos celebrates 70 years of service.....

Submitted by: Rich Miller President
Photograph: John Karavas

On October 15th, Rotarian Oscar Roos (right) was honored by the Rotary Club of Hamden for more than 70 years of membership and service to Rotary International. Mr. Roos is a second generation Rotarian and the former President of Centerville Lumber, Inc. in Hamden. Mr. Roos was inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Hamden on August 2, 1937, where he served as Club President, a three-time recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship and attended numerous Rotary International conventions.

Middletown Rotary Club Inducts New Member....

Submitted by: Art Myers

Past Club President Chris Soulias inducted new member Mukesh Chhaya sponsored by Patti Vassia. Present for the induction was District Governor Ernie Luise and Club President Wilfredo Nieves.

Rotarian Cheryl Duey was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for her international service.



Hamden Judge Declares a Win-Win!

Submitted by: Rich Miller and Cathy Forsberg
Photo: Cathy Forsberg

Bill Hadden was the big winner of the weekly raffle on 9/24/07 when he picked the blue chip out of the remaining 12 chips and won the pot totaling \$209. He promptly donated the funds to the "Ernie's Filters" water filter project benefiting school children in South India. He is shown here placing the sixth sticker on our wooden water filter replica, which represents the \$600 raised by Hamden Rotarians so far for the project. Thank you Bill!

Help...Help....Help...

Fundraising

If you know a Rotarian who has hosted a duplicate bridge fundraiser, please contact Judy Rovins or Bunny Mostad in the Westport Rotary Club. motivjkr@aol.com, ph: 800-237-7203, ctagent@optonline.net

Inquiry on Duplicate Bridge



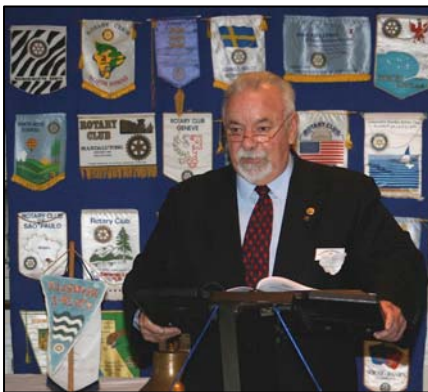
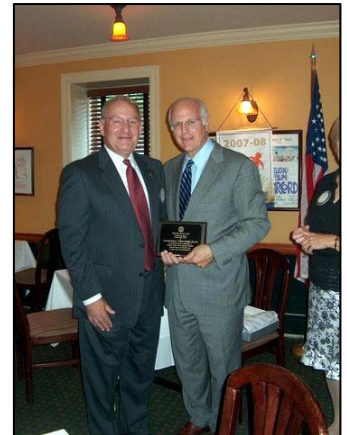
Rotarians Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Charlie Roderick and Rev. Owen Sanderson, long time members of the Hamden Rotary Club, celebrated their 50th anniversary as a Funeral Director and Lutheran Minister respectively. Neither is considering retirement from their vocations or as active vital members of the Rotary Family.

Greenwich Rotary GSE Team Welcomed.....

Submitted by: Thelma Hoyt
Photographs: Nicki Markley

Congressman Christopher Shays (R-4th) was presented with a plaque by Greenwich Rotary Club Past President James Perry in appreciation for helping Greenwich Rotarians welcome the Group Study Exchange team visiting from Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon). The Sri Lankans were to visit Washington D.C. during their trip to the U.S., and Rep. Shays arranged a tour of the White House for them. More than that, he left his early morning work-out in order to go to the White House to meet and welcome the visitors. Jim Perry was team leader of the District 7980 GSE team on its trip to Sri Lanka in January/February.



Kidney transplant recipient addresses Westport Rotary Club

Submitted by: Dave Matlow
Photographer: Richard Epstein

Wes Johnson, a member of the Ledyard Rotary, spoke to the Westport Rotary about his experience as the recipient of a kidney transplant in June 1993 at Hartford Hospital. Wes clearly understands how important it is to spread the knowledge of tissue and organ transplantation. Now, as the Chair of Donate Life, Connecticut he is carrying his benefit forward to others as he educates about donation. "The highest expression of compassion and generosity," according to Johnson, "is to make the commitment to donate your organs. There are 90,000 people in our country who are on the

waiting list to receive a donated organ," he pointed out. "Seventeen times every day a person dies because an organ is not available for a recipient in waiting. Age is not an issue," Johnson stated. "In Philadelphia," he added, "24% of the donors are over 61 years of age."

Johnson points out that registering yourself as an organ donor is easily arranged through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) at the time of license renewal or even in between renewals. It's simply a matter of going to the DMV to register. The designation as an organ donor is then specified on the potential donor's driver's license. One concern, Johnson stresses, is the need for organ donors to notify their family that they have registered as an organ donor. Of those who have registered as an organ donor, statistics reveal that only 11% have notified their families of that intention. As a result, some families don't follow their loved one's wishes.

To Rotarians, this is an opportunity to talk about this important issue not just with a spouse, but also with children and grandchildren. We all hope never to be in the position to need an organ, nor in the situation of a sudden death of a young person, but if we are, let us all help make the gift of life to others.

For more information about this important topic, contact Wes Johnson in Ledyard, or go to <http://www.ctorganandtissuedonation.org>



Lynda Hammond
District 7980
International Service Director



Rotary and the United Nationspartners in peace with shared goals.

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual.

We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

*United Nations Secretary-General
Kofi A. Annan*

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- ✚ Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- ✚ Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education

- ✚ Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women

- ✚ Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality

- ✚ Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

Goal 5 Improve maternal health

- ✚ Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- ✚ Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- ✚ Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability

- ✚ Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources
- ✚ Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- ✚ Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020

Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development

- ✚ Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory (includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction-nationally and internationally)
- ✚ Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction
- ✚ Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States
- ✚ Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term
- ✚ In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth
- ✚ In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- ✚ In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies - especially information and communications technologies

Reference: United Nations website.

“Ernie’s Filters” Update

Submitted by Cathy Forsberg

Thanks to fundraising efforts by the Rotary clubs in District 7980 approximately 300 water filters, which will provide clean water for at least 30,000 South Indian students, will soon be installed!

Plans are currently being made to train water keepers in each school and install the first Bio-Sand Water Filters in schools this November.

When a club collects and remits funds for the “Ernie’s Filter” project they will not only help children to receive clean water sooner but they will receive a blue sticker in the shape of a water drop to decorate their club’s wooden water filter. Each sticker represents a \$100 donation and the purchase of 4 filters that will provide clean water for 400 children.

Donations should be sent to South Asia Pure Water Initiative, Inc. (or SAPWII) at 2832 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518.

Thanks to all who have already generously supported Governor Ernie’s Water Filter project!



First Project Amigo Scholarship Student to be awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship....

Mireya Rincon of Cofradia, Mexico was honored with a Paul Harris at the San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf Rotary Club. Mireya is in her senior year of law school at the University of Colima, Mexico. We are so very proud of all she has accomplished.

Rotary Club of Madison Partners with Team Uganda To Provide Clean Water.....

Submitted by: Jim Satterwhite

Partnering with "Team Uganda", an outreach mission group sponsored by the Madison Episcopal Church, the Madison Rotary Club is underwriting the drilling of a community water well for the Agulamado village within the Soroti District of Uganda. This well will supply clean drinking water to the some 800 residents of the village, who up to now have had to drink rain water which collects in an open swale and is shared with the animals. The recently formed Rotary Club of Soroti is acting as overseer on this project, and will formally accept the well from the drilling company when it is completed.

Safe Water to Eradicate Guinea Worm in Ghana

Submitted by: Harvey Sellner, Rotary Club of Newtown

The presence of Guinea worm is an indicator that water is so unsafe that over 25% of children die before age 5 from diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid and a host of other organisms, or become debilitated from being invaded by Guinea worm. Partnerships of non-profits have been 90% successful in eliminating Guinea worm. Of the remaining cases, 70% are in Ghana .



The program to eradicate Guinea worm in Ghana . involves Rotary clubs in Ghana, the (Jimmy) Carter Center, World Vision, the Hilton Foundation and other non-profits for clean water in regions where the disease persists. Rotarian Harvey Sellner, founder of *World Help Foundation*,

dedicated to providing clean water, is coordinating the Rotary activity for the sponsor clubs. He can be reached at hsellner@worldhelpfound.org.

How can you help now? Well that's easy.....

Simply shop online! Each time you, one of your family members or friends make a purchase from one of your favorite world-class stores through www.save-lives.org website, *World Help Foundation* benefits significantly. It's a great way to shop while helping to provide safe water to some of the world's poorest peoples. *Won't you help?*

Shop On-line.....

www.save-lives.org

Amazon.com

Target

Linen's-N-Things

Sharper Image

Sierra Club

USA Today

Shutterfly

Lands End

Readers Digest Store

Flower.com

British Airways

Mrs. Fields

Best Western

Hotels.com

Tiger Direct

McAfee

American Express

Many, many more.

Back to School from Branford to Tanzania

Submitted by: Alpha Coiro Photo: Alpha Coiro, Tricia Bohan, David Chew, Peter Cimino

Branford, Conn. [September 26, 2007] "Back to School" sales brought new meaning to the members of the Branford Rotary Club this September. Rotarians patronized seasonal sales of school supplies such as notebooks, writing implements, pencil sharpeners, and pocket portfolios at local stores. The club is collecting and shipping these materials and more to the Rotary Club of Arusha (Tanzania) on the east coast of Africa. Tanzanian Rotarians will then distribute the educational materials to needy students in the Arusha and Tengeru areas.



Members of the shoreline communities who donated goods also supported the collection. The Branford Rotary Club was successful in collecting 265 pounds of school supplies, which will assist students with their classwork.

Project leader, Alpha Coiro, selected Tanzania as a destination after returning from a safari in the national parks. At that time she had the opportunity to visit a school that was representative of the area. She noted the minimal amount of supplies available for student use and initiated the project back in Connecticut. She has been in regular contact with the Arusha Rotary Club president, Mohammed Jeffer, who commented that many of their projects have started off the same way with visitors from abroad who have realized the need in some areas and assisted for Rotarians on their end to make a difference. Further information can be obtained from project leader, Alpha Coiro, at 203/488-7103 or Branford Rotary Club president, Tricia Bohan, at 203/481-5404.

New International Project - High Returns, Low Cost

Submitted by: Dennis Wong, Westport Sunrise Rotary Club

Did you know that for three cents, you could turn a person's life around from one of pain, misery and poverty to one that is hopeful, productive and meaningful?

Well, the two Rotary clubs in Westport want to share a success story and encourage other Clubs to consider their own "Loose Change" program for the prevention and elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).



Here is the article from the Sabin Institute (www.sabin.org) on this new, exciting and important initiative.

NTD Advocate Vol 1 Issue 2
September 2007

Local Rotary Club Combating NTDs through Loose Change Initiative

On July 2, 2007 Nicholas D. Kristof, the well known New York Op-ed columnist, discussed neglected tropical disease (NTDs) in the New York Times. Kristof's piece, "Attack of the Worms," inspired Westport Sunrise Rotary Club member Dennis Wong to take action and raise funds for the elimination and control of NTDs.

Mr. Wong presented his idea of "Loose Change" to his 40-member Rotary club as a way to make a direct and immediate impact on the lives of others suffering from NTDs. The initiative was quickly adapted into their weekly meetings by collecting loose change, focusing on the idea that "a few cents can make a difference." After six weeks Westport Sunrise Rotary has successfully raised \$400.00 in pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Proceeds will be sent to the Global Network as a contribution for the fight against NTDs. As Dennis Wong believes, "when people have some change in their hands and pockets, they will remember that a few cents can help people live productive lives."

The Loose Change Initiative is inspiring other Rotary clubs, as well as local Westport teachers, to get involved in the fight against neglected tropical diseases. Where else can a little bit of extra 'change' make such a big difference?

For more information about the Loose Change initiative and NTDs, contact a fellow Rotarian, Dennis Wong doxsoup@aol.com or the Sabin organization, Karen Palacio, program coordinator, tel: 202-842-5025, email: karen.palacio@sabin.org.

For more information:

1. Fight to stop NTDs <http://gnntdc.sabin.org>
2. NTD Newsletters <http://gnntdc.sabin.org/news/newsletter.html>
3. Kristof article, New York Times, July 2, 2007
http://select.nytimes.com/2007/07/02/opinion/02kristof.html?_r=1&ex=1183521600&en=d33cd2156183cf09&ei=5121&emc=eta-1&oref=slogin

Rotarians Provide Aid to Over 500,000 Victims of Disasters.....

Ruth DeSarbo
ShelterBox USA District Rep 7980

Shelter represents hope.

We can't eradicate natural or manmade disasters.....we can only plan for them.

ShelterBox USA is a non-profit Rotary-based organization that promotes the sponsorship of the ShelterBox Trust, an international Rotary disaster relief project, responding to the immediate shelter needs of homeless or displaced victims of natural disasters including hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis or long-term man-made events such as war or famine.

A ShelterBox is a self-contained, portable survival kit for homeless or displaced persons. The ShelterBox concept was developed by British Rotarian Tom Henderson. Tom, a retired Royal Naval officer with an interest in disaster relief, began to investigate how and in what form relief organizations responded to disaster events. Tom's research revealed the critical survival factors of food and medicine were adequately addressed by international relief agencies, but long-term emergency sheltering was virtually non-existent. Relief agencies were providing inadequate temporary shelters strictly for the short-term, being removed when the refugee camp was disbanded. In most cases, leaving these displaced folks 'homeless' a second time.



The standard ShelterBox weighs an average of 110 lbs and contains a 10-person tent, sleeping bags; water purification tablets (sufficient for a family of ten for up to 3 months); collapsible, plastic water carriers; 2 sets of basic cooking/eating utensils (pots, pans, plates, cups, etc) one entrenching shovel (for digging latrines); flashlights/batteries; rope; rain ponchos, heavy-duty plastic bags; tool kit in canvas bag including hatchet, jack-knife, screwdriver, hammer, etc., and a multi-fueled cook stove. The boxes are constructed of molded heavy-duty plastic, are stackable for easy of storage and shipping. When empty the box can be used as a water

tank, food store, cot, table, etc. All ShelterBoxes are assembled and distributed from Operations Headquarters in Helston, Cornwall, England by volunteers.

ShelterBox USA received their first Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation, allowing 24 boxes to be delivered to northern Ethiopia in October, providing desperately needed shelter for Sudanese refugees. The grant was funded by the Rotary clubs of Beaverton, Oregon, USA, and Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. It is part of a massive effort by ShelterBox, called A Million in Africa, which intends to provide shelter for one million of Africa's eight million refugees.

ShelterBox is an exciting project providing disaster relief to victims worldwide. The cost of a ShelterBox is \$1000.00 which includes transportation. They are distributed through international relief agencies (Salvation Army, Feed the Children, etc), worldwide, under supervision of local Rotary Clubs.

Recovery from disaster begins and continues with adequate shelter. An adequate place to sleep and live not only offers displaced people immediate protection from the elements - it represents a small step towards re-establishing a normal life.

This is a great International or Community Service project easily achievable by any size Rotary, Rotaract or Interact Club. ShelterBox sponsors in Rotary District 7980 include; Hamden, Guilford and Madison....won't you join us? For more information contact Ruth DeSarbo at 860-664-0888.

Rotary International Foundation At It's Very Best.....

RC Westport Matching Grants Review 2000 – 2007

Rotary certain does 'Save and Change Lives' everyday!



This young man is a blind double amputee, who is employed in the making of artificial limbs

Submitted by: Dr. Paul Spiekermann and Darryl Manning, International Club Service

Reports of desperate conditions in *Cambodia* prompted the Rotary Club of Westport in 2000 to provide its International Service with annual funding for a matching grants program over the next five years.

Nowadays many fear what Cambodia had long known: the maiming and killing by buried landmines. Along her roads and across her fields mines and bombs were sown 30 years ago, and they still find their prey. Sad children with a leg or an arm gone beg for sustenance, mutilated women of marriageable age are shunned by men, and hapless farmers who had gone to plant rice had stepped on mines instead.

The Westport Rotary program helped establish a workshop upstream of the Mekong River in remote eastern Cambodia to make and fit artificial limbs for landmine amputees and braces for lamed polio victims. Kratie is a small provincial capitol stretching along the river. People seeking help arrive at the workshop from as far as the remote neighboring provinces further north and east. After they are fitted with prosthetic limbs they are assisted in finding gainful work. And, they become more involved in community affairs.

A fisherman is given a boat and a net; a man with both legs useless receives a small horse and a cart on which he sits and transports vegetables and other produce from villages in the vicinity to a central market; a cabbage farmer can irrigate his fields again with an artificial arm fitted to balance his watering cans hanging from a pole across his shoulders; foot and leg amputees learn again to bicycle.

By 2005 four projects with grants from The Rotary Foundation and District 7980 had been completed. Over 1000 amputees and paralyzed polio victims have benefited. By restoring their mobility and making them productive again, instead of them remaining a burden on their community, we give hope to these often forgotten souls. And more than just giving them legs and arms and jobs, we restore their self-esteem and return to them human dignity.

Success of the initial efforts encouraged our club to expand its humanitarian overseas program.



Learning to walk again....one small step at a time.

Three matching grants projects have been conducted in *Indonesia*. Desa Tanjung, a village of 3,300 people in Central Java with difficult access during monsoon rains, has been upgraded. Roads where oxcarts used to get stuck in mud after heavy downpours were asphalted. River water causing enteric disease in children and adults was replaced by deep-well clean drinking water with power pump and storage tank. A pre-school reading room, kindergarten and outdoor playground were supplied. Villagers contributed much of needed hands-on labor to stretch available funds. Their work increased tenfold the total surface of fortified road from a budgeted 1,000 sqm to 10,000 sqm.

In Solo, Central Java, a second project arranged 3-month training courses to turn unskilled jobless people, mostly disabled women, into skilled labor for the region's textile and batik industry. While project funds bought embroidery and sewing machinery, space became available free of charge. In addition, the municipality indicated interest in taking the courses over for continued training and eventual marketing of products to sustain the operation. Each course accommodates 30 trainees and graduates were hired, some even before the end of the course.

On the slopes of Gunung Lawu, a major central Javanese mountain bordering East Java, three villages lacked access to emergency medical help as well as to maternity and adequate midwifery care. A third matching grants project in our *Indonesia* program has addressed these needs. With space and personnel, including midwives provided by the villages, three health stations could be properly furnished and equipped. Potentially, a combined population of 12,000 villagers on the mountain benefits where previously first aid had been insufficient.



After a visit to northern *Thailand*, a Yale student had pointed out to us that on the streets of Chiang Mai many young neglected AIDS orphans were at risk of descending into a life of petty crime and worse. He believed that regular school attendance would offer a safe haven. This led to two Rotary projects.

Girls in their early teens, often with approval by their well-meaning parents, had been lured from their poor villages to Bangkok with the promise to be trained in Thai dancing and to be offered well-paying job opportunities. Their naiveté was then exploited to satisfy tourist demands leading frequently to infections, in particular with HIV. After eventual return to their villages they married, gave birth, and died early of AIDS. Their husbands often followed. Their children, now mostly pre-teens, needed help urgently and school attendance appeared indeed promising.

Our first matching grants budget allowed the selection of 225 orphans out of more than 500 applications. A Rotarian/teacher had devised a valid screening system, cost accounting, and follow-up with full documentation, and she maintained close contact with participating schools. Each child's school expenses were paid which included fees, two sets of school dress, books, utensils, a daily meal, transportation and medical help as needed.

To maintain schooling beyond the project year, help is expected from community services and the local Rotary.



A second matching grants project followed in a similar school set-up in Chiang Mai, which included early teenagers. In addition to AIDS orphans, this project included children who had lost parents due to early cancer or in motorbike accidents, a frequent cause of death in young people locally. All of them lived in poverty with no schooling and at risk of gang life. With the same budget as in the previous project, 210 children could be entered.

In *Swaziland*, southern Africa, the community of Buseleni with its 8,000 villagers was in dire need of accessible clean water. Villagers had to walk half a mile to the nearest source of unfiltered water from where they then had to carry full buckets back home. These are people who depend on donations from the World Food Program, and they are not strong, since they often go hungry for days. Also, 600 children in the village were registered as "orphan and vulnerable" and their number has certainly risen by now. Swaziland has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS per capita in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our matching grants project was to provide year-round adequate and easily accessible clean water. An initial plan to use a deep-well diesel-driven pump system fell flat because of an irregular and unpredictably expensive supply of fuel. Instead a system using gravity as a moving force from a nearby mountain spring through a piping and

filtering system into a storage tank at the village was developed. As good fortune had it, a very motivated young Peace Corps volunteer stationed in Buseleni helped much to move the project along.

As a result, the community has a continuous flow of good water for drinking, cooking and washing; the children are taught basic hygiene; and, the village fruit and vegetable garden is irrigated regularly.

All these projects, four in Cambodia, three in Indonesia, two in Thailand and one in Swaziland, were financed with the help of club cash and grants from Rotary Districts and The Rotary Foundation. All funds were spent in the project countries, and attention was paid to create jobs locally, to increase community spirit and to make the results sustainable.

The same principles were applied to a different project for which we received a grant from District 7980, but did not seek direct funding from The Rotary Foundation. We used the District Simplified Grant system for our joint project with a Rotary club in *Lithuania*. Both clubs contributed cash and our district contributed a grant matching our cash.

This project came about following a Group Study Exchange visit from Lithuania. The group's Rotarian team leader told us that in her country Russian had long been the second language but needs to be counter-weighted by English for global contact and communication. Her hometown of Joniskis in northern Lithuania is the center of an agricultural region with limited access to affordable study of a foreign language.

With joint funding from our clubs and support from our district, a language lab was set up specifically for English with free service for everyone. Space, heating, electricity, and the internet connection are donated by an agricultural school in town. Electronic equipment, computer software, books, and all furniture were paid for by project funds. Local Rotarians selected and purchased the wares. Most club members were actively involved and had been assigned various tasks. Students, town and neighboring village people among a population of 30,000 are likely to benefit.

The heart of the matching grants program is the association of an International Sponsor with a Host Partner in the Project Country. The Rotary Foundation's concept of the grant system has obviously evolved over a long period of time with improvements along the way. The separation of functions between partners is logical and works very well. The International Sponsor bears the brunt of funding, of finalizing and submitting the grant applications, and keeps close contact with the project country as well as with the coordinator at The Rotary Foundation.

It is left to the Host Partner Rotarians, and their contacts locally, not only to identify but to describe needs in their own words and to propose ways to meet them by taking into account available funds. It is their project, to be managed and to be completed by them. Any credits for its success must go largely to them, our partners.

In all five countries of our program we have been fortunate with host partner clubs. Three of them conducted joint projects with us in 2005 and we are registered in Evanston as Centennial Twin Clubs.

The *Rotary Club of Dhonburi* in District 3350, which includes Cambodia, was host partner for our last project at Kratie province in eastern Cambodia. We jointly visited the distant project site and also our cooperating NGO (Veterans International Cambodia). Beyond their project functions, RC Dhonburi channeled our district's tsunami relief donation effectively to re-equip and re-stock two primary school libraries. When Hurricane Katrina struck, that club sent a substantial collection from their membership to Rotary in New Orleans.

The *Rotary Club of Solo Kartini* in District 3400 (Indonesia) is named after Ibu Kartini, the icon of women's liberation in the country. The club has been our trusted and much respected host partner in three major matching grants projects. Located in the city of the Sultanate of Surakarta it is a true sister club, founded by women and with all women membership. It is very refreshing to witness that most of them play an active role in club projects. Their reports are always carefully and correctly compiled and written in beautiful English. This congenial and ever effective club is a Paul Harris Fellow on our roster.

The *Rotary Club of Sarapee* in District 3360 of northern Thailand is our third Centennial Twin Club. The orphans projects in Chiang Mai made good use of the expertise of some club members in enrolling and controlling more than 400 children entered into the school system. Concurrently, the club was involved in setting up a pilot "Hole in the Wall Gang" camp for which orphans from our project were recruited.



Later, two more clubs followed the Centennial Twin Clubs as our Host Partners, one in Africa, the other in Europe.

The *Rotary Club of Mbabene-Mbuluzi* in District 9250 for Swaziland came up with an ingenious solution for a water supply problem by using gravity where fuel was scarce and expensive. All year-round water at no cost is a blessing for one of the poorest countries in southern Africa.

The *Rotary Club of Joniskis* in District 1460, which includes northern Lithuania, presented an example of a Group Study Exchange leading to a successful District Simplified Grant project (here named District Managed Grant). The host partner RC Joniskis not only contributed a substantial amount of cash, but had its members participate in choices and decisions and shared work.

Finally, the overall cost-effectiveness of the matching grants offered by District and The Rotary Foundation is obvious:

Club cash	\$ 50,630 = 29,7 %
Grants	\$ 119,737 = 70,3 %
<hr/>	
Total	\$ 170,367 = 100 %

Ridgefield Rotary Club in Cambodia

Submitted by: Alex Karsanidi, Water Project Chairperson



Planting the banner of the Ridgefield Rotary Club on the other side of the world was the goal; getting there was half the fun. With several surprises along the way, Water Project Chairman, Alex Karsanidi, made the trek to the Kingdom of Cambodia, to follow through on the initial phase of the work and to be present at the dedication ceremony held September 17, 2007 at the Sobhanna Day Care Center in Battambang. The occasion culminated 6 months of coordinated work with the Rotary Club of Pursat, one of four clubs in Cambodia, and celebrated the connection of a reliable source of potable water to the Center, plus bringing 2 suitcases full of school supplies. But, I get ahead of myself.

Being one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia, the Kingdom of Cambodia has stagnated since its French Colonial days, through the Vietnam War and the genocide of the Khmer Rouge. Estimates indicate this latter era possibly exterminated upwards of 2 million men, women and children, roughly 20% of their population at the time. Significantly, this included many of their Academics, Professionals and Artisans, stripping the country of its potential for development and instead of reverting it to an Agrarian base. The past 25 years has seen progress, but playing catch up with the "Tigers" of Asia and Big Brother in China is a daunting task.

Flying into the capital, Phnom Penh, you are struck by how much of the country is covered by water (most of it muddy brown from silt caused by the Rainy season). Coming in from the airport, most Westerners are amazed at the extreme contrasts from one room huts to modern building and hotels. Poverty is mixed with Mercedes Benz and Lexus SUVs, but almost everyone has some form of motor cycle, though I questioned how some were still running.

Arriving at the Juliana Hotel, I was pleasantly surprised that the Phnom Penh Metro Rotary Club held their weekly meeting here, which also benefited me with an additional Rotary discount on the room rate. After a long cold shower, I was fortunate to meet with President Peter Raymond of the 2nd Phnom Penh Rotary Club



who filled me in on current activities and what to expect during my trip. All-in-all not bad for the first day on the ground.

My second day started with meeting Mickey Sampson, who heads up RDI and visiting his factory compound which manufactures water filters and pumps for use in Cambodia and neighboring countries. It turned out Mickey is an American with a PhD in Chemistry and been living in Cambodia for 8 years with his family and has completed numerous water projects, some jointly with US Rotary Clubs.



The next stop on my journey was Siem Reap where I attended the Charter Ceremony of the newest Rotary Club in Cambodia. This elegant event was held at the 4 Star Somadevi Angkor Hotel (which just happens to be owned by one of the members) and CP Prom

Bunthai greeted Rotarians from all over the world. Representing District 3350 was IPG Kasemchai Nitiwanakun and AG Martin Lutterjohann (who is also President of the Phnom Penh Metro Club), plus Rotarians from South Korea, Japan, Australia and a group from Hawaii, including District 5000 PDG Hal Darcey. Representing District 7980 and the Ridgefield Rotary Club at an event such as this can be humbling, but also made me proud for the recognition we received for our project and being there.

Feeling more adventurous, I opted to take a “boat” from Siem Reap to Battambang, rather than the 4 hour taxi or 5 hour bus rides. However, my anticipated leisurely Circle Line cruise turned out to be 6 hours on the African Queen through what amounted to the Everglades of Cambodia. The “boat” was actually a 6 foot wide by 50 foot long glorified canoe with a diesel motor, which may not have been that bad had you been able to stand up to stretch without the fear of falling overboard or tipping the boat. During the trip across Tonle Sap, which is the largest lake in South East Asia, I was amazed at the number of floating villages encountered. It turns out for most of the year the lake is much smaller, with the depth only about 3 feet. However, during the rainy season, the depth increases 10 fold providing livelihood for over 3 million people and 75% of Cambodia’s inland fish catch. Considering that 60% of the protein Cambodians consume comes for this lake, it is more imperative than ever that environmental efforts be increased to assure the viability of this food source.

Arriving at Battambang, I entered a city that appeared a throw back of 25 years ago, but obviously struggling to catch up. Over the next 2 days, I visited the Sobhanna Day Care several times and was proud to view the results of the project the Ridgefield Rotary Club had funded. The Center now has a year round source of potable water which they can use for consumption, irrigation for some crops and, hopefully, the start of a Fish Farm which could supply the Center with harvested fish to eat and sell on the local market. Of all the school supplies delivered, the biggest hits with the kids was a song book that included a recorder which played the songs (until the batteries finally ran out) and several wall maps. (Most kids had never seen where Cambodia was in the world. A map of the United States showed them all where Connecticut is located.)



At the dedication ceremony, I finally got to meet CP Soknay Sorn of the Pursat Rotary Club, as well as parents, local dignitaries and the Deputy Provincial Governor, however, as all speeches were in Khmer, I sat on the floor for 45 minutes without a clue of what went on. We then had a 2 hour meeting with local community leaders and NGO heads where the discussion was the groundwork for a new Rotary Club in Battambang. Due to the importance of this for future projects, I persevered; but let me add, we Westerners have grown unaccustomed to sitting on the floor. Needless to say, I had a difficult time standing straight afterward.



Flying home for the 23 hours it takes, I had plenty of time to examine my 8 days in Cambodia. The people I met and the experiences encountered will be with me for life and, hopefully, have opened a new perspective for viewing the world and some of its people. And, I fully plan to see the implementation of future projects, both through the Ridgefield Rotary Club and our District.

Stayed tuned folks, there’s lots more to come.

*PS: In recognition for their kind donations, the Ridgefield Rotary Club extends our appreciation and thanks to the following: Stop & Shop Supermarket – Ridgefield, Shop Rite Supermarket – Brookfield, Costco Wholesale – Brookfield.

Medishare – Greenwich Rotary Club’s Partnership Really Makes a Difference.....

Submitted by: Linda Baulsir and Dieter Blenemann
Photographs by: Dieter Blenemann

Since 1999 the primary International Project of the Greenwich Rotary Club has been MEDISHARE.

Thirty-nine containers of medical supplies and equipment valued at over six million dollars have been delivered to hospitals and community health centers in and around Lima. The Greenwich Rotary Club was able to leverage a contribution of \$ 25,000 from the Club’s International Project account to \$75,000 by adding two matching grants of \$25,000 each from the Rotary International Foundation and District 7980.



Partnerships have developed between IMEC (International Medical Equipment Collaborative) here in the States and the La Molina Vieja and Santa Cruz Miraflores Rotary Clubs in Peru that facilitate the processes and assure the quality and integrity of our project.

Peru has a population of 28 million people. Fifty percent live in poverty. The per capita expenditure for health care is \$18 per year. Out of every one thousand live births, 69 babies will die in the first year of life. Major causes of death are gastro-intestinal disease, respiratory complications and malnutrition.

These statistics could apply to a myriad of third world countries, but it is our partnerships in Peru that have contributed to the

continuing success of our project.

Since the 1980's five million people fled from the countryside to the Lima area, creating the Barriadas that surround the city. One of the largest is La Pamplona, Alta. 110,000 people live in an area about 10 miles from the center of Lima in the desert. They have no water and no sanitation.

In planning for the future, the Board of Greenwich Rotary Club approved a project that would purchase 100 bio-sand filters in Lima through the La Molina Vieja Club and distribute the filters through an NGO called Asociacion Aynimundo. They would be responsible for distribution and education to select households in Barriada La Pamploma. Distributing water filters randomly won't solve the problem. The people who receive the filters have to be educated. First they have to understand the relationship between clean, pure water and their health. They have to be taught to maintain the purified water in clean, covered buckets, and to store the water meant for drinking in clean water bottles. Once the first hundred households learn the lessons of clean water, a member of each household can then teach a number of their neighbors, exponentially bringing clean water to the Barriada. In the first year of the project 100 bio-sand filters will impact approximately 5,000 people.



The original Medishare concept is not to be lost. By providing clean water we assist in the prevention of significant gastro-intestinal diseases. But there is another element in the process. The Community Medical Center has to be supplied with basic equipment.

They need blood pressure cuffs, nebulizers, pediatric respirators and defibrillators.



We know what a difference our supplies and equipment make. We've been there. The Health Center Santa Anita and its 4 satellite clinics serve more than 4,000,000 people a year. Four babies a day are born there. Shipment #37 completely furnished their maternity rooms. A lab was created with equipment sent in the shipment. The lab technicians were trained in the use of the equipment by an arrangement we made with Perkin Elmer Corporation. And now standard tests can be run (blood work, urine analysis) - the basics that allow the doctors to accurately diagnosis their patients.

In each of the Hospitals and Community Health Center that we have supplied over the past 8 years is a prominently displayed plaque with our name for all to see: GREENWICH ROTARY

CLUB. We all bask in the reflected glory of Service above Self.

Kids in Chiapas ...with broken hearts..... got 'em fixed!

Submitted by: Rotarian Lynda Hammond, President Rotary 7980 Gift of Life Foundation

A few months ago I accepted an invitation from Rosa Ramirez, President of ADANEC and my fellow Rotarian Humberto Rodriguez, MD to participate in their ADANEC/Gift of Life mission to Comitan, Chiapas, Mexico. Well... they didn't have to ask me twice and furthermore I didn't let either of them out of my sight until I had secured an invitation for the next and future missions!

Chiapas is one of the poorest states in Mexico with a population of an estimated 3.4 million people, of which 700,000 are direct descendents of the Mayas. Many of these people live in one room dirt floor, houses constructed of wood slats and mud. Comitan is a small colonial city located approximately 40 miles north of the Guatemalan border high in the Sierra Madre mountain range, at an estimated 7,000 feet above sea level.



The Comitan General Hospital María Ignacia Gandulfo was our host facility for this mission. The hospital was founded 214 years ago. It's a small, very busy hospital serving nearly a half million people, mostly rural indigenous folks who travel hours by foot or bus to get even basic healthcare. The practice of herbal medicine, traditional midwives, Shamans and ancient Mayan rituals are common maintaining their place of importance in this society as they have for thousands of years.

The mission accomplished all of the objectives supported by Rotary District 7980 Gift of Life Foundation and our partner organizations by;

- Providing safe high quality pediatric cardiac care to kids who otherwise would have a dim future or none at all.
- Educating/training of local medical professionals in pediatric cardiac surgical techniques, clinical diagnosis using echocardiography, pre and post operative patient care management, pediatric anesthesiology, and the use of new medications, so one day they will be able to provide the most of the pediatric cardiac care themselves.
- Volunteer team members expand their own medical expertise and cultural education as they learn from their fellow volunteers and local team members.



The seventeen volunteer team members were from Monterrey, Mexico with the exception of this Gringo. In addition to our surgical team leader Dr. Humberto Rodriguez and Rosa Ramirez, the team included: Dr. Victor Quezada, Pediatric Cardiothoracic surgeon; Drs. Armando Guzman and Michelle Lopez, Pediatric Anesthesiologists; Dr. Carmen Villanlobos, Pediatric Intensivist; Deyanira Martinez Elizmdo and Martha Abundis, Operating Room Scrub Nurses; Iris Mayela De Lora and Margarita Hermosillo Loredo, Pediatric ICU Nurses. Dr. Jesus Manuel Yanez Sanchez is a Pediatric Cardiologist and Professor on staff at the Hospital San Jose Tec of Monterrey and Dr. Katja Pauli Muller in the mist of her third year Pediatric residency, was delighted to have the opportunity to take part in this mission as part of her Pediatric cardiology rotation under Dr. Yanez. Alicia Gonzales Aguirre, Magaly Marcos Kuri, and Caludia Zorrilla Vargas, handled all of the administrative and logistic tasks under the guidance and direction of Rosa.



The team was divided into two groups; the first group provided the support functions required before the arrival of the surgical team two days later. I was a part of the first group. We departed from Mexico City on Monday morning September 23rd on a Mexicana flight flying through the magnificent Sierra Madre mountain range, at times above the clouds to Tuxtla Gutierrez airport in the State of Chiapas.

Upon our arrival in Tuxtla Gutierrez we were greeted by two drivers with large comfortable vans provided to by the Ministry of Health. Our luggage and ten large boxes of medical supplies, medications and instruments were loaded in a flash and began our three hour drive to Comitán.



Early Tuesday morning we arrived at the General Hospital María Ignacia Gandulfo, to be warmly welcomed by Drs. Concepcion Roblero Guzman (Dr. Conchis), Pediatric Cardiologist and Francisco Javier Paniagua Morgan, Hospital Director/Chief of Surgery as well as various members of the hospital staff. We all quickly bonded to become one team focused on providing the best cardiac care possible to all the kids waiting with their families in the long, over crowded hallway servings as a waiting room, adjacent to the consultation area (Outpatient Clinic). We were provided two examination rooms supported by a two of hospital nurses, who quickly became part of the team.

Our group was responsible for; 1. Medical Evaluations and Consultations. The diagnosis and health status of the eleven kids scheduled for surgery needed to be confirmed. Consultations on 19 new cases to be scheduled for surgical procedures on future cardiac missions or referral to Monterrey for the complex open-heart procedures, all the while providing training to the local medical staff. This was the responsibility of Dr. Jesus Manuel Yanez Sanchez with the assistance from Dr. Katja Muller.



2. Administrative & Logistics. This is often times a thankless job requiring tremendous organizational skills, patience and paying attention to all of the thousands of details to make the mission a success including; acquiring the medications and supplies needed, arranging for transportation of team members, equipment and supplies, lodging, food, fundraising and the biggest headache of all ensuring that all of the paperwork is in order. Rosa Ramirez, the President of ADANEC and her team did a terrific job on all counts!



Dr. Yanez took me under his wing giving me the opportunity and privilege to observe, learn from and work with him during this mission. He is a physician and humanitarian who truly loves his profession and gives freely from his heart and soul to each child he touches and I'm truly appreciative of his kindness and friendship extended to me.

For the next two days, the door of the exam room would open revealing a child and family member(s) who appeared so frightened as they entered, until they saw the welcoming smile of Dr. Yanez who instantly put them at ease. He examined each child while gathering additional information from the parents as he confirmed the diagnosis

with an echocardiogram.

Dr. Yanez was the visiting Professor who took the time to teach and consult with the local physicians, residents, interns, medical students and nursing staff; patiently answering the so many questions and drawing and re-drawing diagrams of the heart until his students completely understood, all of the time beaming with joy and satisfaction of doing the work he loves so much.

The surgical team led by Dr. Rodriguez arrived in Comitán on Wednesday afternoon with the hospital their first stop. One must keep in mind, Chiapas and many other rural areas of Mexico are still struggling to emerge from third world conditions, therefore it was imperative for the team to tour the hospital and meet with the medical staff to confirm the required equipment was in place and working properly, and the medical staff was prepared to meet the needs of the kids undergoing surgery.

The team then reviewed each child's medical records, in particular the consultation notes prepared by Dr. Yanez. The children and their families met with Dr. Rodriguez who explaining the surgical procedure to be performed, preparing them for the events of the next 36 hours.



Over the next two days I watched, listened and asked what may have seemed as a constant stream of questions, most centering around surgical techniques and the rationale for choosing one procedure over another. For example, in the States it is customary to administer pre-operative sedation before the child is taken to surgery. After watching the first few arriving to the operating room, it was apparent these kids had not received pre-operative sedation. Anesthesiologist Dr. Armando Guzman explained that due to the lack of available monitoring equipment it was safer not to sedate the children, and secondly the cost of the medication is very high.



This volunteer surgical team has worked together for the past eight years their rate of complications following a surgical procedure is very low with an infection rate of less than 1%. A major contributing factor to these impressive results is the standardization of the surgical procedures used by Dr. Rodriguez and his team, minimizing the length of time a child is under anesthesia, thereby reducing the child's recovery time.



The children scheduled for surgery during this week required closure of their patent ductus arteriosus (PDA). The chest cavity was entered between the ribs on the left side of the patient above the heart, thereby avoiding cutting cross or traumatizing the chest muscles. The PDA was then closed by placing two metal clips on the shunt followed by carefully placed silk sutures. Any bleeding was controlled using the hot cautery method which is quick and very efficient. The chest cavity is now ready to be closed. Prior to the placement of the last couple of chest sutures, a straight catheter is inserted through the small opening into the chest cavity with the opposing end a kidney basin filled with sterile saline solution, air bubbles begin to form in the liquid. When the bubbling stops the remaining sutures are quickly placed closing the chest cavity. This simple technique removes the air introduced at the time the chest cavity was opened permitting the lung to again expand normally, in most cases avoiding the necessity of a chest tube attached to a 'Plura-Vac'. Foley catheters customarily placed in the urinary bladder before surgery are not needed due to the shortened surgical time removing an additional source of potential infection. The Anesthesiologist inserts an endo-tracheal tube in the child's trachea to enable him/her to breath for the child while he/she is under general anesthesia. This tube is removed as the child begins to recover from the anesthesia, minutes following the surgical closure of the skin, reducing the child's dependency upon artificial breathing equipment.

Employing these techniques, the children recovered quickly from the effects of the anesthesia, they are awake, alert and mobile within hours of leaving the operating room, thereby minimizing surgical complications and contributing to the child's speedy recovery, as well as reducing the overall cost of providing lifesaving cardiac surgery.

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In closing, as President of Rotary District 7980 Gift of Life Foundations I am so incredibly proud of the partnership between ADANEC and my fellow Rotarian Dr. Humberto Rodriguez a member of the Rotary Club of Monterrey. This medical team not only provided the optimum in "total patient care," we did so with love, compassion, respect and gave a bit of ourselves to each one of our **kid's with broken hearts..... we all helped to fix!**

