

The Beacon

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

Rotary District 7980



Listen With Your Heart

Spring 2007

http://www.rotary7980.org

Rotary Club of Stamford Honors Past RI Vice President Marcel Corbat for 55 Years of Service to Humanity

Submitted by: Rotarian Dan Schmidt Recognition of Dan Greenburg, Event Chairperson

On November 13, 2007, Rotary International Past Vice President Marcel Corbat was honored by the Stamford Rotary Club for 55 years of *service above self*, for his dedication to the Rotary Club of Stamford, and his community; for his commitment to Rotary's mission throughout the world and to humanity. Photo: Arlette and Marcel Corbat.



Mike Meo, Club President welcomed numerous guests joining Stamford Rotarians to honor this incredible Rotarian. Guests included Marcel's wife Arlette, their daughter, Monique and son-in-law Steven Brooks.



In attendance were Past RI Vice Presidents Abe Gordon (1999-2000) of District 7980 and Frank Collins (2003-04) of District 7890. Past District Governors included: Al Ross of Milford, Henry Scopp of Devon, Mac Leask of Fairfield, Dick Benson of Madison, John Annick of Bridgeport, Pam Akins of New London, and Chip Lewis of Wallingford. District Governor Ernie Luise was unable to attend this event. Rick Benson, DGE of Westport delivered DG Ernie's message of appreciation on behalf of District 7980. Other guests included C.K. Murty of India and former club member past President Ric Meyer. (Photo: PRIVPs Frank Collins, Abe Gordon, Marcel Corbat)

On behalf of the Rotary Foundation Trustees, Past RI Vice President

Frank Collins inducted Rotarian Marcel Corbat into the elite Arch C. Klumph Society named for former RI President Arch C. Klumph, who is credited with the establishment of the Rotary Foundation. Read about the history of the foundation later in this issue.

THE ARCH C. KLUMPH SOCIETY

At their October 2004 meeting, The Rotary Foundation Trustees established the Arch C. Klumph Society to honor contributors whose cumulative gifts to The Rotary Foundation total US\$250,000 or more. The Foundation recognizes these Major Donors by placing their portraits in the Arch C. Klumph Gallery on the 17th floor at RI World Headquarters.



"The rallying point of Rotary is not religion, or social standing or profession; it is the willingness to serve." PRIVP Marcel Corbat

DG Ernie's Corner

This is the time in the Rotary year for check lists! We've passed mid-point and are in the midst of reviewing and verifying and summarizing while still accomplishing.

Membership growth is not a sometimes thing – it is constant. We need to extend ourselves to include the diverse business population around us. Make the effort! The strength of our organization is the individual club Rotarian. Nothing can be accomplished without you. You bring your time, your skills and your resolve to positively impact our local and world communities. However, as every scout knows, in order to keep the campfire blazing, you need to keep adding new logs. So it is with your club – you need to keep adding new members or the fire goes out! As of the end of January, we had 2,734 members in our district…keep up the great work.



The Rotary Foundation – The Heart of Rotary. The last issue of the BEACON said it all. Your clubs are using the programs by participating in Managed and Matching Grants, sponsoring scholars...you bring clean water, support micro-lending, provide books and hearing aids. The fire that keeps our

hearts burning is your generosity and financial support of TRF. Keep working on meeting your club goals.

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Remember *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 2007-2008 the Club is a member of the District 7980 "White Knight Society."

We are rapidly approaching deadline for submissions for awards. You've worked hard, so let us know about your accomplishments...Presidential and Governor's Citations, Significant Achievements, membership and Foundation recognitions. Check the directory and the website for details. Have you signed up for the District Conference at West Point? You need to register to be in line for rooms as they become available. Don't miss out on an incredible experience!

The GSE Committee is working on hosting teams from Mexico and the Philippines. When they come to your area be there to welcome them and to extend club hospitality. Then look for them at District Conference.

Are you and your club looking for scholars? World Peace, Ambassadorial and Cultural scholarships are available with application deadlines in the upcoming months.

After a successful PrePETS, the presidents-elect will be heading to Nashua in March. Give them your support and encouragement as they put together their team and prepare for next year. In the meantime...remember to *Listen with your Heart* and *Share Rotary!*

District Governor Elect Rick's Corner

January is the beginning of the annual Rotary leadership transition period. District Governors Elect from around the world, all 532, gathered in San Diego for training, fellowship and the announcement of the 2008-09 international theme and logo.

DGE's of the same year refer to each other as "classmates" and form a close supportive bond with each other. I met with the DGE's who will be our GSE partners next year. I met classmates from countries where Polio, AIDS, unsafe water, hunger and illiteracy is a constant challenge, providing me with a deeper understanding and commitment to our Rotary mission. Photo: Caption: DGE Rick Benson and his wife Totney greet RIPE DK Lee and his wife Young



We still have a lot to accomplish this year while we begin to think about next year. I encourage all Rotarians in our incredible district to support Governor Ernie and their current club presidents to prove that in 2007-08 Rotary truly Shares.

PETS, Presidents Elect Training Seminar, in Nashua, NH March 13-15 with the 433 Presidents Elect from the eight New England Rotary Districts. Prior to PETS they are to meet with their current Board of Directors and agree on membership development and Rotary Foundation annual giving goals for 2008-09, so that these goals can be submitted at PETS.

District Assembly, April 17, 2008, Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Meriden, CT, 10 AM – 5 PM. This year's Assembly will have something for everyone: new members, experienced members, club officers, and all avenues of service will be represented. Highlights: New sessions on how to start a club web site, club financial management, fun and fund raising, leadership development, membership development and retention, TRF programs; Project Displays from clubs seeking partners for both local and international Service Projects; a Polio Plus global update and a keynote speaker from Washington, DC.

Newly Designed District Directory The 2008-09 Directory will have a new look, several new sections, and more information to make it a better networking tool for all district Rotarians. The District Business Directory (advertising section) and the Foundation Alumni Directory will be bound into the book with the traditional club and district officer sections. The ad sale period and the data collection period are from February 1 to April 1 as the book is targeted to be distributed in April at the District Assembly. The Business Directory Ad Sales form is on the web site, www.rotary7980.org, and is in this issue of the Beacon



District Governor Nominee Colin's Corner

Last April, I was so very honored to be selected as your District Governor for 2009-10. Over the past 10 months, I have begun to lay the groundwork for the 2009-10 Rotary year, considering sites for a District Conference in 2010 and making contacts with Rotarians in other districts regarding Group Study Exchanges. In addition, I want to spend the next twelve months learning from as many Rotarians in our district as I can meet how I can best be of service during my year as District Governor.

At the same time, I have two immediate responsibilities in 2007-08 first as District Rotaract Chair and second, as District Significant Achievement Awards Chair, I truly enjoy both positions.



Lois Murray

District 7980 Vocational Service Director

In my discussions with several club Presidents, I found that all are not aware of events that are actually vocational activities. Of course if your club is sending people to RYLA, New Generations, or the 4-Way Speech contest you are participating in the major Vocational activities. Several clubs sponsored new Rotaract Clubs. Review what you do and find out just how much vocational activity you have and add some new things for excitement.

Some clubs support job shadowing programs, vocational scholarships, classification reviews, member "self talk," business networking or membership in the local Chamber of Commerce, community hero recognitions, student of the month awards, and tours of local businesses. Others clubs have members that are speaking at local schools and colleges. All of these activities are great vocational programs.

Some other programs that may be of interest are a high school career program, a world affairs seminar, an employee of the month award, a library tour, a mental retardation employment program, and adult education programs.

Four-Way Speech Contest Submitted by: Rotarian David Schmidt



The purpose of the 4-way test speech contest is to introduce high school students to the 4-way test and to encourage them to use it in their own ethical reflection about issues of concern to them. It is also an opportunity for them to hone their public speaking skills and to earn scholarship money for college. The three finalists were:

Andrew Harrison (Fairfield Club) Skylar Bareford (Mystic Club) Carly Wolfe (Monroe Club)

Andrew Harrison was the Finalist Winner.

Rotary Club of West Haven's 11th Annual Job Shadow Day Submitted by: Mike Lengle

On October 17, 2007, a handful of West Haven High School students got the opportunity to visit and take part in Job Shadow Day. Participating businesses, represented by our club Rotarians, included: the West Haven Community House, Chamber of Commerce, West Haven Police Department, and the Greater West Haven Federal Credit Union. Other professions included; Insurance, Funeral Services, Optometry, Accounting, Real Estate, Auto Repair, Printing, Hotel Management, Physical Therapy and Sales. The students selected for this event got a taste of what it's like to take part in different business activities in the community.



West Haven High School students Lacey Cappello and Suzy Skidmore got the opportunity to work first hand with preschool children from the West Haven Community House. "Working with the kids was a great learning experience and I enjoyed observing how the children interacted with each other," Suzy said.

Following the Job Shadow Day all participating students were invited to have lunch with some members of the Rotary Club at Apps Restaurant. The Guest speaker at the lunch was Kevin Phillips, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at UNH.

District 7980 Rotaract Update

Submitted by: Colin Gershon, DGN



I have two immediate responsibilities in 2007-08: first, as District Rotaract Chair and second, as District Significant Achievement Awards Chair, I truly enjoy both positions. We have a solid Rotaract program in our district with clubs at Yale (New Haven), Quinnipiac (Hamden), and Western Connecticut State University (Danbury Sunrise) and the Waterbury area Rotaract Club (Tribury). I am looking forward to having the Fairfield University Rotaract Club apply for a charter in the next few months. I urge those clubs in other communities in our district which host colleges and universities to attend the special break-out session on Rotaract at the District Assembly in April to learn more about the experiences of our existing clubs.

Club Chatter

Milford Rotary Club Submitted by: Kathy Alagno

Milford Rotary President Robert Macklin presents the 2007 annual *Daniel Wasson Scholarship* to Captain Tracy Mooney for continuing education. Captain Mooney is the highest ranking female officer in the Milford PD. She oversees the records and traffic division. Chief of Police Keith Mello spoke to our Rotarians about the community policing programs.

Left to right: President Robert Macklin, Captain Tracy Mooney and Chief of Police Keith Mello.



Middletown Rotarian Exchange Student Visits the United NationsSubmitted by: Laura Falt



Rotary International President Wilfred Wilkinson, left, and Ariel Camargo, a Middletown Rotary foreign exchange student from Brazil, hold the Brazilian flag during Camargo's visit to the United Nations complex in New York City on November 3. Middletown Rotarian Cheryl Duey and Camargo attended Rotary International Day at the UN. The day began with opening remarks from Rotary International's representatives to the UN and Wilkinson, from Canada. Camargo attended a separate youth program that was held for students of high school age. In addition to a tour of the United Nations Complex, Duey and Camargo enjoyed a little tour of their own which included a visit to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Saks Fifth Avenue, Rockefeller Center, Broadway, Times Square and dinner at Planet Hollywood.

Swing into Dancing with Milford Stars

Submitted by: Linda Bouvier

Calling all dancers! The first ever 'Dancing with Milford Stars', emceed by Brian Smith of WICC radio and hosted by Milford Rotary, will swing into action at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2008, at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. The ballroom dancing competition will follow a buffet dinner and open bar. Tickets for the event are \$60 each, payable to Milford Rotary. Mail checks for Dancing with Milford Stars to Marvin Display, 58-B Research Drive, Milford 06460. Proceeds from this event will support the charitable endeavors of Milford Rotary.

Dancers who wish to participate may contact the event chair, Tracy O'Brien, at (203) 877-8587 or email tracy@marvindisplay.com. For more information, visit www.milfordrotary.org/dancing.cfm

Middletown Rotary Club Welcomed International Librarians on November 27th

On Tuesday November 27th, the Middletown Rotary welcomed as club guests to its weekly luncheon meeting the International Federation of Library Associations, Freedom of Access and Freedom of Expression Committee. There were ten international academic and public librarians represented from Thailand, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Nigeria, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and England. Barbara Jones with Wesleyan University's Olin Library in Middletown coordinated the arrangements for this group and has been a Middletown Rotarian since 2004.

Hamden Rotary Club Dinner and Auction

Please join us for an evening of fun, delicious gourmet delights, drink, inspiring thoughts, soothing music, finding new adventures, taking home new treasures and most importantly friendship all to benefit our Community.

Friday, April 18, 2008
6:00 – 7:00 pm Cocktails & Tuscan Antipasto Table
7:15 pm Dinner & Dessert
Cost: \$35.00
Our Famous Silent and Life Auction

Laurel View Country Club 310 West Shepard Ave. Hamden, CT 06514

For reservations contact:

Lynda Hammond Rotary Club of Hamden

Email: lynda.hammond1@sbcglobal.net

Tel: 203-281-7540



Ed Davies
District 7980
Club Service Director

Good Speakers Make for Good Meetings

Submitted by: Ed Davies

I have never been one of those Rotarians who makes my meeting attendance decision based on what's for lunch or who is our speaker. I go to Rotary meetings because, alas, *I enjoy Rotary meetings*. I do realize, however, that the day's program does influence the number of members and guests at some meetings. I saw this first-hand when we had former Connecticut chief forensic guru Henry Lee as our featured speaker several years ago. We had members and guests materialize out of the woodwork! Folks just seem to love his tales of gore and the accompanying photos! The room was filled to capacity.

Clubs often struggle with the challenge of finding new and interesting speakers. And certainly not every presenter lives up to our hope that they'll be both informative and entertaining. All we can do is our best to provide a creative schedule of diverse and entertaining programs for our members to enjoy.

One often overlooked resource for quality programs is our own membership. We are surrounded by interesting people with unique careers, hobbies, experiences and histories. Some of my favorite programs in this category include a Rotarian who biked New Zealand, another who collected and studied graveyard tracings, and (my personal #1) a member who attended "Clown College" and worked for Ringling Brothers! A good program chair will cull through the club's members in search of these unique stories and storytellers. You are certain to find some hidden gems in your own membership roster.

Rotary itself offers a broad menu of potential speakers who can put a face on some of the many worthwhile programs that we support through our service initiatives. Anyone who has administered polio vaccine, or helped install a clean water project or even volunteered in a soup kitchen or literacy program will have a host of personal stories to tell about how the experience has changed their life. One glance through the District Directory or web site can provide leads to some of the most inspirational speakers you might wish to invite. These folks are often willing to share their experiences and their enthusiasm with your members.

A meeting without a speaker is like a stew without spices; it may have been good, but it could have been so much better! Quality programs help us to attract and retain not only members, but their renewed commitment to Service Above Self. Why not take an opportunity to assess your club's program history and spend some time and energy on improving this critical area of your club service agenda?

I would like to hear about fellowship or other club service activities that your club has found to be successful. Contact me at Eddav72@aol.com and tell me your story. I might even share your ideas in future editions of *The Beacon*.

Rotary International - New IRS filing rules for US clubs (or Daft Punk).....

Beginning in 2008, USA and Puerto Rican Rotary clubs and districts with gross receipts of \$25,000 or less will be required to file Form 990-N, an electronic e-Postcard report. This report is required annually starting 15 November 2008. Failure to meet the annual filing requirement for three consecutive years will result in revocation of the tax-exempt status of the club or district in question.

We would like to stress that this form is not required for submission until 2008. Clubs are being alerted so that adequate receipts may be kept throughout the course of the year. As of the date of this message, Form 990-N had not yet been posted on the US Treasury Web site. To learn more about this requirement, and to obtain the necessary e-Postcard report form once it's posted, go to www.irs.gov/eo or call the toll-free number: (877) 829-5500. Additional information regarding Rotary and US tax status is available at www.rotary.org/Rldocuments/en_pdf/info_paper_clubs_irs.pdf.



Significant Achievement Awards

Submitted by: DGN Colin Gershon, Significant Achievement Awards Chairperson

As District Significant Achievement Awards Chairperson, I urge clubs to pay heed to the deadline of April 2nd for submission, which will soon be upon us. I encourage each club to apply for the Presidential and District Governor Citations. One of the key elements of each citation is to increase your club membership by a *net* one (1) and to have the President of your Club sponsor a new Rotarian Beyond that, please consider submitting nominations for the Donald A. Adams Award for Outstanding Rotarian, the Pettengill Award for Outstanding Club, the Abe Gordon Award, and for the Significant Achievement Awards in the four Avenues of Service and the Rotary Foundation. You can find the instructions and information about each of these awards on the District website. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at cmg@gershonmail.net.

Rotary District 7980 District Conference

May 16-18, 2008

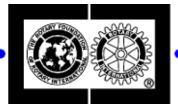
The Thayer Hotel

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.

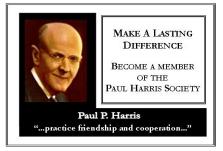


- Scenic Hudson River
- Private Tours
- Golf Tournament
- Cahal Dunne
- Dinner at the Officers Club



John (Mac) Leask, PDG District Foundation Chairperson

Paul Harris Society
Phoebe Leask, Chairperson



PAUL HARRIS!It's February!.....It's his Birthday! Celebrate by becoming a member of the Paul Harris Society in February!

When Paul Harris founded the world's first service club, Rotary International, his intention was to create a professional club with the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. In his words, "to practice friendship and cooperation...". That is the emphasis he put on the relationships of Rotarians in their clubs and in their communities. We celebrate his efforts and achievements daily through our Rotary Foundation programs that promote peace and understanding throughout the world. We celebrate his dream for a better world

Rotarians donate to the Rotary Foundation in different ways. The Paul Harris Society provides yet another opportunity to help those in need! It is a way for Rotarians to say THANK YOU to the Rotary Foundation for what we have received through these programs and it allows us to continue working to Save and Change Lives around the world. Paul Harris Society members truly believe in the lasting difference that the Foundation programs make by committing to giving \$1,000 every year (\$84/month) to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Giving Fund.

We hope you will choose to participate by becoming a Paul Harris Society member. The District 7980 website now has a link to information about the Paul Harris Society. You'll be able to see a power point presentation; a brochure; an application form and other additional items of interest. Please call Phoebe Leask, Paul Harris Society District 7980 Chair, for any questions you might have. (Phoebe@Leask.com or 203/258-9160.

To all Paul Harris Society members...watch for upcoming information about an exciting event that is being planned just for you. We want to thank all those who have made this commitment. "Rotary Shares" because of you, and it is this sharing from the heart that allows Rotarians and the Foundation programs to "Make Dreams Real!"

Volunteer Service Grants – Can Help Your Club

Submitted by: Jeffrey Kass, District 7980 Grants Subcommittee Chairperson

There may be people in your community who volunteer their time to travel to underdeveloped countries and carry out humanitarian projects that save and change lives. They may already be a Rotarian or they may not be. If they are not a Rotarian why not go to them, tell them about the Volunteer Service Grant and how it can help them do what they are already doing. All they have to do is become a Rotarian. Then Rotary will help them accomplish their humanitarian goals. In addition, their project may be eligible for a Matching Grant or District Managed Grant. By publicizing these grants in your community, you may find people who are already engaged in humanitarian service who will have an interest in becoming Rotarians. Your Club members will become excited about the Club's involvement with the project.

How the Volunteer Service Grant work? The Rotary Foundation offers Volunteer Service Grants (VSGs) to subsidize travel for international humanitarian service in Rotary countries for periods of 5 to 60 days. VSGs support qualified Rotarians and/or their spouses traveling to provide a defined community needed service or plan a qualified project in a community, the skills and experience required are not available in the community and applicant or applying team has the experience and skills to accomplish the project.

The award is a flat grant of \$3,000 for an individual or \$6,000 for a team of up to five members. A single project may not benefit from more than one grant award at any given time. An individual volunteer may receive no more than two VSGs per Rotary year.

How can I apply? VSGs are awarded to clubs or districts that are partnering together to work on a project. Each project must have a host partner (club in the project country) and an international partner (club outside of the project country).

Applications are accepted throughout the Rotary year. They should be received by the Foundation at least three months before the anticipated departure, and approved at least eight weeks before the scheduled departure. For more information, the VSG's *Terms and Conditions* and application forms visit www.rotary.org.

If you have questions, need helping completing the application, or any other Rotary grant program, contact Jeff Kass at (203) 740-2161 or jeffkass2@charter.net.



GSE Team Gears Up for Vocational Visit to Mexico Submitted by: Linda Bouvier

Milford Rotarian Linda Bouvier will lead the Group Study Exchange team headed to the Central Pacific Coast of Mexico in District 4150 for four weeks beginning at the end of April 2008. In case of emergency, the alternate team leader chosen by the selection committee is Bill O'Shaughnessy, a past president of Old Saybrook Rotary and owner of an environmental laboratory company.

The Rotary Clubs of Naugatuck, New London, Essex and Milford are sponsoring the four non-Rotarian team members.

"The selection process went well, and we believe we have a strong and capable team going to Mexico," said Kanayo "Rupi" Rupwani, of the Naugatuck club and chairman of the GSE Outbound Team.

Team members are Maria Gabriela Galarzade Block, a self-employed artist and executive director of Parkville Business Association; Anne Stockton, a case manager with Alliance for Living; Amy Linkovich, a clinician with Catholic Charities; and Anna Boxleitner-Lunn, a program director with the Kennedy Center.

DG Ernie Luise has volunteered with Project Amigo, a Rotary educational program in Colima, Mexico, and believes that area of the country will be a perfect fit for the vocational exchange.

"We have worked closely with Ted Rose and Susan Hill, founders of Project Amigo and outstanding Rotarians in District 4150, so we know our group will be well taken care of," DG Ernie said. "Each year, District 7980 sends out at least one team, and we rely on our clubs to find and interview young professionals in their cities ~ who are non-Rotarians and not related to Rotarians ~ who qualify as candidates for active participation in this rigorous program."

In 2005, Linda Bouvier participated with DG Ernie and others on a weeklong goodwill mission to Project Amigo. A retired local newspaper editor, Linda is a repeat Paul Harris Fellow, a past president of Milford Rotary, and a club member since 1993. She and her husband have hosted dozens of GSE inbound team members.

GSE team members must be between the ages of 25-40 with at least two years of work experience. The Rotary Foundation pays for the round trip transportation, and the host District absorbs costs for accommodations, meals, and internal transportation. During the exchange, teams will visit local businesses, government offices and community organizations in the host district while they stay with Rotarian host families. The team is expected to make presentations about their home country and professions, and upon their return, they are encouraged to speak about the experience to Rotary clubs and other groups.

Photo: The GSE to Mexico is Team Leader Linda Bouvier, Milford Rotary; and team members Amy Linkovich, sponsored by Essex; Anne Stockton, sponsored by New London; Maria Gabriela GalarzadeBlock, sponsored by Naugatuck; and Anna Boxleitner-Lunn, sponsored by Milford. Alternate team leader is Bill O'Shaughnessy of Old Saybrook Rotary.

PolioPlus Partners Challenge

Henry Scopp, PDG, Chairperson

National Immunization Day, January 6, 2008, Mumbai, India

Mukund Nori

President, North Branford Rotary Club



As I prepared to visit family in India, I contacted several Rotary clubs not only meet with them, but also to see if they had any opportunities for me to volunteer with ongoing projects. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, I could not join in the RI organized trip for polio immunizations that was scheduled from December 6 – 17 last year. Upon my arrival in India, none of our fellow Rotarians seemed to be aware of a date for the next National

Immunization Day (NID). Photo: Rtn. Mukund Nori, Pres. Bindu Sheth and Rtn. Dr. Joshi at the clinic.

I went off to Kolar to observe the progress on Ernie's Filters. Needless to say, I was very surprised upon my return on January 3, 2008 to Mumbai, to see huge banners on the streets announcing a NID on January 6, 2008 with a follow-up on February 10, 2008. Immediately, I contacted the nearest Rotary Club – Rotary Club of Mumbai Queen's Necklace – to ask how I could volunteer. They had received notification of this plan just that morning.

On that Sunday, I went with fellow Rotarians to Nana Chowk, Mumbai, the location assigned to this club. We set up along with health care providers from the Greater Mumbai Municipal Health Department. For most of the morning and early into the afternoon we immunized children from all walks of life ranging from affluent families who drove up in cars to street urchins bringing their siblings. That day, we immunized over 200 children. Just imagine! All it takes is 2 drops to save a child from a lifetime of hardships. Can any of us think of something else that



is so simple and yet so effective? In my humble opinion, Polio eradication is the most costeffective health prevention program in our lifetime. It was a wonderfully fulfilling day for me and makes me be proud to be a Rotarian. Photo: Mukund immunizing a child.

NID - India Stats

709.000 vaccination booths

2.5 million vaccinators

1.17 million vaccination teams

155,000 supervisors with 155,000 vehicles (cars, motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles, boats, elephants, camels or whatever it takes)

225 million doses of polio vaccine carried around the country in 2 million vaccine carrier bags

6.3 million ice packs to keep all the doses of polio vaccine cold

209 million homes visited

Amazing! 172 million children immunized in one NID in India



History of The Rotary Foundation

In 1917, Arch C. Klumph, Rotary's sixth president, proposed to the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, the creation of an "endowment fund for Rotary . . . for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community service." A few months later, the endowment received its first contribution of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US\$5,000, the fund was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to "hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property. . . as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI."

Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of US\$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The ISCC — created by Rotarian Edgar F. "Daddy" Allen — later grew into the Easter Seals organization. For more information visit www.rotarv.org.



Bob Runde

District 7980 Community Service Director

Keeping Our Kids Warm

Submitted by: Rotarian Mike Bergantino, North Branford Rotary Club

In 1999, Rotarian Mayor Joanne Wentworth suggested that there were needy families in North Branford with children that could use warm winter clothes. The Rotary Club of North Branford adopted this project and it has become an annual Community Service project ever since, chaired by Peggie and Mike Bergantino.

How does it work? Joanne, now an Honorary member, contacts the nurses at all of the North Branford schools generally in October so that we could receive the lists of anonymous families prior to Thanksgiving of each year. Rotary members and friends of Rotary visit a WalMart store as early as possible. before the holiday, to get the best assortment of clothes and shoes. This year we received the lists early and we were able to purchase the all of the items on Nov. 13, 2007. Initially our club would spent about \$1200 to \$1500 for 20 to 30 children. At present, our budget has increased to \$3500. This year we shopped for 67 kids in need.



Each year we are gratified by the cooperation of many people to provide warm clothes to our North Branford families. Many thanks to the following folks who helped to keep our kids warm: Rotarian Diane Popolizio, Rotarian Dawn Pearson, Rotarian Mike Bergantino and his wife Peggie, and their daughter-in-law Carolyn Bergantino. Tracey Merola and her mother had volunteered to assist but Jury Duty prevented them from joining us.



The "Magic" of the Naugatuck Rotary's Annual Tradition Submitted by: Rotarian Jane Lobdell, RC Naugatuck

December is a time when at the North Pole, elves are rushing and checking lists and replacing glue guns, shiny wrapping, bows and double sided scotch tape dispensers. There is an air of excitement and emergence, it is the one place that inclusion is not only important but expected and the working crew is incredibly aware. Anxiety is at an all time high and toys tagged and placed in appropriate piles all over this well stocked shop.

One of the many piles, set aside for distribution, has been routinely stocked by an incredible group of deputized helpers. These helpers have been playing their role perfectly for the past 14 years and have no plans to quit anytime in the near future. They are the total membership of the Rotary Club of Naugatuck. These deputies furnished 106 packages and with the utmost pride, made certain that they would arrive at the proper designated area and await their final destination, which occurred on the afternoon of December 8th. That destination was the wondrous town of Naugatuck; the setting was in a beautiful red brick building on the town green, St. Michael's, home for this day to the most precious 3 and 4 year old believers that Santa has ever witnessed. The guests of honor have always been from Naugatuck's Head Start and School Readiness programs and that was the case again this year.

As the truest of believers entered through the double doors of this holiday spectacular, they were greeted by loving Rotarian helpers, a baby grand piano, a stupendous 9 foot plus Christmas tree, delectable goodies, a disc jockey and 106 wrapped packages of shiny, magical paper and bows! The children circled the baby grand and sang their favorite holiday songs with the help of the deputies and waited for still more magic.... and it happened!

The most busy and recognizable couple in the world arrived at 110 Church Street in Naugatuck, as they do every year. They were dressed in appropriate red matching attire and smiled their age old smile and hugged, patted and obviously loved all of their recognized guests. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (aka Rotarians Jeff Chipokas and Jennifer Merrill) lead the guests to their seats of great prominence. The Clauses sat and the children followed suit by sitting as close to them as

possible, on the polished hardwood floor. Next came the moment all had awaited for a very long time... the reading of the "good" list. Everyone's anticipation rose, hoping against hope that all the children present would be listed! "Whew," they were! As the names were called, each child proudly sat on Santa's lap and received a glorious gift. Another famed group in Naugatuck and deputized as well, are known as the Interact Club. They were responsible for immortalizing this day forever. Pictures of each guest were taken and given to each child's parent for safe keeping. Children kept repeating, "It's really him!" ... and you know what, it really was!



Rotary Club of West Haven donates sliding board to child care agency

Submitted by: Rotarian Mike Lengle

The Rotary Club of West Haven recently donated funds to the West Haven Community House for a sliding board. The slide is used by 40 children enrolled in the Community House's KinderKlub program, which provides child care and enrichment opportunities to West Haven children in half-day kindergarten. With care from 7 am to 6 pm, the program is a big help to working parents.

Photo: President Laurie Kendall-Ellis with kindergarten children

Warm The Children

Submitted by: Peter Manley, President RC of Old Saybrook

Rotary Club of Old Saybrook partnered with the Pictorial Gazette, a local newspaper covering Old Saybrook, Lyme/Old Lyme, Westbrook, Essex, Deep River & Chester, to solicit funds for the "Warm The Children" program. Readers were asked to donate funds to the Old Saybrook Rotary Club Foundation "Warm The Children" project to purchase warm clothing for children identified by the social service organizations in the above towns. Old Saybrook Rotary then organized shoppers to purchase the needed clothing. This winter over \$27,000 was raised and clothing was purchased for 267 children from 195 families. In January The Pictorial Gazette was honored in the 2007 Newspapers of America contest in the category "Community Service Award - Promotional" for their part in the "Warm The Children" program, winning 2nd place for all newspapers nationally, regardless of size.

Rotary Club of West Haven hosts 31st Annual Blind Veterans Luncheon

Submitted by: Rotarian Mike Lengle

"The best kept secret in the VA system," is how one blind veteran described his experience at the West Haven Veteran's Administration Hospital during the Rotary Club of West Haven's 31st Annual Blind Veteran's luncheon. The two dozen veterans in attendance are all participants in the local VA Hospital's "Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center." They hailed from throughout the Mid Atlantic and Northeast, and represented all branches of the service; veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq were in attendance.



During the meeting, club members and the blind veterans dined together, and exchanged greetings and stories. Each veteran had the opportunity to introduce himself to the Rotary club members. During their remarks, it became quite clear that they all feel very fortunate to be receiving care at the VA.

Paul DeAndrea, a representative of the Eastern Blind Center staff, was guest speaker. In his remarks, he indicated that Veteran Administration services for the blind are the best in the field. They began after WWII, when so many young GIs returned from the war with impaired vision or blindness. A current challenge is a large number of soldiers returning from Iraq with visual impairment caused by repeated exposure to explosions. Unfortunately, the condition is hard to identify, because it often masks as nausea, headaches, and lack of concentration instead of a disconnect between the eyes and the brain. DeAndrea illustrated how veterans in the program have access to the newest technologies available.

Established in 1969, the West Haven VA's "Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center" covers a 16-state service area, and is one of 10 centers in the country. At the center, veterans receive training in the areas of orientation and mobility, maximizing low vision, living skills and manual skills (including wood shop and ceramics). In addition, veterans are provided the very best in optometric care, and participate in counseling groups, special educational classes for diabetics,

individual diabetic care instruction, recreational events and educational seminars on blindness-related topics. Participants are often seen on the streets of West Haven practicing their "caning" skills.

The center's Computer Access Training program offers six weeks of training in assistive computer technologies. At the end of the training period, each veteran has a new computer shipped to his/her home; every few years, the veterans are eligible to return for a training update and a new computer.



Waterford Rotary & Clark Lane Middle School Work to Support Our Troops

Submitted by: Rotarian Pasquale Folino, President

The Waterford Rotary is currently working with the Clark Lane Middle School (Waterford, Connecticut) to send 400 packages of school supplies to the Children of Afghanistan. Each package will contain the following: 4 pencils, 3 pens, 1 pencil sharpener, a notebook, candy and a small toy.

Members of the Connecticut National Guard who are stationed overseas will distribute the supplies under the leadership of Lt. Spyros Spanos, who is the husband of a Waterford Rotarian.

Literacy

Submitted by Susan Wheeler and Sandra Brindamour, Literacy Co-Chairs

Thanks to Bridgeport, Byram/Cos Cob & Greenwich, Chester, Derby/Shelton, Devon & Milford, Essex, Hamden, Montville, North Haven, Orange, Seymour/Oxford and Wilton for their timely replies to our "what are you doing about literacy?" question. Mixed in among the Dictionary Project participants are a few projects that are more far-reaching.

Hats Off to Bridgeport!

In addition to distributing 2000 dictionaries to third graders in 40 schools and providing them to the Mercy Learning Center (teaching mothers to read) and the International

Institute, the Bridgeport club also gives more than 1500 students subscriptions to the *Weekly Reader*. Twenty members of the club read in Bridgeport schools, monthly, bimonthly or weekly and a similar number also support the once-a-year city-wide Read-A-Loud program. Bridgeport promotes a Student of the Month program honoring 7th or 8th grade students with a certificate and gift card to Borders. They are also developing a speakers program for the local community college.



Westport Sunrise is submitting a matching grant application to do a small lending library project with Save the Children in three schools in a very rural community of Maissade, Haiti. Funds will be provided to purchase textbooks for elementary school students. STC will manage the lending portion of the operation. The host club of this \$11,000 project is Hinch, Haiti. Westport is seeking several other District 7980 clubs to put \$2,500 to \$3,000 each into another, larger lending library project, also with STC. They hope to provide textbooks for 15 schools (3400 students) in the poor suburbs of Pation-Ville, Haiti. This will be a \$67,000 project with the Pation-Ville Rotary Club as host.

Derby/Shelton Assists Hawkwing Project!

In addition to donating dictionaries to the third graders in both towns, Derby/Shelton trucked 300 dictionaries to the Lakota Reservation in the Dakotas. The club also expects to participate in the CT Loves to Read Project in February by purchasing a book for each classroom in each town and having a Rotarian read the book to the class. Sounds like fun!

PDG Pam Akins sent along an interesting fact: According to UNESCO, 1 billion (26%) of the adult population is illiterate. Women make up 2/3 of the illiterates. 98% of non-literates live in developing countries.

By the level of dedication to promoting Literacy throughout the world, District Governor Ernie Luise encourages Club Presidents and/or Literacy Chairs to report their projects before the end of March. Ernie wants to recognize your accomplishments. With only 15 of 62 District Clubs reporting, a total of nearly 6,500 dictionaries have been distributed to Connecticut's third graders. Imagine what the positive affects your Literary Projects will have on your community and around the world. The time is now for your Club to let District know the differences you have made. Send information to sdwheeler@sbcglobal.net.





Waterford Rotary Literacy Project

Submitted by: Rotarian Pasquale Folino, President

The Waterford Rotary, in response to the Rotary International Reading Association Intitiative to promote literacy around the globe, donated \$ 500 to the Waterford Public Library for materials for the children's collection. The money was used to purchase much needed biographies for grades 4 to 6.

In addition to the donation the Waterford Rotary participated in the Dictonary project and presented every third-grader in Waterford with a dictionary.

Governor M. Jodi Rell Recognizes Hamden Rotary Club's Contribution to Amber Alert Recovery System

Submitted by: John Karavas

Governor M. Jodi Rell proclaimed January 13, 2008 as AMBER Alert Day in the State of Connecticut. Her proclamation recognized The Rotary Clubs of Connecticut as an official partner with the State of Connecticut, the Department of Public Safety and the Connecticut State Police.



Governor Rell noted that the Rotary Clubs of Connecticut, "created a software system for storing key information about children and making this information readily available to the State Police;" and that the system, the first of its kind in the nation "represents the best hope for the recovery of missing children."

Developed by members of the Hamden Club in 2004, the program is being adopted by other Rotary Clubs throughout the state. Parents can, at scheduled events, register their children and be assured that the information is entered into a secure database that can be accessed only by state and local authorized AMBER Alert officials nationwide on a when needed basis. The software, database and registration process is now being used as a model for implementation in Utah, Massachusetts and other states.

Registration and ID cards are offered free by Connecticut Rotary clubs as a public service. For more information on the program, and to schedule a local ID event, go to www.amberchildid.org, or contact you local Rotary Club. Pictured above is President of The Hamden Rotary, Richard Miller (L) receiving a signed copy of the AMBER Alert Proclamation from John Judd (R), Chairman of the Connecticut AMBER Alert Council, a founding member of the Child ID program, and a Hamden Club member.



AMBER Alert ID Plan

Submitted by: Lt. J. Paul Vance, Connecticut State Police Commanding Officer Public Information

In the State of Connecticut, the AMBER Alert Plan unites local and state law enforcement, Radio & TV stations, the DOT, the Connecticut Lottery, AT&T, AOL, and members of the public so they can work together to save an abducted child from harm. The goal of the AMBER Alert is to instantly alert the entire community with a physical description of a child victim or a suspects car to enable the public to be law enforcement's eyes and ears to assist in the search for and safe recovery of the child.

Due to the consistent manner in which it operates, the AMBER Alert program continues to be an effective tool to help in the recovering of an abducted child. In the State of Connecticut, the AMBER Alert has only been activated six times since 2003. The ten children associated with these Amber Alert activations were safely and quickly recovered by Law Enforcement.

The Connecticut Child AMBER Alert Plan is a solid partnership between the Connecticut State Police, the Connecticut Chiefs of Police Association, the Connecticut Broadcasters Association, Connecticut Lottery, the Connecticut Department of Transportation and AT&T, and AOL. This partnership is trained to quickly disseminate information regarding an abducted child and/or a suspect to the public via radio and television announcements, highway message signs, and lottery machines.

The Rotary AMBER ID program is an integral part of the tools that police can use to try to locate abducted children. The work that the Rotary Clubs in Connecticut do to register children many time goes unnoticed. We in Law Enforcement hope we never have to use the information but we know it is there if that day ever comes.

The AMBER Alert Plan is a very successful tool that law enforcement may utilize to assist in combating the horrific and heartbreaking crimes that our children often face after being abducted. The success of the plan sends a strong message that crime against our children is unacceptable and that as a society, we will work together to track down these perpetrators and recover the children that they intend to harm.



Lynda A. Hammond
District 7980
International Service Director

"Ernie's Filters" Update

Submitted by: Cathy Forsberg, Rotary Club of Hamden

Bio-Sand water filters are now being installed in schools in the Kolar district of South India thanks to the generosity of Rotarians in our district. Through January 31st sixty seven percent of the funding needed to complete the project has been raised and remitted; thank you!!

Mukund Nori, current president of the North Branford Rotary Club had an opportunity to visit the Kolar water filter workshop while in India recently. He visited several schools and villages where water filters have been installed. He spoke to some of the children and inspired them to work hard at their studies. At a school in the village of Chilapanahalli Mukund spoke to teachers and students who



told him that before they received water filters for their homes and schools children were missing approximately one or two days of school per week and parents were missing similar days of work because of poor health. Since they started using the water filters their attendance has greatly improved.

These photographs show some of the children who have received water filters at their school under the "Ernie's Filters" program. They will enjoy the health benefits of having clean drinking water while at school thanks to your support.



DGE Rick Benson Participates in a Volunteer Workweek at the Haitian Health Foundation

Submitted by: DGE Rick Benson

In September 2007, DGE Rick traveled to Jeremie, Haiti, where he joined other volunteers for a Haitian Health Foundation workweek with Dr. Jerry Lowney. The team distributed school supplies and shoes to the poor Haitian kids, visited the new Center

for Hope facility where they completed repairs to the playground built by a previous volunteer team. They visited

the Akamil production facility sponsored by several clubs in our district. That facility will provide high protein food from locally grown produce ensuring a stable source of food as well as providing much needed jobs. The team then traveled to several outlying rural villages to recognize donors of "Dick's Kids," a program started by DPG Dick Benson to distribute pregnant female goats.

If that wasn't enough... Rick found the time to meet with representatives from Save the Children-Haiti, regarding the organization of two lending libraries to promote literacy in this region as pilot projects through a new partnership between Rotary International and Save the Children, US located in Westport, CT. He flew on a four-seat missionary plane to the plateau, where he met with the DG and the partner club's president, spent 2 nights in the village then drove 6 hours back to Port au Prince.



Clean Water Summit in Pation-Ville, Haiti

Submitted by: DGE Rick Benson



In mid-December DGE Rick represented District 7980 at the Clean Water Summit in Pation-Ville, Haiti where representatives of many US districts met with NGO partners in Haiti to discuss various clean water technologies available on the island, clean water project opportunities, and how to turn a "pilot projects" into a sustainable long term "programs" for the poor of Haiti. A newly designed plastic bio-sand filter was showcased and a new partnership between several US Rotary districts, several local NGOs, and Clean Water for the World was announced to install these filters in several hundred public schools in the next year.

Photo DGE Rick Benson, RIP Wilf Wilkinson, and DGE George Soloman from Long Island, NY at the Haiti Clean Water Summit.

Project Amigo Provides Emergency Food to 120 Families

Submitted by: Lynda Hammond and Rotarian Ted Rose, President Rotary Club of Colima

On December 12th in the mist of our Christmas Workweek, the Project Amigo staff was informed that the sugar cane cutters had no money or food. The cane cutters are migrant farm workers hired by contractors to cut the sugar cane for processing. They come with their families to live in the farming camps mostly from the states of Colima, Guerrero and Michoacan. These families come in hopes of making enough money to meet their very basic needs of food, shelter and clothing with little if any reserves. The contractors have been on strike for a couple of weeks leaving the cane cutters with no work, wages or benefits.



Rotarian Ted Rose and the Project Amigo staff estimated they would need 1,200 kilos (2640 lbs) of beans, rice, lentils, and sugar to sustain 120 needy families for two weeks at a cost of \$720 USD. So they passed the hat among the 24 gringos (mostly Rotarians) workweek volunteers. In minutes over \$900 was collected and food was ordered.

The next morning the food was delivered to the hacienda in big gunny sacks. Volunteers, becarios (scholarship students) and neighbors packed began to pack the food into one and two kilo bags and loaded the truck for distribution. Six volunteers with the Project Amigo staff delivered the much needed food to 120 families in three migrant farming camps.

Comments from two of the volunteers:



"For me it was mostly just disturbing. I've walked around poverty in the third world for years but "around" is the key word there. It's easier to accept it when you don't get close and personal. When you start attaching names to the faces your brain starts to collect and organize data pertaining to that person and suddenly human emotion starts to kick in." Tom

"The third camp was different again. This was a walled camp and the houses were concrete with dirt floors. Women were washing fish and someone had started a small garden with herbs growing. The people were friendly and willing to wave and talk a little. I saw many small children sitting on the dirt floors eating plates of beans and rice. I saw children playing with empty plastic

bottles. Many of the children and women have very bad teeth. They are discolored brown and when I asked Jorge (Project Amigo Social Worker) if the women chewed anything to make their teeth so discolored, he replied he thought it was more lack of fresh water, a good balanced diet and no access to teeth cleaning materials. When we were passing out food one child was sitting on the ground crying all the time. I asked the mother what the problem was and she said he had a toothache. I asked if she had taken him to the clinic and she replied no because she has no money to pay. Many of the children here were also barefoot and dirty. Some of the teenagers seemed sullen but had wide smiles when engaged. Some children were eating cucumbers. All of the children seemed to benefit from the interactions with the volunteers. They loved the hugs and the smiles. It was an honor to be able to participate in this unscheduled part of the work week. I give out food at home in San Francisco but never to people who have absolutely no other way of obtaining food." Jacky

Most of the cane cutters and their families speak ancient Nahuatl dialects with only a few able to speak Spanish. This becomes very important as the children can not be enrolled in Mexican schools unless they can speak Spanish. Our small

two-room school house built by Rotarians and supported by Project Amigo in the middle of the Queseria Migrant Farming camp is so important in our efforts to break the cycle of poverty for these kids by giving them a better future. If you would like to help, consider sponsoring one of these kids for only \$95.00 a year!



Rotarians Provide Eye Care to 1175 Needy People...

Submitted by: Lynda Hammond, RC Hamden

On January 4th I arrived in Guadalajara, Mexico where I met up with my old friends Susan and Ted of Project Amigo. Susan and I elected to take the bus to Colima, while Ted waited for a few more team members to arrive.

Leaving the city of Guadalajara behind we drove through the valleys, the foothills and finally into the majestic Sierra Madre mountain range where the views are simply breathtaking, particularly as the 'volcano of fire' begins to come into view in

the distance. This is our volcano, as Cofradia is located on its slope. The small

pueblos along our route remind us of the extreme poverty that exists in this region and the reason we have all come together, for our annual pilgrimage.

The next morning, immediately after breakfast, we checked our supplies and instrumentation then we loaded it all on to our famous Amigo Bus and Beto's big truck. Our team this year was comprised of mostly Rotarians, their family members and friends from the States, Canada and local Rotarians, Project Amigo staff and scholarship students, a Rotary Youth Exchange student from Belgium, an Ambassadorial Alumni scholar and several local volunteers who came to help.



The patients are given appointments by the Mexican welfare agency (DIF) based upon their need and economic status. Upon arrival, each patient is interviewed by a bi-lingual volunteer to determine their primary vision complaint and any medical history which may affect their vision. When indicated, the patients were screened for hypertension by obtaining their blood pressure and a casual blood glucose level to determine the presents or status of diabetes mellitus. The patients then proceed to the various eye examination stations to determined their dominant eye, near and far acuities, and auto refraction. Eye examination by doctors as well as dispensing of prescriptive and magnifiers eyeglasses was done as needed.

This year we traveled to the city of Colima, Coquimatlan, Cerra de Ortega and then drove 4 hours high into the mountains to Coalman, Michoacan. In five days our team provided eye care and medical screening to 1175 people in the states of Colima, Jalisco and Michoacan.

Rotary's goal of world peace through understanding was very well served by this distinguished international team and all of the Mexican people we were given the opportunity to serve.

Upcoming District Events

February - World Understanding Month			April – Magazine Month	
16	District Team Training- All incoming District leadership & AGs. The Depot, Madison	2	Deadline for Significant District Awards Submissions	
23	Rotary's 103 rd Anniversary	May		
	March – Literacy Month	1	Deadline for World Peace Scholar Application	
13-15	Northwest Multi-District PETS: Mandatory for 2008/09 Presidents	16-18	District Conference: The Thayer Hotel, West Point, NY	
June – Rotary Fellowship Month				
15-18	Rotary International Convention – Los Angles			
30	Deadline: Ambassadorial Scholar Application submission			

Dear Contributors,

To all of you who contributed to this issue.... GREAT JOB.... Thank you ... thank you... thank you! A special thanks to Rotarian Sue Wheeler for her proof reading skills.

The deadline for submission of material for the summer issue will be May 1st. This issue will be focused on "Rotary Shares"so share with your fellow Rotarians your club's accomplishments, projects, awards and special Rotarians!

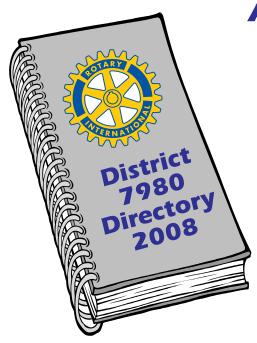
Lynda Hammond, Editor Rotary Club of Hamden











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