

Wenatchee Rotary Foundation Helps Out the Exchange Club

The Wenatchee Exchange Club cancelled their annual Christmas tree sales event last year due to their supplier not being able to provide healthy trees. The intense summer temperatures resulted in a crop failure and by the time the Exchange Club was notified it was too late to find an alternate tree source. Proceeds from the annual sale go toward youth activities and scholarships.

In stepped your Wenatchee Rotary Foundation and other organizations and individuals in the community to close this gap in charitable funding. The Wenatchee Rotary Foundation Board of Directors approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Exchange Club's scholarship program. The Board believed this was reciprocal in-kind in that many Exchange Club members, either individually or through their places of business, have been generous to Wenatchee Rotary's fundraising through auctions and raffles.

Mark Kulaas, representing the Wenatchee Rotary Foundation attended the Exchange Club meeting on December 17 to present the donation to them and chat with their members about the mutual efforts in our community that are being supported by both the Exchange Club and our area's Rotary clubs. The gift from our club to theirs, pleasantly startled them.

Mark reported back to the Wenatchee Rotary Foundation Board that he was a bit ashamed that he, alone, was the recipient of such good will and thanks. He said "Okay, well no, I'm not ashamed, yet I'm still aglow with the goodwill created by our gesture to their efforts. One would have thought I was Marcus Agrippa returning to Rome bearing tributes of conquest after one of his historic battle successes as opposed to me, a Wenatchee Rotarian, bearing a check. It was humbling. I wish you could have experienced their warmth and sincere appreciation and friendship I did. We did good."

The presentation to the Exchange Club members in attendance, about 18 total, emphasized that all of the service clubs in the area had a niche, sometimes these overlapped, and we all were in the same community doing the same good for all of our community. Wenatchee Rotary does not approach its work as if in competition with any other club, rather as a component of the larger community-building effort of all service clubs. Mark thanked them for supporting Rotary and, in a shameless plug, invited them to participate in any form in our "For the Kids" auction.