

NIGER ROTARIANS WORK WITH UN AND GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER FAMINE RELIEF



Hawa Umoru, district 9100's assistant governor, comforts a Nigerien child during a meeting with nursing mothers in which Rotarians cooked and distributed food.

since been sending out daily updates of the dire situation in Niger.

"At the stoplights in town, there are mothers that are just sitting on the dirt with skeleton babies," he writes in an e-mail. "The [hospital] bed space is far beyond capacity in Niamey; the [nuns] have run out of beds, for example, and have skeleton babies [lying] on mats with feeding tubes and IVs, trying to keep them alive as best they can. If the situation is this bad in Niamey, I cannot imagine what it must be like in the more remote areas of the country."

Mancus praises the spirit of selfless volunteerism with which many of the country's 36 Rotarians have thrown themselves into relief work.

"These Rotarians are doing the absolute best that they can, and perhaps even more than that," he says. "Everything here is totally understaffed and underfunded. More than anything right now, what is needed is a large group of Rotary volunteers ready to come to Niger to work in difficult conditions."

According to Mancus, there is an immediate need of at least one Rotarian with experience in grants, fundraising, and public relations and a working knowledge of French to provide technical support in dealing with the famine crisis. More than 60 other volunteers are needed to help run a hospital in Loga set up by UNFPA.

"They have totally equipped and built a hospital that is empty today because there is no staff there," says Mancus. "Based on our agreement with UNFPA, they [UNFPA] can give a grant to local Rotarians who in turn can arrange for housing for all volunteers there."

Immediate volunteer needs include surgeons, surgeon's assistants, nurses, public health doctors, human resources managers, and pharmacists, as well as specialists in the areas of budgeting, marketing, finance and accounting, hospital reform, pharmacy reform, maintenance, administrative management, project management, performance management, information management, activity and project development, and youth and women's groups.

Niger Rotarians have brought much-needed integrity to the effort to address their country's humanitarian crisis, Mancus explains. But even their most generous contributions are just a drop in the ocean of needs.

"We need to reconfirm our call for cash donations to the Niger Crisis Committee's account so that they can act," says Mancus. "I urge everyone to please act for Niger. It is worse than you can imagine. The children that I saw this morning [29 September] looked like embryos."

The crisis committee of Niger Rotary clubs, Niger's government, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are collaborating to assist victims of a severe famine that is affecting some 3.5 million people, or 30 percent of the country's population.

The three groups signed an agreement at the Niger prime minister's office in Niamey, the national capital, on 29 September, to formalize the cooperation, which has evolved out of their joint response to the disaster.

Beneficiaries of the initiative will be the most vulnerable cases, especially severely malnourished children and single mothers. Loga, one of the most devastated areas in Niger, just 150 kilometres (93.2 miles) from Niamey, will be a focus of the activities of the crisis committee, UNFPA, and government.

"As I have witnessed here in Niger, the condition is catastrophic," says Nicholas Mancus, chair of the RI District 9100 Health, Water, and Hunger Task Force. Niger, the world's poorest country, is one of 14 West African countries that comprise District 9100. "Thousands of children have already died, one in front of me while I was at the Mother Teresa feeding camp in Saga, only 5 kilometres (3.1 miles) from Niamey. I found the conditions to be more troubling than I thought they would be."

A member of the Rotary Club of Cotonou-Centre, Benin, Mancus traveled to Niamey on 24 September to help the crisis committee carry out its famine relief effort. He has



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of
MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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OCTOBER IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

INVOCATION

Oct. 11	Gordy Robson	Oct. 18	Mary Robson
Oct. 25	Bob Shantz	Nov. 1	Eng Hock Tan

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Nov. 03	Laurie Anderson	Bob Shantz
Dec. 01	Lynda Lawrence	Marco Terwiel

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email peter.boekhorst@telus.net

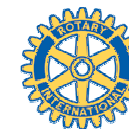
TODAY'S PROGRAM: Richard Mathias, Professor Public Health - Epidemic Infections

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Mike Keenan – Update on Samuel Robertson Tech School

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Oct. 11	1pm	International Service Meeting	After Lunch
Oct. 12	5pm	Vocational Service Meeting	Diane's office, 102-19237 122A Ave, P.M.
Oct. 15	8:00am	5040 and 5050 Membership Seminar	Sunrise Banquet Centre, Surrey
Oct. 19	12 noon	Executive Meeting	Home Restaurant, M.R.
Oct. 26	12 noon	Wine Fest Wrap-up Meeting	Laurie's office, 22311 119 Ave, M.R.
Nov. 12		District 5050 Foundation Dinner	Langley Coast Hotel 20393 Fraser Hwy, Langley
Nov. 19	8:00am	D5040 & D5050 Foundation Seminar	Delta Town and Country Inn 6005 Highway 17, Delta

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$431+ 1/2 of today's sales, 38 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!



SERVICE Above Self

MEADOW RIDGE ROTARY SPORTS BANQUET 2005

“Raising money for youth sport facilities”



I would like to REALLY thank all the volunteers at the Sports Banquet for all the help. Together we made the 2005 Sports' Banquet a fantastic success, again! What a night! What a GREAT team. We sure worked well together.

The “Mystery Ring Box” raffle was a story on its own. The ring was won by the person who donated it: Alf from Hammond Jewellers. He gracefully donated it back to the Rotary Club and it was subsequently auctioned off for \$400.



Just to show you how well we did this year, following are the results of the Silent and Live and Balloon Auctions and the Mystery Ring Box, with a substantial increase from last year! We had less people in attendance (about 20 less) and also less Silent Auction items (about 30 less) and still managed to increase our proceeds, wow!

“ON SITE RAFFLES/AUCTIONS” RESULTS

	2004	2005
50/50 Net Revenue (Gross \$1,600.=)	\$ 800.00	No 50/50
Balloon Auction	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 1,330.00
Silent Auction	\$ 7,730.00	\$ 7,596.00
Live Auction	\$ 7,399.00	\$ 13,700.00
Mystery Ring Box (incl. \$400. “extra”)	N/A	\$ 2,660.00
Total Revenue	\$ 17,449.00	\$ 25,286.00

At a later date, the Sports Banquet Chair, Lynda Lawrence will let you know the net proceeds of this very successful event.

Thank you for your support.

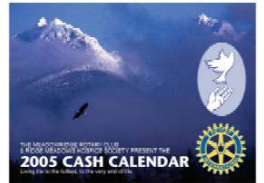
Ineke Boekhorst, Sports Banquet Committee



Two of the three new “Home Town Heroes”, Rob Williams and Amber Allen



HOSPICE CASH CALENDAR:



1	\$20	Bob Denison	Maple Ridge	16	\$20	Clint Whittome	Pitt Meadows
2	\$20	Charlie Spittel	Maple Ridge	17	\$20	David Bruce	Maple Ridge
3	\$20	Lynda Hutton	Pitt Meadows	18	\$20	Bruce Whittlsea	Coquitlam
4	\$20	Mike & Ethel Markowsky	Maple Ridge	19	\$20	Kathie Ward	Pitt Meadows
5	\$20	Deddy Geese	Maple Ridge	20	\$20	Diana LaFlamme	Maple Ridge
6	\$20	Mellica Vander Veerdonk	Maple Ridge	21	\$20	Vikki Denison	Maple Ridge
7	\$20	Ann Elliot	Aldergrove	22	\$20	June Mavor	Burnaby
8	\$20	Vanita Dennis	Maple Ridge	23	\$20	Ken McGonigal	Maple Ridge
9	\$20	Anonymous		24	\$20	L. McIntosh	Maple Ridge
10	\$250	Linda Oshea	Maple Ridge	25	\$20	Ed Ban	Lake Erroch
11	\$20	Nattana Dixon Warren Aladar Rathonyi Reusz	Rossland	26	\$20	Tom Forster	Surrey
12	\$20	Linda Lambie	Maple Ridge	27	\$250	Lorrie Rishchynski	
13	\$20	J. Hayways	Maple Ridge	28	\$20	Adele Kostiuik	Maple Ridge
14	\$20	Sharon Young	Maple Ridge	29	\$20	Michael Hayes	Maple Ridge
15	\$20	Allan & Susan De Souza	Maple Ridge	30	\$20	Carol Baerg	Chilliwack
				31	\$250	Scott Charlton	Maple Ridge