

# The RIM Newsletter

# Rotary

# InMotion



Club 16 (2809) District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916  
<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



*Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

Celebrating the people, events, and actions of the Muskegon Rotary Club

April 3, 2025

**Next Meeting (April 10, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Tacos at the DELTA**  
**Program Topic – Disability Panel Discussion**

## What's Coming

April 10 – Disability & JEDI  
April 17 - Homeless Youth in Muskegon  
April 24 – Inbound Exchange Students

## Upcoming Birthdays

April 10	J Griffith
April 11	Nicholas Green
April 11	Eric Seifert
April 13	Erin Kuhn
April 14	Brad Hastings

## Caring Connections Fund



[Click this link to donate \\$10 on your birthday](#)

## Greeter This Week

Dimitri Poland

## Reflector This Week

Everyone took a moment of silence to reflect

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett  
RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

## Visitors & Guests



President Tim Arter rings the opening meeting bell.



Lisa Tyler and guest Pat Shafer.



President Tim Arter makes his rounds!



Rob Mathis and guest Euteeka Thompson.



Stephanie Tushek and guest Erin Rivord.



Carla Flanders and guest Hayden Helmer.



Marty Sytsema introduces the Director of Advancement Dayne Robinson and students Sandy Bingham and Colin Kelsey from Muskegon Catholic Central.

### Muskegon Rotary Board

Tim Arter, President  
 Dave Alexander, President-Elect  
 Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee  
 Ginny Sprague, Past President  
 Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
 Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary  
 Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

Directors:

Aaron Maike	Tom Palmer
Brandon Turnbull	Esther Ricco
Marty Sytsema	Lisa Tyler

Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):

4/3/2025 Muskegon Rotary  
 YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

## New Members



Sponsor Dave Alexander and new Rotarian Martha Fohlbrook.

Martha Fohlbrook is a Financial Advisor and Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor for Merrill Lynch. She currently lives in Hudsonville and commutes daily to Muskegon, where she works with her partner Financial Advisor Greg DeVoursney. She has been recognized as a Grand Rapids Market President Honoree due to outstanding leadership in market success for Bank of America and Merrill since 2023.

Martha was born and raised in Margarita Island, Venezuela and moved independently to the U.S. at the age of 17. She pursued her bachelor's degree at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids and graduated as a Magna Cum Laude in 2019. Because of her background, Martha is fluent in both English and Spanish, and she enjoys giving back to the community by providing financial education to local Hispanic businesses.

Martha is also part of the Hispanic/Latino Organization for Leadership & Advancement (HOLA) at Bank of America, through which she devotes her free time to volunteering. She enjoys being a mentor and helping young professionals thrive in their careers, not only within Bank of America but also externally through Grand Rapids Community College.

Martha is married to her husband Bobby, and has a 2-year-old daughter named Bella, who is the light of her eyes. She is passionate about paving the way for future generations and giving back to the community, which is why she is eager to roll up her sleeves and join us at Rotary.



Sponsor Nick Green and new Rotarian Mike Apostle.

Michael Apostle, Journey Construction Group (JCG) is a Commercial General Contractor and His role is Director of Business Development

Michael graduated from Mona Shores and Western Michigan University. He Lives in Norton Shores and has worked at Journey Construction Group for 4 years. Michael has several personal hobbies: Hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking and golf. He is very involved in the community. He coached boys' soccer at Mona Shores High School for 15 years, Muskegon County Chapter President of Ducks Unlimited, Muskegon Chamber Ambassador.



Sponsor **Tim Tuthill** and new Rotary inductee Michele Lipka.

Michele lives in North Muskegon with Chris, her husband of 38 years. Michele is a graduate of North Muskegon High School, and her husband is a Montague native. They have one married daughter, Sarah who lives in Grand Rapids with her husband and, the joy of their life, 8 year-old grandson, Gavin.

After marrying, they moved to Grand Rapids where they lived and worked for 33 years. The desire to live on water called them back to the lakeshore in 2019.

The move to the lakeshore presented the need for Michele to find a new job. So, while selling their home, packing, moving temporarily into a small apartment with 2 large dogs, and supervising the renovation of their next home an hour away, she decided to pursue her dream of selling real estate.

Prior to becoming a realtor, Michele was an elementary school Head Secretary for 17 years with Forest Hills Public Schools..... (yes! it's true secretaries and custodians run the building!) It is at both First United Methodist Church and Clarke Retirement Community that she had the pleasure of working with Tim Tuthill. After losing contact for a couple years, Tim and Michele recently re-connected.

On the rare occasion Michele is not working, she enjoys spending time in her home studio designing and sewing leather handbags.



Sponsor **Emily Morgenstern** and new inductee Kaitlin Hermanson.

Kaitlin was born and raised in Muskegon County and attended Mona Shores, where she started her career as a future Rotarian in the Interact Club!

Kaitlin graduated from the University of Michigan in 2020 with a degree in International Studies (and was in Rotaract there, of course!). She currently serves as the Manager of Farm Programs at Trinity Health Muskegon, where she can focus on food access and nutrition education initiatives.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family, cooking meals with my partner Michael, practicing yoga, and enjoying our beautiful lakeshore.



**President Tim Arter** inducts our four newest members.



Left to right: our newest Rotarians—Mike Apostle, Michele Lipka, Martha Fohlbrook, and Kaitlin Hermanson.

**Community House**  
Coffee Shop

**New Member Social—  
Pours for Community**

Join other new members and  
enjoy a cup of coffee.

**Thursday April 24**  
7:30–9:30 am  
or  
5:00–7:00 pm



Our newest Rotarians with their sponsors.

## This Week's Program: Food Insecurity - Panel Discussion

**Panelists:** Rob Mathis (Citi Boi), Kaitlin Hermanson (McLaughlin Grows at Trinity Health), and Larry Williams (HW Farms)

**Moderator:** Lisa Tyler



**Rob Mathis** of City Boi, **Kaitlin Hermanson** of McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm, and **Larry Williams** of HW Farms discuss food insecurities in Muskegon and how they're helping!

### Prompt 1: Please tell us a little about your organization and how you got started.

**Citi Boi:** Citiboi got started during the pandemic because people were losing their jobs and needed help. We started by providing lunches for the community.

**McLaughlin Grows:** We started the Urban Farm at Trinity Health in July of last year. We have a 36-week ag program with a Farm Share program. We provide education and provide produce to patients.

**HW Farms:** In May of 2023, we began as a community garden concept, but over time we changed to a teaching farm. We grow over 40 different crops. People come to learn about growing food and can leave with produce. We also provide food and cooking education. We are working to make sure we can use all our crops and don't have food waste.

(**Lisa Tyler** provided a side note about the article in the latest Rotary Magazine about food waste. *If you haven't read it, take the time to check it out.*)

### Prompt 2: What challenges have you faced?

**Citi Boi:** We had challenges getting funding, getting our 501c3 status, getting information out into the community, and disbursement of food. We partnered with Feeding America West Michigan.

**McLaughlin Grows:** Our programs in Ann Arbor and Oakland had great models, but we had to adapt them to fit our community of Muskegon. We needed to integrate it into the community and make sure the community had a voice in the process. Our goal was 50 boxes per week out the door, those programs were much larger.

**HW Farms:** Our main challenges were what to do with excess produce and finding time to do it all.

### Prompt 3: How are you engaging with the community and motivating people to get involved?

**HW Farms:** We are using social media to increase awareness and reach community influencers. To get volunteer engagement, we have a "donate (#) minutes and get (this much) produce" model. We are also getting the word out about our farm incubator program.

**McLaughlin Grows:** Volunteers are very important! We use United Way of the Lakeshore's volunteer portal. Volunteers can harvest, trellis tomatoes, cut bouquets for patients, etc. We hold free monthly education programs. When the gates are open and we are on site, people are welcome to stop in and tour the site.

**Citi Boi:** We use Facebook to communicate. We hold monthly mobile food pantries at Community United Methodist Church. We also have a clothing pantry and provide household items and furniture to those who need it, so we accept donations of items.

### Prompt 4: Tell us about your partnerships with other entities.

**Citi Boi:** Feeding America is an essential partnership to help us get low-cost food for distribution. We also partner with the Hope Project, Every Woman's Place, and other organizations.

**McLaughlin Grows:** We partner with Agewell and MDHHS. We also partner with MAISD to make sure that our garden education programs are complementary to and not duplicative of theirs.

**HW Farms:** Lakeshore Flavor helped us with grant funding. We also partner with Access Health and Kids Food Basket. We work with McLaughlin Grows on a CSA food share. I have about 8 meetings a week with area partners.

### Prompt 5: How do you measure impact?

**McLaughlin Grows:** The hospital completes a Community Health Needs survey. We also have gotten reporting and data collection and analysis ideas from our other sites. We look at how well we are focusing on our priority populations, the number of hours we have volunteers, the number of families we are serving, etc. Right now we are working on our annual report.

**HW Farms:** It's difficult since we are just starting out. We measure what we grow, versus compost and the number of families served.

**Citi Boi:** Google reviews!

### Prompt 6: Share a success story.

**HW Farms:** We purchased blighted property in Muskegon Heights (2639 Sixth Street). It took us a year to clean it up. Images on Google Earth show our progress.

**McLaughlin Grows:** Having our first orientation group for our Food Share program and getting to hear their stories. Getting to know them and sending them home with a plant that they can grow food with.

**Citi Boi:** While out picking up donations, I got a call that there were clients at the office. A woman and her four daughters had just relocated to the area with Every Woman's Place's assistance. We got her set up with everything she needed so she could concentrate on helping her family adjust. They are in a house and flourishing!

### Audience Question 1: With the cuts to the USDA and Feeding America, how will that affect you?

**Citi Boi:** We don't know what is going to happen. We are concentrating on other options.

**HW Farms:** We haven't seen any effects so far. Our grant is through the Health Project.

### Audience Question 2: What do you know about the new efforts related to the Muskegon County Food Club?

It is in development still. The plan is for a food pantry model where patrons would pay a membership fee that is based on income and family size and provides "purchase points" to use at the pantry. It will be a dignity and choice based model. It will be a few years still before it is off the ground.

## Where can I learn more about these groups?

**Citi Boi** - <https://citiboi.org/>

**McLaughlin Grows at Trinity Health:** <https://www.trinityhealthmichigan.org/location/mclaughlin-grows-urban-farm-trinity-health-muskegon>

**HW Farms:** <https://www.facebook.com/hwfarms.mkg>

### Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:15pm at the Core Plaza (Vault). Contact **Kaytie Drake** at [kaytieely@aol.com](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) for more information.

### Rotary In Action Nancy Crandall Past President



Nancy started the monthly Past Presidents Breakfast when she was the Muskegon Rotary Club President in 2007. The tradition has evolved and grown to become a vital part of our club's continuous improvement model.

View her video [here](#).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Meredith Smillie** discusses the final participants in the March Madness tournament!



**Roger Morgenstern** talks about the success of the joint service project with the Grand Rapids Rotary Club.



**Sue Samaniego** invites Rotary members between the ages of 18-55 to a DKMS donation registration event. DKMS is a global non-profit with the goal of eliminating blood cancer. The event takes place on 4.17.25 from 12:00–4:30 PM at the Gerber Lounge.

## Caring Connections

If you know anyone in our Rotary family who may need some comfort during a difficult time, please reach out to **Tom Palmer**, member of our Rotary Caring Connections Committee, at

[tomp@shorelineagency.com](mailto:tomp@shorelineagency.com).

If you would like to donate in addition to your annual birthday \$10 contribution, [click here](#).

## April 10<sup>th</sup> Membership Vote on Amended Bylaws

During our March 27, 2025 meeting, President Tim Arter announced a Club membership vote will be held during the April 10 lunch meeting to approve Club amended bylaws, which were approved by the Club Board of Directors. A notification of the April 10 vote along with the proposed amended bylaws was emailed to all Club members on March 27, 2025

## RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: John Noling, Mike Vogas, & Doug Wood

## Interact & EarlyAct Events Mark your April Calendars

### DATES & LOCATION

\*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Harbor Dunes/Kruse Park clean up

\*Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Park clean up

### TIME

\*9:00am to 12:00pm

### ASK

\*Plastics, tires, shoveling sand from beach stairs, etc

### LUNCH

\*Fireside hot dogs and chips Lunch served at 11:30 am at both locations

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

\*Students, parents, and Rotarians working together as part of Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

Hope you can help get the word out and join us!



**Kaitlin Hermanson** invites members to "Community Pours" events.

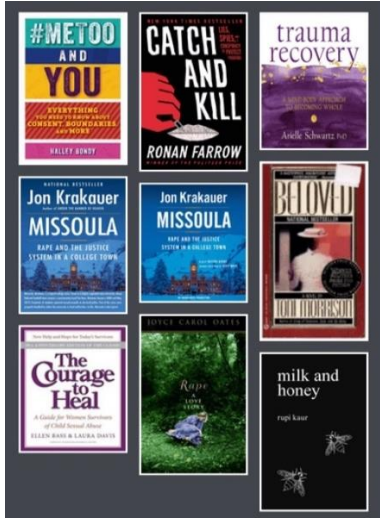
## Adopt-A-Highway Program Looking for Volunteers



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

MDOT


Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, April 12. Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 11:00am, sooner if we get a lot of help 😊). I am also looking for two drivers to drive along with the volunteers who are picking trash. If you can help, please contact Esther Ricco, [riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu) and she can provide you with details. Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!



**April is National Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month (SAAM).** MADL recognizes the ongoing need to put an end to the crime of sexual assault. April is also a time to acknowledge the resilience of those impacted by sexual assault including survivors and victims, as well as advocates and professionals supporting survivors, and to ensure that our homes, places of learning and work are safe for all.

Recommended reads: [CLICK HERE](#)

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E13: Bill O'Brien – Mona Shores Public Schools

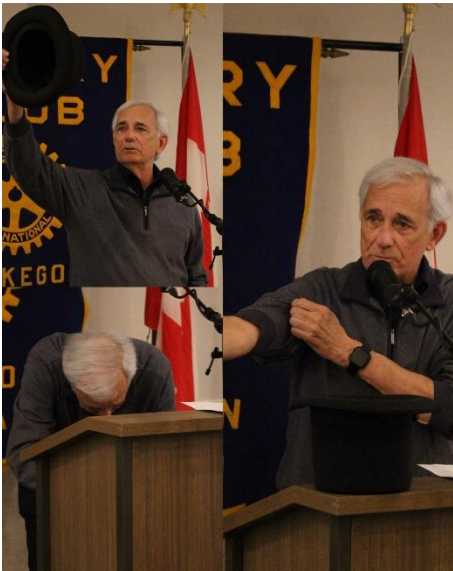


The latest episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast features Mona Shores Public Schools Superintendent Bill O'Brien discussing the district's 2025 bond renewal proposal. With a zero mill increase, the plan focuses on upgrading decades-old infrastructure at the middle and high schools—replacing original windows, plumbing, HVAC systems, and more—without raising taxes. Bill explains how this community-driven, long-range strategy will support safe, modern learning environments for the next 40 to 50 years.

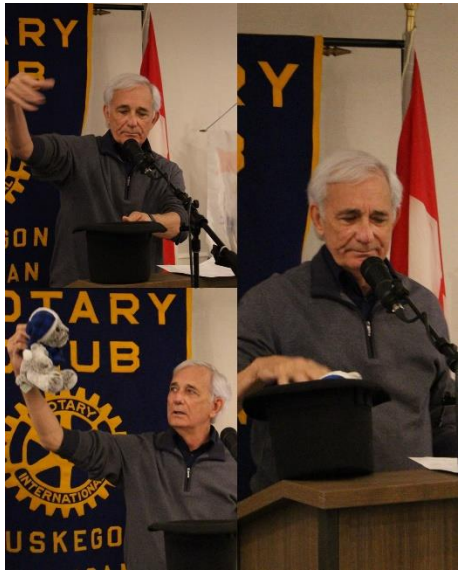
Listen to S2E13 now at [muskegonrotary.org](http://muskegonrotary.org) or wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16905150-bill-o-brien-mona-shores-public-schools>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



**Tim Lipan** \*attempts\* to pull a rabbit from a hat while inviting members to the District Conference.



That doesn't look like a rabbit to us  
**Tim!**

## Pours for Community

### What is Pours?

Pours is one of Muskegon Rotary's key fundraising events, helping us "pour the money back" into the community and beyond. Funds raised support local and international causes, including literacy programs, youth leadership, community projects, and global humanitarian efforts.

### Upcoming Events & Locations

(sign-up is not necessary but appreciated for appetizer planning)

**\*\*Thurs. 4/17, 5-7pm**

– 794 Kitchen & Bar

**\*\*Mon. 4/21, 5-7pm**

– Unruly Brewing

[Sign up for 4/21 here](#)

**\*\*Thurs. 4/24, 7:30-9:30am &**

**5-7pm – Community House**

**\*\*Fri. 5/2, 4-6pm**

– Wonderland Distilling

**\*\*Tues. 5/6, 5-7pm**

– Muskegon Brewing Company

Thank you for supporting Rotary and our mission!



### YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Pours for Community is a food and beverage event showcasing our local breweries, distilleries, and family-friendly dining venues, with proceeds benefiting the Muskegon Rotary Foundation.

Category	Icon	Description
Youth Leadership		Supports Rotary Youth Exchange, Interact/Rotaract/Early Act clubs, and Life Leadership Conference fees for area students.
Community Cultural Enrichment		Investments in public art, including Muskegon area sculptures and murals, are funded by club fundraising.
Health and Environment		Muskegon Rotary addresses food insecurity through food trucks and supports public health and environmental education through the Marquette Microforest.
International Causes		Muskegon Rotary's charitable efforts contribute to Polio eradication, literacy, clean water, housing, sanitation, and more.

### 2025 SCHEDULE

	794 KITCHEN & BAR <b>Thursday, April 17</b> 5PM - 7PM
	UNRULY BREWING <b>Monday, April 21</b> 5PM - 7PM
	COMMUNITY HOUSE COFFEEHOUSE & SOCIAL <b>Thursday, April 24</b> 7:30AM - 9:30AM 5PM - 7PM
	WONDERLAND DISTILLING <b>Friday, May 2</b> 4PM - 6PM
	MUSKEGON BREWING CO. <b>Tuesday, May 6</b> 5PM - 7PM

**Principal Sponsors:**

 Braeburn Wealth Management	Tim & Cheryl Arter	 revel	Dr. F. Remington & Ginny Sprague	 BENCHMARK PRODUCTIONS
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**DO NOT USE**

### Please Do Not Use Emails that end with @clubrunner.email

Our sincere apologies if any announcements have been missed! A concern was found when a member sent an email to this editor for an announcement and it was never received. The member sent the email via the reply button to the ClubRunner messages that I send out. The email address listed when he hit reply was susan.bestemanproperties.com@clubrunner.email; however, I never received the email & I cannot find it in my ClubRunner account either. Please use direct emails instead if you are sending messages to any of our members.

ClubRunner has great features so continue to utilize it (and add your picture to your profile when you have time). Our RIM Team appreciates all your emails and input, so please keep the announcements, updates, and featured fun stories coming! To email RIM Editors **Jackie Farrar** and **Susan Besteman**, please use our direct emails: [farrarjackie@yahoo.com](mailto:farrarjackie@yahoo.com) and/or [susan@bestemanproperties.com](mailto:susan@bestemanproperties.com).



## District 6290 Summit

Dave Alexander and Roger Morgenstern announced that we are not done yet with eradicating polio and our many other good acts of service! As part of our Club's effort to have great representation at the District Conference in downtown Muskegon May 3-4 hosted by our own DG Brianna Scott, the Club will reimburse any Rotarians who have never attended a district conference \$100 of the \$175 conference fee.

Please contact **President Tim** or **Treasurer Kristi Nagengast** if you're a first timer and sign up for the conference.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE Empowerment & Leadership Summit AGENDA](#)




Immerse yourself in powerful learning experiences

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6290 EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**  
MAY 3 - 4, 2025  
MUSKEGON, MI

- Celebrating outstanding clubs and their impact
- Best practices for planning and executing successful projects
- Creating a strong club identity and community presence
- Leadership Development workshops
- Inspiring stories of The Rotary Foundation's Impact


**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**



**Tuesday, April 15**  
**6:30pm**  
**Frauenthal Theater**

**FREE**

A NETFLIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY  
**CRIP CAMP**  
A DISABILITY REVOLUTION



Scan the QR Code to register for your FREE ticket.

**Special Rotary Ticket Discount!**

RCM2425 and can be used for \$29 tickets to any Chamber concert at: <https://www.scmcqr.org/>

## El Salvador Trip is off to a Great Start



Esther Ricco reports that all is going very well with the six houses nearing completion in Talnique, El Salvador. It is hot and humid in the 90's, but spirits are high and steady progress is being made each day in this mountain village. Families who will own the homes are working alongside our Interact and Rotary volunteers. Clothing, shoes, and book donations will be distributed this Sunday.

Our Muskegon Rotary Club raised \$4,000 for materials for one complete home and also raised over \$2000 (besides a lot of pop cans!) to help defray student travel costs. In total, District 6290 Interact and Rotary clubs raised approximately

\$24,000 to build six new homes in Talnique. We are also assisted by the Noroeste Rotary Club of San Salvador to financially and logistically bring the project to fruition each year.

Rotary thanks to chaperones **Ava Bentley** (former Mona Shores Interactor and recent UM Grad), **Michelle Burley**, and **Esther Ricco** for their leadership. Local Rotary Interactors participating include: **Tobias Melton**, **Icelyn Strong**, **Jamina Chervenak**, **Cora McGinn**, and **Levi Jackson** from Muskegon HS, **Ma'Lani Overstreet** from Orchard View HS, and **Kaydynce VandenBosch** from Mona Shores HS.

Please note the Day 3 report below from **Jamina Chervenak** from the Muskegon High School Interact Club for the impact it is making on her:

*Today was a very long but fun day. First we started off by waking up at 7 am for breakfast then we left around 7:45 to go finish putting the plackas down on some of the houses, my house has two more walls to finish and we will be finished and ready to put mortar on the walls. Then we left around 11:45 to go back to the hotel and get cleaned up for some after hard work fun. First we went on a hike to go see an old volcano, which the view was really nice and pretty, it was a good hike as well. Then we were able to go look at some shops that we were able to buy some souvenirs for friends and families as well as ourselves. Then after that we went to a Rotarians house for some nice dinner and desserts. We had a good time at the house we did lots of dancing and we had lots of conversations and laughter. As well as a lot of fun with new friends. This trip has been a really good experience for me as i have never been on a trip like this but coming here and meeting all kinds of new people and seeing the perspective here has made me feel really grateful that I did come on this trip. I can't wait to see what the other days bring but I know for sure that I would definitely come back. This is a really good experience for your kids to be able to come do, I would*

*definitely send my kids on a trip like this, As much as I say I need my mom I would definitely do this trip over and over.*



**We are Creating Hope in the World!**

**Thanks to all who have supported this trip in any way!**