

# Foundations Celebration and Campaign Kickoff

Totem Report November 16, 2016

By Laura Rehrmann

“To Dream the Impossible Dream” (Trumpeted in by **Arnie Ness** accompanied by **Freeman Fong**) opened our meeting with a flourish and indicator of what was to come. The program featured the dozens of local and international projects funded by our financial gifts...indeed making impossible dreams come true for people in our community and around the world.

**Ken Colling** inspired us to say thanks, to be grateful for our gifts, and to make that call to thank someone in our lives as we approach the national day of Thanksgiving for the things most dear to us.

**President Cathy** welcomed new member **David McFadden**, managing director of economic development for the Port of Seattle. **George Twiss** introduced David who oversees real estate, small business initiatives and workforce for the port. A hiker and biker, David also is a beer brewer, a craft he has honed for 20 years.

Past President **Sue Nixon** chairs the club nominating committee and presented the candidates for the Seattle Rotary Service Foundation, Seattle Rotary Club Board of Directors, and Executive Team of Rotary. She announced the committee's nomination of Cindy Runger as President Elect. Election ballots will be sent via email on November 28<sup>th</sup> and will be due by December 7<sup>th</sup>. Members may also vote in person by paper ballot at the December 7<sup>th</sup> luncheon.



Our member, **Michael Troyer**, emceed the main program which focused on the projects we have funded here and around the world. Two trumpeters from Highline High School joined by member **Sten Crissey** on drums set the tone for the parade of projects. SRSF president **Cindy Runger** brandished the baton as she led in 34 of our members each carrying a placard of our projects this year: Senior Services Meals on Wheels, Dictionaries for 3rd Graders, Rural Health in New Guinea, Northwest Harvest, Uganda Safe Blood, Beds for

Homeless Children, Winners 4 Life, Tanzania Anti Malarial projects, Music 4 Life, and 4 projects for our own Rotary Boys and Girls Club. This is just a few out of the parade.

The Rotary Support Center at Wellspring Family Services was our Centennial Project 10 years ago. The goal was to Prevent, End and Eradicate family homelessness. Since the completion of the successful campaign, of which our club gave



\$4 million dollars (and 97% of us contributed), Wellspring has prevented or ended homelessness for 3,100 families which includes 5,000 children. This is the single largest donation our club has made.

Water 1st International was also highlighted, with founder and executive director Marla Smith-Nilson, thanking the club for its gift which brought clean water and a sustainable system to a village in India.

In addition to our own local and international projects, with our gifts to Rotary International we support the eradication of polio. Past District Governor Ezra Teshome reminded us that when this work started in 1985 there were 365,000 cases of polio in 125 countries. This year there have been 27 cases in three countries. Ezra himself has led over 1000 local Rotarians to Ethiopia over the years, vaccinating over 15 million people. We are THIS close to our goal! **The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches your gift 2 to 1 in this effort.**



Past President **Nancy Osborne** reminded us that with our gifts we change the world, we solve problems, and we bring the world together. Rotary's philanthropic vision was created in 1911 when the membership worldwide agreed that Rotary membership is both a responsibility and a privilege. \$26.50 was set aside to launch an endowment for common good. Since that time, over \$3 billion have been distributed.

Table captains handed out pledge forms to both the Seattle Rotary Service Foundation and Rotary International, two obligations that we have all accepted as part of our membership.

Bo Darling, Rotary 5030 District Governor, closed our meeting with an invitation to attend the District 5030 Conference, April 21 - 23, 2017, in Portland, Oregon. He reminded us that our Seattle Rotary Club is a leader in giving; we are number 1 in all 23 Rotary Districts on the West Coast. And our parade of projects, and history of support, makes us a leader in service.

The annual conference theme is a celebration of 100 years of the Rotary Foundation, and 30 years of Women in Rotary.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give", Winston Churchill said. It was a fitting close to a program demonstrating the impossible dreams we have supported here and around the world. President Cathy closed the meeting with a "Happy Thanksgiving" and a reminder that we meet again on November 30.