



Service Above Self

Rotary Club of Bullhead City eBulletin

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

 Club Web Site

Editor: Art Harrington
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

Changing lives in West Africa
by Art Harrington

Our Project in Niger



Club members will recall the impressive program presented some months ago by Ernie & Sally Montagne from the Sierra Vista Rotary Club. They requested our club's assistance with a project to provide dependable, cased water wells, along with gardening supplies & equipment, for the 4 communities of Dabla, Ekirkiwi, Azantale and Tigart in the Agadez Region of Niger, West Africa. There are at least 5,100 residents of these small communities.

Each of these communities currently has a hand dug well. These wells go dry in the dry season (March, April, and May), forcing the women to walk miles to get water. During the rainy season, the wells are fragile and subject to collapse and are unsafe to use. Further, they require constant maintenance, which is costly for the community.

Replacement of these wells with safe, concrete-cased wells will ensure safe access to clean water year round in these communities. The wells will have these beneficial effects on the communities:

- **Improved health.**

Clean water (from the wells) will reduce the incidences of water borne diseases.

- **Higher standard of living.**

Instead of spending hours each day fetching water, the women of the villages will be able to devote energy to income-producing work.

- **Improved education.**

The girls will be able to attend school instead of accompanying their mothers on the water trek. Further, the improved health of all children will result in better attendance at school.

- **Improved food production.**

Upcoming Events

Interact Mtg T-124 MHS
7:30am
Oct 24 2007

Interact Halloween Dance - MHS 7pm
Oct 26 2007

Interact Mtg T-124 MHS
7:30am
Oct 31 2007

Interact Cool Shade Trees
2pm
Nov 2 2007

Inteact Sp Ed Movie Outing
9am
Nov 7 2007

Interact Mtg T-124 MHS
7:30am
Nov 7 2007

Interact Mtg T-124 MHS
7:30am
Nov 14 2007

Interact Mtg T-124 MHS
7:30am
Nov 28 2007

Club Christmas Party
Dec 7 2007

News

Quote of the Week - Who Said It?

Thought for the Week - Who Said It?

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The residents will be able to irrigate local gardens. The gardens will provide a source of income, thus helping to lift the families out of extreme poverty.

- **Improved livestock retention.**

Any livestock owned by the residents will be less likely to wander off in search of water.

The total cost of the project is \$47,417. John McCormick personally contributed \$500 to this project, and our club matched that amount. The Sierra Vista Club has done an admirable job of raising \$17,667 from 16 Rotary Clubs in various parts of the world, \$10,500 in District Designated Funds (DDF) from D5490 and D5500 here in Arizona and D9640 in Queensland, Australia, and gained \$19,250 in Matching Grant Funds from The Rotary Foundation (TRF).

Sierra Vista Rotary has collected all of the pledged funds and forwarded them to The Rotary Foundation. TRF has received the funds and will release the funds to the project account this month. At that time, the Rotary Club of Agadez in Niger will be able to commence the project.

Our thanks to both Sierra Vista Rotary and the Montagnes for including our Bullhead City Rotary Club in this worthwhile project. We look forward to partnering with them again on future international projects.

Our goal

by Art Harrington



The end result

This is the kind of picture we will see soon in these four villages in Niger, West Africa.

Villagers in Dogle, in the Savanes Region of northern Togo, get a first taste of clean water, as children easily operate the manual pump. No longer do women have to descend on precariously placed branches into hand-dug wells, in order to lift 5-gallon containers of water on their heads to provide for their families.

Our club, together with other Rotary clubs and districts, and our Rotary Foundation, is making this happen.

Good-by Polio! Thank you, Rotary!

by Art Harrington

PolioPlus Update

In last week's bulletin we discussed Rotary's Polio Eradication program. We ended the article by noting that additional Rotary funding of at least \$5



million is needed to purchase the tools needed for the PolioPlus Partners program this 2007-08 Rotary year, as we begin to close in on our goal of a polio-free world.

[Where are we today in 2007?](#) There were, at last report, 497 active new cases remaining in 4 endemic countries: India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan. This figure is down 60% from the number of cases reported last year. We are making progress, and that is encouraging; but we have not yet reached our goal. We must press on until there are no new cases to be found in any country. Only then will the children of the world be safe from this crippling disease.

[There has never been found a cure for polio.](#) But with the vaccines that have been developed, children can be prevented from becoming the victims of this crippling disease. Last year we immunized 350 million children in our efforts to rid the world of this disease. So far Rotarians have contributed \$650 million to this noble cause, with \$23 million of that coming from our own Zones 25 and 26 here in the central part of the United States.

While the primary thrust of our efforts has to be directed to these remaining four countries, we also have a task closer at hand that needs our attention. In the United States, only 75% of the children in this country are being inoculated each year. [There continues to be a need for Rotary clubs to help sponsor inoculation clinics and other efforts to reach the remaining 25%.](#) It's a small world, and the wild polio virus can travel anywhere, as people move around the globe. Our children here remain at risk as well, as long as any active cases of polio can be found anywhere.

Words of wisdom



Happiness Is....

A 92-year-old, small-framed, well-poised and proud man, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with his hair fashionably coiffed and shaved perfectly, even though he is legally blind, moved to a nursing home. His wife of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After several hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, he smiled pleasantly when told his room was ready.

As he maneuvered his walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of his tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on his window.

"I love it," he stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mr. Jones, you haven't seen the room; just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," he replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged. It's how I arrange my mind."

I have already decided to love it.

"It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice. I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

"Each day is a gift; and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories! I am still depositing.

"Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.

2. Free your mind from worries.

3. Live simply.

4. Give more.

5. Expect less."

-- borrowed from the Granite Gate Grapevine