

By Donna Polydoros

Rotary International News – 22 January 2010

Four Rotary alumni who are now district governors-elect say they're proud of their youth programs experience, and they've been hooked on Rotary ever since.

Virgilio Farcon, Julia Gereda de Carlin, Rajyalakshmi Vadlamani, and Carlos Enrique Giraldo recall how their early Rotary experiences shaped them into the leaders they are today.

Several were "raised in Rotary" by parents and other relatives who were Rotarians and encouraged them to get involved in Interact.

"I couldn't understand why my parents would like me to be involved until I personally experienced it, and it was my experience that caused me to move on to the next level," says Farcon, of District 3800 (Philippines). He recently passed down the tradition of participating in Rotary's youth programs to his eldest son, who is a [Rotaractor](#).

Gereda de Carlin, of District 4450 (Peru), says she wanted to join Interact at a time when women were not allowed. A few years later, when the first Rotaract club in Peru was chartered, she became its secretary and later met her husband, another Rotaractor.

"For me, Rotary is a way of life, one that my husband and I have lived our whole lives," Gereda de Carlin says. "The Rotaract program showed us just how good Rotary is."

Vadlamani, of District 3150 (India), says she got started in [Interact](#) because of her father, a Rotarian, who sponsored her high school's Interact club. She became the club's charter president and led service projects to help elderly and indigent community members. She even met her husband through [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#).

"To share our time rather than money is what Interact taught me. It is the time and compassion with which we do small deeds that is important," she says.

Giraldo, of District 4280 (Colombia), also was encouraged by his Rotarian father to join Interact and Rotaract.

"Some of the most important elements of Rotaract and Interact are the fellowship and friendship. They make you feel welcome. That's not common among other organizations," he says.

All four agree on the importance of getting involved in Rotary at an early age.

"It's what the family of Rotary is all about. When we involve children, there is almost a guarantee that they will be involved in Rotary, especially as leaders," Farcon says.



Carlos Enrique Giraldo, Julia Gereda de Carlin, Rajyalakshmi Vadlamani and Virgilio Farcon pose for the camera during the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Rotary Images/Monika Lozinska-Lee



The Four Way Flasher

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February is World Understanding Month



INVOCATION

Feb. 9	Patrick O'Brien	Feb. 16	Brett Paskar
Feb. 23	Ken Paterson	Mar. 2	David Rempel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 7: Maureen Goodrick Feb. 13: Kelly Fry

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Foundation Meeting

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Jody Gordon - Rotary Scholarship Program

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 9		New Members Meeting	
April 10	7:00 pm	Wine Festival	Rotunda – Thomas Haney S.S.
June 20-23		Rotary International Convention	Montreal

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$581.50 + 1/2 of today's sales, 34 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Jim Coulter introduced our guests, Nyla Jinnah, Karim Jinnah, Annika Poligato, Brody March, Simon Hauck and Irena Shantz.

Ineke reported that a Shelterbox tent was put up in the Rotunda at Thomas Haney and the students and staff raised \$1100.00.

Finemaster - Ken Knutilla, Mystery Greeter - Bob Shantz and Mary Robson gave the Rotary Moment.

Marco announced that the next RLI is to be held on March 20th in Delta, the RYLA deadline is later in February and there is a Literacy Seminar in Bellingham. Marco also encouraged us all to frequent our Website.

Mary spoke about our Rotary Youth Programs and provided details of the programs available. She wants to form a committee to look at starting an Interact club locally. We also have one local applicant attending a district Interview to become an Exchange Student.

Guest Speaker - Karim Jinnah (son of Peter and Lise). Karim attended RYLA last year. He described it as a life changing experience and wished he could do it again. He has been asked to attend again this year, but as a facilitator this year. He will be attending Adventures in Citizenship in Ottawa from May 1st to 5th and is really looking forward to it. He briefed us on his schedule while in Ottawa.

Brody March - spoke to us about his adventures and experiences at Adventures in Leadership and how beneficial this experience was to him. His mom Annika, said he wouldn't stop talking about it when he returned home!

Simon Hauck - Will be on a yearlong exchange in Germany next year. He doesn't know where yet. He spoke about how excited he is to be going and very thankful for the opportunity.

Marco thanked all 3 guests for attending and speaking to us and hoped they would all return and speak to us after their respective trips and experiences were over.

**Submitted by
Terry Becker**



THOUSANDS TO MOVE INTO SHELTERBOX TENT VILLAGE

Thousands of people left homeless by the devastating Haiti earthquake are due to start moving into a camp with hundreds of ShelterBox tents this week.

Situated near to the US Embassy in Port au Prince, the encampment named Congress Camp will house thousands of refugees from the centre of the city allowing them to stay close to their communities and carry on with their daily lives.

ShelterBox's Response Team (SRT) in Port au Prince has been working around the clock to help set up the camp with hundreds of disaster relief tents, each of which can house an extended family of up to 10 people. The team has worked closely with the French aid agency ACTED and IOM (International Organisation for Migration) to create the tent village which is also equipped with showers and latrines.

John Leach, ShelterBox's Head of Operations, said: 'This is an urban camp which means people can carry on with their daily lives and won't be forced to locations outside of Port au Prince.'

'We have a huge number of tents here which will provide shelter to thousands of people and give them a chance to start rebuilding their lives. But we also have tent encampments set up in several other locations in and around Port au Prince and thousands more ShelterBoxes on their way to the city.'

In another camp in Delmas, a suburb of Port au Prince, work is continuing to provide emergency shelter to families with newborn babies and pregnant women. Additional tents have been set up with the help of the US Military's 82nd Airborne Division.

SRT member Mark Pearson (UK) said: 'Forty additional ShelterBoxes were dropped here to replenish the camp and now more than 200 families are living in this camp. We could not operate without the full support of the US military and state department in this area.'

ShelterBox has also worked with the women's charity V-Day in providing 40 ShelterBoxes to vulnerable women in Port au Prince. In addition, 50 ShelterBoxes have been given to the French association, Enfants de la Rue, to help house children caught up in the quake.

Meanwhile the aid operation from the UK continues. Another 1,800 ShelterBoxes are set to be flown from Stansted Airport to Santa Domingo, the Dominican Republic, on Friday, where they will be transported overland to Port au Prince. It will bring the total number of ShelterBoxes deployed in Haiti to more than 7,000 boxes, providing emergency shelter to more than 70,000 people.