

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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## APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

<b>Happy Birthday</b>	<b>Happy Anniversary</b>

### UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Apr 6: Ridge Meadows Foundry Society	Apr 13:	Apr 20:
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### D5050 GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE:



Rotary makes high-quality health care available to vulnerable mothers and children so they can live longer and grow stronger.

We expand access to quality care, so mothers and children everywhere can have the same opportunities for a healthy future. An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate

health care, and poor sanitation — all of which can be prevented.

Having a baby should be a time of great joy and hope. A United Nations Population Fund report in 2017 indicated that the world maternal mortality rate had declined 44% since 1990, but still every year over 300,000 women die from pregnancy or childbirth related causes. And for every woman who dies, 20 to 30 more encounter complications with serious or long-lasting consequences. Most of these deaths and injuries are entirely preventable. Of the total maternal deaths 64% occur in sub-Saharan Africa and 99% occur in developing countries.

In District 5050 we currently have three active global grants with this area of focus.

Sedro Woolley is providing a maternal and child health clinic in Copan Ruinas, Honduras with a total budget of \$43,446.

The Fidalgo Island Club has a \$74,000 grant to provide a Mobile Health Clinic including start-up salaries and all the needed supplies that will serve rural and remote communities in Honduras.

White Rock Peace Arch has a grant over \$93,000 to provide a human milk bank and training to a neonatal centre in Sao Paulo Brazil.

Additionally, the Port Moody and Sedro Woolley Clubs have partnered in a global grant led by a Calgary Club. This grant is over

\$177,000 including the Government of Canada match. There will be a Vocational Training Team including all the supplies to provide cervical cancer screening and treatment in Ecuador.

And then there are all the water and sanitation area of focus projects that help improve and support maternal and child health programs.

Rotarians in District 5050 truly care about maternal and child health. On behalf of those we are serving – I thank you!

Stay well!

*Carol*

### OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President-Elect **Patrick Dobbyn** presided.

Program: Mark Stewart- the Salvation Army



As we all know, **Mark Stewart** has been the Executive Director of the Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries since late 2019, is a guest at our club regularly, and works closely with us. Mark showed us a video about Sonia's Cradle, and then told us a little bit about the Army's work in Maple Ridge.

### What is Sonia's Cradle?

*The spirit of the Sonia's Cradle program sparked in 2009, when a new front-line worker at The Caring Place began collecting donated items for babies and toddlers that had traditionally been turned*

away due to a lack of storage space. Sonia Nickle took it upon herself to collect the furniture, clothing, diapers and formula that were coming in. She sorted and stored them in her garage, then distributed the items to families that she knew were in need. Sonia has just completed a diploma in counselling when she died suddenly from a brain aneurysm on Dec. 2, 2010, at the age of 50. The legacy and the passion Sonia Nickle had for the vulnerable families in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows lives on today through the Sonia's Cradle Program, Ridge Meadows Ministries, which is run by the Salvation Army's Community & Family Services Coordinator Bee Schroeder. Since the launch of the Sonia's Cradle Program, Ridge Meadows Ministries has supported over 3,000 babies and toddlers. Due to several factors, families registered in this program struggle to provide proper food, clothing, and basic necessities, such as diapers and formula for their growing families. Sonia's Cradle clients come from a variety of backgrounds, including:

- Single mothers or fathers
- Seniors with custody of their grandchildren
- Working families trying to make ends meet
- New immigrants
- Parents and/or children with disabilities

#### Update by Mark on the Army's other community service programs

Their computer or laptop program has supplied approximately 85 new laptops which have gone to needy students in our local schools.

They have sponsored approximate 350 backpacks.

Their bag lunch program is still going strong, and have invested close to \$50,000 in the last six months to supply food hampers for families in need.

They still provide sheltering services, and opened up a personal social distancing shelter in the last six months, which is able to space out the homeless population within the shelter so they can keep everybody as safe as possible. They are doing mass COVID 19 testing within their building so people aren't spreading the virus.

In the last six months they have either got housing for, or sent to treatment, over 60 people that have been in their shelter. Housing has been provided in the private market or in transitional housing.

During the pandemic, they have sped up (and have sometimes tripled) their services in some areas. They are happy to be part of the community, but also want to be a guiding light for those who may need a little bit of direction - and do that through their pastoral services. Mark noted that some people forget they are actually a church. They have chapel services on Thursdays. They have lots of volunteers, and have hundreds of people making sandwiches and doing things within their shelter and in their kitchen.

They look for gaps with in the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows where certain types of services are lacking, and try to fill those gaps.

They currently do not have a thrift store, and are not taking in used clothing, but Cythera House is currently filling this need within the community.

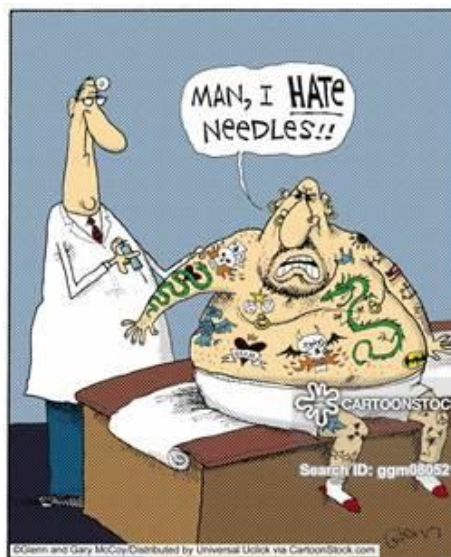
Their facility is open 24 hours a day. They don't shut their doors for cleaning at all. Mark thinks there are a lot of misconceptions about what is happening in Maple Ridge. One misconception is that their

shelter is exploding with people, but that is not true. They have room for roughly 100 people, but yesterday, for example, only 20 people were in their main shelter. They have a lot of space in their shelter. Some of the people that we see on the street are homeless, but a lot of them are already housed – some in transitional housing like those provided by Coast Mental Health which has 160 spaces within our community. Therefore, although they may look like they are homeless, they are not necessarily homeless. There is a group out there who are not interested in shelter or finding housing, and these people are generally those who have serious addictions or mental health issues, and they are the ones often involved in poor behaviours.

In terms of outreach, the Salvation Army always wanted to do outreach, but there is already a lot of outreach programs in Maple Ridge, including Coast Mental Health, the city's CSO program (Community Safety Officers), Rain City, and others. For this reason, the Salvation Army is not currently considering further outreach services.

#### Happy and Sad

Several members were happy that they have received their Covid vaccinations, with Mike Davies noting that the vaccination facility at the Haney Place Mall was very organized and efficient. (Eric, happily, bragged he was so youthful that he probably was not going to get his stab until December, but Mike reminded him that by that time, sadly, the needles would probably all be dull).



#### Starfish Backpack Program Report as of February 28, 2021

Ineke noted the annual cost of the program is about \$70,000, and that this is a true Rotary hands-on program we should all be very proud of, and that Rotarians from our club pack all of the backpacks every week. Our club covers all expenses above the food costs, so people are told that all donations that they give go 100% to the cost of the food.

#### Today's Quote:



**Submitted by Laurie Anderson**

# Rotary Club of Meadow Ridge



# STARFISH PACK

## Monthly CLUB Report for Starfish Packs 2020/2021: Ending February 28, 2021

TOTAL Weekly cost of groceries between Oct 1, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021..... **\$35,272.30**

Bank Balance February 28, 2021 – available for weekly grocery purchases..... **\$42,209.00**

**This total is available for remaining weekly Starfish grocery purchases until end of schoolyear, not counting any possible donations received between now and end of June 2021**

Approx. cost of groceries for balance of schoolyear (13 weeks @ 140 kids) ..... \$28,000.00

Approx. Bank Balance at end of schoolyear (funding available for 2021/2022) ..... \$14,000.00

Annual cost of the program approx. \$70,000.00 total (depending on how many packs per week)

Additionally we need funding to purchase the actual Starfish bags (Marks' – approx. \$5,000/5000bags/all in)

We distributed a total of **2369 Starfish Packs** between Oct 1, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021