



**ROTARY DISTRICT 7010
SERVICE PROJECTS REPORT
January 2015 Volume 6**



January is Vocational Service Month

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Winter has finally come to much of Central Canada and Rotary’s District 7010. Back in November and December we wondered if it ever would. Many of us are now wishing for an early spring.

In the Rotary calendar, our District Governor Elect Margaret Walton is currently in San Diego about to meet with her fellow DGEs and the Rotary International President-Elect in preparation for her year as District 7010 Governor starting officially July 1, 2016. Between now and July District leaders will meet next month at District Team Training (DTTS) and in April from the 15th in the evening to the 17th at mid-day all Rotarians are invited to the Rotary Weekend in North Bay at the Clarion Pinewood Hotel. I encourage you to consider attending. A full agenda and online registration will be available on the District website, www.Rotary7010.org at the beginning of February.

In keeping with the theme of this month a part of this Service report will be dedicated to a very interesting Vocational Service update pulled together by Len Lifchus, Chair, Vocational Service Committee at the District.

There are 2 new Committee chairs as part of the District Service Directorate. Both persons are experienced Rotarians. Lyn Vuorimaki of the North Bay Club will be the Chair of World Community (or International Service as some Clubs call it). Lyn has done some international work and as well will be out in Cambodia in February with the BEL Club’s school-build. The other new Rotarian assuming District responsibility is Shelly Duben, a member of the Bracebridge Muskoka Lakes club. Shelly is coming on as Chair of Community Service. Our next Service Bulletin will be dedicated to Community Service.

There is always much happening when Rotarians focus on serving others for after all we are a service club. At the same time Rotary is a global network of volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to tackle some of the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Our work impacts lives at both the local and international levels. One recent emerging need for all Canadians is the sponsorship and integration of 25,000 and maybe more Syrian refugees. I am aware there are at least 2 clubs that they themselves have taken on the challenge. I also know that there are other clubs that have partnered with other community groups to bring in refugee families. I ask that every club try and complete the attached survey and get back your reply to me at dawn@straka.ca by February 1, 2016.

This report will also highlight a few other interesting projects happening in District 7010. Again I am reminding all Clubs to share their community, world community, indigenous or vocational service projects using this Service Report. Not only will it help what you are doing but there is always a ripple effect on others when you share!

All the very best of wishes for 2016. Yours in Rotary Service,

Dawn Straka,

Director Service Projects, Rotary District 7010

A message from Len Lifchus, Director 7010 Vocational Services Chair:

In January we celebrate Vocational Services month, one of our 5 Avenues of Service that is the foundation of what we as Rotarian stands for. Through Vocational Service we learn how to serve others by engaging our skills to address community needs. We learn how to empower others through training and skills development and we learn how to inspire others to act with integrity by following Rotary’s guiding principles.

Often misunderstood, Vocational Services includes connecting our professions and professional networks with our club activities, using our expertise to address community problems and helping others to discover new vocational opportunities and interests and promoting Rotary’s commitment to integrity in our professional as well as personal lives.

We join a Rotary club as representatives of a particular business or profession. We have a dual responsibility to not only represent our vocation within our club but to exemplify the ideals of Rotary in our place of business.

If you are not sure what you might be doing, here are a few suggestions: host a business networking event with non-Rotarians in your community; offer career counselling for unemployed or underemployed adults, give career guidance to young people – for example hold a career day or start a mentoring program; and apply your professional skills to a project. Call your local high school to see how you can help. Offer to participate in a mock interview program for graduating high school seniors. It does not have to be complicated and it does not have to take a lot of time.

To learn more, sign up for the Vocational Service newsletter, a free quarterly e-publication that keeps Rotarians informed about offering their professional skills to Rotary projects; supporting the professional development of individuals and communities in needs; and representing Rotary and promoting Rotary values in the workplace. Subscribe at www.rotary.org/newsletters.

We salute the Rotary Clubs of Barrie, Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Lindsay and Midland for sharing their progress in Vocational Services. For a copy of the District 7010 Vocational Services Directory please email me at len6@cogeco.ca and I will be happy to send it to you.

Honduras Wheelchair Distribution

After several years of working on a “wheelchair Distribution”, Susan Sharp, member of the Peterborough Club and Chair of our District Wheelchair Distributions Committee is finally seeing their plans come to fruition. Presently they have organized a team of nearly 20 Rotarians and family members from our District (representing 7 different clubs) to travel to Tegucigalpa, Honduras on February 3rd. During their one week stay they will be distributing 265 wheelchairs, some teacher’s kits to schools and water filters to small villages. Additionally they are currently organizing 18 hockey bags of requested donations that will be distributed to an orphanage outside of Tegucigalpa where the group will be staying overnight towards the end of their stay in Honduras. A report of this Distribution will be presented in the next Service Report. Bon Voyage team members!

Philippines Medical Mission

In 2016 Cora and John Van Laar of the Collingwood South Georgian Bay Club will organize another “Medical mission” to the Philippines. This the fourth one they have led. The number of participants is limited, as the Rotarians in Cebu will be their hosts, for the full 5 days. The hotel charges in Cebu are very reasonable. The timing of the mission (towards the end of May 2016) is such that at the end one can fly back to Seoul, Korea and take in the International Convention. Recommended flight routing is from Toronto through Seoul to Cebu and return. Trip participants will meet hundreds of children in the Back to School program and participate in a medical mission with a “DENTAL” van, an “OPTO” van, (where they even will do Cataract surgery), a mobile kitchen and many other services unique to that part of the Rotary world. Most evenings attendees will be the guest of one of the local Rotary clubs. For further information regarding the trip, please contact John or Cora (519-599-6766 or vanlaar@sympatico.ca).

Syrian Refugee Sponsorship

Rotarians generally contribute their time, energy and passion to sustainable, long-term projects in local communities across the globe. This year our country has reached out to the Syrian humanitarian disaster and is bringing 25,000 refugees and possibly more by the end of 2016. Many faith groups, community groups including street groups and some Rotary Clubs have reached out in sponsorship or contributory roles. I am aware of 2 District Rotary Clubs that are assuming sponsorship roles: they are the Bracebridge Club and my own Peterborough Kawartha Club. We have also learned that significant numbers of individual Rotarians are very involved with other groups in a variety of roles. In designing and by getting this very simple questionnaire completed we hope to start learning what it is that Rotary and Rotary members are doing in relation to helping settle refugees.

1. Name of your Club _____
Rotarian answering this questionnaire _____ Position _____
Phone Number _____

2. Is your Club sponsoring a Refugee Family? Yes/No
If Yes, what stage are you at: Fundraising
Completing paperwork & preparing for receiving the Family
Supporting the Family
Describe the makeup of your family
When will or did your family arrive?

3. Are members in your club involved with other non-Rotary refugee sponsorship groups? Yes/No
If yes, what roles have they assumed? Briefly describe the roles.

4. Also please feel free to share any other related information.

Please return this information to dawn@straka.ca by February 1st, 2016. Also if individual Rotarians or Rotary Clubs wish to help with refugee settlement (which is a very significant responsibility) and need information, I suggest that you contact Marg Hundt, Chair of my Club's Refugee sponsorship Committee. Marg can be reached at marghundert1@gmail.com. You may also want to refer to the January 25th Maclean's magazine and read about Saving Family #417.

In Closing

Service defines Rotary's character in our own communities and internationally.