

Celebrating 95 years of service in Fargo/Moorhead

GOOD WORKS!

INAUGURAL ISSUE



The first day of play
at Miracle Field,
Moorhead
(page 4)

Polio still cripples thousands of children around the world. With your help, we can wipe this disease off the face of the earth forever. Visit rotary.org/endpolio to help.



END POLIO NOW

Rotary

We Are ThisClose to Ending Polio.

Bill Gates

A Publication of the Fargo/Moorhead Area Rotary Clubs, Inaugural Edition

GOOD WORKS!

REALLY WORKS. WONDERS. HERE'S PROOF.

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95 Years of Good Works



The Fargo Rotary Club was founded 95 years ago, on June 17, 1917. Today, there are five Rotary Clubs in the Fargo/Moorhead area: the Fargo Club, the Moorhead Club, the Fargo



The Fargo Rotary Club in a parade through downtown Fargo, sometime between 1917 and 1919. (Photo courtesy of the Fargo Public Library.)

West Club, the FMAM Club and now, the FMPM Rotary Club, just formed this year. In this new, local Rotary magazine, you'll find recent examples of how good *works*!



Left: An adult student works with Rosetta Stone software to learn English at one of the eight **Project English** locations in Fargo/Moorhead established by local Rotary Clubs. **Right:** A hand-painted sign at the Great Plains Food Bank, where local Rotarians helped keep 750 needy schoolchildren well fed enough to study during the 2011-12 school year.



Left: Beautifully wrapped bags of truly exquisite Guatemalan coffee on their way to our region to be sold, so the proceeds can be used to build schools in Guatemala. **Right:** Local Rotarians building one of the two new Guatemalan schools completed in 2011-2012.





The Universal Playground in Lindenwood Park, built in 2006-2007 with \$265,000 raised by the Fargo/Moorhead Area Rotary Clubs. Here, children and parents with special needs can play on an equal footing with children and parents of normal abilities, changing the way disabled and non-disabled children view each other. The sign in the foreground lists the major individuals and businesses that contributed to building the playground.

◆ Local Good Works ◆

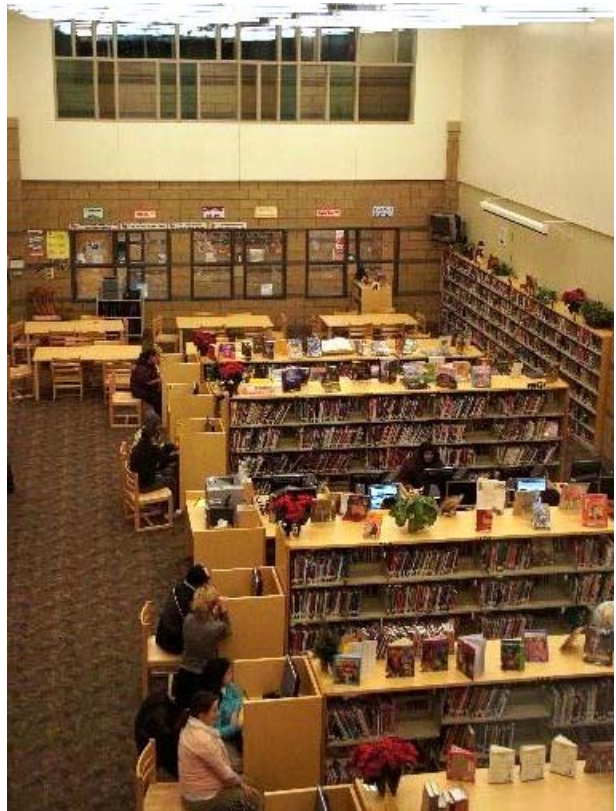
The Rotary Centennial Universal Playground

In early 2006, the Rotary Clubs of Fargo/Moorhead came together to create the Fargo Moorhead Rotary Foundation, with the initial purpose of building the Universal Playground in Lindenwood Park. The playground was finished the next year, with \$265,000 in contributions from businesses and individuals in the Fargo/Moorhead area. It features a smooth and soft walk area, ramps, Braille markings, adaptive swings, slides, and climbing apparatus, enabling children of all abilities to play together. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the first Rotary Club in Chicago in 1905, the playground was named the Rotary Centennial Universal Playground. It is managed and maintained by the Fargo Park District.

Since 2007, the FM Rotary Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has been engaged in numerous other local and international good works. ►

Project English

Project English helps newcomers to our country learn to speak English. Spearheaded just 18 months ago by Rotarian Heather Ranck, eight independent training facilities have already been established in the FM area.¹ At least one of these facilities is within walking distance of most new American refugees in our area, eliminating the main obstacle for this audience. Each facility has at least one computer running Rosetta Stone software. Already, over 150 new English learners have been trained in the use of the software and are now using it on their own. Area Rotary Clubs have donated nearly \$13,000 to this effort, and more than 1,000 hours have been donated by more than 100 volunteers, both Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. All area Rotary clubs have contributed to this effort.



Carl Ben Eielson Library, one of eight Project English locations. Project English stations are at the ends of the aisles, where people can be seen studying.

"Project English has been the spark that was needed to connect parents to the school and community. It's adult education, but the impact has a ripple effect and it has built a fabulous sense of community." —Barbara Weber, Retired Assistant Principal

"... Children learn the English language quickly. This can create a circumstance where the child has more power than the parents. Project English helps maintain the power structure in families." —Vonnie Sanders, ELL Director, Fargo Public Schools

"When I first moved to Fargo, I didn't speak English and I had to have an interpreter for things like meetings and doctor's appointments. I couldn't talk to my children's teachers... now I can speak English a little bit and life is much easier... I work at the Holiday Inn and we employees now have twenty-four-seven access to English language learning resources, thanks to Rotary and Rosetta Stone." —Tulasha Siwakoti ►

¹ Project English locations: James Carlson Fargo Public Library, CHARISM, Moorhead Adult Basic Education, Job Service ND, Holiday Inn, Carl Ben Eielson Middle School and two locations hosted by the Fargo Housing and Redevelopment Authority: the Fargo High Rise and the Madison Elementary Neighborhood Resource Center.

Miracle Field

"Every Child Deserves A Chance to Play Baseball."

On August 25, 2010, Miracle Field was opened in Moorhead, providing a place where children of all abilities can enjoy the game of baseball. The field was built with \$254,000 raised by the Fargo Moorhead Rotary Foundation.



Miracle League baseball began in Georgia in 1998, when the Rockdale Youth Baseball Association decided to invite children with disabilities to play baseball on a typical baseball field. With tens of thousands of disabled children in the Atlanta area, enthusiasm mushroomed. But there was a problem:

A normal baseball field presents many hazards to players in wheelchairs or walkers. That's when the Rotary Clubs of Rockdale County, Georgia got involved, forming the Rotary Club Miracle League Fund. By the second season, a new kind of baseball field was created: It had a cushioned, rubberized surface to help prevent injuries and facilitate the use of wheelchairs and walkers.



Miracle Fields began springing up across the country.² In early 2009, the Fargo/Moorhead Rotary Foundation learned that the Moorhead Parks and Recreation Department wanted to build a Miracle Field at the Southside Regional Soccer Complex in south Moorhead. We offered to raise the funds to build the field, and the city agreed. Rotarians from each Fargo/Moorhead Club were then selected to participate in a committee responsible for promoting, coordinating, and raising the money. Funding took off quickly, and the groundbreaking ceremony to start the project was conducted on June 10th of that year.



Opening day, August 25, 2010. Hundreds now use the field on a weekly basis.

Opening ceremonies took place on August 25, 2010, less than 18 months after fundraising began. This is the fastest concept-to-completion of any Miracle Field built in Minnesota. ▶

² There are now more than 250 Miracle Leagues around the world, spreading as far as Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia, serving over 250,000 disabled children worldwide. Go to: <http://www.miracleleague.com/home.html>

The Great Plains Food Bank Backpack Program

Nearly 20,000 weekend food supplies were distributed to students during the 2011-2012 school year.³ Every Friday during the school year, these food bags were put together and discretely placed in the lockers of about 750 students in the Fargo, West Fargo and Moorhead School Districts. The Backpack Program started in 2009 as a proposal to Fargo Rotary from the Great Plains Food Bank. It is designed to feed schoolchildren in our area who might otherwise arrive to school Monday mornings too hungry to be able to study effectively. It is funded and staffed largely by donations and volunteers from the Fargo and FMPM Rotary Clubs.

The Tri-College University International Student Picnic

On September 16, 2012, area Rotary Clubs welcomed nearly 300 international students attending NDSU, MSUM and Concordia by hosting a picnic at the Rotary Shelter in Lindenwood Park. This local, annual Rotary tradition of welcoming international students to our area was started by the Moorhead Rotary Club twenty years ago, in 1992.



The International Student Picnic 2012, put on by local Rotarians at the Rotary Shelter in Lindenwood Park. The shelter was built by the Fargo Parks District and named in our honor in 2007, after the Universal Playground was completed, seen in the background of the center photo. (See page 2 for full story on the playground.)

Dictionaries to 3rd Graders

We hand-delivered individually personalized dictionaries to 2,230 third grade students in seven local school districts during the 2011-2012 school year. Started many years ago by the Moorhead Rotary Club, all area Rotary Clubs are now involved in handing these personalized dictionaries out to students in class. In the age of e-readers and online dictionaries, it's amazing to see the expression of joy on a child's face when opening a dictionary and seeing his or her own name inscribed on the inside front cover! ▶

³ 19,767 food bags, give or take a couple.

◆ Rotary International Good Works ◆

PolioPlus: End Polio Now

Rotarians have put nearly \$1 billion into the effort to eliminate polio from the face of the Earth, and have already spared an estimated five million children from a lifetime of paralysis. In 1985, Rotary International created PolioPlus, a campaign to eliminate polio across the globe.⁴ When this effort began, there were over a hundred polio-endemic countries in the world and hundreds of thousands of cases diagnosed annually. Today, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are only three polio-endemic countries left: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan – and less than a hundred cases of polio were diagnosed worldwide during the first half of 2012!⁵ Now working with WHO, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and dozens of countries and NGOs, Rotary International is again raising hundreds of millions of dollars and doing tremendous volunteer work in the final, critical push to eradicate this disease from the face of the Earth *forever*.



**“If we all have the
fortitude to see this
effort through to the end, then we
will eradicate polio.”
—Bill Gates**



Rotary International is engaged in a myriad of international good works. For more information on Rotary International's other humanitarian projects, go to:

www.rotary.org.

⁴ Watch this brief, fascinating timeline of polio at the Rotary International website:
<http://www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/polio/timeline/pages/ridefault.aspx>

⁵ With over 63 references linking to authoritative reports, Wikipedia's *Poliomyelitis eradication* article is a great place to learn the history and up-to-the-minute progress of the Global Eradication Initiative, begun in 1988, three years after PolioPlus got the ball rolling. Rotary International has played a key role from the inception of this effort.



Fargo North sophomore Sanders Ellingson began the night with Romanian Folk Dances from Bartok.

“Making music that saves lives.”

On Thursday, March 29, 2012, the four Rotary Clubs of Fargo / Moorhead presented “Recital with a Cause,” a young artists’ recital to end polio. The night featured performances by past winners of the Fargo/ Moorhead Area Youth Symphonies Concerto Competition and the Young Artists Solo



Red River High junior Sarah Pugh was the night’s third artist, performing Marcellino on marimba. Then Fargo South senior Kai Johnson performed Rosauro, also on marimba.



Recital with a Cause

Recital with a Cause combines our local and international good works in perfect harmony. At this year’s recital, we raised \$3,600 for Polio Plus and, at the same time, \$1,400 for youth-related symphony activities with the FM Symphony Orchestra and the FM Youth Symphony Orchestras.



Fargo South senior Patrick Lin then performed Ravel, accompanied by Amy Mercer.

Competition.⁶ This was our third year presenting “Recital with a Cause,” raising more than \$15,000 toward ending polio in the world and helping young area musicians. Next year’s recital will once again be held at the First Lutheran Church on Broadway. Admission is free, donations accepted! See the back cover of *Good Works!* and watch Recital Chairperson Cheryl Knudson’s “favorite video in the world”: <http://vimeo.com/45472007>

Closing the night, Jenny Sun, a senior at Davies, performed Gordeli on flute, and then finished off the remarkable evening with a piano concerto by Camile Saint-Saens. ▶



⁶ These competitions were sponsored by the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra and Classical Minnesota Public Radio 91.1 FM.

◆ FM Clubs' International Good Works ◆

Guatemalan Projects

During 2011-2012, Fargo/Moorhead Rotarians built two schoolhouses in Guatemala: The first, dedicated in February 2012, in El Dormido; and the second, just being completed at this writing, in San Antonio, Guatemala. In cooperation with Vista Hermosa Rotary of Guatemala City, FM Rotarians also recently completed a water project bringing clean potable water to a school in Xesiguan, Chimateno, Guatemala, and furnished several libraries with books – including text books selected by teachers of other schools built in recent years by the FM Rotary Clubs in cooperation with Guatemalan Rotarians. Nearly \$40,000 was contributed to these efforts by the Fargo/Moorhead Area Rotary Clubs,⁷ and a number of local Rotarians traveled to Guatemala, doing everything from mixing mortar to laying concrete block.



The El Dormido Schoolhouse in Guatemala, built by FM Rotarians to replace a school destroyed in 2010 by Pacific Hurricane Agatha.

“Without a school the children simply have no place to go. The void filled by this project and other similar projects is immense.” —Randy Wimmer, Fargo Rotary Club

FM Rotary Clubs' work in Guatemala goes back ten years and exceeds \$200,000 in contributions. Working with Wahpeton Rotary, Dickinson Rotary and 32 other Rotary Clubs in our Rotary District, we have helped build, expand and supply 11 schools, complete nine water projects, install three corn mill grinding machines and construct four emergency medical facilities (one of which is a fire station/paramedic facility on Lake Atitlan that serves as the central paramedic training facility for the entire country of Guatemala). ►

⁷ \$12,182 to the El Dormido schoolhouse; \$14,723 to the San Antonio schoolhouse; \$6,289 to the Xesiguan, Chimateno water project, and \$5,570 to the Guatemalan library works.



This beautifully bagged Guatemalan coffee is on its way back to the Fargo/Moorhead area to be sold at fair market price, funding future school building projects in Guatemala.

agreed with Guatemalan Rotarians that our efforts should focus primarily on building schools in outlying areas. Soon a brilliant plan evolved: We began bringing back about 1,000 pounds of exquisite Guatemalan coffee, sold to us at a fair market price by locals in appreciation for building a school; then FM Rotary Clubs and our partners sell it at a fair markup to finance building the next school. Good coffee, good works!



Our fellowship with the people of rural Guatemala began in 2003 when local Rotarians helped build a medical facility there. Learning that more than 70% of the rural population lived in poverty (95% of the wealth in Guatemala is owned by just 16 families) and finding out that the 23 different Mayan languages still in use were not discernible to each other, (preventing villages from communicating with even their closest neighbors, much less the outside world), FM Rotary clubs



Rotarians from Fargo/Moorhead, Wahpeton, Dickinson and other Clubs in our Rotary District have been helping build new schools in Guatemala for nearly a decade. The Zacualpa school shown here is located in the highlands of Guatemala, about 200 kilometers northwest of Guatemala City. Local Rotarians, including a number from Wahpeton and Dickinson, financed the construction, furnished the materials, then flew down to Guatemala to put in ten days of intensive labor to build it. It is one of eleven such Guatemalan schools built by Rotary Clubs from our region, working in cooperation with Guatemalan Rotarians, over the last nine years. ▶

Projects in India

“Rotary does not ask us to become heroes or do the impossible. Rotary is made up of ordinary people inclined to give selflessly.... It may not be possible to wipe away all the tears of the world, but we surely can try.”

—Ajit Arom, Rotarian from Rajapalayam, India

In just the last two years, Fargo/Moorhead Area Rotary Clubs have helped thousands of Indian students enjoy happier, healthier and more study-conducive lives through the wise investment of over \$50,000 in Rotary funds. In 2011, we established water filtration for ten schools in the Rajapalayam region of Tamil Nadu, India, working closely with Rotarians there, giving children and teachers clean drinking water. In 2012, we financed the building of 643 sets of steel classroom desk and bench sets for students in that same region, who had previously been studying while sitting on dirt floors. Each desk/bench set, seen below, seats four students comfortably. Today there are more than 2,500 Indian students able to study much more effectively, drinking clean water and sitting comfortably!



These desk/bench sets have enabled these and thousands of other students to study much more effectively than when they were sitting on the ground.

Rotarians from our District have been working with Rotarians in the Rajapalayam region of India for over a decade, helping bring water, desks and computers to deserving students like these. The total investment from our region amounts to just over \$200,000. ►

GOOD WORKS!

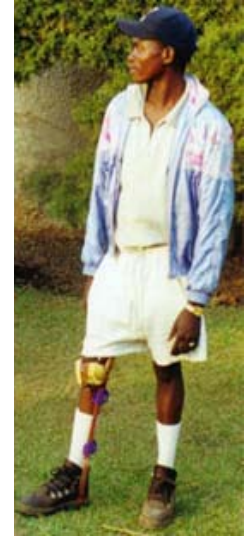
Stand Proud



From this...

Fargo/Moorhead Rotarians recently led a successful effort to receive matching funds from the International Rotary Foundation for a total of \$15,500 to go toward giving leg braces to young Congolese victims of polio, who would otherwise spend their entire lives crawling along on the ground. The

Congo was one of the last places on Earth to be moved off of the polio-endemic list, and the disease left many victims behind. At a cost of just \$100 per individual, these life-changing leg braces are being manufactured in the Congo by an American, aiding the local economy. For more information, go to www.standproud.org.



...to this!

The Kipanga, Tanzania Water Project

In 2011, Fargo/Moorhead Rotarians, working with the parishioners of Lake Park Lutheran Church in Minnesota, succeeded in bringing potable water to the people of Kipanga village in Tanzania, on the continent of Africa. Until then, the women and children of the village had to walk down a mountain to a muddy stream, fill their urns with contaminated water, then hike back up the mountain to use it for cooking and drinking. This project began two years ago with fundraising for a plan to drill three wells – and although two of the three came up dry, the one that succeeded now provides clean, potable drinking water for the Kipanga village. ►

GOOD WORKS!

Good Works! was created, designed, researched, written and edited by Fargo Rotarian Marc de Celle.

Great thanks for tremendous help from Lynn Sperial, Keith Brokke, Heather Ranck, Cheryl Knudson, William Slanger, Jean Hannig, Jim Bolluyt, Dirk Ockhardt, Randy Wimmer, Gary Nolte,

John Trombley, Jessica Magness, Tom Thompson, Melissa Sobolik,

Cory Badinger, Jennifer Dahl and many others.

How Rotarian of you!

Special thanks to Kim, Kellie and Mia at Shortprinter.com for *outstanding* service.

Please email any questions, comments, suggestions or critiques to:

marcdecelle@cablone.net, lynn.sperial@redcross.org or jmagness@warnerandcompany.com

Dear Reader,

I'd like to invite you to join us for breakfast, lunch or an after-work meal or beverage sometime. But first, I should explain the story behind this invitation.

A little less than a year ago, I was asked to speak to the Fargo Rotary Club about my book, *How Fargo of You*. I thought it would be just like dozens of talks I'd given the previous year.

But it wasn't, quite. This group was a bit different. More lively. Slightly irreverent. *Funny*. So when they asked if I'd like to join them again (this time listening to someone else speak) I accepted. Several times. Learning a bit about what they were doing and enjoying their relaxed camaraderie, I soon, to my surprise, found myself asking what was involved in joining.

I had to do a little study. I was impressed by the hundred-plus year history of Rotary – the oldest service organization on the planet. I especially liked Rotary's simple, compassionate, *wise* core principles. A few weeks later, I was in.

But quickly, I began to realize I'd only glimpsed the tip of the iceberg of what these folks were up to. I wanted to know more. So I proposed to compile a list of recent accomplishments.

You're reading the result.

Except I've had to leave a lot out. Twelve pages won't hold it all. So you haven't read about Fargo West Rotary's six-figure contribution to the Red River Zoo over the last decade. Or FMAM Rotary's ongoing help to both the YWCA and the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center. Or Moorhead Rotary's scholarships to local high school students going on to attend colleges and universities in the FM area. Or the many Rotary Youth Exchange students from other countries hosted by members of the Fargo/Moorhead Rotary clubs. And more. There just isn't room.

If you want to learn more, do what I did. Grab a meal with us a few times and see what you think. These clubs are about as Fargo/Moorhead as it gets. Breakfast, lunch or dinner:

The FMAM Club meets at 7 am, Thursday, at the Ramada. www.facebook.com/FMAMRotary

The Moorhead Rotary Club meets at 11:45 am, Tuesday, in the Courtyard by Marriott.

www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Home.aspx?cid=1335

The Fargo Rotary Club meets at noon, Wednesday, at the Radisson. www.fargorotary.org

The Fargo West Club meets at noon, Monday, at the Holiday Inn. www.fargowestrotary.org

The FMPM Club meets every Tuesday at 5:15 pm – and the fourth Tuesday of every month is their new club orientation meeting, held at Lucky's 13 Pub in Fargo (other nights, the location can vary). www.facebook.com/pages/FM-PM-Rotary-Evening-Club/291050024281103

Join us sometime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc de Celle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Marc de Celle, Editor

Classical musicians to perform as if lives depend on it.

Local young, award-winning musicians
to perform in an effort to end polio worldwide.

FARGO / MOORHEAD ROTARY CLUBS

RECITAL WITH A CAUSE

BENEFITTING POLIO PLUS



Thursday, April 4, 2013

7:30 PM

First Lutheran Church

619 Broadway, Fargo

Free Admission

Donations Appreciated



Find us on Facebook at Recital with a Cause 2013