

Continued from 'Last Week's Meeting'

Throughout the Philippines there are many private and government hospitals and you can tell the distinct differences between the two. They visited a government hospital; it was bright and colorful. The Medical Director, a Rotarian, provided a tour of the facility.

Within the Rizal Zone, they visited Rotary projects in Taytay including the Sing, Read and Tell project located in a squatters community, (the kids are taught for only 2 hours per week)! The San Juan Elementary School which has a Rotary Club Feeding Project for malnourished students in grade 1. For \$.40 cents per day, malnourished grade 1 students are fed a well balance diet every day. For most children it was probably their one and only meal of the day. At Isidro Elementary School, they visited the RC Library Project. The library was packed with books for all levels, everything from story books to encyclopedias. The girls sang the Philippines National Anthem with these kids. The final stop on the day full of RC Projects was a visit to a home for the elderly where food is donated by the Rotary Club. Several of the women were happy to see the girls, and eager to join them in conversation. They were shocked to find out that most of these elderly people had been abandoned by their families in places like malls, or just left on the streets. Most of the abandonment hinged on extreme poverty where families weren't able to feed their elderly family members. At the Munting Dilaw Elementary School with 1,127 students the Rotary Club of Rizal Centro provided the school with new desks all built with metal frames to replace the water damaged wooden desks (located in flood plain). The school only had one dictionary and no computers! A bond was developed with this school and a Pen Pal Program with the students has been established. After only three weeks, they already have three Grade 6 classes at Maple Green Elementary in Surrey starting to write their letters! The letters and at least five new dictionaries will be sent back to the Philippines with the inbound GSE Team, currently here in District 5050 at the end of May. Heidi hopes that with the assistance of Charter President, Manny Reyes and his Club of Rizal Centro in District 3800 along with our Club, friends and other caring groups her little dream will hopefully develop into a World Community Service project. There were many other Rotary projects visited which provided a housing development, a playground, drinking water for a school, educational programs and equipment and the final project was in the San Juan Zone where a Livelihood Project helped residents to raise Red Tilapia. Starting from a tiny tadpole, the locals are taught how to feed and care for the fish until they are ready to be sold to the locals at below market prices to feed their families.



The girls thanked us for the opportunity to have made this trip and extended their appreciation for sponsoring them to participate in this amazing adventure. They presented our club with 24 banners received from the various clubs visited.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

ESTEEM TEAM

- May 6, 2008** Derek Winterman - Snowboarder
 10:00 Thomas Haney Secondary, Grades 8 & 9, 250 students
 13:00 Pitt Meadows Elementary, Grades 4 - 7, 300 students
- Margaret Langford - Whitewater Kayaker
 10:30 Hammond Elementary, Grade 4 - 7, 200 students
 13:00 Laity View Elementary, Grades 4 - 7, 300 students



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Gourmet Hideaway Restaurant

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April is Magazine Month

INVOCATION

Apr. 29	Eng Hock Tan	May 6	Marco Terwiel
May 13	Nizar Virani	May 20	Walter Volpatti

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15 - 8:15	8:00 - 10:00
May 15	Kelly Fry	Valerie Spurrell
June 19	Mina Park	Ken Paterson



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

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Laurie Mesdon, SD42 - Director of Support and Special Needs

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Dwayne Sequeira - *Trance-Forming Dreams to Reality*

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 15		2008 District 50/50 Conference	Holiday Inn, Pine Street, Everett, WA
June 15 -18		Rotary International Conference	Los Angeles

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$870.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 19 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Our Guests today were Sam French, Julian Almeida, Jenn Dawkins, Deb, Kathie and Sam Nosworthy, Bob Masse, David Riddell, Lise and Pyrali Jinnah.

A cheque presentation in the amount of \$1,000. was made by Mike Davies to Karen Georgi, Playground Director of Davey Jones School for new playground equipment.



Robert Masse spoke about the Vista Run, which is a 5 km walk/run or 10 km run. It is being held on May 25th, 9:00 am start at Cliff Park. Funds raised from this event go to the Hospice Society. They have raised \$100,000 over the past 3 years for Hospice. Robert asked if anyone would put up a pledge sheet at their business to help raise some funds. He explained that they will provide a promotional poster to display and it's really easy getting pledges. He asked if anyone wished to participate in the event itself. He advised that after the meeting he would be available to take pictures for the display posters for anyone wishing to be involved.

Kevin spoke briefly about the Esteem Team visits. He still needs Rotarians to accompany the athletes to the schools. They are doing two morning and two afternoon sessions each Tuesday for a four week period.

Kevin reminded us that Friday May 2nd is the GSE tour of the Stave Lake Dam. All are invited to attend. There will be a lunch followed by a tour at 1pm. This will be followed by a bird tour and BBQ at Dave Rempel's place.

Ineke asked for some assistance with a fundraiser that is being held by the Rotary Club of Westbank, BC. Her daughter is a club member and they are raising funds to build a water park in Westbank for the kids. They need to raise \$200,000. The event is called "Poop for the Park" and is being held on July 1st. Bill Bennett's brother has donated the use of his field and horses for the event. The field will be marked with numbered squares, and for \$10. per ticket, participants will choose a number and then the horses will be turned loose. If a horse poops within your square, you win. Additional funds will be raised by bagging and selling the horse manure after the event. Ineke passed around the ticket book for this innovative event.

Vladimir advised that he has scheduled his BBQ for the second weekend in August, and will again raise funds for Rotary International. Auction items are required if anyone wishes to donate.

There was a reminder that the "4 Way Test" Program will be held at Hammond Elementary School Wednesday morning at 9 am for those who signed up for the first session. Please meet Matt in the school entry hall at 8:45 am. The second session will be held on Monday April 28th.

Our Guest Speakers today were two of the GSE team members that have just returned from the Philippines, Carrie George and Heidi Johnson. Carrie began with a bit of background information on the Philippines. She said that District 3800 is located in the 8 city-suburbs surrounding the city of Manila in the Philippines. The team stayed in all 8 cities, or zones as they are referred to within the Rotary district. There are, on average, about 8 or 9 clubs in each zone. They left Vancouver on February 22nd and began their incredible 5-week adventure. Some of the highlights included learning about the culture in the Philippines, starting with the rich history. They visited Intramuros, built during the 400 years of Spanish rule. Corrigedor, an island that was hit

during WW2 by both the American/Filipino and Japanese forces. Subic, an American Naval base now turned into a tourist site. Carrie said that most Filipinos are devout Catholics and the team got to experience some of the religious activities during their Holy Week, or Easter weekend.

They saw a great variety of businesses, from the fish pens where they raise Tilapia, a glass factory, the Kilus Foundation which provides hundreds of jobs for women in the community recycling juice tetra packs into a variety of products. Factories for making hats, metal, shoes. One of Heidi's vocational experiences was spending a day with the Ayala Group, one of the biggest commercial real estate companies in the country.

They toured the reservoir, water treatment and sewage treatment facilities for Manila, and had a meeting with Mayor Toby Tianco of Navotas. They toured artist Niemi Miranda's gallery and studio space. Singing and dancing is a huge part of the culture, they spend months rehearsing with professional dance instructors. This year's theme was musicals that have been turned into movies. Tinikling, is the national dance of the Philippines. Rotary plays a vital role in providing basic needs to the people. A lot of evenings were spent at Rotary events and because the district has so many people in a comparatively small area, the girls reported that there are a lot of interesting clubs: all-female clubs, a club made up of past GSE participants, family-oriented non-drinking clubs. There "fellowship" refers to a couple of drinks and some karaoke at the night meetings.

A huge part of their trip was the adventure, and there were a number of opportunities which were both challenging and enabled them to grow as individuals. These included the Zip line, Climbing 600 steps to the top of a mountain, swimming in the Majayjay River In Laguna (the water is so cold), riding horses to the crater of Taal volcano. They had opportunities to step outside of their comfort zone, holding snakes or killing giant bugs. They said the food in itself was an adventure, most really delicious (especially the mangos), but they were challenged by some of the food, in particular "balut" - partially developed duck fetus in an egg.

One of the biggest challenges was public speaking. Speaking in front of hundreds of people at the District Conference was a big milestone for the girls. They became so comfortable with the limelight that they branched out to singing karaoke and even jumped on stage with a live band to belt out a few songs. Their 15 minutes of fame extended even further to include an on-air radio interview.

The unique modes of transportation included a jeepney (old army jeeps converted into public transportation). The traffic was so intense that they ended up with a SWAT team police escort (with giant guns) who escorted them around Manila for an entire afternoon.

The activities that had the biggest impact were the ones involving interactions with people, the Rotarians, their hosts and the people living in the various communities. The squatters in the East Riverside community showed them the inside their homes and then thanked the team for taking the time to visit and listen to them.

Carrie said that the resiliency and ability that the children have to be happy and smiling when they live in these appalling conditions really taught her something.

Heidi gave a brief presentation on the various Rotary projects that they visited. The first project was within Pasig zone's proudest housing project - the GK (Gawad Kalinga) Village. The squatters in this area had lost a huge section of their community to a fire. Rotary joined a Christian organization to supply materials and a foreman to support the community in building 10 new homes for themselves.

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