

Maggie Kestly

July 2008 - June 2009



Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise



The Simi Sunriser

July 3, 2008

Look Again ~ 2008/2009 Rotary Year Theme



President's Report Maggie Kestly "Look Again"

"Look Again", this is the theme for the 2008/2009 Rotary year. What does this mean? This theme is merely a reminder to revisit our purpose, our mission and our meaning. As we approach another year of service it is important to focus on the mission of Rotary. The theme of "Look Again" is to help us get back to basics so that we have a clear vision of the goals.

It is a reminder to "Look Again" at what we do and why we do it! "Look Again" at the 4 Way Test and how it promotes ethical behavior in Rotary and our every day lives. "Look Again" at how you can apply the 4 way test in your vocation to set an example to others. "Look Again" at The Rotary Foundation, what it accomplishes world wide and how important our contributions are to continue the work of Rotary. "Look Again" at our community and the impact Rotary has had by the contributions of this club, the difference we have made in many lives. "Look Again" at the family of Rotary and our commitment to offer friendship and support to our own members as well as to those visiting. "Look Again" at our International partnerships, the matching grants, the relationships that are established when working toward a goal of service with those from other Countries. "Look Again" at how we are ambassadors of peace. This is just the beginning. We have an entire year to "Look Again".

This new Rotary year is an opportunity to revisit the things that we do and the meaning behind them. The new Rotary year is a time for fellowship and friendships. The new Rotary year is here and we will "Look Again" to getting back to basics.

Thank you for your service to this Club. It is an honor to serve you as your President.



Simi Sunrise

becomes President!

"Look Again" is
Maggie's theme

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2008 - 2009

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Rotary Club

Center hosts Youth Art & Music Festival

The Simi Valley Town Center will be host to the Sunrise Youth Art & Music Festival on Oct. 25-26, featuring performances by local high school students.

The event, which runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise to support the arts in schools.

The two-day festival will feature music on the mall from bands and choirs, entertainment from musical theater and dance students and an art show highlighting student works. All proceeds will benefit the music and art booster clubs from Apollo High School, Grace Brethren High School, Royal High School, Santa Susana High School and Simi High School.



Seniors relish pre-Thanksgiving meals

Nearly 600 feast in Simi Valley and Moorpark the day before holiday

By Michele Wilton-Allred
Correspondent
Thursday, November 27, 2008

It was a choice between any restaurant in Simi Valley or a pre-Thanksgiving dinner at the Simi Valley Senior Center on Wednesday night for a group of local women who must wait for a gift right out.

A meal with other seniors at the center was this week's choice for the group, who were the first to buy tickets this year for the sold-out 18th annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Rotary Club of Simi Valley and the local Council on Aging.

More than 500 seniors were served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner by 75 volunteers, including local Boy Scout Troop 3617 and 622.

After the dinner, 82-year-old Lucy Harrison of Simi Valley and her friends Patricia Pool, 75, Alice Finner, 73, both from Simi Valley, and Betty Nussle, 76, of Sylmar agreed they made a good choice.

"It was all very good and better than going out," Harrison said.

Rotarian Ray Meyerson, who coordinated Wednesday's dinner, said the area's homeless were also invited to the event. The Rotary Club also will donate about 25 frozen turkeys to the Simi Valley Samaritan Center, while another 25 turkeys will go to the local senior brown bag program.

Meyerson said the several months of preparation for the event were worth it, even though Wednesday's rain required volunteers to find alternative areas other than the outdoor courtyard for people to eat.

"Even though we're going to be tired the next day, it's a good feeling knowing people enjoyed themselves tonight," Meyerson said.

Simi Valley City Councilman Glen Becerra was tasked with serving yams to the crowd, which was entertained by the Simi Valley High School Orchestra and vocalists Corral Wright.

"This is the time of the year to really give back to others. It is especially important this year to help others because of the economy," said Becerra, whose 10-year-old son, Nicholas, also volunteered.

In neighboring Moorpark, more than 60 people enjoyed a pre-Thanksgiving luncheon at the Active Adult Center, which caters to adults older than 55.

All that was missing from the meal was cranberry sauce, which ran out because more people showed up than the center expected, said Steve Ducharme, volunteer at the center.

The lack of cranberry sauce didn't deter the holiday spirit among the guests at the center.

Sandy Fide, 82, of Moorpark who ate lunch with Mary Jane Mitchell, 84, also of Moorpark, said she was thankful this year to still have a job despite a poor economy and was appreciative that the center offered a luncheon for seniors to enjoy the holidays together.

Mitchell also offered some sage advice: "Everyone should just be happy and enjoy one another. And remember that family is everything."



THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL

FREE TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER



Wednesday, November 26, 2008
Dinner Served 5:00 - 8:00pm
At THE SIMI VALLEY SENIOR CENTER
Located at 3900 AVENIDA SIMI (next to our SIMI VALLEY LIBRARY)

- ☐ Event Sponsors \$500.00 + 4 Raffle tickets
- ☐ Event Contributors \$250.00 + 2 Raffle ticket
- ☐ Table Sponsor for only \$100.00 + 1 ticket
- ☐ Sponsor for only \$50.00

Prize: NOW! New 22" trendy flat screen LCD TV/Monitor.

Company or Family Name (as preferred): _____

Authorized Name: _____ (print), _____ (signature)

Payment Method: Rotary Members: ☐ Billed or ☐ Check
Others by check only

Free Thanksgiving Dinner
Recognition on all tables
Advertisement on sponsored table and banner
Event sponsors and Contributors will be recognized throughout the event.

SPONSORED BY:
Rotary Club of Simi Valley and the Council on Aging
Ray Mayrum, Chair (805) 526-1202
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SV SUNRISE & SV NOONTIME & SV SUNSET ROTARY CLUBS

When: Wed Dec 10th, 2008 at 6 pm

Where: Boys and Girls Club, 2850 Lemon Drive

(1blk N of Alamo, between Sycamore and Tapo Cyn)

Tools: 12mm, 13mm, 14mm, 15mm wrench/socket,
#2 Phillips screwdriver, box cutter

(Stool or rug as it is a hard floor. Dress warm as there is little heat.)

Questions: Bill Fox 818-585-2905 cell or

BJ Anderson 805-581-1184





October 3, 2008

Arch

Foundation raising money for train crash survivors

More donations are needed
By Elly Appelbaum elav@theacorn.com

Racheal Moyfa, on her way home from school at Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles on Sept. 12, was a passenger on the Metrolink train that collided with a Union Pacific freight train.

An exchange student from Zambia, Moyfa survived the horrible wreck but remains in intensive care at County USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, far from her family in Africa. She is breathing on her own and can move her hands and feet, and squeeze her hand into a fist, but she has a long recovery ahead.

The 27-year-old had been living with the Abruzzese family in Simi Valley for the past year. A scholarship she earned to the fashion institute was partially funded by Simi Sunrise Rotary Club.

Although much of the attention concerning the train crash has focused on those who died, Moyfa is one of the hundreds of survivors coping in the aftermath of the wreck.

Organizations like Simi Valley Community Foundation are working to help survivors, families and loved ones.

"I'm overwhelmed. I can't even remember all the things that have happened. I can't say thanks enough to the whole community," said Pat Abruzzese, who, together with his wife, Joanne, and the rest of his family, opened his home to Moyfa. "Simi Valley has just been unbelievable."

The community foundation, which operates under the umbrella of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, is busy collecting donations for Metrolink crash survivors in need.

So busy, in fact, that it had to hire additional help, bringing in Maggie Upin to keep track of and disperse the funds to those who qualify. But there is still much work to be done.

"We haven't raised enough funds yet to really help a lot of people," said Leigh Nixon, Chamber president and co-founder of the community foundation.

The group is able to set up donations for specific people or specific services such as medical expenses, medical home supplies, rehabilitation, transportation and help paying mortgages.

Nixon said 10 families have requested help so far, but she anticipates many more will seek help in the coming weeks.

"We've been getting requests of people who need help paying their mortgage, their electrical, water and trash bills—I didn't realize something like this isn't just about the people who died, it's also about the people who survived and their families that really have it bad," Nixon said. "One family called us and said our person's still in the hospital... we can't work and bills are piling up. These are the things people don't hear about."

Metrolink is expected to provide the community foundation and other groups a list of people who were riding the train when it crashed.

Moyfa has received help from many in the community. Simi Sunrise Rotary and Cornerstone Church have donated meals at the hospital for family members and visitors. The Rotary club flew in Moyfa's older sister Martha from Minneapolis a day after the crash. She is still here, by her sister's bedside most of the time.

"Everybody is helping. We didn't even know about a group of Zambians in Southern California, and they're even trying to help," said Pat Abruzzese, a board member of the community foundation. "FIDM has been so supportive, too. It's been so dynamic and so unbelievably generous."

Moyfa arrived in the United States in July 2007 after

winning a business plan contest from the Zambia Youth IT (Information Technology) project. At that time, she won the scholarship to FIDM. In order to take advantage of the scholarship, Moyfa needed a place of residence, and that's when the Abruzzeses stepped in.

During the day, Joanne Abruzzese tries to spend time with Moyfa, and her husband drives out to USC in the afternoon and evenings.

"We're pretty confident the rehab's going to be a long process," Pat Abruzzese said. "We're committed to making sure she gets whatever she needs to get through all of this. The key is the support from the community. If nothing else, that's the key."

To donate or request help from Simi Valley Community Foundation, call (805) 526-3900 or e-mail info@simivalleychamber.org.

The Racheal Moyfa Story.

See how our Racheal came to America partially sponsored by Simi Sunrise to attend the Fashion Institute in Los Angeles. Racheal was on that fateful Metrolink train that collided with a freight train on September 12, 2008.



Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

The Simi Sunriser



Racheal Moyfa Fund Created

Many of our Simi Sunrise club members have expressed a desire to provide financial assistance to Racheal Moyfa, the recipient of our vocational grant to attend the Art Institute of Los Angeles and who was tragically injured in the Metrolink collision.

Under guidance from the club's leadership, a Racheal Moyfa Fund was established within our Simi Sunrise Rotary Charitable Foundation.

Any club member wishing to provide support to Racheal can send a check-care of Ernie Gilbert, 2829 Yurek Court, Simi Valley, 93063 or at meetings you can give the donation to Ernie or Paula Williams.

The check should be made out to the SSRCT and in the memo section, note that it is for Racheal. All donations are tax deductible.

The Racheal Moyfa Fund was initially seeded with \$2000 by your charitable foundation and will be used to assist Racheal and her family as need arises.

Simi Valley Acorn

February 20, 2009

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Neighbors

Exchange student injured in Metrolink crash back in Simi after months in hospital

By Elly Appelbaum
elav@theacorn.com

Only a few days returned from a five-month stay in the hospital, Metrolink train crash survivor Racheal Moyfa sat at the dining room table of her Simi Valley host family.

Speaking slowly, carefully enunciating every syllable of every word, Moyfa said she's aware of the countless hours of rehabilitation it will take to return her body and mind to proper working order.

"It's been a long recovery," said Moyfa, a 27-year-old exchange student from Zambia, Africa. "I'm getting better, day by day."

Moyfa was seriously injured in the Sept. 12 Metrolink 111 train collision that took 25 lives, 10 from Simi Valley.

On her way home from class at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in downtown Los Angeles that Friday afternoon, Moyfa was seated in the first car when the passenger train collided with a Union Pacific freight train.

Host mother Joanne Abruzzese was waiting for her at the Simi Valley train station.

When they learned of the wreck, the Abruzzeses attempted to locate her with the help of friends during the course of a frantic 12 hours.

"Information was sketchy," said Pat Abruzzese, Joanne's husband. The family went to Chatsworth High School, where people were told to assemble and wait for news on the status of the train's passengers. The Abruzzeses stayed there from 8 p.m. until 2:30 a.m., paying for answers, but nobody could give them any information.

"We weren't the only ones in the dark," Pat said. "There were hundreds of families who didn't know anything about their loved ones."

Forty-five minutes after making their way home empty-handed, the Abruzzeses received a call from an official at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center saying that someone who had been admitted there matched the description of Moyfa.

Around 4:30 a.m. the day after

the train wreck, the Abruzzeses finally found Moyfa lying in a hospital bed, her body swollen from her injuries.

"When we first saw her, she was broken head to toe," Joanne said.

Moyfa suffered a skull fracture on the top of her head and burns on the side of her head and shoulder. Part of the cornea on her right eye was torn and her right ankle had a compound fracture. Moyfa has had more than a dozen surgeries since

language and fine motor skills she once had.

Six weeks ago, she began walking with the help of a cane. She was finally discharged on Jan. 19.

"I love being home," Moyfa said with a smile.

On a Monday afternoon in late January, she beamed with excitement after a shopping expedition.

Moyfa's last day of physical therapy at home was scheduled for Feb. 18. Then she would begin more rigorous physical therapy with orthopedic surgeon Dr. Greg Hartmann, chief of staff at Simi Valley Hospital.

Pat and Joanne's 16-year-old son, J.J., and their daughter, Jaime, 21, a junior at Cal State University Channel Islands, contributed emotional support during Moyfa's long recovery. Jaime wants to be an occupational therapist.

The Zambian native arrived in the States in July 2007. She's been living with the Abruzzeses since October that year, after the family volunteered to host the fashion institute scholarship winner. The school awarded Moyfa her degree after the accident because she'd completed all her course-work except for finals.

Moyfa grew up with her grandmother, Janet, and her five sisters and brothers in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.

Her recovery may take another 12 to 18 months, or even longer, the Abruzzeses said.

Moyfa said her injuries still bother her, especially the injury to her right eye and the pain in her ankle and shoulder. But every day she gets a little stronger, a little better. And she still has big plans.

She'd like to continue her education once she regains her health completely. She was accepted to the University of Zambia's ultra-competitive school of medicine last April.

I have studying and writing papers and doing presentations. I love school," Moyfa said. "I want to be a surgeon."



IRIS SMOOT/Acorn Newspapers

GETTING BETTER EVERY DAY—An exchange student from Lusaka, Zambia, Racheal Moyfa was returning to Simi from class at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising aboard Metrolink train 111 when it collided with a Union Pacific freight train on Sept. 12. After months of recovery and rehabilitation in the hospital, Moyfa has returned home to her host family.

Back on her feet



Train crash victim returns to Simi

7 Know that God helped me, brain-injured student says

By Ann Gordon Moore, Contributing Writer, March 4, 2008



Photo by Ann Gordon Moore

Rachel Mofya, who is brain injured from a train crash last year, says she is grateful to God for her survival.

After the crash, Mofya was in a coma for two weeks. She is now recovering and is a student at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles.

Mofya, 27, who was sitting near the front of the Metrolink train that crashed Sept. 12 in Chatsworth, suffered broken bones, burns and brain damage when she was tossed around in the train on impact with a freight train.

She spent months in the hospital, then returned home to her last family in Sim Valley in January, but she cannot be left alone because of her brain injury.

"She was such a bright young woman," Joanne Abruzzese, whose family is helping Mofya, said Tuesday. "This is just a start."

Today, Mofya, who had been a merit-based student at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles, is studying at a fourth-grade level, struggling with spelling and can no longer write in cursive. When she is alone, she has trouble with her left arm, sometimes using the right arm of the left. And she doesn't always remember when someone changes the day of her class.

Over the past few months, she is receiving physical, speech and occupational therapy to help her body recover from the crash. For her emotional recovery, she is turned to God.

Conspirator helps her

"I know that God helped me," she said while sitting in a table at Abruzzese's home Tuesday afternoon, practicing writing sentences. "I go to church every Sunday, and God helps me with my emotions."

Mofya works with a computer who helps her with spelling, getting lunch and doing her therapy while Abruzzese and her husband, Ted, are at work.

Abruzzese said Mofya's doctors have recommended more intense therapy for her brain injury. Abruzzese has tried to get Mofya into the brain injury program at Northridge Hospital Medical Center but said she has been denied — because of insurance, Abruzzese believes.

Mofya had student health insurance, which provided \$250,000 in coverage, but she went on emergency Medi-Cal insurance when that money ran out after the crash.

Abruzzese has asked the brain injury program to provide the therapy services, even if it's not fully covered by insurance, because she wants Mofya to receive money from a training grant. A lawyer has been hired but the suit has not yet been filed.

"To me, it's just a crisis," Abruzzese said. "This woman had such a bright future. She needs this therapy, and they're saying, 'Too bad.' And there's nothing comparable nearby."

A spokeswoman said Northridge hospital has provided the therapy Mofya needs.

"We're not denying her medical services," spokeswoman Christine Zoccol said. "As you know, we treated her as an inpatient in our acute rehab department. We have offered her reproductive medical services in our obstetric physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy departments." Zoccol declined to comment further on Mofya's case.

Despite her new problems

When the train crashed, Mofya was preparing for finals and then graduation at the fashion institute, where she was studying fashion merchandising.

That day, she had decided to come home rather than wait, so she could attend a Bible study class at Cornerstone Community Church with her friends.

She could not bring her books, but the institute allowed her to graduate anyway. Abruzzese said before the crash, Mofya had planned to return home to Zambia, start a cosmetics business and employ her fellow countrymen. Mofya said she is looking on to her dream.

"I don't know," Abruzzese said. "People can overcome their brain injury if they're provided the right therapy. Because she's young, she has a better chance."



Photo by Ann Gordon Moore

HARD WORK: Rachel Mofya, originally of Zambia, climbs stairs as part of her therapy with Joanne Abruzzese.

A broken life slowly mends

A student injured in the Metrolink crash last year faces an uphill fight.

CATHERINE SAILLANT

Rachel Mofya sits quietly, her head down, there but not there. Her left arm rests in a sling. She scrolls at the healing scars all over her body. A plain-colored turban hides the thick, livid scars snaking around her head.

Mofya is in a gaily decorated conference room at Los Angeles County-USC Hospital for a ceremony to honor the survivors of car crashes, gang shootings and freak accidents. They had come to the trauma center near death and, miraculously, had survived. At each former patient makes his or her way to the podium, he or she is applauded.

But a hush fills the room when Rachel Mofya's name is called.

Mofya was sitting in the first car of Metrolink 111 when it slammed head-on into a Union Pacific freight train in Chatsworth on Sept. 12, killing 25 and injuring 135.

She had so many injuries, said her surgeon, Dr. Ramon Centeno, that it reminded him of treating wounded soldiers in Iraq. She had broken bones.



Photo by Ann Gordon Moore

HELPER: Caregiver Laura Hull checks the time as Rachel Mofya plays a CD to help her nap. Doctors say it will take up to a year to determine the extent of permanent brain damage.

Survivor's long journey back

(Survivor, from Page A1)

Internal cuts, a torn cornea and burns over a tenth of her body. Worst was the head wound that kept her in a near-comatose state for two months.

As Mofya grips the table in front of her and pulls herself slowly to her feet, Centeno tells the gathering: "She had so many injuries that many didn't think you were going to make it."

The petite 27-year-old slowly shuffles to the podium unassisted. Given the microphone, Mofya simply whispers, "Thank you," and turns around to make the long walk back.

Mofya faces many more months of physical and mental rehabilitation to regain the ability to walk, read, write and speak easily. Doctors still can't say if the Zambian exchange student, who was a week away from a business degree when the crash occurred, will ever fully recover.

Quiet but bright

That Mofya was on the Metrolink train was a confluence of opportunity and luck.

The youngest daughter in a family of eight, she was raised in Lusaka, the largest city and capital of Zambia in south-central Africa. Mofya was a quiet but bright girl, studious and eager to make something of herself.

"She was a very smart kid," said her older sister, Martha, who is studying nursing in Minneapolis. "She's been always an 'A' student."

Mofya and her siblings were among the more fortunate of citizens of Zambia, where 73% of the people live below the national poverty line.

Her salesman father and teacher mother were part of a burgeoning middle class, able to send their children to school, provide a modest home and serve regular meals.

But life was not always easy. Their mother died from malaria in 1985 and, less than a decade later, their father succumbed to an intestinal illness.

Mofya's sister said.

Mofya was undeterred. She received a bachelor's degree in natural resources management at the University of Zambia. She was thinking about becoming a doctor, and had been accepted to medical school when another opportunity unexpectedly came her way.

A Rotary International program aimed at creating jobs in Zambia was taking applications for students who wanted to study in the United States.

Mofya saw it as a way to fulfill a dream of traveling and quickly wrote a business plan for a company that would produce products from honey, bees' wax and a resin-like substance called propolis.

She and eight other applicants beat out 500 competitors. She heard about a business program offered by the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising and set her sights on enrolling at its Los Angeles campus.

Pat Abruzzese, a finance officer for a Chatsworth company that installs digital cabling, heard about Mofya through his Sim Valley Rotary club. She needed a home for a year, and on the spot, Abruzzese offered it.

"She needed a room and we had one available," he said. "It was as simple as that."

Mofya arrived in fall 2007 and fit right in. She called Pat "Dad" and his



Photo by Ann Gordon Moore

SISTERS: Martha Mofya, left, helps comb a wig for Rachel, a Zambian exchange student who was a week away from graduation from the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles.



Photo by Ann Gordon Moore

AFTERMATH: Mofya reads an article about the Metrolink 111 crash that occurred on Sept. 12, 2008. The collision in Chatsworth killed 25 people and injured 135. Above right, Mofya before the accident.

wife, Joanne "Mom" and developed a close bond with their children, Jaime, 21, and T.J., 17.

She took the train every day to the Fashion Institute in downtown Los Angeles. She earned straight A's.

Like clockwork, she arrived at 7:22 each night at the Sim Valley station. Joanne Abruzzese would be waiting to pick her up.

When she wasn't studying, Mofya, a devout Christian, hung out with friends from the Sim Valley church where the Abruzzeses worshipped.

"She was social but quiet," said Nina Samperi, who belonged to the same social group at Cornerstone Community Church. "She was just really excited about what she would be doing with her life."

She planned to get her green card, work in the United States for a few years, save money and then return to Zambia.

called Abruzzese called for a nurse, who thought she was kidding. "I said, 'No really, she's awake!'"

It was Thanksgiving Day. Mofya spent four months at County-USC, and later, Northridge Hospital Medical Center, before being discharged Jan. 19.

Fourth-grade level

Mofya takes a few stiff-legged steps across the living room of the Abruzzese's comfortable, two-story home in Sim Valley.

Under the watchful eye of physical therapist John Noonan, she next works on the stairs.

On a living room table are a children's reading book and a page of simple subtraction problems that Mofya completed earlier in the day. She reads and writes at about a fourth-grade level.

"She still laughs and goof off with Jaime," said Pat Abruzzese. "It's kind of got back into the same pattern except she doesn't stay with us on every topic like she used to. We do have to remind her what's going on."

Mofya sits quietly and smiles sweetly as the answers questions with a few words. If she is asked by what happened to her, she doesn't let it show.

"I'm very happy to be home," she says slowly, carefully picking each word.

Her doctors say it will take up to a year to determine how much permanent brain damage she suffered.

They recommended that she enter a special rehabilitation program for people with brain injuries at Northridge Hospital Medical Center. The hospital initially turned her down because she had exhausted the limits of her private student's insurance and is covered by an emergency Medi-Cal health program. Joanne Abruzzese said.

The couple sparred with hospital officials for weeks, finally gaining admission after appealing to Northridge's parent company, Catholic Healthcare West. Mofya began the program last week.

It's only the latest battle for the Abruzzeses since Mofya's accident. There have been endless forms to fill out, doctor's appointments to get her to and the struggle to make sure she's never left alone.

Both Pat and Joanne Abruzzese hold full-time jobs, so they have enlisted help from paid aides, therapists and friends.

"It's not a burden, but it does take time," Pat Abruzzese said.

Martha Mofya visited recently and the two sisters fused over a wig that Mofya was wearing and talked about their life back in Zambia.

Mofya says softly that she wants to go back.

But her plans have changed. She no longer wants to start a skin-care business. She wants to help people with disabilities.

Her sister, sitting beside her, slips an arm around Mofya.

"Life is full of circumstances. It's up to you how you challenge those circumstances," Martha Mofya said. "Blessed up for the challenges."

She looked at her and said, "Mom, I hurt all over," Joanne Abruzzese replied.

cathe.sailant@latimes.com

Local students win essay contest



Two local students placed in the 2007/08 annual Rotary District 5240 essay contest, which was open to students throughout Ventura County.

In the Elementary School Division, Lauren Marten, a fifth-grader from Township Elementary School, won the first-place award of \$250.

HONORED: Contest winners Shannon Esswein, left, and Lauren Marten stand with Township Elementary School Principal Laura Tyre, middle, at the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise meeting where the two girls received their checks.

In the High School Division, Shannon Esswein, a 10th-grader from Simi Valley High School, earned the second-place award of \$175.

The two students received their checks at a recent Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise meeting.

The contest was open to students in three categories: elementary school, middle school and high school.

There was a separate division for special needs students.

The goal of the contest is to encourage students to

think about the meaning of Rotary's "The 4-Way Test," in which one's actions are judged by truthfulness, fairness, benefit and the ability to build goodwill.

Rotarians commit themselves to group projects, local service

By Sarah Rolfe

Rotary Club of Moorpark
I'd like to ask you, "What is Rotary?"

Many of you have heard the name "Rotary" voiced around our community, for those who still are not clear on it, I urge you to read on. Rotary is a volunteer service group. Together, 1.2 million active businessmen and women unite in more than 32,000 clubs in 200 countries toward solutions to the challenges of hunger, poverty and illiteracy.

Worldwide, Rotary members pride themselves on adhering to the motto Service Above Self.

But the real question here is not "What is Rotary?" but "Who is Rotary?" With eastern Ventura County bases in Moorpark and Simi Valley, Rotary has influenced the lives of 280 dedicated individuals who want to make a difference in their communities. There currently are four clubs in the area: the Rotary Club of Moorpark, the Rotary Club of Simi Valley, Simi Sunrise and Simi Sunset.

Each club meets weekly to unify fellowship and camaraderie among the members.

In the past year collectively, the four clubs presented \$200,000 to organizations in Moorpark and Simi Valley.

The face of Rotary is composed of business leaders and members of nonprofit organizations and civic groups in each locality. Other classifications include law enforcement officers, school administrators, mayors, city council members, CEOs, public relations directors, doctors, lawyers, real estate brokers, insurance agents, bankers, architects and local farmers. Essentially, any occupation you can envision is expressed within these four clubs and globally in Rotary.

A possible Rotarian could be your next-door neighbor or the owner of your favorite local restaurant. It could also be a 23-year-old public relations director, the chief of police, a superintendent or a private investigator.

No matter what managerial profession you hold, if you are willing to give yourself up to service in your community, you could receive an invitation to join your local Rotary club.

Once a member, you have the pleasure of giving back a piece of yourself that will remain in the hearts of people forever. To start, you could presumably offer your time by helping with Civil War re-enactments and Fourth of July extravaganzas, Cuten Creole Music and Rhythm & Brew's festival.

Regardless of the event, Rotarians are selfless as they commit themselves to group projects and local service avenues.

On an international level, Rotarians have the experience of actively supporting the fight to eliminate the threat of polio entirely. Together, traveling to Third World countries, humanitarians can participate in National Immunization Days—giving out polio vaccine drops to children or socializing with other Rotarians around the world.

The Bill Gates Foundation stepped up to the plate recently by giving a \$100 million matching grant to the Rotary International Foundation's fight to eradicate polio.

As Gates stated Nov. 26 on Rotary.org, "The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication."

So, the next time someone asks you, "What is Rotary?" you now can answer with this definition: Service Above Self.

For more information on how to become a Rotarian and what Rotary does daily in the lives of others, visit <http://www.rotary.org> or contact your local Rotary Club: <http://www.moorparkrotary.org>, <http://www.simivalleyrotary.org>, <http://www.rotaryclubofsimisunrise.com> or <http://www.simisunsetrotary.org>.

—Sarah Rolfe is a member of the Rotary Club of Moorpark.

Local Rotary Club Donates Needed Equipment to High School

Cindy Jacobs
Monday, March 30, 2009

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise recently purchased and donated two Escalibur Scroll Saws to Simi Valley High School. A scroll saw is a small electric or pedal operated saw useful for cutting intricate curves.

According to Vocational Chair of the Club Bill Klepper, the school was in need of new equipment to meet the demands of the growing number of students enrolling in their woodshop classes.

Bob Rottini, the woodshop instructor at the high school said, "This donation is tremendously exciting as students have to wait for some time before they are able to get to the front of the line to use the saws we currently have." He added, "When my students are working on detailed crafts or making freestyle cuts, the scroll saw is the best tool for the job. These two machines are going to be a great addition and will definitely enhance and accelerate the learning process for all our students."

Rotary International is the world's first service club organization. Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self is channelled through the Four Avenues of Service: Club Vocational, Community and International. The second of the Four Avenues of Service, Vocational Service, encourages Rotarians to share skills and expertise through their vocations and find new ways to develop vocational skills of others.

Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise is part of Rotary International. Rotary has more than 1.2 million members with 33,094 clubs present in over 169 countries and 40 territories.



Simi Valley Acorn February 20, 2009



Patrolling the goods

COPS ARE THE CAUSE:—Above, Bill Daniels, president of the Simi Valley Police Officers Association, left, and K9 Unit Officer Richard Wigginton check out some of the silent auction items available at the Simi Valley Police Foundation's awards banquet Feb. 13. At right, Dick Kranzler accepts the President's Award from foundation president Sharon Romano. Kranzler, who worked with staff to create the graphic schemes on the two DARE and SWAT vehicles, maintains the graphics and lettering on all department vehicles. He has also helped create countless vinyl banners for the department.

Photos by WENDY PIERRO/Acorn Newspapers

Rotary clubs hosting food drive tomorrow

The Rotary clubs in Simi Valley are collecting nonperishable food goods for Care & Share in Simi Valley from 8 a.m. to noon tomorrow, Feb. 21 at all Vets and Pavilions stores in Simi Valley.

A Rotary canopy will be set up in each parking lot for drop-off, or donations may be handed to Rotarians at the door of the stores.

With the high cost of food and fuel, low-income residents are struggling to put nutritious meals on the table for their families. Community participation in this food drive is important to help keep the food bank stocked.

This is a community service event in conjunction with Rotarians at Work Day around the world.

Simi Sunrise Rotary Club Awards \$14,000 in Scholarships to Local Graduating Seniors

Cindy Jacobs
Thursday, June 10, 2009
Rotarians continue to share passion created by members of the club.



The Simi Sunrise Rotary Club recently awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to local Simi Valley graduating seniors. Candidates for this award must demonstrate a mix of academic achievement, financial need, community service, and school service. The recipients were notified at their school's graduation ceremony and presented their checks at a recent Simi Sunrise breakfast meeting with their family in attendance.

The 2008 recipients of Simi Sunrise Rotary Scholarships, from the left are: Bryan Balaena, Apollo High; Cameron Kelso, Simi Valley High; Kiana Hamilton, Buena High; Janet Tan, Yuba High; Royal High; May Penn, Royal High; Doree Portchick, Santa Susana High; and Sara Anderson, Santa Susana High.

The Simi Sunrise Rotary Club was founded in 1939, and remains strong for future scholarship as well as other local and international charities through their various fundraising events. Members are community and business leaders in the area who meet weekly on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. at Pacific Palms Village for breakfast, and an informative and interesting presentation from a guest speaker. For more information, please visit the club website at <http://www.rotaryclubofsimisunrise.com>.

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MORE FROM SIMI VALLEY
South and Ventura County

Community February 27, 2009 Arch

Defending her home turf

New city attorney is a Simi Valley success story
By Carissa Marsh cmars@theacorn.com



THIS SMOOTZ:—City Attorney Tracy Noonan, who took over the post earlier this month from a retiring David Hirsch, shouldn't have much trouble getting used to her new surroundings. Said Noonan, a native and resident of Simi Valley, "This is the opportunity of a lifetime because I'm doing the kind of law I love—municipal law—and I am doing it for a city I love."

new hire to replace David Hirsch, who retired after serving 10 years as Simi's city attorney.

"A city attorney who's been here for 10 years—you can't help but put your mark on a city," said Noonan, who started her new position last Wednesday. "Given (Hirsch's) knowledge and history with the city, it will be big shoes to fill."

Nevertheless, Noonan can't hide the fact that she's thrilled and honored to work in the community where she was raised.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime because I'm doing the kind of law I love—municipal law—and I am doing it for a city I love," she said.

Noonan, a Royal High School graduate, said she knew she wanted to be a lawyer since she was 13 years old. She was attending Hillside Junior High and on "law day" she was chosen to visit a local courtroom and sit on the dais with a judge.

"I just loved everything about the law and never looked back," she said.

From then on, Noonan did everything she could to get into law school, including competing in speech and debate in high school and trial advocacy in college.

She studied rhetorical theory at Cal State Long Beach before going to law school, where she served as editor in chief of the Southwestern University Law Review.

After earning her law degree, Noonan thought she wanted to be a sports lawyer and work with an NFL team. Her first job in the legal world, however, was deputy city attorney for San Diego for five cities. Oftentimes, smaller cities that don't need a fulltime city attorney will contract with law offices for their services, Noonan said.

Noonan likes that she's able to see the fruits of her labor with municipal law, whether in the form of a shopping center being built or a program to help the homeless.

"It's really rewarding," she said. "There aren't many other areas of law that you get to see that."

Following her time in San Diego, she worked for Brown, Winfield & Casperson, a private firm in Los Angeles. During her seven-year tenure, she served as an assistant or deputy city attorney for five cities. Oftentimes, smaller cities that don't need a fulltime city attorney will contract with law offices for their services, Noonan said.

"That's where I got a lot of experience on how a city works and what the city attorney's office does," she said.

Before coming to Simi, Noonan was an assistant city attorney for Thousand Oaks, where she worked for four years with land use and environmental law.

Recruitment for Simi's new city attorney began at the end of August 2008. The city received 19 applications for the job, and the City Council interviewed five individuals.

"(Noonan) was up against stiff competition," City Manager Mike Sedell said. "She exhibited excellent writing and technical legal skills, and the council was very impressed with her."

As city attorney, Noonan acts as the Simi's general legal counsel, advising the City Council, the waterworks district, the Community Development Agency and all city departments.

Her office also drafts city ordinances, advises on land use matters, represents the city in regulatory and court proceedings, and investigates claims filed against the city.

In addition, the office investigates and prosecutes criminal charges for citations issued by the police department and code enforcement complaints for violations of the municipal code.

Noonan said she's still getting to know her staff and learning Simi's municipal code. But she doesn't feel completely "out of the loop," she said, because, as a resident, she already has an understanding of the issues confronting the city.

"My view of a city attorney's office is to be a partner for the City Council and the departments," she said. "I look at myself as a facilitator."

To do that, Noonan said, she must stay abreast of new laws and how they affect the city, including the federal stimulus package and the new state budget.

"You read a lot of paper," she joked.

While her day job keeps her pretty busy, Noonan takes time out to be with her family.

She and her husband, Jim, have been married for 18 years, and they have two daughters: Sydney, 14, and Kendall, 12.

Noonan is active in the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club and serves as the chair of the Cajun Creole Music Festival.

As a side venture, she and her husband, along with two other couples, started a winemaking business called Four BnX Wine.

The grapes are now in barrels at a facility in Paso Robles, and Noonan said they plan to begin selling bottles in a year.





Holiday Shopping Spree Benefits 13 Children from Simi Valley

Cindy Jacoby
Tuesday, December 9, 2008

The holidays came early this year for 13 kids from Simi Valley when the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club gave them \$200 each to spend at the Target Store in Simi Valley.

The children, ages 5 to 11, were paired with Rotarians, and invited to enjoy shopping in the store before it opened. Target also gave each child an additional \$20 gift card.

According to Deb Davis, chairperson of this year's shopping spree, "It's another way our Rotary club gives back to community."

The club donated \$2600 to this event and the money was raised at the Rotary club's annual Cajon Grande Music Festival held each year on Memorial Day Weekend.

The Simi Sunrise Rotary Club meets each Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. at the Grand Vista Hotel. Visit the website for more information:
<http://www.rotaryclubofsimisunrise.com/>



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For The Troops.us For The Troops Wish List

Karen Thompson will be collecting items from the list below for the next few weeks at our weekly meetings.

- * Gum/Candy/Nuts
- * Candy (No Chocolate)
- * Potato Chips (in tubes)
- * Small Canned Tuna
- * Dried Fruit and Raisins
- * Purell Hand Sanitizer
- * Pre-sweetened Powdered Gatorade and Crystal Light
- * Cressmud, Wood Satch, Sudoko, and Puzzle books
- * Small Handheld Games
- * Travel Size Board Games
- * Movie DVDs and Music CDs
- * Computer USB Flash Drive Memory Sticks
- * White Athletic Socks
- * Q-Tips and Pipe Cleaners
- * Baby Wipes
- * AA and AAA Batteries
- * Granola and Power Bars
- * Beef Jerky (No Pork, Please!)
- * Letters of appreciation to the troops from children and adults
- * Magazines including People magazine, sports magazines, cycling, weightlifting, car magazines, etc.
- * Non-prescription medication such as aspirin/ibuprofen, eye drops, foot powder, anti-itch cream, lip balm, sunblock, cold/allergy medication, etc.

Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

The Simi Sunriser

January 29, 2009

Look Again ~ 2008/2009 Rotary Year Theme

Community Service Work Day Saturday, February 21st Samaritan Center -- 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Much Needed Items

- First Aids:**
Antacid, antihistamine, cream, cold & flu tablets, cough drops, lip balm, Sunscreen, hand-aid, Q-tips, cotton balls, instant repellent, body & face powder
- Clothing:**
Underwear, men's 30-38 and women's 6-8 socks, pants, T-shirts, shoes & hats, sweats, backpacks, jersey pouches, hats, jackets, gloves, rain ponchos & umbrellas
- Laundry:**
Bleach & Detergent
- Kitchen:**
Coffee, tea bags, creamer, sugar, cereal
- Office Supplies:**
Folders, binders, diskettes, copy paper, scissors, transparent tape, pen/pencil, writing pads, envelopes & postage stamps
- Paper goods:**
Napkins, plates, paper towels, plastic utensils, Styrofoam cups, bowls and plates, coffee stirrers & trash bags (all sizes)
- Bathroom/Shower Needs:**
Brushes/combs, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream/razors, lotion, mouthwash (non-alcoholic), tooth paste & tooth brushes, powder, feminine products, bath towels, face cloths, tissue, & toilet paper
- Miscellaneous:**
Flashlights, batteries, phone cards, art supplies, crayons, colored pencils, and plastic tarp
- Transportation:**
Passes for Simi Vista, SCAT, Metrolink

Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

The Simi Sunriser

February 19, 2009

Look Again ~ 2008/2009 Rotary Year Theme

Community Service

Community Service Day

Samaritan Center Work Day

&

Community Food Drive

Vons and Pavilions in Simi Valley

Saturday, February 21st

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The three Rotary Clubs will join together to collect non-perishable food goods for Care & Share in Simi Valley. Collections will be at all Vons & Pavilions stores in Simi Valley.

A Rotary canopy will be set up in each parking lot for drop off, or you may hand to Rotarians at the door of the stores. This is a community service event in conjunction with Rotarians at Work day around the world. Care & Share provides non-perishables to those in need. Right now their donations are down and the need is up.

In addition, the three clubs will be making improvements at the Samaritan Center.

Both events run from 8:00 a.m. to Noon on Saturday.

Giving back to our community has always played an important role for Rotarians throughout the world.

Plan to participate at one of our events that day!



Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

The Simi Sunriser

International Service Committee Activity Report on Matching Grants

All of the following grants have been funded, but have not been closed:

Grant #: 0660320
RI Contact: Milagros Ruete
Host Partner: Rotary Club La Molina, Peru
Purpose: To help provide a computer lab for a school for disabled children in Lima, Peru
Amount: \$14,990
Date Approved: April 24, 2006
Date Funded: February 29, 2008



Grant #: 0761089
RI Contact: Jennifer Kordell
Club Contact: Lora Simonsgard
Host Partner: Rotary Club Dickoya, Sri Lanka
Purpose: To help provide 10 water tanks to supply clean drinking water to small villages surrounding Dickoya, Sri Lanka
Amount: \$20,000
Date Approved: December 1, 2006
Date Funded: October 31, 2007



Grant #: 08965415
RI Contact: Maria Emig
Club Contact: Dick Strayer
Host Partner: Rotary Club Gualán, Guatemala
Purpose: To help provide 550 wheelchairs to disabled individuals living in remote areas surrounding Gualán, Guatemala
Amount: \$23,200
Date Approved: February 28, 2008
Date Funded: May 31, 2008



Grant #: 0865994
RI Contact: Santa Leal
Club Contact: Arun Sharma
Host Partner: Rotary Club Quilon, India
Purpose: To help provide pure drinking water to the fisherman community of Pullithottam in Kollam Beach, Kollam, Kerala, India
Amount: \$16,437
Date Approved: April 25, 2008
Date Funded: Open



Grant #: 0866400
RI Contact: Samuel Rienstra
Club Contact: Arun Sharma
Host Partner: Rotary Club Shahabad Markanda, India
Purpose: To help provide a fully equipped ambulance to the town of Shahabad-Markanda in Haryana, India
Amount: \$19,734
Date Approved: April 11, 2008
Date Funded: August 31, 2008



Grant #: 0866550
RI Contact: Santa Leal
Club Contact: Arun Sharma
Host Partner: Rotary Club Malhara West, India
Purpose: To help provide equipment and furniture for a blood bank to serve the community of Malhara, Uttar Pradesh, India
Amount: \$59,727
Date Approved: April 11, 2008
Date Funded: November 30, 2008



The following grants have been approved by the District and are waiting to be sent to RI:

Grant #: pending
RI Contact: Maria Emig
Club Contact: Heather Frankle
Host Partner: Rotary Club Minas de Real, Honduras
Purpose: To help provide an Electroencephalogram (EEG) to the Psychiatric Hospital Mario Mendoza in Tegucigalpa, Francisco Morazan, Honduras
Amount: \$24,500



In addition, Henry Pterro has written a grant with a club in Chile. He will submit it to the district on February 1, 2009.

Scott Blough is also working on a grant with a club in Zambia.



Dictionary Project

For the third year, the three Rotary Clubs in Simi Valley participated in the Rotary Dictionary Project at our Simi Valley public schools. Local Rotarians delivered dictionaries throughout the week of February 2nd to 21st students in 87 second grade classrooms at each of the 21 public schools in Simi Valley. Trader Joe's in Simi Valley donated bags to help Rotarians bring the books to the schools.

Pictured in the photo are second graders from Justin Elementary holding their new dictionaries!



More than 1.3 million children throughout America have received a dictionary from Rotarians who have participated in the Rotary Dictionary Project.





2008
September 8
thru
September 15

By
Heather Frankle



In June at the International Convention in Los Angeles PDG Jan McCrehan signed an Inter Country Agreement with representatives from Honduras. The ICC is a 3 year, renewable agreement and is responsible for conducting outreach to clubs throughout the United States that are interested in doing projects in Honduras, assisting with coordination of those projects and creating a 3-year strategic plan. The Coordinator of the ICC in our district is Eric Green of the KC Woodlake Village Sunrise. Members from our district are Randy Strong (WCV Sunrise) and me. Local members from Honduras are Coordinator Helmut Seidel, and Rolando Machado both of whom are in the RC de Tegucigalpa.

On September 8th of this year, Eric and I departed for Tegucigalpa, Honduras to initiate the first ICC Strategic Planning meeting. During the following week we met with Helmut, Rolando and ICC Administrator Guillermo Valle. While we were in Honduras we inducted two new members, Alex Erazo (RC San Pedro Sula) and Don Drysdale (RC Siguatepeque).

The trip was an eye-ful. The country is very beautiful but the poverty is palpable and extreme. Honduras is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The major needs are water, basic sanitation and electricity. We could count the ribs on the emaciated cattle. The diet of typical villagers is beans, corn and tortillas - few vegetables and even less animal protein. The interiors of rural homes are black with soot from wood fire stoves that are not vented to the outside. The health consequences is the equivalent of each member of the family smoking 2 packages of cigarettes each day. Women spend up to 6 hours per day gathering fire wood and water. Hillside are deforested in an attempt to gather wood resulting in erosion and land loss. There is no sanitation or provision for human waste. Infant mortality is high - 18 per 1,000 births.

We spent our days in meetings and reviewing projects, beginning by 7:00 a.m. and lasting well past midnight. One of the events that was most noticeable was a Town Hall meeting in the poorest state, Choluteca. More than 50 villagers presented 18 projects. Most requested bringing water to their inhabitants. I will always remember one dignified old man who told us that for 3 months out of the year his people had no water. During the other 9 months everyone was ill because the water made them sick.

The trip was comprehensive. We visited 3 states in Honduras and attended meetings: 3 Rotary clubs, Xomara Castro de Zelaya, the First Lady of Honduras, the immediate PDG, Ricardo Marchal, the DRI C, Tito Guillen, the Governor of the state of Choluteca Ana Mendez de Rodriguez, Jose Cella, the Mayor in Maricao, the second largest city in Choluteca, a hospital director, the director of the National School of Music, the director of a home for the elderly, a school that a local Rotary club had adopted - Many, Many Meetings.

We were also treated to many parties and wonderful food. Our Rotarian hosts were remarkable, making sure that all of our requests were met, planning a comprehensive agenda and ensuring that each long day ended in a friendly party. Many thanks to our home hosts Rolando and Soysa Machado, Helmut Seidel and Guillermo Valle for their incredible hospitality.

On our last day in Honduras, the ICC met to determine the next steps in strategic planning. We came to a unanimous decision to address the humanitarian needs we had seen by adopting villages throughout Honduras and systematically providing a hierarchy of solutions beginning with water and sanitation. After these needs are met, we would then provide electricity, health/education, literacy, vocational training and finally micro credits to jump start cottage industry. The "Adopt a Village" plan is innovative and will be achieved over a 4-5 year period of time. At the same time, projects that touch a Rotarian's heart will be encouraged - projects such as the dental hygiene Matching Grant that Horsther Berger is pursuing.

Guillermo Valle is fond of saying that Honduras is a rich country that is poorly run. There is much to do and with the help of our club members we will be a leader in addressing the pressing humanitarian needs.



EEG Presented by
Heather Frankle and
Carmen Billata,
Grant Partner and
Executive Assistant
Governor, District
4250. Carmen has
been selected to be
District Governor in
RY 2014-15.





Photo courtesy of Heather Frankle
Juana Perez, a Guatemalan girl born with two clubfeet, received corrective surgery in Honduras recently thanks to the efforts of Ventura County Rotarians, doctors and other volunteers.

Newspaper story inspired Rotarians to help the girl

VOLUNTEERS
From B1

there was nothing I could do personally."

Hooper, emergency room medical director at St. John's Hospital in Oxnard and Camarillo, started making phone calls. So did Mary Carol Todd, an administrator from Catholic Healthcare West who was also on the mission. Even before leaving Guatemala, they talked of somehow bringing the girl to the United States for surgery.

Her name is Juana Perez. She has dark eyes, curly hair and a small sad smile on a face Hooper called angelic. She's the youngest of six children. Her family lives in a hut in an isolated stretch of land outside Esquipulas. She and her mother, Maria, beg for money outside a cathedral.

Todd took X-rays of Juana's feet to San Francisco and started showing them to doctors. She set to work on getting Juana a passport.

About the same time, Heather Frankle of Thousand Oaks read a story in The Star about Hooper's mission work. It mentioned Juana.

"We can help," she thought.

She's 63 and the international service director of the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. She was already planning to accompany a group of volunteer podiatrists who journey every year to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to perform corrective surgery for children with clubfoot and other disorders.

The doctors call themselves the Baja Project for Crippled Children, and the work in Honduras is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Westlake Village Sunrise.

Frankle reached out to Hooper and Todd with an idea: Juana could get her surgery in Honduras, which borders Guatemala.

Text messages flew from California to Guatemala and Honduras.

Two 23-year-old college graduates from Wisconsin who do volunteer work in Esquipulas



Courtesy photo
Juana Perez's mother carried her for three hours to see a doctor in Guatemala. The doctor, a Camarillo resident, was part of a rescue mission.

was tracked down Maria and Juana Perez as they asked for change in front of a church.

Mother and daughter were released from the hospital and driven back to Guatemala.

The story isn't over. Juana will need corrective shoes, physical therapy and possibly a follow-up surgery. At one point after the surgery, she was hospitalized in Guatemala with an infection that was treated by antibiotics.

Frankle said the Rotarians will help to make sure Juana gets whatever she needs. And if it plays out as she and the others see it, the surgery will allow Juana a chance at the kind of life she might have had if born with feet pointing in the right direction. She'll have a chance at schooling, at a job and, if she wants, at raising a family.

"She'd really really well," said Dr. Michael Zapf, a podiatrist and a Westlake Village Rotarian who assisted in the surgery.

"I would say she has about 50 percent of the correction we would want."

When Juana's mother learned her daughter was OK, she collapsed in a seizure and

Local volunteers change Guatemalan child's life

By Tom Kishen

thickens@ventura.com

The 9-year-old girl's feet were so disfigured her soles pointed toward the sky when she struggled to walk. In November, her mother carried her for nearly three hours to a clinic set up at a church in Guatemala.

That's where Dr. H. Allen Hooper, an emergency room doctor from Camarillo, met her. The doctors and nurses who were on the final day of

a mission journey clustered around the girl, struck by the nature of her disorder.

In this Third World country, the clubfoot that pointed behind her seemed a brick wall likely to end chances of schooling, games with friends, independence and anything resembling a normal life.

"We need to do something to avoid this tragedy of life," Hooper remembered thinking. "The frustrating part was

See VOLUNTEERS on B2





Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

The Simi Sunriser



Making Dreams Real or How the Power of One Can Change a Life
By Heather Frankle, IRC Simi Sunrise

A wise, ancient Greek wrote tales to illustrate important life lessons. The story of how the magic of Rotary International touched and forever changed the life of Juana Perez might have been one of Aesop's Fables. It isn't. It is a true story.

In December 2008, I read a story in my local newspaper, about Dr. Alan Hooper, the Medical Director of the Department of Emergency Medical Services for the St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard and St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital in Camarillo. He had just returned from a successful medical mission sponsored by Catholic Healthcare West to Esquipulas, Guatemala. While he was there he discovered Juana Perez, the youngest of six children living with her mother Maria. Born with two club feet nine years ago, Juana had lived as a social outcast. Realizing that he could do nothing to help her on his current medical brigade, Dr. Hooper began working with Mary Carol Todd in the San Francisco corporate office of Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), trying to bring Juana to the United States for life-changing surgery.

When I read about Juana I remembered that the theme of the current Rotary year was "Make Dreams Real" and I wanted to do just that. At the time I was preparing to accompany a group of twenty-three volunteer podiatrists from the Baja Project for Crippled Children, three volunteer nurses from El Centro, California and nine Rotarians from Rotary District 5240 on a medical brigade to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. This year members from the Rotary Clubs of Simi Sunrise, Moorpark, Newbury Park, Santa Ynez Valley and Westlake Village Sunrise were signed up to provide humanitarian service. The project, known as Operation Footprint and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Westlake Village Sunrise, provides free corrective surgery to children throughout the Tegucigalpa area who are born with club feet.

In its sixth year, Operation Footprint had changed the lives of more than 200 children by providing surgeries with a monetary value in excess of \$5,000,000. I thought that instead of going to the United States for surgery, perhaps Juana could be treated by the visiting doctors from the Baja Project in Honduras. Thus began the journey that would forever change the lives of Juana and the many dedicated volunteers who she came to know.

Because of the holiday season, I was not able to reach Dr. Hooper until January 12, 2009. With the volunteers of Operation Footprint set to leave on January 22, time was getting to be a big issue. However, like a snowball rolling down a hill, the momentum needed to help Juana increased on a daily basis and all of the parts of the miracle that were needed to make her dream real came together as if written by destiny. The key players were Mary Carol Todd from CHW who arranged for Juana and her mother Maria to be driven to Tegucigalpa and was able to coordinate plans for Juana's post-surgical care in Guatemala; Dr. Steven Schwartz, the head surgeon for the Baja Project for Crippled Children, who reviewed the x-rays that Mary Carol emailed and agreed that Juana was a good surgical candidate; Sandy Schultz, a former Peace Corps volunteer who arranges for children to be screened by the doctors to determine if they are candidates for surgery and who made provisions for housing the group accompanying Juana while they were in Tegucigalpa; Phil Hanson and Theo Eggertson, members of the



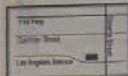
Juana and Maria Before Surgery



\$13

Rancho Santa Susana Community Park
5036 E. Los Arroyos Ave., Simi Valley

Gates OPEN at 11 a.m. both days



Lisa Haley
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FanFollet
Nominated Best Cajun Band 2008

Cajun & Creole Food
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Mardi Gras Parade
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& Bayou Creole
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Friday, April 28, 2006



Pictured from the left and holding their award-winning artwork are the Calum Festival Website Design winners: Chris Burt, Overall Website Design (Stark's Valley High School); Candice McNulty, Entertainment Page (Stark's Valley High School); Karen J. Vandersage, Stark's Valley High School; Diane Flores, Contact Us Page (Stark's Valley High School); Shannon Cameron, History Page (Stark's Valley High School); and Christine Daughters, Tickets Page (Stark's Valley High School).

The Rotary Club of San Sunrise sponsored its first ever Website Design Contest for its Annual Cajon Festival held on Memorial Day weekend each year. This two-day family oriented event features live Cajon/Circle and Zydeco music, delicious Cajon food, a variety of entertainment and a Cajon Kids Area and will be held this year on May 23rd and 24th at San Jose, Santa Rosa Community Day.

High students were invited to create a new webpage to commemorate the 20 years the festival has been presented. The Rotary club is awarding \$2000 in prizes to the winning schools and students.

According to 2006 Cape Chair Tracy Norman, "Because of the overwhelming response and involvement by teachers and students at our high schools, we decided to award six prizes, with students' artwork being utilized throughout our entire website."

The winners are: Chris Bird, Overall Website Design (Santa Susana High School); Caroline McHally, Entertainment Page (Simi Valley High School); Kevin Li, Venues Page (Simi Valley High School); Diane Flores, Contact Us Page (Simi Valley High School); Shannon Carmona, History Page (Simi Valley High School); and Christine Stephens, Tickets Page (Simi Valley High School).

Special thanks go to two teachers who encouraged their students to research Cajun culture and food in order to better create their artwork and designs: Mark Shenberg at Santa Susana High School and Yvonne Chertak-Boyd at Tule Valley High School.

Sign Building



Cajun Webiste Design Winners



Pictured from the left Chris Birdt, Overall Website Design (Santa Susana High School); Caroline McNally, Entertainment page (Simi Valley High School); Kevin Li, Vendors Page (Simi Valley High School); Diane Flores, Contact Us page (Simi Valley High School); Shannon Carmona, History page (Simi Valley High School); and Christine Stephena, Tickets page (Simi Valley High School).

FINAL COUNTDOWN—Santa Ana resident Andrea Garcia, left, helps fellow Stage Plus employee José Velasquez hang a sun shade on the main stage structure at Rancho Santa Ana Community Park on Thursday morning in preparation for this weekend's 20th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival. Gates open tomorrow at 11 a.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and under. See page 13 for the full story.





Ticket to the Cajun Festival - \$15.00
Bowl of Gumbo - \$7.00
Trunk Pass - Priceless...



Southern cooking, music continue today

By Michele Miller-Alford
Correspondent

Arriving at a festival dedicated to all things Creole, Cajun and zydeco, visitors on Saturday found a wide variety of Southern foods to please or test the palate.

There was the traditional catfish, crawfish, gumbo, jambalaya and even something for those who craved a little alligator meat.

Standing in front of one of the many New Orleans-inspired food booths at the 20th annual Cajun, Creole Music Festival in Simi Valley, Scott Spindel of Newbury Park tried some alligator-on-a-stick.

For those who may think alligator tastes like chicken, they're in for a surprise, said Spindel.

"It actually tastes like barbecue pork. It's actually very tasty and isn't gross at all," said Spindel, who also sattered his alligator meat with lots of hot sauce.

The alligator-on-a-stick entree was among many offerings at the festival, which is expected to attract more than 15,000 people during its weekend run at Rancho Santa Susana Community Park.

The festival continues today from 12:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The festival is organized annually by the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club, and the money raised will benefit various nonprofits in Simi Valley.

Tracy Noonan, who chairs the festival, said people this year were lined up at 8 a.m. on Saturday, three hours before gates opened.

One reason for the festival's success is its size, according to the organizers, who note that it is one of the largest Cajun, Creole festivals west of the Mississippi.

The festival features more than 12 Cajun and zydeco bands, including the Grammy-nominated Lisa Haley and the Zydeco and JT and the Zydeco Zippers.

A second stage was added this year for blue bands, while a third stage features a kids' talent competition.

Throughout the park on Saturday, festival-goers wore colorful costumes featuring plenty of Mardi Gras beads while eating the Cajun fare, drinking beer and dancing to the music.

Others took in some wine tasting at the Ventura County Wine Trail tent, where samples from five wineries were given out.



Photos by Chuck Korman / Star Staff

Stephaney Knight, left, and Diana Bernstein of Sausage World work the grill Saturday. Catfish, crawfish, gumbo, jambalaya and alligator meat were also available.



Jimmy Harvery and Carrie Eller from Oak View dance to the music on Saturday. The Cajun, Creole Music Festival in Simi Valley features varieties of food, activities, crafts, games, and lots of entertainment. The festival began in 1990. More than 15,000 visitors are expected.



Crawfish, crocs and crazy good times at '09 Cajun Fest

CAJUN COUNTRY—The spirit of the Louisiana Bayou returned to town last weekend at the Simi Sunrise Rotary Club's 20th annual Cajun Creole Music Festival, which drew thousands of visitors on Saturday and Sunday. Clockwise from top left: William Hollwedel, 80, of Valley Village and Simi resident Jarney Youngblood, 22, hit the crowded dance floor; Lyndia Thein of Granada Hills shoves off the festival's most popular food item: crawfish; Kelly Welsh's 2-year-old, Ella, is a little sheepish about saying hello to the Cajun Fest's official mascot—a 6-foot-tall crocodile.



Photos by Wendy Pierro



If you go

The festival continues today from 12:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets at the gate are \$15. Rancho Santa Susana Community Park is at 5005 Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley. For more information, go to <http://www.simicajun.org>.

urge to take a trip to New Orleans.

The festival began in 1990. It later was extended into a two-day event over the Memorial Day weekend because of the increasing number of festivalgoers.

Organizers say the festival raises a net of more than \$100,000 annually, with funds after expenses going back to the community with dozens of beneficiaries, ranging from the Boys & Girls Club to the city library.

Tickets at the gate are \$15. The park is at 5005 Los Angeles Ave. For more information, go to <http://www.simicajun.org>.

CAJUN FUN AND FROLIC



Above, Cynthia Hoston of Los Angeles tries on a pair of novelty sunglasses at the Simi Valley Cajun Festival on Sunday. At left, Annalise Meyer of Thousand Oaks, right, dances with her mother's best friend, Adrienne Stuck of Simi Valley. The two-day festival wrapped up Sunday.







Whatever your talent is, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise is looking for YOU!!!

TALENT SEARCH

Kids 17 and Under

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise will be hosting auditions for kids, 17 and under, to showcase their talent at this year's Simi Valley Cajun Creole Festival on May 23rd. Winners of this year's talent search will receive prizes and the chance to perform their talent in front of thousands of festival attendees who will vote for their favorite talent!

AUDITIONS

Sunday, April 5th
Sunday, April 19th
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cali Gymnastics
2175 Agate Court
Simi Valley

Selected participants will have the opportunity to perform at the Simi Valley Town Center on May 1st!

If you have any questions regarding the talent search or the Simi Sunrise Cajun Festival, please contact Christine Schweitzer @ (805) 889-2080 or visit our Cajun website at <http://simicajun.org/>

Christine Schweitzer was in charge of the kids area and talent show. She did a fabulous job!!



Choose from three different banner styles.

20th Anniversary Limited Edition Banner
 20th Anniversary Limited Edition Banner
 Features full-color attention grabbing graphics on vinyl
 Size: 2' x 6' (Portrait Format)
 \$250 includes your logo!

Twirler Flag
 Twirler Flag
 Features full-color attention grabbing graphics on Polytex.
 Size: 2.5' x 8' (Portrait Format)
 \$500 includes your logo!

Festival Banner
 Simi Sunrise Supports Local Charities
 Festival Banner
 Size: 6' x 2' (Landscape Format)
 \$100 - 2009 Renewal • \$150 - Text Only • \$175 - Text and Logo

Your Name and Logo Here
 www.website.com
 805-555-1212
 www.simicajun.org

Your Name and Logo Here
 www.website.com
 805-555-1212
 www.simicajun.org

Banner Ray brought laughter to each meeting. We only wished he would have shaved his head!! Maybe next year!!



20th Annual
CAJUN CREOLE MUSIC FESTIVAL
 Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise
 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND • MAY 23 & 24, 2009

Phyllis and Dennis Barbee

20th Annual
CAJUN CREOLE MUSIC FESTIVAL
 Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise
 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND • MAY 23 & 24, 2009

Karen Thompson
 Troop Real Estate
 Karen@TroopReal.com
 805.520.7728

20th Annual
CAJUN CREOLE MUSIC FESTIVAL
 Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise
 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND • MAY 23 & 24, 2009

MONICA BERLIN
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Paul & Connie Miller
 Thank You

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 Dr. Gregg Hartmann
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TONY MADDOX photography
 805-578-2399 Fax 805-306-0115
 585 E. LOS ANGELES AVE. Suite C
 SIMI VALLEY, CA.

JOSEPH GRINSTEAD ELECTRIC
 805-526-1294
 Thank You



For The Troops

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY
 CHECK IN AT FRONT DESK
 ID REQUIRED

AMERICA
 Home of the FREE
 Because of the BRAVE



George Kerr had a wonderful idea about letting the men and women who serve their country in free to enjoy their day. It was very well received!!



The 2009
VIP Area.



Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

The Simi Sunriser

Look Again ~ 2008/2009 Rotary Year Theme

May 28, 2009

It's Cajun Time!

Cajun Sponsor Breakfast



Cajun Festival Sponsors

Friends of Festival (\$1,000)

Alamo Plaza; BKM Office Environment; Century Accounting Systems; City Auto Body; Grinstead Electric; Harvey Mahler, DDS; HBW Insurance; Paul & Connie Miller; Number Crunchers; Simi Valley Mattress; Simi Valley Plumbing; Santa Barbara Bank & Trust; Supercuts; Techzam; Ventura Orthopedic Group; and Wieben Insurance.

Silver Sponsors (\$2500)

American Medical Reponse; DCH Toyota; Perma Plaque; Simi Lock Up; Simi Valley Town Center; Smokin Steve's BBQ; V3 Corporation; Ventura County Star; and Walmart.

Gold Sponsors (\$5,000)

Ecology Landscaping; Shell Vacations; Waste Management; and Time Warner Cable.

Mega Sponsors (\$7500)

Lakeside Community Medical and Regal Medical Group.

Super Mega Sponsors (\$10,000)

Budweiser and Mid Valley Properties.





City of Simi Valley Proclamation



Whereas, on May 23 and 24, 2009, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise will hold its 20th Annual Cajun - Creole Music Festival; and
Whereas, the Festival is an eagerly-anticipated community event that, over its twenty-year history, has raised more than \$1.2 million to assist a wide range of local non-profit organizations in delivering services to Simi Valley residents; and
Whereas, numerous corporate sponsors and volunteers donate countless hours of their time to make the Festival possible; and
Whereas, over the two-day event, it is estimated that 15,000 people from near and far will come to Simi Valley to listen and dance to Zydeco music, to enjoy Cajun and Creole cuisine, and to experience the camaraderie of a true community gathering; and
Whereas, the Cajun - Creole Music Festival is regarded as one of Ventura County's largest annual fund-raising event, benefiting non-profit organizations in serving our community's health, cultural traditions and social needs.

Now, Therefore, May 23 and 24, 2009 are hereby proclaimed

Cajun - Creole Music Festival Days

in the City of Simi Valley to encourage all citizens to participate in this two-day community event.

Presented this 14th day of May 2009.

Paul Miller
Paul Miller, Mayor

Mike Sedell
Mike Sedell, City Clerk

Certificate of Merit

This certifies that
The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise


has been presented this award of merit for
outstanding achievement in

Vocational Service, 2008-09

THIS DAY June 13, 2009

5240

DISTRICT

 DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Foundation



B.J. Anderson



Kurt Fredrickson

**DISTRICT 5240
2008-09 AWARD
BEST IN DISTRICT
LARGE CLUB**

Family of Rotary



Pam Perry



Arvid Krueger

Certificate of Achievement

Given to


The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

for valuable service and outstanding achievement in
Best Community Service for Large Club, 2008-09

THIS DAY June 13, 2009

5240

DISTRICT

 DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Certificate of Merit

This certifies that
The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

has been presented this award of merit for
outstanding achievement in

Community Service, 2008-09

THIS DAY June 13, 2009

5240

DISTRICT

 DISTRICT GOVERNOR

**DISTRICT 5240
2008-09 AWARD
BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE
LARGE CLUB**

Community Service



Ed Chapin



Paula Williams



Certificate of Merit

This certifies that

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise


*has been presented this award of merit for
outstanding achievement in*

Club Service, 2008-09

THIS DAY June 13, 2009

5240

DISTRICT


DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Certificate of Merit

This certifies that

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise


*has been presented this award of merit for
outstanding achievement in*

New Generations Service, 2008-09

THIS DAY June 13, 2009

5240

DISTRICT


DISTRICT GOVERNOR



Certificate of Merit

This certifies that

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise


*has been presented this award of merit for
outstanding achievement in*

International Service, 2008-09

THIS DAY June 13, 2009

5240

DISTRICT


DISTRICT GOVERNOR



District Governor's Citation



Presented to
Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

*This Citation is Awarded with Deep
Appreciation in Honor and Recognition of
Outstanding devotion and dedication*

to "Making Dreams Real"



Dated this thirteenth day of
June 2009

[Signature]
District Governor

RUSSELL HAMPTON CO. 153431

Rotary gives scholarships

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise recently awarded \$17,000 in academic and vocational scholarships to nine high school students in Simi Valley.

The scholarships are awarded annually to graduating seniors based on coursework, future plans, community involvement and financial need.

Following are the 2009 scholarship recipients and the amount and type of award.

Apollo High School: Victoria Harbaugh, \$750 vocational; Chelsea Rogers, \$2,000 academic.

Royal High School: Tasha Moore, \$750 vocational.

Simi Valley High School: Anna Billaki, \$2,000 academic; Monica Esswein, \$2,000 academic; Daniel Rushow, \$2,000 academic; and Devyn Chesset, \$750 vocational.

Santa Susana High School: Amanda Crane, \$750 vocational.
Trinity Pacific High School: Steven Page, \$2,000 academic.

7-3-09

2nd annual Cajun Creole Music Festival kid talent show a success

Posted by Cindy Jacoby

For the second year, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise's Cajun Creole Musical Festival, held over Memorial Day weekend, presented a two-day talent show for kids 17 and under.

Auditions were held in April with more than 50 different acts participating in the process. The first day of the talent show, on Saturday at the festival, featured 30 different acts representing an array of talent. There were rock bands, singers, dancers, Mexican folk dancing, hula-hoop artists, piano/keyboard and saxophone players and Hawaiian/Tahitian dancers.

After the performances on Saturday, the top 10 were chosen, via voting, to perform on Sunday. The voting outcome was 50 percent from



Courtesy photo
Three-year-old Hayley Shukiar participates in the talent show.

the audience and 50 percent from a select panel of judges. This year Anthony Sabato, Jr. was special guest judge on

the panel.

This year's winners were: First Place: Triple Threat (Rock Band); Austin Scott, 12; Nate Burhans, 13; and Tyler Hammond, 14 — all from Simi Valley.

Second Place: Right of Light (Rock Band); Lynzee Fraye, 14; Kevin Karp, 15; Kevin Pugh, 15; Austin Herrig, 14; and Christophe Allard, 14.

Third Place: Sami Watts (Saxophone Player), 9, from Simi Valley.

The Simi Valley Cajun Creole Music Festival is the largest annual fundraiser by the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise in Simi Valley.

Proceeds from this festival are distributed to more than 30 local charities as well as providing support to a variety of international projects.

Simi Valley Acorn

June 5, 2009

Trio of young rockers take first in Cajun Fest kids' talent show

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise's Cajun Creole Musical Festival, which took place during Memorial Day weekend, presented a second annual two-day talent show for children 17 and under.

More than 50 acts participated in auditions that happened in April. The first day of the talent show on Saturday presented 30 acts, featuring rock bands, singers, dancers, Mexican folk dancing, hula-hoop artists, piano/keyboard, saxophone players and Hawaiian/Tahitian dancers.

The top 10 acts were selected to perform on Sunday. Actor Anthony Sabato Jr. was special guest judge on the panel.

Following are the winners:

First place: Triple Threat, rock band. Band members are Austin Scott, 12, Nate Burhans, 13, and Tyler Hammond, 14. All are Simi Valley residents.

Second place: Right of Light, rock band. Band members are Lynzee Fraye, 14, Kevin Karp, 15, Kevin Pugh, 15, Austin Herrig, 14, and Christophe Allard, 14.

Third place: Sami Watts, 9, of Simi Valley, saxophone player.

The festival is the largest annual fundraiser by the club.

Proceeds from the event are distributed to more than 30 local charities and international projects.



SIMI'S GOT TALENT—Above, members of the band Triple Threat, from left, Austin Scott, Tyler Hammond and Nate Burhans, show off the trophy they won after voters selected the young rockers as the winners of 17-and-under talent show at the Cajun Festival. Below, second-place winners Right of Light brought energy to the stage during their performance on Sun., May 24.



Library's new community room will be unveiled this month

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise will work with the Simi Valley Library on an ongoing basis on various projects to further enhance and promote the library in the community. The first project was a major renovation to the community room.

The new Rotary Community Room will be dedicated and opened at 10 a.m. Wed., June 24 as the library kicks off the Summer Reading Program. A brief ceremony will take place, and a plaque will be hung to commemorate the completion of the project.

Rotarians and non-Rotarians spent more than 200 hours demolishing and removing existing decor and renovating the space.

Remodeling included replacing the ceiling, painting the room and installing new wiring, door-knobs and kick plates.

The club also purchased new furniture, an AV projector, a DVD player and stereo equipment.

The Summer Reading Program Kick Off Day will be at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. with identical programs that feature Craig Newton's Music-Fest. Admission is free.



Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise
2008 Benefactor Sponsor



Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise



The Simi Sunriser

June 18, 2009

Look Again ~ 2008/2009 Rotary Year Theme

What A Great Year!!! Maggie's Last Meeting



\$13,000 in Rotary Scholarships Awarded By Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise

Cindy Jacoby

Thursday, June 4, 2009

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise recently awarded \$13,000 in academic and vocational scholarships to nine graduating high school students in Simi Valley.

Rotary Club scholarships are awarded annually to graduating seniors based on a variety of factors including coursework, future plans, community involvement and financial need.

The 2009 Scholarship recipients are:

Apollo High School – Victoria Harbaugh (Vocational - \$750) and Chelsie Rogers (Academic - \$2000)

Royal High School – Tasha Moore (Vocational - \$750)

Simi Valley High School – Anna Biliski (Academic - \$2000); Monica Esswein (Academic - \$2000); Daniel Reshew (Academic - \$2000); and Devyn Chesser (Vocational - \$750)

Santa Susanna High School – Amanda Crane (Vocational - \$750)

Trinity Pacific High School – Steven Page (Academic - \$2000)

Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise is affiliated with Rotary International, an organization with more than 1.2 million business and professional men and women in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Club members are volunteers who work locally, regionally and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training and promote peace under the motto Service Above Self.

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise meets each Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Grand Vista Hotel. For more information about the club, visit the website at: www.rotaryclubofsimisunrise.com/.

Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise Partners with Simi Valley Library to Renovate Community Room

Cindy Jacoby

Monday, June 8, 2009

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise created a partnership with the Simi Valley Library to work with them on an ongoing basis on various projects to further enhance and promote the Library in the community. The first such project is the completion of a major renovation to the Community Room.

The new Rotary Community Room will be dedicated on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. as the library kicks off their Summer Reading Program. A brief ceremony will be held and a plaque hung to commemorate the completion of this project and the opening of the new Rotary Community Room. The Summer Reading Program Kick Off Day will be held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; admission is free and the festivities will feature Craig Newton's Music-Fest.

More than 200 hours were spent by Rotarians and non-Rotarians to demolish, remove existing decor and renovate the space. In addition to the ceiling being replaced, new wiring installed, the room painted, and new doorknobs and kick plates put in, the club also purchased new furniture, an AV projector, a DVD player and stereo equipment.

Rotary is a service organization. Since 1910, the Rotary Motto has been "Service Above Self." Rotarians recognize the importance of giving back to the community and Community Service is one of the Four Avenues of Service. Every Rotary club and every Rotarian assumes a responsibility to find ways to improve the quality of life for those in their communities and to serve the public interest.

The Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise meets every Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. at the Grand Vista Hotel. For more information on the club visit the website at: <http://www.rotaryclubofsimisunrise.com/>.



7/09
Dear Monica,
I was so thrilled with the scrap book and how wonderful it turned out. You did an outstanding job. Thank you!
I'm looking forward to spending time with you journaling. Again, Monica thank you again so much for all you did to make the Rotary year a success. I'm blessed to have you as a friend.
With Gratitude,
Maggie

Dear Maggie,
You did a
great job for
our club.
Thank you
for everything.
Love,
Mike Lewis

Hi Maggie
I was Rotary update
your work I doubt
if there is a
better president.
I had the best
right out of
the gate.
Mike Lewis

Dear Maggie,
What a great year!
You are a credit!
Thank you for everything!
Love,
Mike Lewis

DEAR MAGGIE!
Even though I became a
Rotarian, I still see you as my
friend and I really enjoyed your friendship
and leadership. Thank you for
forward to work with you
in the future.
Maggie,
Thank you for such a great year!
Mike Lewis

Maggie -
It's our pleasure to
have you as a class
act! Your leadership
inspired all of us to
Excel. Thank you
Mike Lewis

Maggie,
The world is a better
place because of you
and the amazing leadership
you gave our club. Thank
you for giving so much, always!
Love you,
Michelle

MAGGIE:
THANKS FOR A GREAT
YEAR & YOUR LEADER-
SHIP IN MAKING OUR
CLUB THE BEST IN THE
DISTRICT!
Mike Lewis

Maggie
You are the
Very Best
Love,
Mike Lewis

Maggie,
Your leadership has
been an example to all.
Inspiration to all.
Thank you!
Mike Lewis

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
CONGRATULATIONS
TO MAGGIE
JIMMY SANCHEZ'S FORTRESS

Maggie -
You did a great
job. Keeping this
group focused, hearing
all voices, just
wonderful. Thanks
Mike Lewis

Maggie,
Thank you for a
wonderful year
in Rotary. Your
leadership was
a great example
to all.
Mike Lewis

MAGGIE,
You are a wonderful
Rotarian and I'm
proud to be your
friend. Thank you
for your service to
our club.
Ernie Gilbert

Dear Maggie,
What a
wonderful year
you have had.
Thank you for
everything.
Love,
Mike Lewis

MAGGIE!
GREAT YEAR!
ARVID

MAGGIE -
You did such a great
job as president. You're
a tough act to follow
Tom Hove

Maggie -
Thank you for
making my first
year in Rotary
wonderful. You
are wonderful.
Mike Lewis

To Maggie,
What a great year!
Thank you for the two
years
Mike and Barbara

Maggie,
Thank you for all
that you have done.
Without your outstanding
leadership Simi Sunrise would
not be where it is today.
Tim Gert

Maggie as the president when
joined you will always be
special
Mike Lewis

Hello Maggie
You made my first
year in Rotary
wonderful. Thank you
for everything.
Mike Lewis

Maggie,
What a awesome
year. You did
a Great Job!
Love ya
Karen

Maggie,
It was an awful
year, one which you
so successfully guided us
through. Thank you for all
you did for us & the club.
Mike Lewis

Maggie,
Thank you for
everything.
Mike Lewis

Maggie -
You have shown us all
THE DEFINITION OF INSPIRED
LEADERSHIP - THANKS -
Mike Lewis

HEY!
YOU'RE NOT DEAD
YET. KEEP UP THE GOOD
WORK. GREAT JOB!
Mike Lewis

MAGGIE,
WE HAVE KNOWN EACH
OTHER MANY YEARS. YOU
HAVE COME A LONG WAY. YOU
HAD A VERY SPECIAL YEAR AS
OUR CLUB PRESIDENT.
Mike Lewis

MAGGIE
IT WAS A VERY GOOD
YEAR. THANKS FOR
EVERYTHING. YOU DID
A WONDERFUL JOB.
Mike Lewis

Maggie -
What a fantastic
year! Thanks for
everything you did
for our club.
Mike Lewis

Maggie,
Great job as president.
Thank you for
everything.
Mike Lewis

MAGGIE,
TO A WONDERFUL
PERSON & A
FABULOUS PRESIDENT
THANK YOU FOR BEING
YOU!
Mike Lewis



Maggie's
Demotion Party was a green
toga party! She arrived in the
back of an escalade and was
carried to her throne by the
"Toga Dudes!"



