



Mike Johns, Jr
Editor

DISTRICT 6630 NEWS

Steve Zabor
District Governor

January 2012

Governor's Letter

Inside this issue:

News From N Royalton/Broadview Hts	2
Haitian Earthquake Anniversary	2
Public Relations... A Problem?	2
Garrettsville/Hiram	3
Help Preserve History	3
Looking Forward part 2	3
News From TRC Chagrin Highlands	3
DGN 2013-2014 Selected	4
Gift of Life Benefit	5
Sustaining Water-Sustaining Life	5
Got SUV?	6
WRAP Your Arms Around Autism	7
January: Rotary Awareness	8
Grants Committee 1/9/12	8
Operation Southern Comfort	8
Six Down-Six to Go	9
22nd Annual Chili Open	9
"RePlay For Kids"	10
More Grants Committee News	10
Promote Literacy & Reading	10
Rotary Radio	11
ShelterBox in Brazil	11
Lkwd/RR Sunrise Member in El Salvador	11

Rotary International has identified a theme for each month of the year and January is Rotary Awareness Month! While each month and each club meeting and club event are opportunities to share the story of Rotary's work in our communities here in Northeast Ohio and around the world we should all take great care to increase our efforts this month. You might have one member share a Rotary story each club meeting. These could come from personal experience or be drawn from the Rotary magazine or the Rotary International webpage. Having a Rotary Moment in your meeting to highlight a story in the Rotarian is a great way to encourage club members to become more aware of the work of Rotary.

This is a time of transition in Rotary and, for some, it can be an awkward time as current club, district and Rotary International leaders are in their last six months of service and new leaders are being trained for the coming Rotary year that begins July 1. However, rather than a problem I see this time as an opportunity to reflect on the goals that were set for this year, the accomplishments that have been made, the challenges we confront to complete the work for the year and, most importantly, to help prepare the incoming leaders so that they will best be able to

build on the work of past and current leaders.

As I mentioned in each of my club presentations, we must engage club members in a discussion of what they value about their membership and what they would like to see the club doing in the coming years. The A. Z. Baker Award, Membership Growth and Involvement, and the Presidential Citation applications can be used to focus the discussion. Involving club members in the discussion of these awards is a wonderful way to test how the club is involved in the Avenues of Service of Rotary. This discussion will also greatly benefit the incoming leadership as they prepare for their year. Soon Presidents Elect will be meeting with incoming District Governor Julie West at PETS-1 and then with Presidents Elect from all districts in Ohio at All-Ohio PETS. (The acronym "PETS" stands for President Elect Training Seminar) These are opportunities to share concerns and ideas to help all of us create sustainable projects and communities.

As we think about future leaders I would like to welcome Bob Johnson, Rotary Club of Burton-Middlefield, and his wife Cindy to the leadership team. Bob will be the District Governor for the Rotary Year 2013/2014. The

nominating committee comprised of Rotarians from around the district and led by Past District Governor Stew Buchanan did a wonderful job of preparing for and interviewing the candidates for the position. Their choice, Bob Johnson has been very involved with the District Grants Committee and this background will benefit him and the district as we transition to Future Vision.

Finally, planning for the District Conference of Clubs is proceeding well. Friday night will be focused on celebrating Rotary's work to build sustainable communities. Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee's theme, "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity," inspires us to reflect on how we can use our time, talents, and resources to help others today and in the future. Often we are inspired by events, sometimes tragic, that affect us. One story we will hear Friday night is the story of what inspired the creation of Etta Projects and how they are working to build sustainable communities in Bolivia. That night and throughout the weekend we will learn about and celebrate the work of District 6630 Rotarians. Think about how you might inspire other district Rotarians to serve their communities.

Governor's Letter cont'd

During the conference my three emphases for the year will be highlighted: New Generations, Membership and the Rotary Foundation. Special recognition will be given to those individuals and clubs who have developed plans to grow, retain and involve their members, who have provided support to the Rotary Foundation, and who have made special contributions to Family, Vocation, and Rotary.

Saturday will begin with the District Assembly. The lunch program will highlight the Four Way Test with the presentations of the top student award win-

ners and a presentation on how the Four Way Test is relevant to Rotarians as we think about our vocations and our club projects. Planning for a variety of plenary and breakout sessions in the afternoon and concluding activities in the evening is moving forward. If you have an idea for an inspirational speaker please let me know. And please put April 13th and 14th on your calendar.

And do not forget to let me know if I, or any district volunteer, can help you during the coming months.

Yours in Rotary Service, Steve



News From TRC N. Royalton/Broadview Hts.

By Michelle Klein-Neville
The Rotary Club of North Royalton/Broadview Heights had a special evening meeting in January where a large number of students from the community were inducted into the newly formed Interact Club.



The new club has only been in existence for a couple months and already they have completed one local fundraiser, have selected an international fundraiser, and are well into their second local project. The club

has started out in the most dynamic way and the meetings are lively and full of brainstorming.



At the same meeting several members of the Rotary Club were given the Paul Harris award - a first for the North Royalton/Broadview Heights rotary club. This meeting was a testament to growth and energy that this club has been experiencing under the leadership of President Bob Stout.

Haitian Earthquake 2nd Anniversary 1-12-12

By Jack A. Young, PDG

It is hard to believe that the devastating earthquake, which destroyed so many lives, was two years ago today. Out of all that devastation, came many interesting lessons, including the important role of hope and resilience to the survival of the 1.5 million people left homeless. It is because of Rotarians, just like you, who responded from throughout the world to help those who lost everything. This also included all ages of school children, like the children of Crest View Elementary School in Brunswick, Ohio and those students in all grades in Canfield, Ohio, Rotary District 6650 collectively together raised over \$ 29,000 dollars for Shelter Boxes in Haiti.

The efforts of everyone throughout the world following the earthquake, not only allowed us to provide more than a quarter of the tented shelter in Haiti, but also shelter survivors of numerous disasters that followed. For those of you who have recognized that by rallying support in your respective communities

and Rotary clubs, you can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable families all over the world.

The Haiti earthquake open our eyes as Shelter Box board members, to the very important need to continually and adequately stock tens and other equipment throughout the world in preparation of large disasters. This need drives our goal of now having 100,000 tents on hand to shelter families in times of major crises. We know disasters are going to happen, the problem is we do not know Where and When

As indicated by our SB USA President, Emily Sperling, "To the Rotarians and Friends of Rotary, it is through your collective will and that of those you inspire through volunteerism that keeps us going" On behalf of the Shelter Box staff and Board of Directors we appreciate your continual support for Shelter. (If you any questions, please feel free to contact PDG Jack Young, 440-759-4000 or email

Jack1villa@aol.com.

Public Relations--A Problem for Your Club?

By Al Conners

So your club is small in numbers and you lack a member who has Public Relations smarts? Sometimes we overlook the best Public Relations experts of all-our members. Who can tell the Rotary story better than a committed Rotarian? How do we build committed members? There are two essential ingredients-education and involvement.

Education starts before induction-the new Rotarian should know what Rotary stands for and what is expected of new and old members. His/her education continues after induction and is reinforced by involvement in club projects. Attending most of the meetings is important but is NOT nearly enough. We need to sense the

power of Rotarians working together for a worthy cause and come to realize that "I" can make a difference.

This is not intended to belittle the importance of publicizing what we do or reaching out to non-Rotarians through social networking websites. These avenues can be very potent in telling the Rotary story to others. Nevertheless, we need to recognize the potential of "us". The next time we discuss Rotary with a friend, relative or acquaintance, I hope that our pride in the organization and commitment to its principles shows through. If we can provide witness to our Rotary commitment, we can convince others that "joining up" is worth doing!

Garrettsville-Hiram

By Dolores A. McCumbers

The Rotary Club of Garrettsville-Hiram has been as active as ever. On the eve of Dec 23, Two Santas hit the road, one is pulled in the Historic Rotary Sleigh-one in a pick up truck delivering gifts to the rural areas-both flying around the town and Village putting smiles on adults and children two days before Christmas. A Tradition that began 39 years ago, the Rotary sponsored free delivery collects gifts and accepts donations for the local People Tree which provides toys for the underprivileged. Regardless of weather conditions, most of the children know Santa will be stopping and they can be seen peeking through the windows waiting for Santa. But one surprised Young boy came running down the sidewalk and exclaimed " Well Hello Santa, What are you doing here?"

Looking Forward pt 2

News from the left coast

By Julie West

I am currently in San Diego at the International Assembly receiving my final District Governor training with my counterparts from all over the world. Yesterday was very exciting as RI President-Elect Sakuji Tanaka introduced his theme for 2012-2013: Peace through Rotary. You'll be hearing more about this and my other International Assembly experiences as we move toward the next Rotary year. For information on next year's theme "Peace Through Service" click on the theme banner at right.

Help Preserve History

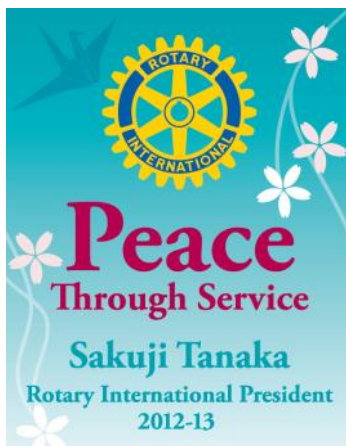
By Luisa Heimburger

For nearly 40 years, Paul and Jean Harris hosted Rotary meetings and entertained visiting Rotarians at their home on Chicago's South Side. Today, Comely Bank, which they affectionately named after the street in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Jean grew up, is badly in need of repairs.

The West Shore Rotary Club is sending out a challenge to the 55 clubs in our district to

donate \$333/member or \$100 per club, whatever is greater, to the Paul and Jean Harris Home

Foundation. We will present our challenge to the District Governor, Steve Zabor, and give him our check to start the challenge. We are 1.2 million Rotarians, if each of us gives, we will be preserving our history at Comely Bank. Paul Harris took care of his home in the last century, this century it's our turn.



News From TRC Chagrin Highlands

By Marlene Herman

The Holidays are a time to share with friends and family, which is exactly what, happened December 11th at Pizzazz at Fairmount Circle. About 45 members, families and friends came together to eat, drink, and be merry. We also had a fascinating gift exchange. Special thanks to everyone who made this a memorable event. Please go to our website to see pictures <http://chagrinhighlandsrotary.org/>

****EDITOR'S NOTE****
BE SURE TO MOVE YOUR CURSOR OVER THE GRAPHICS OR PICTURES FOUND IN THIS DOCUMENT... MANY OF THEM ARE LINKS TO VIDEOS, WEBSITES, PICTURES OR OTHER GOODIES

A most exciting announcement for Chagrin Highlands Rotary is Mr. Rich Hart has agreed to

be our President-Elect. THANK you Rich! It is a rewarding and exciting position. We look forward to serving under your leadership. A special thanks to George Rogers for stepping in the interim.

Our biggest fund raiser is a pancake breakfast March 18th from 9-2 p.m. at Beachwood High School. Please mark your calendars and join us for a delicious breakfast and fellowship. If anyone would like to have a \$50.00 ad on our placements, please contact Harold at 216-464-4299.

Have you heard of Medwish? They are a non-profit organization committed to repurposing medical supplies and equipment discarded by the healthcare industry with the objectives of providing humanitarian aid in developing countries and reducing local solid waste. Our own Gita Gidwani led us to their facility to sort

medical supplies for shipment overseas. They ship to 90 countries, which otherwise would not have the most elementary medical supplies.

Gita and many of her colleagues are going to India this month on a medical mission. They do this extraordinary mission out of the kindness of their hearts. They are not paid. They actually pay their own way and stay in the most primitive living conditions you can imagine. They provide medical care for villagers that we take for granted here in America. God Bless these kind hearted souls and bring them back safely.

Omni Children's Village is near Zambia, Africa. The West Shore rotary asked each club in our District to contribute at least \$200.00 so they could buy a Utility Truck to transport medical supplies, patients and equipment about 10 miles. Our club donated \$350.00. If the other 53 clubs donated between \$200 and \$350 they could reach their goal, with their matching grants. Please take this back to your club and help make this truck a reality.

Wishing you and your family a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

DGN For 2013-2014 Selected

On Friday, 12/16 Robert A. Johnson Jr. of Burton, Ohio was selected as the Nominee for District Governor for Northeast Ohio District 6630 for the 2013-2014 Rotary Year. He and his wife Cindy live in Burton Township and have 3 children; David 43, Lori (Robertson) 35, and Brian 31. They have 3 grandchildren; Alexis (Robertson) 10, Emma (Robertson) 5, and Kendall (Robertson) 2. He has been a Rotarian in the Burton-Middlefield Club for 24 years and has served as club presi-



dent in 2001-2002, board of governors, treasurer and as international service chair. He and fellow Rotarian James Eldridge have successfully completed 6 international humanitarian projects around the world in the last 6 years totaling \$200,000. in funding. He was named "Rotarian of the Year" in the Burton-Middlefield club on 3 separate occasions and is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow. Johnson has also served at the district level on the World Community Service Committee twice, most recently from 2008 to 2010 as chair and also the District 6630

Grants Committee which is responsible for approving and dispersing funds to local and international matching grant projects, where he serves as grants coordinator. He has also been active in local Rotary projects, most recently serving as coordinator for a successful project by the Geauga County Rotary clubs to raise \$8000.00 for the purchase and training of a new dog in Sheriff Dan McClelland's K-9 unit.

Johnson retired from the Postal Service in 2002 after a 31 year career. He served as carrier and supervisor at Chagrin Falls, superintendent of mail and delivery at Chesterland and finally as Postmaster from 1992 to 2002 in the Middlefield office. While serving as Postmaster in 1998 he received the Cleveland Federal Executive Boards highest honor of the "Wings of Excellence" from Congressman Louis Stokes. Johnson also retired from the Ohio Turnpike Commission after 8 years in 2010, in the parts and component purchasing department. Johnson was elected to 3 terms on the Berkshire Board of Education and served from 1992 to 2004. He also was a member of the Board of Education for the Auburn Career Center from 1998 to 2004. He is now a member of the Burton Township Park Advisory Board which advises the Burton Township Trustees on the maintenance and protection of their parks.

"I enjoy my wood working projects in the shop behind my house and spend many relaxing hours there. I also enjoy yard

work, riding my motorcycle, spending many hours with the grandkids, travelling and, of course, our many Rotary projects", Johnson said.

Johnson said that he is honored to have been selected for the District Governor position. It will be a busy year and a lot of work but with the support of my club and many other dedicated Rotarians we will make it a success. "I wish to thank my fellow Rotarian and longtime friend and PDG Lloyd Schill who now resides in Phoenix for his support. He has coaxed me for years to try for this appointment and has assured me that my training and knowledge of Rotary will serve the district well. I also want to thank my many club members that have supported me through this process".

A Perfect night for you and your loved one!

Come celebrate Valentine's and help support a much needed, important, and child saving program in Medina County. Medina Sunrise Rotary Club will sponsor its annual Wine and Roses Dinner on Saturday, February 11, 2011 at 6 pm. The dinner includes a fabulous sit down dinner with wines, dessert, music, dancing, and the omnipresent live and silent auction. The event is held at the Weymouth Country Club in Medina. For tickets and/or more information, please contact Mike Davanzo at 330-725-3176 or email him at mdavanzo@zoominternet.net. It is truly a romantic evening.

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Gift of Life Benefit

By Bob Prevette

The Gift of Life N.E. Ohio Inc., "Jim's Kids Benefit" will be held February 18, 2012 at the Todaro's Party Center: 1820 Akron-Peninsula Rd. Akron, Ohio 44313. This will be a very special benefit for the Gift of Life kids lead by PDG Jim Frame of the Mantua Club who is a International Gift of Life Board of Directors member and Ken Fogel of the Chagrin Valley Club. These very special Rotarians supported by District 6630 Clubs and Rotarians with the Gift of Life N.E. Ohio Inc. have literally saved hundreds of children lives.

This Benefit is a combined project of all the communities of N.E. Ohio, Rotary District 6630 and various members of the Medical communities. Ticket costs will be \$75.00 per person (\$40.00 Tax Deductible) and can be purchased at: Gift of Life Benefit, P.O. Box 6651 Akron, Ohio 44312-6651 or by email -c/o PDG Stew Buchanan, stewb1898@aol.com. You can also provide him by phone your credit card information at 330-607-1442 All clubs of District 6630 are asked to participate. Contributions are welcomed.

Since its Founding by PDG Jim Frame in 2003 to date Gift of Life North East Ohio has provided Life Saving Operations to some 286 Children of which 49 were done in our own North East Ohio area. Jim has brought many of the Children and their Parents out to several of our



District 6630 Clubs and events. These Children were from 18 Countries Egypt, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Trinidad, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Kenya, Panama, Dominion Republic, St. Lucia, Bosnia, Ukraine, Uganda, and Jamaica.

Gift of Life International has to date saved 10,000 Children's lives following its Founding in New York in 1975 by PDG Robbie Donno a Good friend of PDG Jim Frame and Ken Fogel.

The Gift of Life N.E. Ohio Inc., "Jim's Kids Benefit" committee consists of David Hansford Kent Rotary, DGE Julie West Cleveland Rotary, PDG Gordon Keller Kent Rotary, PDG Stew Buchanan Akron Rotary, Jimmy Sutphin Hudson Rotary, AG Stan Socha Brunswick Rotary, Ken Fogle Chagrin Valley Rotary, Tom Brandt Port Summit Rotary, PDG Jim Frame Mantua Rotary, PDG Al Conners Aurora Rotary, PDG Tim Wright Sr. Willoughby Rotary and PDG Bob Prevette Nordonia Hills Rotary. Non Rotarians Joe Paterni Key Bank VP; Deb Sheers, Exec Sec. Victim Assistance Program, Brian Wueber IT expert and medical organization Med Wish Inc.

This is a total area "Community Service Project" with all proceeds going to saving kids lives~its kind of fitting that the event is occurring during February, Valentine month since Gift of Life deals with issues of the heart. We need Rotary to be there! Thanking all of you in advance for your support. Please enter your Dinner order now with PDG Stew Buchanan to join us for this The Gift of Life N.E. Ohio Inc., "Jim's Kids Benefit".

Sustaining Water - Sustaining Life

A message from the Rotary Club of Strongsville

By Laurel A. Wirtanen-Siloy

It takes an estimated 45 seconds to walk from our desks to pour a nice cold eight ounce glass of H2O. Yet, for people living in the rural Philippines, it takes two hours to walk- on a 90 degree humid day- to the closest clean water source.

Members of the Rotary Club of Strongsville want to make a difference with this global crisis, one of the top six priorities of Rotary International. We are searching for partner clubs to positively impact individuals in the rural Philippines, where two out of three people lack access to clean water. These individuals- including children and the elderly- deserve the U.N designated human right to clean water. Inspired by Ghandi, we want live out his mantra, "Be the change you want to see in the world," and provide this life-sustaining element and right to those who truly need our help.

The project provides nine new clean water sites, for towns with around 40,000 people,

who full-heartedly take responsibility for long-term project maintenance. Funds raised by various constituencies- from clubs within the Cluster, District, and Philipines; as well as non-Rotarian groups- will have those dollars TRIPLED by our local Rotary District and Rotary International. Clubs investment of charitable dollars, receives a truly top-notch rate of return.

We need assistance by:

Charitable Support

Leads on private non-Rotarian individuals/groups interested in the project

Project Promotion

While initiated by the Rotary Club of Strongsville, the project exemplifies the power of working as a team to achieve great goals; together the project becomes stronger, and is a true partnership and our shared goal/achievement. For more information, please contact Laurel Wirtanen-Siloy, International Service Director, at 440.840.2357 or

lwirtanensiloy@yahoo.com



Save the Date
Gift of Life Northeast Ohio
"Jim's Kids Benefit"

Saturday, February 18, 2012
6:30 P.M.

Todaro's Party Center
1820 Akron-Peninsula Road
Akron, Ohio 44313

Tickets \$75 (\$40 tax deductible)
Full Steak Sit-Down Dinner

For reservations contact Stew Buchanan at
330.607.1442 or email: stewb1898@aol.com

Gift of Life Benefit
P.O. Box 6651
Akron, OH 44312-6651

Photo by: Planning by PDG Jim Frame in 2003 the Gift of Life North East Ohio has provided life saving operations to 286 children of which 49 were done in North East Ohio. Their children were from 18 Countries including Egypt, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Trinidad, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Kenya, Panama, Dominion Republic, St. Lucia, Bosnia, Ukraine, Uganda, and Jamaica. Photo by: Planning by PDG Jim Frame in 2003 the Gift of Life North East Ohio has provided life saving operations to 286 children of which 49 were done in North East Ohio. Their children were from 18 Countries including Egypt, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Trinidad, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Kenya, Panama, Dominion Republic, St. Lucia, Bosnia, Ukraine, Uganda, and Jamaica.

JIM'S KIDS BENEFIT

Gift of Life Northeast Ohio
Saturday, February 18, 2012
6:30 P.M.

\$75 (\$40 tax deductible)

Todaro's Party Center
1820 Akron-Peninsula Road
Akron, OH 44313



For the Gift of Life to children suffering from Heart Defects

Ticket Order Form

I wish to purchase Tickets	x 75 = \$	_____									
I wish to donate Tickets	x 75 = \$	_____									
TOTAL \$		_____									
Name _____											
Address _____											
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Will pay by <input type="checkbox"/> check or <input type="checkbox"/> credit card											
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Credit card billing address if different than home address: _____											

Send order form to: Gift of Life Benefit
P.O. Box 6651
Akron, OH 44312

Got SUV?

By Margie Roop

Imagine, on a daily basis, having to navigate a vast, rock-smattered, sandy topography resembling an unforgiving motocross track....you are NOT leading tourists on a safari nor are you promoting any upcoming ESPN "X Games!" You are Ativi Kossivi, Coordinator of Mercy Economic Development International Corporation (MEDIC) in Togo, West Africa. As part of your day, you bounce around on a very small motorcycle traversing between at least a dozen Togo villages. You are putting on some pretty good mileage and all the while carrying a briefcase containing lots of cash! When you are not riding the motorcycle, because of having to travel even further distances, you rent a car, making operational costs soar!



Typical village roads in West Africa



Typical city streets in West Africa

This is where YOU fit in and can help out. Ativi and his dedicated staff desperately need a good, used SUV in order to safely, efficiently, and economically continue to manage and expand an established, sustainable, and incredible life-changing project that YOU, AS DISTRICT #6630 ROTARIANS, INITIATED & FUNDED!

You might recall that you all stepped up in 2009 to support a major International Grant: the Rotary Club of Barberton raised \$14, 200, matched by District #6630, and further matched with a Humanitarian Grant from Rotary International for a total of \$50, 461! The Rotary Club of Lome', Togo, as our partnering Rotary Club, also provided a monetary contribution towards this project. The result:

the opening in January, 2009 of eight village "trust banks" in Togo, West Africa! Approximately 400, mostly widows, were finally given the CHANCE to move out from poverty by starting their own businesses!



The first trust bank loan dispersal and celebration in Lome', Togo, W. Africa, Feb., 2009.

Trust Bank members work together as members in groups of 25-40 persons (similar to a credit union) and are expected to complete nearly 12 weeks of intense training on how to operate a business. Training is provided by the staff of Mercy Economic International Development Corporation's (MEDIC) which serves as our partnering non-governmental organization (NGO) "on the ground". This Humanitarian Grant allowed MEDIC to establish an office in Lome' and hire Mr. Ativi Kossivi



Ativi Kossivi oversees signing of a loan from a new trust bank member at the February, 2009 Trust Bank opening celebration.

as the new MEDIC Project Coordinator as well as two part-time assistants to market, organize, train, and coordinate all the microtrust bank activities!



Paulette Kline, MSN, RN, educates members on safe preparation and storage of food.

Additionally, our team from the Rotary Club of Barberton applied for, and was awarded an RI travel grant. This allowed fellow Club Rotarians Paulette Kline, Larry Lallo, and myself to travel to Togo to provide business and health-related training to the trust bank recipients (as you all may be aware, the RI Travel grants have, unfortunately, vanished). Today as the original loan fund has grown, and the loans have been paid back (with new loans issued), over 1,500 loans in total have been issued. These loans are valued at approximately \$236,600, and represent over 20 Trust Banks! Ninety-two percent of the clients are very poor women, and many of them are widows raising children on their own. Income from the Fund provides currently for three full time employees, who now have jobs!

Even better stuff then happens!!! When the Dallas, Texas-based Mercy Ships International ministry, championed by a fellow Rotarian, heard of the project in a March, 2009 issue of [The Akron Beacon Journal](#), they contacted MEDIC. Larry Lallo and Mercy Ships' CEO met at Mercy Ships' headquarters and signed an agreement so that the Togo trust bank project would expand. Specifically, MEDIC agreed to provide business training and microloans to select clients who ultimately, in 2010, received medical treatment, inclusive of life-changing surgeries, on the "Africa Mercy" ship. While in the Port of Lome', Togo, these persons, mostly women, while recovering from critical life changing surgeries, began their 12-week training in order to become a new trust bank members! Again, YOU AS ROTARIANS OF DISTRICT #6630 were the "mustard seeds" for all these incredible life-altering events for our brothers and sisters over 7,000 miles away!

Cont'd on pg. 7 

Got SUV? Cont'd



Adjo Garedjisso, pictured at left, heard about MEDIC while recovering from surgery at the Mercy Ships Hospitality Center. She came to the Africa Mercy Ship with tumors in her wrists. Successful surgery removed the tumors, and now she is going back to work!

To date approximately 65 Africa Mercy Ship patients have received loans through the program; the alliance between MEDIC and Mercy Ships remains today. It is projected that the Africa Mercy will once again drop anchor in the Lome', Togo port later in 2012! District #6630 Rotarians: this is all BECAUSE OF YOU and your generous donations to the Rotary Foundation-learn more about how the Foundation works, but this Micro trust bank project in Togo is one such example of the impact and effective leveraging of your dollars, and, as you must agree, these dollars go a very long way!!!

Back to Ativi: Ativi has a tough enough job! It is obvious from Larry's recent trip to Togo in December, 2011 that Ativi and his staff is doing a fantastic job in the stewardship of this program, but their daily jobs have become more stressful due to transportation challenges. My understanding from MEDIC is that a good, used SUV is the preferred type of vehicle for Ativi and his staff to manage and expand the trust bank program. The requests and needs are great; it is widely believed and supported that such sustainable programs like the Togo trust banks are the key to alleviating poverty in this area of the world. Assisting persons via trust banks and "group guarantees" of loan repayment, can propel their leap from unimaginable living conditions towards living with self-respect. Additionally, they may eventually gain access to more conventional forms of banking for business growth.

Well, now, what happens? I understand that it is actually cheaper to have a donated SUV shipped to New York and placed on a "container" ship, specifically intended for shipping vehicles. This is less costly than sending money and having the purchase occur in their country. Rotarians please feel free to contact me: Margie Roop: 330-329-3767 or Donna Elms, MEDIC: 330-871-4256 if you can help MEDIC Togo obtain a good-used SUV. Also, if any Rotary Club would like either Donna Elms or me to present to your Club on the micro trust bank project and how your Club can also get involved in such a life-changing international grant project such as ours, we are very grateful to be asked and to oblige!

The Willoughby Rotary Autism Project

"WRAP" Your Arms Around Autism

By Ray Somich

The members of the Willoughby Rotary Club voted to make a difference in their community by helping families affected by Autism. The club was looking for a local need that they could support not only financially, but in other ways as well. When Autism was suggested and members learned more about it, it became obvious that this was a project that every Rotarian could "wrap" their arms around.

The basic facts are staggering:

Autism affects 1 in 110 children

Autism affects 1 in 70 boys, and boys are 4 times more likely to have Autism

More children will be diagnosed with Autism this year than with cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.

These statistics supported the extent of the national need but we soon discovered that many of our own members were impacted close to home with family and friends being challenged by this condition. There were only a few members who did not know of a family affected by Autism. We also discovered that there were many local health, educational and service entities separately trying to help these families but there were two major and immediate needs:

Funding, because Autism causes receive little organized funding support

Awareness, because the average person is not aware of the extent of this epidemic, and how children with Autism can be helped. In fact there is more misinformation than accurate information being presented currently.

Next, we were faced with the challenge of finding a unique way to generate this awareness and revenue. While searching for the answer, one member of our club, Daniel Ruminski, volunteered to lead our efforts. Dan is "Cleveland's greatest storyteller," with his own mission to educate Greater Clevelanders (and anyone who will listen) on the rarely known but spectacular history of Cleveland, Ohio as a

world-leader in developing successful business people and products, and accordingly, in accumulating very significant wealth. Dan has conducted his talks to packed halls throughout Greater Cleveland to rave reviews.

Dan felt that he could educate (and entertain) people on Cleveland's history through his story-telling, as we also would educate them about and earn revenue for Autism. We planned a series of these "WRAP Cleveland History Talks" when members and the general public could attend "Dinner and a Story." The first event was sold-out and raised over \$3000 through attendees and sponsors. Mentor Rotarian Roger Sustar led the support with a \$1000 sponsorship from his company, Fredon, Inc. More sponsors have pledged support for future talks. We are especially excited that the world-renowned leader in health care, The Cleveland Clinic, has agreed to support our WRAP efforts financially and in an educational capacity.

We have asked District Governor Steve Zabor for the support of our district, and have requested an opportunity to share more about the need and our vision at the Conference of Clubs April 13-14. As we have spoken with more people involved with Autism, the vision of the Willoughby Rotary Club has expanded to get as many clubs involved as possible, in the United States and internationally. Perhaps someday Rotary International will have made the same impact on Autism as it has to eradicate Polio around the world.

The next "Dinner and a Story" is planned for 5:00pm on Sunday, March 18th at Gavi's in Downtown Willoughby. Tickets are \$50 and sponsorships are available. For more information about WRAP and upcoming events, please visit WilloughbyRotary.org or ClevelandHistoryLessons.com, or contact Willoughby Club President Ray Somich at 440-567-8316.

January: Rotary Awareness Month

By Rick Pollak

This month's Foundation Thoughts are about ...

Celebrating our Foundation. "Through Rotary, with the help of our Foundation, we can take on challenges that no one else has the ability or the inclination or the organizational resources to tackle. We in Rotary share what we have in a way that no one else does – with love, with kindness, and with simple generosity." – 2004-05 RI President Glenn E. Estess Sr.

Matching Grants. Jehovah Jireh Haven for Destitute Children is an orphanage in Port Alfred, South Africa, which was home to 57 AIDS orphans living in four small rooms. The orphanage had one small bathroom and no clean water. Because of a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, the children at Jehovah Jireh now have hope. New beds, more commodes and showers, playground equipment, a commercial washing machine, and new kitchen equipment were added. Additionally, a greenhouse for growing their own vegetables was built. Best of all, the children have clean water. Bring hope to a child: Make your annual gift today.

Group Study Exchange. Past RI Director Bill Cadwallader reflects on the bonds created through a GSE experience over two decades ago. His GSE team has stayed in touch

with their host team through yearly telephone "reunions" for 32 years. "Since our trip to District 320 in India in 1978, that Rotary district has become eight new districts. The city of Madras (now Chennai) had 4 Rotary clubs then, and now has 80 clubs and is a district of its own. I was only 40 years old and had not even become district governor when I led the team to India. No doubt, the trip encouraged me to become a district governor because I was placed with outstanding future governors of India and we went through the process together. I have now served Rotary as RI director, with the strong basis of having served as a GSE team leader to one of the best districts in India."

Future Vision. "You can view the glass as half full or half empty on the topic of Future Vision. However, as we have worked through the steps needed to qualify our clubs and district, smaller clubs have begun to embrace the process and actively seek ways to work with other clubs, both within and outside our district, to create larger, more sustainable projects. Thousands upon thousands of people can be positively impacted by such projects and then we can truly claim that we are living up to our mission of Doing Good in the World. I challenge Rotarians to think big about the Future Vision Plan." – Rotarian Cecelia Babkirk

Grants Committee 1/9/12

By Dave Skrzyński - Grants Committee Chair and Bob Johnson - Grants Coordinator

Since January is an odd numbered month, there was no voting activity at the Monday grants meeting. The status of several grants in progress was discussed.

1. Strongsville (matching grant) water project in the Phillipines - Some paper work has been delayed. Dr. Bosa of the Strongsville Club will be traveling there soon and will attempt to move this along. Funding levels for the project need to be adjusted to make it eligible for a RI Matching Grant.

2. Brunswick (matching grant) - Tilapia fish farm and produce production - No one from Brunswick present. Assume they are still preparing paper work that was discussed several meetings ago.

3. Hillcrest (DSG)- Vermont disaster relief - No one present from Hillcrest club to give status report.

4. Westshore (matching grant) - Supply truck for OMNI hospital in Zambia - Reported that they are still seeking partners

to raise sufficient funds for the project.

5. Bedford (DSG) - Freezer and refrigerator purchase for food pantry - Marj Ginther reported that some better prices for these items has been found. Budget page of app. needs to be re-done. Ready to go when approved. DG Steve Zabor suggested that they contact First Energy about their rebate program for old appliances to dispose of old units.

6. Cleveland (matching grant) - water and sanitation project (with partners) in India. Rick Pollak will try to get signatures and paper work completed by February meeting so project can make March 31 deadline for submission and funding from RI.

7. Barberton (DSG) - Autism training and special equipment purchases for a program to be established in Barberton Schools. One club member to coordinate and other Rotarians to participate in project. Ready to go when final paperwork is submitted. *Next Meeting: Bedford/Southeast Library 70 Columbus Rd. Bedford, OH 44146 440-439-4997 7:00 PM Mon. 2/6/2012

Operation Southern Comfort

By Peter Aldrich

One of the greatest experiences of my life was my trip with Operation Southern Comfort to New Orleans in the Summer of 2010 to work on the STILL much needed Katrina Relief. OSC has several trips planned this year. February is pretty full, but these have openings: March 10-18, 2012 and April 14-22, 2012. I would love to put group of

Rotarians from the District together to go on one of these... (preferably April). Handyman skills not required, just that good old Rotary desire to serve. I can be reached at 614/440-8585 (cell), 440/709-4476 (VOIP), or

paldrich235@gmail.com

Rotary Club of North Ridgeville



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL®

By Barry Becker

Having been both a Club President and an Assistant Governor, I will say it's the end of the calendar year, but in the Rotary year just half way there for the current President.

Presidents may feel it's all behind them now, but it's far from that! Have you achieved the goals that you set? How are you doing on your goals? How are your committee's running? Have you learned to delegate? Too often we try to do too much. Delegate and let other's share and learn. That's how future leaders learn and are developed.

There is much more to do. Most clubs are preparing for their largest fundraisers. How are those committees doing? Dig in and get more members involved to achieve success.

Meet with the President elect and get him/her ready for Ohio PETS. Suggest they fill their committee heads and get members involved. Possibly have a few former presidents sit in on the meeting.

There are the AZ Baker awards reports to fill and submit. Don't miss this opportunity to list all the possible points available.

There is District Assembly where your people and the new President elect's

Can attend, get involved, and get some depth of Rotary knowledge. Share your club with that from other clubs in the district.

District Conference is both a way to get involved in District matters and real learning experiences for your club. There is much to be learned from other clubs and speakers brought in special at the conference.

Let the president elect have the opportunity to lead several meetings to prepare for when the torch passes.

Even after you pass the reigns of leadership you still have a year sitting on the board as a non-voting member. Don't totally disappear, but let your successor know you are available.

The President elect is the President in training as outlined above. Take advantage of the learning experiences. Meet with the current president, attend the Ohio PETS. start picking out your team now so you are ready to get a flying start in July. It will come all to quickly like the time being President. Establish yourself, learn to delegate, prepare your President elect and continue the circle of service. Start thinking about your goals that will leave your stamp on the club.

Join the Rotary Club of Akron

One of the most unique challenges for either an extreme sports enthusiast or a hobbyist golfer is the arctic golf experience of the Wayne Homes Chili Open. On Saturday, February 4, 2012, nearly 1,000 polar bear golfers will converge on the scenic Hale Farm and Village in Bath. On that date, the grounds of this historic location will be transformed into seven golf courses with nine holes each. Hole distances will range from 65 to 125 yards. Golfers will be challenged to drive shots across tundra and putt balls laden with ice. Just as in any respectable outing, there will be awards for the closest-to-the pin and the hole-in-one.



Warming-up is Half the Fun!

While this may not sound like an event for the faint-of-heart, it is perfect for anyone that enjoys a good time and likes to help a great cause. Included with the registration fee for each golfer is a pass to the Wayne Homes Chili Open warm-up party. Inside the banquet hall of Hale Farm and Village, all golfers will be treated to all-you-can-eat Whitey's Chili. There will be plenty of space for playing cards and reminiscing about the best shots of the day on the frigid course. There will also be great raffle prizes.

[click here to register](#)

What to Bring

Dress appropriately for the day's weather conditions. Bring as many clubs as you like, but most Chili Open Golfers prefer irons ranging from seven to wedge and a putter. Extra golf balls are a good idea—we recommend orange! Golf bags are optional.



Great Fun for A Great Cause

Your participation in the 2012 Wayne Homes Chili Open golf classic will help more than 1,600 children and adults with disabilities attend the Rotary camp next summer! Every summer for more than 88 years, the Rotary Club of Akron has sponsored the Rotary camp. Children with special needs throughout Ohio have been invited to spend a week at camp, where they enjoy many traditional activities including swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, sports and games, team building and more in our convenient and accessible natural setting. When campers leave Rotary camp at the end of each session, they not only leave with lifelong memories and friends, but they often show more independence as well as a greater understanding of themselves and their abilities. For more information about the Akron Rotary Camp, please call the camp office at 330.644.4512.



TRC Medina Sunrise Adapts Toys for "RePlay for Kids"

By David Lariviere

30 volunteers from Medina Sunrise Rotary gathered for a workshop at RICO MFG in Medina on Monday evening, at the invitation of RICO Mfg. President Steve Shuck, to repair and adapt toys and assistive devices for children with disabilities.



Barbara Sagar, Rotary club program director, stated that the workshop was sponsored by RePlay for Kids, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization, which provides these

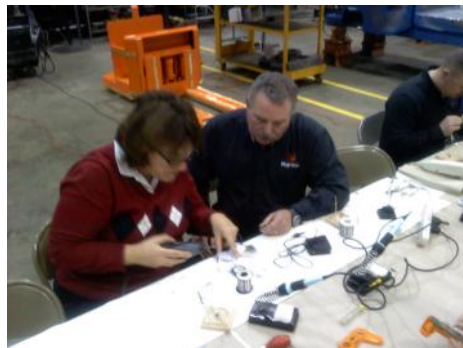


services at no cost for non-profit organizations that provide medical, educational, or recreational resources for children with disabilities in the Northeast Ohio area.

Most of these organizations have limited resources and often cannot afford to replace devices that have broken, and do not have the technical knowledge or time available to repair the devices. RePlay for Kids can provide these services, therefore increasing the

number of functioning toys and assistive devices available for children with disabilities.

Click on Calendar at <http://www.replayforkids.org/> to see when the upcoming workshops are.



****EDITOR'S NOTE****

*FROM TIME TO TIME I GET AN EMAIL FROM A CLUB ASKING WHY I DIDN'T PUBLISH THEIR ARTICLE... IT RARELY HAPPENS, BUT WHEN IT DOES IT IS BECAUSE THE EMAIL WITH THE ARTICLE HAS GOTTEN BURIED IN THE MYRIAD OF MAIL I RECEIVE ON A DAILY BASIS. SO AS A RULE OF THUMB, IF I HAVE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR SUBMISSION WITHIN THREE DAYS PLEASE SEND ME A FOLLOW-UP TO BE SURE YOUR ARTICLE IS NOT OVERLOOKED... THANX, MIKE JR
stonecut@sbcglobal.net*

District 6630 Grants Committee

By Rick Pollak

Under the leadership of DGSC Chair, David Skrzynski, The District Grants Committee continues to serve our clubs by reviewing matching grant applications and helping to fund worthwhile local and international community service projects. The committee meets on the 1st Monday of every month (unless the 1st Monday is a holiday. Then, it moves to the second Monday) at 7:00 PM though meeting locations do sometimes change. The January

and February Meetings will be held at the Bedford Library.

We always hope to have committee representation from each cluster and we are frequently looking for new members. If you are interested in serving on the committee, feel free to contact Rick Pollak, District Foundation Chair, at grantmakingservices@gmail.com or Dave Skrzynski at dnb9899@aol.com. We'd love to have you attend a meeting and see when/how we can get you involved.

Promote Literacy and Reading

By Beth Shriver

As you may know there are several book options that promote Rotary available for children. The first is Andy and Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure written by Andrew Shoop. It is a hardback book and is fictional but reinforces the Four Way Test in a way children can understand. It is appropriate for grades 3-5. More information about this book can be found at www.fairborn-rotary.us. Next,

there are two comic books available. One is the story of polio, Amazing Stories of Polio! and the other the story of Paul Harris, The Remarkable Mr. Harris and the Club that Changed the World. These are more appropriate for older students, grades 5-9. You can find out more about the comic books by going to www.rotary.org/endpolio.

Recently Wilbooks has made available two books on a Grade 2 reading level. The

first is called Rotary Clubs Help People and the second is Carol is a Rotarian. Both are written by Bruce Larkin and feature the Westtown Goshen Rotary Club in Pennsylvania. The first informs children what Rotary is and the various ways they help others. This book also comes with a downloadable lesson plan. The second book is about a Rotarian and how she helps others around the world and in her community. To find out more

about these books check www.wilbooks.com and click on the Rotary book on the right hand side of the page about ¾ down. These books are very reasonable and could be used in a Literacy project, such as a second grade classroom, a local library, or doctor/ dentist offices.

For more information regarding any of these publications or on literacy in Rotary in general, contact Beth Shriver at bethee10@roadrunner.com.

“Rotary Radio”

Weekly radio & internet radio show locally on WELW 1330am and welw.com to the world

There are over 1,200,000 Rotarians around the world, and every one of them is proud of Rotary’s awesome accomplishments to eradicate polio, bring clean water to isolated areas, and help those with a variety of basic human needs. Meanwhile, in over 35,000 local Rotary Clubs, members work together every day on meaningful projects to improve their hometown communities.

Now these Rotarians are able to communicate details on their projects to the world, on a weekly radio program that also can be heard worldwide on the internet. “Rotary Radio” debuted on Monday, January 9, 2012 and can be heard live every Monday at 5:00pm. All programs can also be downloaded any time from the archives at welw.com.

“The work that Rotary does should be an inspiration to everyone,” said General Manager Ray Somich, who is also a member of the Rotary Club of Willoughby, Ohio. “But most people have no idea that they have raised and spent hundreds of millions of dollars to help people. We think people will find these efforts fascinating, and we hope it will inspire and lead to even more giving and service to others.”

Somich hosts the 30-minute weekly program and interviews other Rotarians to explain their volunteer efforts. With the worldwide accessibility of the internet, he hopes members and officers of clubs in other states and other countries will want to share information on what their clubs are doing. Rotarians interested in being a guest on the show should contact Somich at 440-567-8316 or by email at Rays@welw.com.

Since 1965, WELW Radio is an independent, locally-owned station that has been very involved in the community. Programming includes the 7-9am weekday Wake Up Lake County talk show, and other local talk-based programs about small business, entrepreneurship, scholastic sports, politics, women, law, self-help and home improvement; national talk programs heard exclusively in Greater Cleveland on WELW such as Dennis Miller, Dave Ramsey, Laura Ingraham, Doug Stephan and Duke & the Doctor; Slovenian, Italian, Polish, Croatian, German and Jewish nationality and polka shows; local high school and collegiate football, basketball and wrestling; religious programs; Lake County Captains Baseball; and other service-oriented shows.

For more information, please contact General Manager Ray Somich at 440-567-8316.

Shelter Box Responds to Floods in Brazil

By Jack Young

I have been notified by the operations Director in the UK and the U. S A Program director that heavy rains in this South American Country has caused a dam in the town of Campo de Goytacazes in the south eastern state of Rio de Janeiro to burst and flood the area. This has forced thousands of families to flee from their homes. On January 10th, a landslide struck the same area that collapsed a number of homes killing at least 13 people and leaving another at least 11 persons missing.

A Shelter Box Response team (SRT) was en route immediately after the reports to assess the need for emergency Shelter following the devastating floods and landslides.

SRT Volunteer David Hatcher (UK) will assess the need for emergency shelter and lifesaving sup-

plies in the eastern states of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais, the reported worst affected areas. Jose Luiz Texeria Machado, one of the Shelter Box Brazil's Board of Directors, will assist with the assessment and act as the translators.

It was reported that the rains are fairly common place at this time of the year in South America's monsoon season but this year's rains have been particularly heavy and persistent, making more than 3,000 families homeless. Shelter Box has some pre positioned stock in Brazil that will allow for some immediate response to the disaster if needed.

For further information on the disaster or Shelter Box, please feel free to contact District 6630 Rotarian and PDG Jack Young, Shelter Box USA Board of Directors. (440-759-4000 or

email Jack1villa@aol.com

Lkwd/RR Sunrise Member Travels to El Salvador

By Larry Faulhaber

Jean Vahue assisted by the Rotary sponsored Lakewood High Interact Club members spent several months last year collecting reading glasses for a planned visit to El Salvador with her father, a fellow Rotary member of the Myerstown-Elco Pennsylvania Rotary Club. Seven dozen pairs of glasses were collected and the Sunrise Club donated \$30.00 for the purchase of three dozen more.

The Myerstown-Elco Rotary Club has been involved in supporting the Rotary Living Water project that installs water wells in villages where no clean water is available. It has sponsored 14 wells since 2007 at a cost of \$5,000 each.

In addition to the reading glasses from the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Sunrise Club, other groups brought

baby clothes, stuffed animals, soccer balls and air pumps. They were to visit six places where wells needed to be reviewed. Their job was to check to see that the wells were working and being used and that cleanliness habits had been established. This is a part of Rotary Internationals guideline.

As they visited the wells there were many discussions in the van with the social workers and Living Water people talked about the concerns for the villagers which could lead to additional international service projects for the Sunrise club in the future. Jean describes it as, “a one week journey that was a life time of experiences. I learned about wells, people, faith and generosity. It showed me that one small Rotary project can touch the lives of thousands of people”.

