

# Rotary Club of Winnipeg



**ROTARY NEWS, and MORE....**

January 23, 2017

**Special Edition on**

## **“Kinston, NC. Flooding and Flood Relief”**

**In early October, 2016**, in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the Neuse River experienced severe flooding in Kinston, North Carolina. As a result of the flooding, the Kinston Rotarians cancelled the up-coming visit of Rotarians from their Sister Rotary Club in Winnipeg.

The Rotary Club of Kinston meets regularly at King’s Restaurant which had 28 inches of water in their building, as shown in photo.

For more information on the extent of the flooding, Google “Kinston Flooding”.



**First a little background:** Kay Harrell from Kinston, and Ray Van from Winnipeg, both Presidents of their Clubs, met at the 1996 Rotary International Convention in Calgary. Upon returning home, they convinced their Clubs to become Sister Rotary Clubs. Over the past 20 years, the Sister Club relationship has been nurtured and strengthened by annual visits between the Clubs.

On October 17, 2016, our Rotary Board launched the **Kinston Flood Relief Appeal** and agreed to match member donations up to \$1,000. Rotarians and former Rotarians who had visited Kinston in the past contributed a total of CAN\$1,300. The Board later agreed to match these donations in order to provide a total donation of US\$2,000 to the Rotary Club of Kinston.

The donation was finally sent to Kinston in January, 2017.

Attached are copies of several letters of appreciation for your review. Although our donation was small relative to the size of the flood recovery challenge, it appears to have touched the hearts of our Rotary friends in Kinston, NC.

ROTARY CLUB OF WINNIPEG  
THE CLUB THAT MADE ROTARY "INTERNATIONAL"



243 – 375 York Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J3  
Canada

January 24, 2017

Brantley Briley  
President  
Rotary Club of Kinston, NC.  
PO Box 1713  
Kinston, NC 28503  
USA

Dear Brantley,

**Subject: Kinston Flood Relief Appeal.**

Last October, following the Flooding of parts of Kinston, we launched a Kinston Flood Relief Appeal amongst our members and former Rotarians who had visited Kinston as part of our Rotary Sister Club relationship.

The Board of our Club launched the Appeal, by allocating US\$1,000 as matching funds for donations from Winnipeg Rotarians and Kinston Visit Alumni. The result is that we raised a total of US\$2,000. Half of the donations came from former Rotarians who are Kinston Alumni. I think this emphasizes how significant the Kinston visits have been to the participants.

Enclosed is a check (cheque) for US\$2,000 for the Rotary Club of Kinston to use for Flood Relief Assistance. We would like to see the funds used for services for youth who were negatively affected by the flooding. However, we leave it to your discretion to decide on the best use of the funds.

We wish you well as you continue to recover from last October's flooding. Personally, Nancy and I look forward to visiting Kinston in October 2017.

Warmest Regards,

Frank Cosway  
Past President (2015-16)  
Rotary Club of Winnipeg  
Tel: 204-654-1045  
E-mail: frankcosway@mts.net

**Our Mission:**

*"To create community through fellowship and service, to eliminate poverty and disease, and to provide knowledge and opportunity, especially to young people."*

**E-mail from Brantley Briley,  
President, Rotary Club of Kinston**

(Brantley had 3 trees fall on his house. One tree branch came through the kitchen ceiling. Another tree seriously damaged his garage.)

Frank,

On behalf of all of the members of the Rotary Club of Kinston, I want to thank you and the Rotary Club of Winnipeg members for your very generous contribution to our Club for Hurricane Matthew relief efforts. We are so thankful to each of you for the love, support, and generosity that you have shown. I want you all to know that your contribution is even greater than you expected because we have used it, combined with our Club's contribution, as a match when applying for district funds for the relief effort. So, while we have not heard back from the Grants Committee, we feel there is a strong possibility that your generous contribution will be matched.



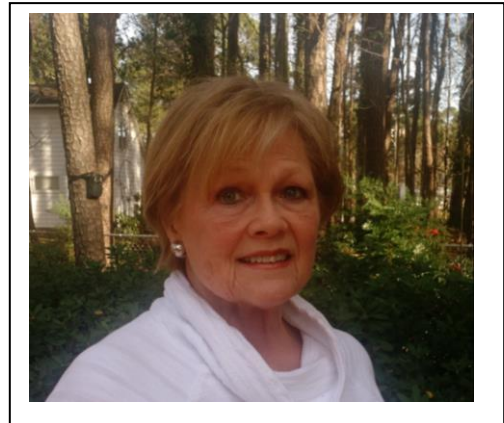
What wonderful things Rotarians continue to do by working together. We all hope that your community does not have to experience a disaster such as we experienced with Matthew, but if it does, please know that we will be there for you. The Rotary Club of Winnipeg and the Rotary Club of Kinston have a long-standing relationship as sister clubs. We treasure that relationship as it grows even stronger. By the way, we missed seeing you last October. We will make up for it with a very festive visit when we are all together.

Yours in Rotary  
Brantley Briley, President  
Rotary Club of Kinston

**E-mail from Brenda Canup  
Secretary, Rotary Club of Kinston**

*Frank,*

*Please convey my personal appreciation for the financial support given to our club by your club to assist the many local victims of Hurricane Matthew. Although support has been generous, there are individuals and families displaced even today. Our club will make sure each dollar is directed to those persons whose basic needs have yet to be met.*



*Your gesture makes me even prouder to be a Rotarian and to be affiliated with the Winnipeg Club. I treasure the relationships I've made through three visits to Winnipeg, two of which were made to accompany students to MUNA. Thank you for this wonderful gesture and for exemplifying the mission of Rotary.*

*Sincerely,*

*Brenda Canup, secretary  
The Rotary Club of Kinston*

**Billy Page:**

Frank,

Many thanks to you and your fellow Rotarians for your contribution to help our local flood victims in Kinston, North Carolina. We are indebted to you and our friends there in the Winnipeg club.

Best wishes,

Billy Page  
Kinston noon Rotary Club member

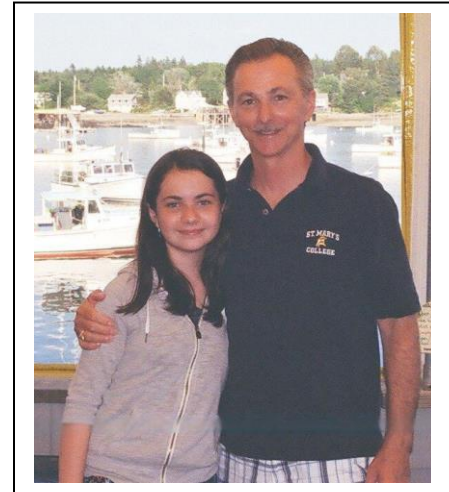
**Dirk Griffith:**

Frank,

I was so impressed at the generosity of our sister Club's gift that I had to write. It certainly puts the "International" in Rotary! Thank you.

Dirk

**Dirk Griffith | Executive Director**  
**Lenoir Hospital Foundation**  
**UNC Lenoir Health Care**



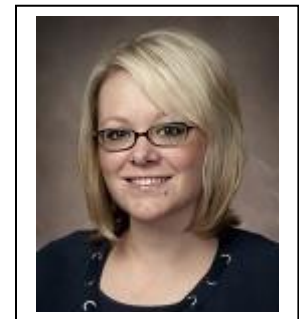
**Kristy Harrell:**

Good morning,

As a resident of Kinston, North Carolina and a member of the Kinston Rotary Club, I would like to extend my personal gratitude for the generous gift from the Rotary Club of Winnipeg. Please relay my appreciation to your members and the club! This gift means so much to our community.

Sincerely,

Kristy Harrell  
252-527-6100  
252-520-9654, fax  
[kharrell@cicfinancial.com](mailto:kharrell@cicfinancial.com)



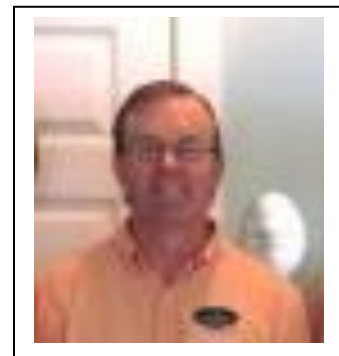
**Randy Jackson:**

Frank,

Brantley shared with our club that the Winnipeg Club donated \$2000 total for Flood Relief Assistance! From myself, our club, and the families these monies will affect, I offer you and your club a mighty THANK YOU! Kind acts like these make the world a better place my friend! Thanks again!

Thanks,

Randy Jackson



## **Kay & Jack Harrell:**

I received a telephone call from Kay expressing their appreciation for our donation to their Flood Recovery program.



## **Note:**

**Brantley Briley submitted this “Letter to the Editor” to the Winnipeg Free Press on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor,

Members of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg and the Rotary Club of Kinston (North Carolina) are unlikely friends. Kinston is 2826 km south of Winnipeg. This distance hasn't posed a difficulty to our friendship. In June 1996, Kay Harrell from Kinston and Ray Van from Winnipeg, presidents of their clubs, met at the 1996 International Rotary Convention in Calgary. Upon returning home they convinced their clubs to become Sister Rotary Clubs.

The Red River flood in April 1997, we understand, was the largest evacuation in Canadian history and the most severe flood since 1826. The Rotary Club of Kinston extended a contribution to assist our new friends, Winnipeg Rotarians, and their neighbors in distress. A few months later in October 1997, hurricane Floyd brought disaster to Eastern North Carolina, and our friends in Winnipeg sent our suffering citizens a helping hand. Now after 19 years, in October 2016, a hurricane named Matthew wreaked havoc on Kinston and our neighboring towns spreading damage we are not yet over. Once again, a helping hand came from the Rotary Club of Winnipeg to many North Carolinians in need. The kind donation from Winnipeg went towards getting families back together, providing meals for the hungry, transporting people to work, paying rent for the homeless, and for coordinating volunteers from out of town to provide skills and labor.

Our Sister Club history has not all been tragedy. During these 19 years, we have enjoyed annual visits between clubs, getting to learn how we each work and play, and what we value and what we think. We have shared ideas and projects as we strive to live our club motto, “service above self”.

How fortunate we are to grow these special friendships. Thank you Rotary Club of Winnipeg for the gift and the help for our flooded citizens, and for enriching our lives with the gift of Rotary Friendship.

**Brantley Briley**, Kinston Rotary Club, President

**Kay Harrell**, Kinston Rotary Club, Sister Club Founder

You may be interested to know a little Kinston history. Before the War of Independence, Kinston was called Kingston. After the war, they were not very fond of the King of England. So they removed the "g" from the name and the town has been called Kinston ever since.

Newsletter

Prepared by:

Frank Cosway

February 23, 2017