



**Mike Johns, Jr**  
Editor

## DISTRICT 6630 NEWS

**Stew Buchanan**  
District Governor

### October 2010

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### Governor's Letter

Bigger, Better, and Bolder!!

Are you getting new members? Are you getting members involved in club activities for retention? Are your programs and projects Bigger and Bolder? That is the key to success this year.

Clubs I have visited so far are definitely on the right track. All are doing things to increase membership. It is nice to see how clubs have gone about increasing the size of the club. More members will help make projects Bigger and Better. The projects and fund raisers are Better and Bolder. Cherie and I, since the last newsletter, have been to reverse raffles, food tastings, flower sales, clam bakes, and more. All have been great fun and have helped make Rotary visible in the communities.

Many of the clubs are involved in a dictionary project for third graders. Clubs have said it was fun to give out the dictionaries and again make Rotary visible in our community. One club just got a new member who still has the dictionary he received in the third grade. Another club had an article in the local paper with students finding the longest word in the dictionary. If your club is not doing a dictionary project, you should. It is a slam dunk!

What is the focus for Rotary in October? It is vocational month. October may be almost over, but we can always focus on classification to ensure that our club's membership is representative of

the entire community we serve. Rotary does not want too many of one profession in a club. The concept of classification is meant to be inclusive.

As part of my club presentation, I have mentioned Haiti as a possible country where a club can do an international project with a Rotary club in Haiti. At the Zone meeting in Rochester, NY, a little over a week ago, Herve Dennis, President of the Rotary Club of Port au Prince, gave a presentation with pictures on Haiti since the earthquake. He was the contact when I went to Haiti last November. He would be an excellent contact to make a project work, whether it be water, food, education, farms, or some combination. His pictures brought tears to many of us as well as himself. He is a "Rotarian".

Another deadline that is fast approaching is the application for the inbound and outbound youth exchange program. We need to contact the guidance counselors at the high schools in your area to tell them about our great programs. We need students to apply for the outbound program. And we need to find host families for inbound students. The November 19th deadline is fast approaching and Jack Young and Patrick Kelly need to have these commitments as soon as possible.

For you Ohio State and Michigan fans, get out your blackberry and I phone and support your school by donating to Polio Plus. Text "polio" and either "OSU" or

"UM" to 90999. This is a \$5 contribution to Polio Plus and a vote for your school. There is no limit to the number of texts you can send. Help eradicate Polio and vote for your favorite school.

In addition to all of the October activities, the Zone 28/29 Institute was held for 4 days in Rochester, New York this month. This was a great learning experience about all of the latest happenings in Rotary for current and past District officers. Required training for Jim Lechko, Steve Zabor, and myself.

Unfortunately, the all day sessions do not give us a chance to sight see in the area, but we hope to be able to tell all Rotarians the most recent info on Polio Plus, Fifth avenue of service, New Generations, the Rotary Foundation, and much more.

In late September, some of the Districts in Zone 29 had a seminar in Elyria for information on the Rotary foundation, Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY), Polio Plus, membership and many other topics. Some of the best Rotarians in Zone 29 made presentations including our own District Foundation Chair, Roger Cram. Also, an Ambassadorial scholar from our district, Karen Varga, gave a very enlightening presentation about her year as a student in Venezuela.

Be a Rotarian--Be Visible!!

Make Rotary BIGGER, BETTER, AND BOLDER!

#### Points of Interest:

- October is Vocational month
- Youth exchange deadline 11/19
- New Generations becomes 5th anniversary of service
- 2 Simplified Grants approved
- Andy VonStein, an inspiration to all
- Singing Angels make music, make friends, make a difference
- HELP grow Rotary
- Berea Rotarians are staying busy
- Local Rotarian Joy Black reaches 2011 RI convention to be in May
- Roop's hobby turns into a business
- StowMunroe Falls provides 500 dictionaries
- Taste of Hudson raised over \$135k to support the community

## Local District Simplified Grants Approved

By Jim Lechko

At the October meeting of the District 6630 Grant Committee, two grants were approved to assist clubs with their local projects:

Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise \$1,200 grant approved to assist with the purchase of freezers used in the collection of bread throughout the year and specifically around the holidays for distribution to needy families in the Lakewood and Rocky River areas along with St. Herman's men's shelter in the Ohio City neighborhood on the west side of

Cleveland. Rotarians participate with the pick up, storage and distribution.

Medina Sunrise \$1,000 grant approved to assist the Medina Sunrise club with their involvement in the Build A Bear project with the Medina Juvenile Court. Approximately 20 juveniles will learn community service through the Build A Bear program while the Rotarians provide positive mentoring to the youths. A targeted group of youngsters in the community will then enjoy the bear hand delivered to them by the individual who built it.

## Text Your Pledge to the \$200m Challenge

A text donation contest will run from 12-27 November 2010 to coincide with the two weeks before this season's big game in Columbus on November 27th. The Foundation will track all text donations by date and team name. To give a one time \$5 donation in that two-week period, Rotarians along with their family, friends, and colleagues would text the word "polio" and either "OSU" or "UM" to 90999. There is no limit to the number of contributions an individual can make during those two weeks.

We encourage you to distribute this promotional flyer and post information concerning this event on your club and district websites and in your newsletters. Not only may your team win, but Rotary will win by being that much closer to reach our goal of US \$200 Million and eradicating polio forever! Should you have any questions concerning the challenge, please contact Amanda Epting, Coor-

dinator for Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge at Rotary's200MillionChallenge@rotary.org.

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## Andy VonStein Remembered

By Bryan Thomas

On Monday September 20th the Ravenna Rotary Club lost one of our leaders. Many of you have heard the story of Andy VonStein's tragic murder. By now most of our region has heard what a stalwartly person Andy was in the Portage County Community, and how Andy was in the top 1% of Realtors out of 30,000 in the entire state of Ohio, and about Andy being such a wonderful and loving husband and father. All of these things are true and I would submit that the stories you have heard do not even scratch the surface of the greatness of Andrew VonStein. Today, I am writing this to tell you about Andy the Rotarian.

Service above self:

Andy was a Rotarian for over 20 years. As a member of the Ravenna club there was not a service project, fundraiser, or office post that Andy did not volunteer to be a part of. Once a week at our lunch Andy was usually one of the first people to arrive and many times he would be one of the last to leave. Andy served two separate times as our club president with the most recent term ending this past June 30th. The most recent term was not a post that Andy actively sought, however when his club needed him Andy took control and served the club with great pride and distinction.

Community:

Andy loved being a part of Rotary because of the people he could help. Andy knew that the possibilities where endless with the projects Rotary is involved in around the world but most importantly Andy saw all of the good that the Rotary did in his beloved Portage County. This past summer as I prepared to take the reigns as club president, I had the pleasure of getting to know Andy as I observed his every move. I learned all I could about Rotary from Rotary International to how to run a weekly meeting. Along the

way I learned some things about Andy. I learned that Andy was an entertainer when it came time to raise funds at our Annual Reverse Raffle Dinner. When I saw him light up as he presented Rotary Scholarships to local high school students I learned why he worked so hard. I learned that Andy was a Rotary leader.

Leadership:

This year I am the leader of the Ravenna Rotary Club. I am the leader because I was nominated to take the post of president and I accepted. Andy was simply a leader. When new presidents such as myself needed help, Andy was one of our leaders who offered guidance. When things needed to happen Andy did not need the president's title to make sure they happened. When our club needed to look towards the future Andy was one of the key people who wanted to know my interest in being on the board. It is no coincidence that I am one of the younger members of the club. Andy, like all great leaders was thinking ahead.

Take Andy with you:

We are very fortunate in the Ravenna club to have several long time Rotary leaders who knew and worked with Andy for many years. When I spoke to the club after this tragedy I said that Andy was the type of person who meant something different to everybody (friend, father, husband, colleague, etc.) but there was no doubt he meant something to everybody who knew him. I then asked everyone to make sure that Andy was always there with us every Monday, as we would always remember what he meant to each one of us. Now, you all know Andy as a Rotarian. So please greet each day with the same love of life as Andy did, Love your family and friends with the same vigor that Andy did, and never forget to live your life as a Rotarian just like Andy did.



# Singing Angels and Russia Have Rotary Connection District Membership Chair Chimes In

By Charles Eversole

On July 7, 2010, The Singing Angels returned from a 16-day tour of England, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, and Estonia. As is always the case, the Angels were able to delight audiences wherever they performed with their talent, poise, discipline, and seemingly boundless energy. However, this year's summer tour had a particular Rotary connection.

As Artistic Director of The Singing Angels, I spent quite a bit of time earlier this year lining up concerts for our 2010 tour. Imagine my surprise when former Lakewood/Rocky River Rotarian Vitaliy Bezrodnov called me at my office last spring. Vitaliy is the President of the Moscow Nights Agency, based in Raleigh, NC, which represents a number of Russian folk ensembles. During our conversation, I mentioned to Vitaliy that one of our stops on our summer tour was going to be St. Petersburg, Russia, and the ball started rolling.

Through his connections with the Rotary Clubs in St. Petersburg, we were able to put together a cultural exchange concert featuring ten Russian ensembles with The Singing Angels as the guests of honor. And in addition, the Rotary Clubs of St. Petersburg covered the expenses of our visit, including all entry fees, sightseeing for two days, and the

costs of securing the St. Petersburg Music Hall for our venue.

It was an exciting show, and it culminated in the presentation of three iPads to the orphanages of St. Petersburg, presented by our Rotary Club, the Fuquay-Varina, NC Rotary Club (where Vitaliy is currently a member), and the four Rotary Clubs of St. Petersburg. The opportunity to "Make Music, Make Friends, Make a Difference" (as the motto of the Singing Angels goes) was only surpassed by the cultural and philanthropic exchange facilitated by these member clubs of Rotary International.

This international cultural exchange (which in itself is reminiscent of Rotary Student Exchange) is only half finished, however. On Monday evening, January 10, 2011, Bezrodnov will be bringing the Golden Gates ensemble to perform with The Singing Angels at the Magnificat Performing Arts Center in Rocky River. This concert is sponsored by Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary, and will once again benefit the Rotary Children's Fund.



By Jack Miaskowski

Dear Fellow Rotarians, with three months already gone in this Rotary year how is your Membership Drive going? Our Club just brought in 3 new members last Friday. That leaves 247 new members to reach our Goal of 250 for the District.

We are in the Planning Stages of having several Cluster meetings to see how we can help each other bring in New Members. One of

the major questions for those meetings is: What is the main reason your Club doesn't attract new members? The only people who can really answer that question are the Club Members. Is it the time, day, place, attitude, leadership or lack of leadership that turns people off instead of turning them on?

All good campaigns have a slogan to create interest, so here is mine for District 6630. We all need HELP!

- H - Hunt for new members
- E - Enthusiasm- You need to get excited
- L - Loyalty- You owe it to your Club
- P - Pride - Be Proud of Your Club

Hunt - for new members, they are all over the place, in your town, your neighbors, your friends, people at work, your family, well maybe not.

Enthusiasm - get excited about Rotary, we do good things. If you aren't excited how can you expect anyone else to be.

Loyalty - You owe it to your

Club, strive to make it better and bigger all of the time. Talk about it all of the time.

Pride - be proud of your Club and the good things it does. Talk about your Club to everyone you meet. People are looking for ways to feel better about themselves. They want to help others so be that avenue of Service they are looking for.

If you haven't tried to recruit a new member in the last 6 months do yourself and your Club a big favor. Find someone within two weeks and invite him or her to your next Meeting. This is where Pride comes into play! Share the good things your Club does in the Community and around the World.

Small or large we are all Proud of our Clubs, just show it a little more! Don't be afraid to show Enthusiasm for your Club, you earned it. Enthusiasm is a contagious thing so spread it around, you get excited, the next person gets excited and off we go! Talk to your friends about the projects Rotary does all over the World. I know when I tell people Bill Gates has donated \$355 million to help eradicate Polio in the World that gets their attention. How about 500,000 polio inoculations in one day? I have yet to meet anyone, who wasn't impressed with that number, they almost make you repeat what you just told them.

HELP IS ONLY A CALL AWAY! Remember we have the NEW Rotary Video on membership that is available. If you want to show it or have me show it call me at 440-572-4744. It only runs about 8 minutes so you can still have your regular meeting. Watch for the Cluster Meeting notices.

# News From TRC Berea

By Linda Kramer

Richard Durst, president of Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, was the guest speaker at Berea Rotary's meeting on Sept. 28. Durst presented a multi-media explanation of the short- and long-range plans for the campus. One project, which got under way earlier this year, was converting the United Church of Christ building into an annex for the Conservatory of Music. The college had purchased the church last year. The college also is a leader in sustainability studies and has applied to the State Board of Regents to offer a master's degree in sustainability. It already offers a bachelor's degree - the first college in Ohio to do so. Berea Rotary holds its weekly meetings in the Colony Room of B-W's Strosacker College Union.

Shred Fest: Berea Rotary sponsored its second Shred Fest of the year on Oct. 2. Despite the damp and windy weather, more than 200 people visited the Shred Fest van. New this time was the collection of outdated and unused prescription drugs, which were then disposed of by Southwest General Health Center. More than 75 pounds of prescription medicines were collected plus 6 1/2 tons of paper to be shredded. The Shred Fest was co-sponsored by



the City of Berea, Southwest General Health Center and Cintas Corp. The next Shred Fest is slated for May 7, 2011.

Dictionaries for students: Rotarians distributed 600 student dictionaries to third-graders in Berea and Olmsted Falls public and parochial schools. During their visits, Rotarians explained Rotary projects and conducted word exercises with the students. More than half the cost of the dictionaries was covered by sponsorships from individual Rotarians and friends of Rotary. A sponsorship of a classroom of books was offered as a "Buy it Now" item at the club's silent auction last spring.

Clambake: Berea Rotarians enjoyed their annual clam bake at the home of members Bob Huges and Judy Stull. The evening was catered by Muntean's and included clam chowder, salad, rolls, a dozen clams, chicken, sweet potato and corn on the cob. For those who still had room left, there was cake for dessert.

Massage therapy: To get us toned up for the winter months, Karen Havran of Competitive Edge Massage explained the various types of massage plus Reiki and Reflexology at the Sept. 21 meeting. Karen also works out of LifeWorks, the fitness center of Southwest General Health Center.



## Savor The Flavor

By Jay Dzurilla

"What was '10-10-10' ( and, no, the correct answer is not '30' ) ??"

On the afternoon of 10 October, 2010 ( 10-10-10 ), the Rotary Club of Strongsville held its first-ever "Savor the Flavor, a Taste in Strongsville.

In addition to friends, family, neighbors, and business acquaintances, Rotarians came from Aurora, Burton-Middlefield, Lakewood, Berea, Brunswick, North Royalton / Broadview Heights and even our own District Governor Stew Buchanan ( and wife Cheryl stopped on their way home from the Zone Meeting in Rochester, NY ) attended for a "Taste" from various restaurants located downtown Cleveland to Medina to North Olmsted to ....

Bart James, the Committee Chair said: "The Organizing Committee and the club

worked very hard and the fantastic results proved it. We sold out the event more than a week early with ticket sales of 500 and we had had 29 first-class restaurants offering fantastic specialties as well as desserts, ice cream, coffee, wine beer and sangria tastings - a complete afternoon and evening out to relax and enjoy !!

"500 attendees, 29 restaurants all benefiting the Strongsville Food Bank and Harvest for Hunger, not a better way to give back."

Many have already inquired about next year's event and many more are asking to commit to next year's event.

Looking at the pictures, "you" shall know why !!!!!

She demonstrated the various types of massage and took questions from Rotarians.

Savor the Flavor: Berea Rotarians attended Savor the Flavor sponsored by the Strongsville Rotary on Oct. 10 at the Holiday Inn. The fundraiser for local food banks allowed patrons to sample the wares of 29 northeast Ohio eateries. Berea Rotary president Kathy Olmeda even won a raffle prize.

Keep warm: The Rotary Club of Berea will be collecting blankets and quilts during November to be donated to Church Street Ministries in Berea. The organization will then distribute the blankets to homeless shelters. New and used blankets can be brought to weekly Rotary meetings beginning Nov. 2.



CLUB VISITS

CLUB	DAY OF WEEK	TIME	PLACE	DATE
Akron	Tues	12:00 PM	Tangier Restaurant	10/11/2010
Andover	Mon	6:30 PM	1st United Methodist Church	10/11/2010
Ashland	Fri	12:00 PM	Elk V. Lakelront Lodge	9/24/2010
Aurora	Wed	7:30 AM	Doug's Restaurant	10/14/2010
Barberton	Thurs	7:15 AM	GreenDuo Grille & Pub	10/14/2010
Bedford	Tues	12:00 PM	Mechlerman Party Center	10/12/2010
Berea	Tues	6:30 PM	Backhaus-Walsh	10/19/2010
Brunswick	Thurs	7:15 AM	MapleSide Apple Farm	10/29/2010
Burton-Middlefield	Wed	7:00 PM	Punderson State Park	10/29/2010
Chagrin Highlands	Fri	12:00 PM	Bay Lanes	11/9/2010
Chardon	Mon	12:00 PM	Bass Lake Inn	9/13/2010
Cleveland	Wed	7:00 AM	Spectacular grill-Mayfield Rd	9/29/2010
Cleveland	Thurs	12:00 PM	Windows on the River	11/2/2010
Cleveland East	Wed	5:30 PM	Cleveland Playhouse Club	11/10/2010
Canton	Tues	12:00 PM	Dave's Sugar Bowl Restaurant	10/5/2010
Cuyahoga Falls	Tues	12:00 PM	Silver Lake Country Club	10/26/2010
Euclid	Tues	12:00 PM	Krinsky's	9/21/2010
Fairview	Wed	7:30 AM	Larkspur Country Club	9/13/2010
Gaughneville Hiram	Mon	6:15 PM	Hiram College Kennedy Center	10/28/2010
Geneva	Tues	6:00 PM	Chop's	10/5/2010
Hillcrest	Tues	11:45 AM	Mayfield Village Civic Center	10/19/2010
Hillcrest Sunrise	Wed	7:15 AM	Laurel Lake	11/10/2010
Hudson	Wed	12:00 PM	Country Club of Hudson	9/18/2010
Hudson Clock Tower	Tues	6:15 PM	Congregational Church	9/8/2010
Keet	Wed	11:45 AM	Twin Lakes Country Club	8/3/2010
Lakewood Rocky River	Mon	12:00 PM	Rocky River Memorial Hall	10/18/2010
Lakewood Rocky River Sunrise	Tues	7:15 AM	Rocky River Memorial Hall	11/17/2010
Lodi	Tues	5:30 PM	Lodi Community Hospital	9/21/2010
Manhwa	Tues	6:15 PM	Hilltop Christian Church	10/28/2010
Medina	Thurs	6:30 PM	Rustic Hills Country Club	11/4/2010
Medina Sunrise	Tues	7:15 AM	Rustic Hills Country Club	9/28/2010
Menorah	Thurs	12:00 PM	Malinda Center	11/4/2010
Middleburg Heights	Tues	7:30 AM	St. Ann's Church	10/27/2010
Norodona Hills	Tues	12:00 PM	Gambetta's Party Center	11/2/2010
North Ridgeville	Fri	12:00 PM	North Ridgeville Senior Center	8/27/2010
North Royalton Broadview Hts	Wed	7:30 AM	Mon's Restaurant	9/15/2010
Northampton Township	Thurs	12:00 PM	Pages Joe's Restaurant	8/16/2010
Painesville	Tues	12:00 PM	Hellberg's Inn	10/12/2010
Panama	Tues	12:00 PM	Doner's Restaurant	9/27/2010
Park Summit	Thurs	12:00 PM	Beck's O'Leary's	9/30/2010
Ravenna	Mon	12:00 PM	Ravenna Elks Club	9/20/2010
Rock Creek-Grand Valley	Thurs	12:00 PM	Methodist Church	10/18/2010
Shaker Heights	Tues	7:30 AM	Cleveland Skating Club	10/18/2010

## Emerald Rose

By Joy Black

There are no illnesses that can be as devastating and harmful to relationships and lifestyle as mental health. It attacks the very core of the human being. It interferes with judgment, self esteem, conceptual ideation, perception of reality, responsibility for self, memory, concentration, actions and much more. It breaks up families and other supportive relationships. It is relentless.

My name is Joy Black. I am a member of The Rotary Club of Chesterland. I am a nurse and have dealt with many forms of mental health in various departments of nursing for most of my career in the USA and in South America. As a Adult Foster Home Operator in Chardon, I have been more involved for the last ten years .

Due to the newer medications over the last 15 years more victims of these illnesses have been able to function in the communities with help of the Mental Health Boards and community support. Some still have families who are able to help. Many are disenfranchised from family. It is a sad commentary in our communities that when treated in a hospital acute care ward and stabilized they are often discharged to fend for themselves. Some end up on the streets.

One of our families left our home "Joy's Place" on 21 acres to secure care for their adult daughter who suffers with Schizophrenia. To ensure her care and for the care of others who are in need we formed a not for profit entity, Emerald Rose. For the past 6 years the Emerald Rose Board and I have been working to develop a 30 bed therapeutic campus for the treatment of those newly diagnosed. Those learning to deal with any one of the four major mental health disorders, Schizophrenia, Bi-Polar, Major Depression and Schizo-Effective disorder. This project is called "Emerald Fields of Troy", located in Troy Township. To this end we have obtained zoning permission, EPA approved plans for waste water treatment, Engineer plans for land development, Designs for the three homes to be built, Building permit based on 2009 building codes.

What we plan is not a new treatment model but one that was designed years ago by a family desperate to find help for their son with Schizophrenia. They lived a farming life and soon saw the value of using plants and simple structure to help rebuild their son's and soon other's lives. There are, to my knowledge, several of these copies in the

United States. The original in Gould Farm of Vermont, Cooper Rise of North Carolina, Rose Hill of Michigan, and our own Hopewell Inn in Mesopotamia, Ohio, have been successful in helping their residents re-establish life goals and move forward. They have also used Art Therapy to help teach self expression and routes to release anger, sorrow or other feelings. It is a simple treatment model and effective one.

We had written a grant with HUD and were successful in obtaining funds for part of the construction costs. We have not been successful in obtaining gap funding as treatment models are not what is being sought. The gap grants want housing. I and my board realize that this illness needs more intensive care to help. They understand that it can be an illness that is part of ones life but not all consuming.

We need help. We need to raise 4 million dollars in order to build this campus. We have to build infrastructure, waste water treatment, road, wells, power lines, etc, as well as the buildings. We are prepared to start another aggressive capital funding project. We need supporters in the form of:

- Board members
- Volunteers fund raisers
- Volunteer Grant researchers and writers
- Investors
- Sponsor companies
- Volunteers with writing skills, advertising or publicity skills
- Financial advisors
- Fresh ideas
- Advisors in capital fund campaign

This is not a Rotary project, but it is badly needed. Statistics show that 1 in 4 will be a victim of a mental health issue either acute or chronic. Surely in an organization as large as our Rotary District there are a few who understand what we are trying to do and are willing to offer whatever they can. If you are one of those please contact me at the address below.

Thank you for taking the time to read this plea.

Joy Black, CEO Emerald Rose  
12222 Mayfield Rd  
Chardon, Ohio 44024  
440-376-5097  
Email: joyceab4@aol.com

## On to New Orleans

By Steve Zabor, DGE 6630

The 2011 Rotary International Convention will be in New Orleans, Louisiana May 21st through the 25th. This will not be the first International Convention for New Orleans. In 1976 the 67th annual RI Convention saw nearly 14,000 Rotarians from more than 90 countries come together to celebrate the work of Rotary and to share in fellowship. The city has a long Rotary history as one hundred years ago on April 26th, 1910 the Rotary Club of New Orleans became the 12th club organized in the world. Paul Harris was delighted as he had spent time in the city prior to moving to Chicago.

I hope you will join me, Stew Buchanan and more that 20,000 Rotarians from around the world next May in New Orleans. As my wife Kathryn and I drove home from Montreal after attending the RI Convention we talked about the value of participating in an RI Convention. A number of reasons came to mind. Perhaps most importantly, without traveling to all the places touched by Rotary projects you will gain a broader appreciation of Rotary's global impact and strengthen your commitment to service. The wide variety of club and district projects on display are mind boggling and inspirational. Many potential projects that are life changing can be studied and the Rotarians in the booths are ready to share their passion. Perhaps you and your club will find the perfect project to join, one that matches the values and goals of your club.

The workshops are invaluable ways to learn about club leadership, humanitarian projects, micro-finance, literacy projects and many more topics from those who have initiated successful programs. And there is always the opportunity to ask questions, to share ideas and to continue the discussion in the halls and over a cup of coffee or a meal.

A second reason was fellowship. We had nearly thirty Rotarians from District 6630 and it was a lot of fun to visit with them and to make new friends from around the world. The halls are bustling with people in their national dress and speaking many different languages. Though we come from different cultures we all shared one thing in common, a desire to improve the lives of others through service. That made starting a conversation easy.

A third reason was the speakers. They were truly inspirational and informative. We learned about the progress of the fight to eliminate Polio from the face of the earth. And wouldn't it be extremely special to be in New Orleans to hear that we were successful. I do not know if that will happen, but I do want to be there just in case.

Consider signing up soon. Visit the Rotary International webpage and check out the preliminary program. After December 15th the registration fee is increased. So plan ahead and join us in New Orleans.

## Talented Rotarians Give Back

PHOTOS

By Margie Roop

### Our Story

As a child, Margie Roop, a member and past President of the Rotary Club of Barberton, loved to collect sea glass on the beaches of Lake Michigan. In January, 2009, she found herself walking on a very different beach - the beach of Lome', Togo, West Africa. When she found a number of pieces of her beloved sea glass, it reawakened those childhood memories. She brought some of the sea glass home, designed some jewelry pieces, and received many compliments! Brenda Farrell, dear friend, fellow Barberton Club member, and fellow artist, noticed Margie's designs and shared her own creations with her. Together, they decided to pool their talents and create Marenda Designs.

Margie was in Togo, West Africa with fellow Barberton Club Rotarians Larry Lallo and Paulette Kline to celebrate the opening of eight MicroTrust Banks which would enable 360 hard-working widows to start their own businesses. This Humanitarian Grant totaling just over \$50,000 was funded by the Rotary Club of Barberton, the Rotary Club of Lome'-Azur, Togo, and Matching Grants from both District #6630 and Rotary International. To date, there are 17 microtrust banks in operation representing over 600 new business owners!

### Our Unique Mission

Margie learned that these new business women rely on the proceeds of their micro-businesses to provide for their families, however, West Africa lacks public education and private schools (at \$30 per month) are unaffordable. Marenda Designs decided to donate 15% of their sales to an Educational Fund for their children to attend school. The goal: to raise enough money so these women can send all their kids to school. Brenda and Margie have come to realize, and believe strongly, that education is truly the way out of poverty for the children in this country which still lacks clean water, sanitation, and health care. Marenda Designs would like to provide for at least the first year of a child's education in one of the area private schools; they are confident that the loan recipients will sustain their children's education through their impressive record of accountability. The repayment of

these six-month cycle loans in Benin and Ghana alone has been 100%; this has been true as well, thus far, for the microtrust banks of Togo.

Mercy Economic Development International Corporation (MEDIC), the non-profit organization (NGO) on the ground in Togo was indispensable to this project. MEDIC, with microtrust banks in Srilanka, Benin, Ghana, and now Togo, has provided a requisite 12-week training course for potential microtrust bank members preparing them to not only run their businesses, but how to be stewards of their "trust bank." You are encouraged to visit [www.medic.org](http://www.medic.org) to learn more about "Trust Banks" and how these women of Togo have prepared to establish their businesses via micro-loans!

### Our Jewelry

Tumbled for possibly centuries in the roaring seas & sands of the world, shards of glass transform into gorgeous gems. Each piece, in a different shape, size and color has an unknown and mysterious past. Once washed up on shore, these special nuggets have a soft, pastel coloring not normally associated with sea shells and other products of the sea.

Marenda Designs takes these gems from "shore to store" by the work of their own hands. They lovingly incorporate the sea glass into a bracelet, necklace, pendant or pair of earrings using recycled leathers, metals, rubber, old jewelry, or any other material that only enhances the natural beauty of these unique creations! Marenda Designs' friends continue to provide Margie and Brenda with these naturally gorgeous gems from the West African seas. Their jewelry can be seen at area art fairs and is also on display at The Market Path, Highland Square, Akron, OH. The Market Path is the premier Fair Trade store in the larger Akron area featuring works from artisans in third world countries.

Margie and Brenda would be happy to speak to and display their sea glass jewelry designs at any Rotary Club meeting. They will also do a "trunk show" for anyone whether at their home or place of business. You may contact them at: Margie: 330-753-5038 ([mmroop@neo.rr.com](mailto:mmroop@neo.rr.com)) and Brenda: 330-854-9406 ([bfarr@sssnet.com](mailto:bfarr@sssnet.com)).

## Stow-Munroe Falls Dictionaries

PHOTO

By Jay Minkin

The Rotary Club of Stow-Munroe Falls began a new tradition by delivering over 500 dictionaries to third graders at the start of the school year. Students at Echo Hills, Fishcreek, Highland, Indian Trail, Riverview, and Woodland elementary in the Stow Munroe Falls public school system along with children at both Cornerstone and Holy Family received their very own dictionary. A Student Dictionary included a place on the inside cover for each student to put their name. The Rotary Club emphasized that the book was theirs to keep which brought big smiles of joy to all the recipients. The dictionary also incorporates useful information including The Declaration of Independence, The US Constitution, weights and measures, the US Presidents, facts on all 50 states, facts about countries around the world and locations, facts on the solar system, sign language, and brail.

## A Taste of Hudson

By Lou Diehl

One of the ideas that came from the Clocktower Rotary sponsored program, Leadership Hudson, was a project called Taste of Hudson. Taste of Hudson was the brainchild of the Leadership Hudson class of 2004-2005. The initial idea was to work with local merchants, restaurants, and community leaders to bring people to Hudson over the Labor Day weekend. The event is scheduled for Sunday and Monday and is located in the First and Main shopping area, the historic downtown area, and the city's green. During the two day event, more than 20 restaurants provide samples of food. While there is no admission charge, food cards may be purchased at tents on the grounds. Purchases of food, ice cream, and drinks can be made with these food cards. Many other activities are a part of the weekend. Children's art is displayed. Little Tikes and Akron Children's Hospital, among others, provide both activities and information about keeping children safe. Music is a constant part of Taste of Hudson. Several venues are set up around the city to provide music throughout the day. Country and western, blue grass, classic rock, and oldies are all included. The Clocktower Rotary Club participates in Taste of Hudson by providing an ice cream booth. Profits from sales go to help local projects as well as Rotary sponsored projects in District 6630. Each year Taste of Hudson has increased its attendance. Estimates this year put the attendance at around 35,000. According to the TOH website, "\$135,000 dollars have been donated to numerous charities by TOH since 2005".

[Click Here to see a YouTube video submitted by Medina](#)