

**THE JAFFREY-RINDGE
ROTARY CLUB**

**A Decade of Service
2003-2013**

“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be know by the results it achieves”

Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary International is a service organization whose purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Our organization started with the vision of one man, Paul P. Harris. The Chicago attorney formed one of the world's first service organizations, the Rotary Club of Chicago, on February 23, 1905 as a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Rotary's name came from the group's early practice of rotating meetings among the offices of each member.

Today there are 34,282 clubs and over 1.2 million members worldwide. What binds Rotarians together is the idea of service and is best expressed in the Rotarian motto of "Service above Self".

Rotarians channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

CLUB SERVICE focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.

COMMUNITY SERVICE encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.

YOUTH SERVICE recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club

Our Early History

The organizing force behind the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was a handful of Jaffrey and Rindge residents who were members of the Peterborough and Monadnock Rotary Clubs. Discussions around the possibility of forming a Jaffrey-Rindge club began in 2001. The motivation was to bring the benefits of Rotary service to Jaffrey and Rindge.

Bill Anders, Allan Van Hoogen and David Tower were members of the Monadnock Rotary Club. Bill Gilson and Jeb Brummer were members of the Peterborough Club. Members of this small group first met at Dunkin Donuts in Jaffrey in early autumn of 2002 to discuss the possibility of forming a Jaffrey-Rindge club.

Discussions continued through the fall and in November an organizational meeting was held at the Monadnock Inn. Peter Powers, District Governor and retired Chevron executive, attended. This meeting produced a decision to proceed with efforts to create a "provisional" Rotary Club serving Jaffrey and Rindge.

Key to this effort was the initial meeting where it would be determined if there was sufficient interest in the community to proceed with an application for a Rotary charter. The date selected was December 18, 2002.

A great deal of hard work went into the organization of the meeting. First, who would be invited? David Tower still has a list of potential members. Next to each name there is a telephone number and a note indicating level of interest.

A second decision was when and where would this meeting be held? Here several precedents were set that continue to this day. It was decided to meet over breakfast on a Thursday. The location was Franklin Pierce

University.

Jed Brummer and David Tower met with Dr. George Hagerty, President of Franklin Pierce University, to request that the university host the first meeting. Dr. Hagerty replied in the affirmative, and started the long process of co-operation between the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club and Franklin Pierce University.

The December 18, 2002 meeting turned out to be a pivotal moment in the history of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. It was at this meeting that a vote was taken to form a provisional club and go through the steps to apply for a charter as a Rotary club.

Over forty potential members showed up for that first 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting. Rotary District Governor Peter Powers, who supported the formation of the new club, was at this inaugural meeting.

Charles Bass, a United States Congressman and long time Rotarian, delivered the keynote address. Bass praised the behind-the-scenes work that Rotary Clubs do for communities and the world at large as members put "Service above self". "We do it quietly, but we're effective," he said.



Congressman Bass

Bass also praised the people who would become charter members of the new club. "Membership is good for you and for the people whose lives you make better," he said.

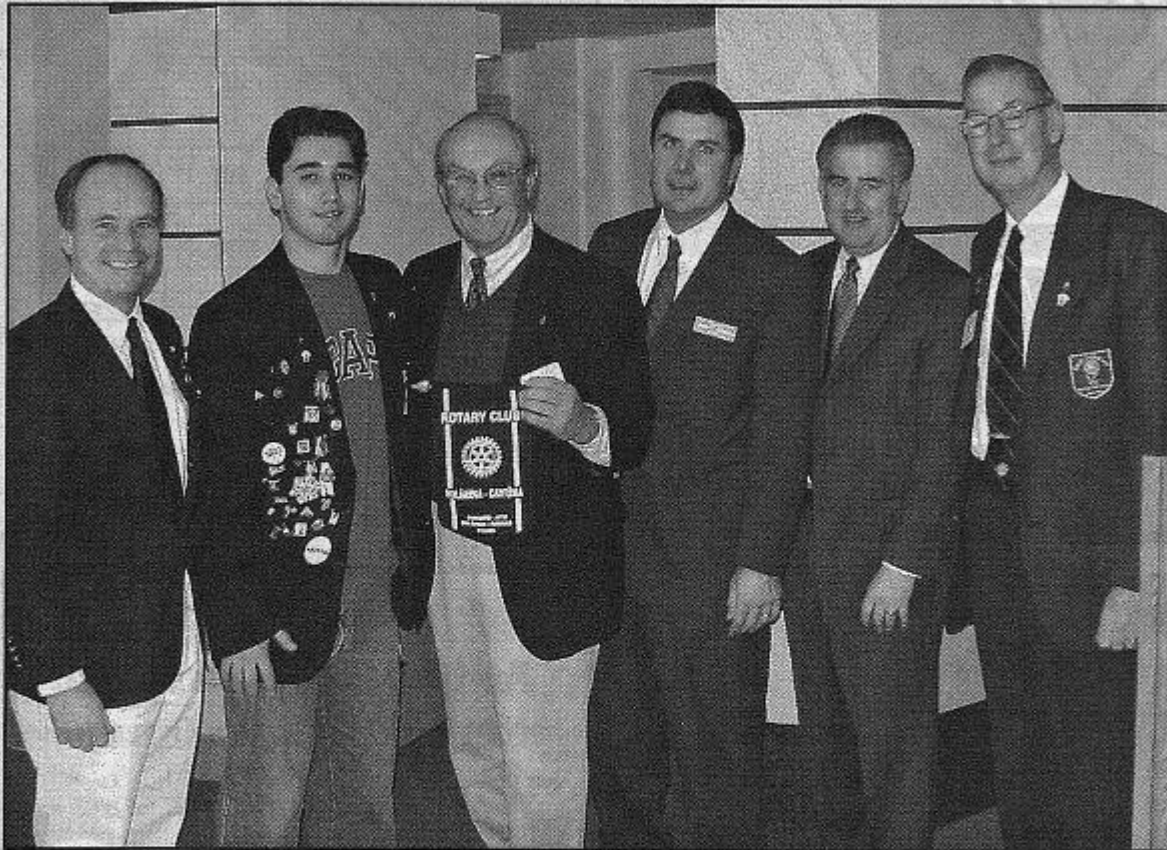


PHOTO BY JED BRUMMER

David Tower holds the Brazilian Rotary flag presented to the new Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. Pedro Detaula, second from left, presented the flag, a tradition among visiting Rotarians. Other dignitaries at the club's inaugural meeting yesterday included Congressman Charlie Bass, left, and to Tower's right, State Senator Andy Peterson, Franklin Pierce College President George Hagerty and Rotary District Governor Peter Powers of Hopkinton.

A new chapter for Rotary

Picture from the Monadnock Ledger, article appears on the next page

State Senator Andy Peterson, a member of the Peterborough Rotary Club, attended the meeting to lend his support to the new club. "I think it's about 10 years overdue," he said.

"Rotary becomes a quiet giant in the community," Peterson said. He spoke about how Rotary clubs address community issues through programs like Operation Santa and initiatives like scholarships. "Membership is an opportunity to do some-

thing people can look back on with satisfaction," he said.

George Hagerty also spoke in support of forming a Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. He said the College would be supportive of the effort because fostering Rotary "is part of Franklin Pierce College being part of the community."

David Tower accepted several gifts on behalf of the provisional club. John Kauf-

New chapter for Rotary

Jaffrey-Rindge club forms

By **ERIC POOR**

Monadnock Ledger Staff

RINDGE — Congressman Charles Bass, a long time Rotarian, delivered the keynote address to a new Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club yesterday morning.

Bass praised the behind-the-scenes work the Rotary Clubs do for communities and the world at large as members put "service above self."

"We do it quietly, but we're effective," he said.

Bass also praised the people who are becoming charter members of the new club.

"Membership is good for you and for the people whose lives you make better," he said.

State Senator Andy Peterson, a member of the Peterborough Rotary Club, also attended the meeting at the Emily Flint Campus Center at Franklin Pierce College to lend his support to the new club.

"I think it's about 10 years overdue," he said.

Peterson spoke about how the clubs address community issues through programs like Operation Santa and initiatives like scholarships. Membership is an opportunity to do something people can look back on with satisfaction, he said.

"Rotary becomes a quiet giant in the community," Peterson said.

David Tower, a Rindge resident with a law firm in Jaffrey, is the organizing force behind the formation of the new club. He credited

"Rotary becomes a quiet giant in the community."

**Andy Peterson,
state senator**

Peterson with getting him involved in the Peterborough Rotary 10 years ago. Peterson said it was Charlie Bass who brought him into the club in 1983.

Rotary District Governor Peter Powers of Hopkinton, who is supporting the formation of the new club, was also at the inaugural meeting of what is the first new club in the district since 1996. The club is a "provisional" Rotary Club that will likely become a chartered club by this spring.

"It's off and running," Powers said.

The Rotary International rules require at least 20 members for the formation of a new club. The Jaffrey-Rindge club has 30 members, said Tower.

Tower said Franklin Pierce College "couldn't have been more accommodating" in providing the new club a place to hold its meetings. The college will be the regular meeting place for the club, he said.

College President George Hagerty said the school believes fostering the organization is part of the college being a part of the community.

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Tower accepted several gifts to the new club. John Kaufhold presented a \$1,000 donation from the Peterborough Rotary. Swift Corwin presented a \$1,000 donation from the Monadnock Rotary.

Kaufhold introduced foreign exchange student Pedro Detaula of Rolandia, Parana, Brazil. Detaula upheld the tradition of visiting Rotarians by presenting the new club with a small flag from his Rotary Club in Brazil.

Rotary, established in 1905, is based on friendship and fellowship. It fosters business development and networking, as well as personal and leadership development. The clubs are an open society of men and women who believe in helping others. Rotarians provide community service to both local and international communities. One of the international initiatives of the club is the eradication of polio.

This has resulted in the immunization of more than 1 billion children.

hold presented a \$1,000 donation from the Peterborough Rotary. Swift Corwin presented a \$1,000 donation from the Monadnock Rotary. The provisional club received another \$750 from various clubs within the District.

Emphasizing the international side of Rotary, John Kaufhold introduced foreign exchange student Pedro Detaula of Rolandia, Parana, Brazil. Detaula upheld the tradition of visiting Rotarians by presenting the provisional club with a small flag from his Rotary Club in Brazil.



Pedro Detaula with Dave Tower

The second meeting of the provisional club took place on Thursday, January 9, 2003. Peter Powers outlined the process for submitting an application for a Rotary charter.

Peter also initiated an orientation process to educate members to the Rotary com-

mitment to service at home and abroad through the five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity. Peter Powers brought with him five Rotarians who each spoke on one of the service areas: Club, Vocational, Community, International, and Youth Service.

The charter application was submitted to Rotary International in Chicago at the end of January 2003. Peter Powers certified to Rotary International that the provisional club had completed its orientation and was now ready to become the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was chartered on February 24, 2003 with 44 Charter members, and is Club #61345 in Rotary District 7870. It was the first new Rotary Club in the district since 1996.

Charter Night was February 24, 2003 at Hidden Hills in Rindge. Members attended with their spouses. Peter Powers and a number of past District Governors were in attendance. Charlie Bass and Andy Peterson were there, once again, giving their support.

Part of the application process to Rotary International was putting in place a structure for the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. This included by-laws, officers, committees, and service and financial plans.

The first officers of the Jaffrey Rindge Rotary Club were David Tower, President; Bill Anders, Secretary; Allan Van Hoogen, Sargent



-at Arms; and Ben Wheeler, Treasurer.

A list of the first ten presidents of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club can be found in the Appendix. Each president faced a different set of challenges, but one issue they all shared was the need to raise sufficient revenues to fund service projects.

Every Rotary Club is faced with this issue, and many have been very creative in finding ways to raise revenue. Various clubs in our region sponsor activities such as a fishing derby, a rib fest, and pancake breakfast. The Keene Rotary Club has a very successful raffle.





Rindge Rotary Club president saw two initiatives to find a revenue source to fund service projects. One of these efforts was the Baseball Festival, an idea put forth by Rotarian Steve Meyers.

The Baseball Festival was a challenge softball game between Jaffrey and Rindge Rotarians. Originally conceived as an independent event, it was affiliated with Jaffrey's RiverFest weekend in the second year. Money came from selling sponsorships, the sale of refreshments, and money collected from various amusements.

Dues and "happy fines" provided some initial revenues. A "New Year's Eve Gala" at Hidden Hills was an early attempt to establish a predictable source of funding. After two years this was abandoned.

Sadie Jackson's tenure as Jaffrey-

Prior to the Rotarian softball game there were instructional sessions for young people and fun activities such as a dunk tank. The New Hampshire Fischer Cats provided a booth where aspiring pitchers could clock the speed of their fastball.



Beletetes, one of the sponsors

Tony Cassady, Jaffrey- Rindge Rotary President in the period 2008-2009, recalls an incident during the second year of the Baseball Festival. One of the fund raising events was a dunk tank. There was one little kid with a great arm, and a parent who kept him supplied with money, that dunked every Rotarian sitting in the dunk tank multiple times.

The Baseball Festival was cancelled after



Jed Brummer in the dunk tank

three years due to low community involve-

ment and limited revenues. For the record, Rindge led the series two games to one.

The solution to a predictable revenue source came in 2005, when the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club sponsored its first Reverse Raffle at the Shattuck Golf Club. The raffle has evolved over time to include both silent and live auctions, and is our club's primary source of revenue to fund community services.

Over 300 tickets are sold at \$60 each. A ticket admits two adults to the prize drawing reception. The Grand Prize is \$2,500; additional prizes include one prize of \$1,000, one prize of \$500, two prizes of \$250 and lots of smaller fun prizes.

Live auction items are donated by local merchants. Held on a Friday night with live music, appetizers and drinks; the event has become one of the major social events of the autumn.

Giving the event a festive atmosphere are the Masters of Ceremonies and auctioneers.



Mike Shea and Ben Wheeler performed this function from the inception of the Reverse Raffle until 2013, when Andy Lawn joined Mike in hosting the evening.

A highlight of the Reverse Raffle is the naming of the Jaffrey-Rindge Paul Harris Award recipient. The award is named for the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris. A donation of \$1,000 is given to the Rotary International

Foundation in the name of the recipient to support programs such as Polio Eradication and Clean Water.

In the words of Rotarian Clay Hollister, former President of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, the Paul Harris Award is given to those who “help our town and our neighbors. And they do so in a very quiet, deliberate manner. They embody ‘Service Above Self’. We are lucky to have them.”

Community recipients of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club Paul Harris Award have been John Peard, 2009; Bob VanDyke, 2010; Susan Leach, 2012; and Jack Belletete, 2013. Rotarians receiving the award are Bill Anders, 2008, and Tonya Albee, 2011.

Another leadership challenge facing early Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club presidents was the



Paul Harris Citizen of the Year recipients John Peard (2nd from left, and Jack Belletete, 3rd from left with then club President, Bruce Edwards and Past President Dave Tower

task of communicating with the membership. David Tower and Sadie Jackson recall spending Sunday evenings doing a weekly e-mail to the membership discussing the upcoming meeting and events in the District, and Rotary International.

This tedious process was made easier during Clay Hollister's presidency. A Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club web site was established utilizing Rotary International's Club Runner software.

Phil Cournoyer, our technology wizard, installed the web site. Phil followed Clay Hollis-

ter as president of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club in the period 2010-2011.

Another early organization accomplishment was the design of the Club's banner. Art students from Conant High were challenged to help our club come up with a design for the banner. The banner created by the art students in the fall of 2005 is the same banner our club uses today.

On February 10, 2006, during Mike Shea's presidency, the Club received notification from the Internal Revenue Service that we had received exemption from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. David Tower played a leadership role in moving this forward.

Death has taken a number of our charter members. David Knight, a Jaffrey dentist and significant contributor to the joint Rotary club "Healthy Kids Project", was killed in a tractor accident at age 45.

Among the early members of our club who shared a sense of service, fellowship and humor that helped to lay the foundation for the club are: Gerald W. Parker, retired physician and Brigadier General, who worked with NASA and the Apollo astronauts; Ronald Fournier, minister of Advent Lutheran Church; Al Van Hoogen, retired Marine; and Barry Miller, proprietor of the Prescott Inn.

Our Decade of Service

CLUB SERVICE

Club Service focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.

Jed Brummer, the second president of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club summarized the agenda for his tenure in this way, "It is obvious that the major appeal of Rotary is its service orientation. But that is not enough to keep people coming back, they also want education, camaraderie and fun".

Club meetings, with the exception of general assemblies, have a guest speaker who makes a twenty- minute presentation. Over the decade, 2003-2013, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has had over 300 speakers.

The range in topics has been great. International service topics have included affordable housing for disaster victims, the eradication of polio, the aids epidemic, and providing clean water in developing countries.



On a local level we learned about efforts such as Shelter from the Storm, which provides transitional housing and support services for the homeless in our area. Monadnock at Home, an effort to keep seniors in their homes; and Downtown Jaffrey, an effort to preserve a healthy small town commercial center, and efforts to rebuild the Park Theater.

There was the occasional political speaker. This list includes an aspiring presidential candidate, the New Hampshire Attorney General who became a United States Senator, and several candidates to the United States House of Representatives.

Some speakers have shared their life experiences. An emotional and powerful presentation was given by Natalia Orloff-Klauer, a Fitzwilliam resident, who is a holocaust survivor. Mrs. Orloff-Klauer shared her family's experience while prisoners at Dresden.

Dr. Robert Weinberg, an MIT professor of genetics and part-time Rindge resident, spoke in the summer of 2011 on DNA and stretched our thinking on what the future of health care could hold.

Robert Putnam, a professor of public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School, spoke at the August 23, 2012 meeting on the growing disparity in economic opportunity in American society and its impact on the lives of children.

Putnam's talk was of great interest to Jaffrey-Rindge Rotarians, given the efforts around Quest to help disadvantaged youth in our community. He referenced Quest and how community projects like it can provide support to children at risk.

Some speakers were just fun. David Lang spoke on his collection of 15,000 beer cans, and Rob Henning shared his personal collection of baseball memorabilia.

It is the practice of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club to make a donation to a community group in the name of the weekly speaker. Early on, donations were made to the Jaffrey-Rindge Ambulance Service. In 2008, the club started making equal donations to the food pantries of Jaffrey and Rindge.

One of the early challenges of the leadership team of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was building a sense of fellowship in the new club. Jed Brummer recalls informal luncheons at East Hill Farm and Lilly's.

Clay and Caroline Hollister hosted two social events and gavel night at their home. Andy Lawn held a cookout at his home during Mike Shea's presidency, and Al and Nancy Clapp hosted a pig roast in 2006.

Bruce and June Edwards hosted Gavel Night from 2012-2014. In addition to the transfer of club leadership, the evenings had a nice sense of friends coming together to share an evening celebrating a successful year.

Jamie Birge, President of Franklin Pierce University and active member of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, and his wife Lisa hosted an informal lawn party at their Rindge home in August of 2013.

These efforts to instill a sense of camaraderie in the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club have resulted in a unique club culture. Known in the district for its warmth and humor, it has been said that the Jaffrey-Rindge Club "marches to its own beat".

In the words of Sadie Jackson, "I have never been to a meeting where I have not had at least one good laugh. Happy fines (moderated by Bill Driscoll, Owen Houghton, and Joe Manning) leaves me with a feeling of great joy".

This sense of fun, according to Jed Brummer, has been a part of the fabric of our club from its inception. There were always jokes and the atmosphere informal and fun. Early in

the club's history, Jed recalls a weight loss contest where for six weeks there was a public "weigh-in".

Jed Brummer's formula of service, camaraderie and fun has proven effective. Throughout our club's first decade, membership has not fallen below forty members.

Maintaining a vibrant membership is always a challenge to a service organization, especially those located in small communities. Tony Cassady, President of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary 2008-2009, made growing club membership one of his main objectives.

Tony's goal was to reach a membership of 50 by Gavel Night 2009. The club didn't quite hit 50, but the momentum from that year's efforts helped the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary reach a membership of 50 the next year during Clay Hollister's presidency.

In 2013 club membership was a healthy 51 members. Among these are a number of charter members: Owen Houghton, Jed Brummer, Mike Shea, Tammy Griffin, Jim O'Neill, Ben Wheeler, David Tower, Bruce Edwards, Bill Gilson, Clay Hollister, Sadie Jackson, Gail Terriault, Al Clapp, and Steve Meyers.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has attracted some of the most dynamic women in our community. Sadie Jackson, an executive at Monadnock Community Hospital, and Kelly Bergeron, independent businesswoman, served as club presidents.

Susan Emerson is a Representative to the New Hampshire General Assembly and family advocate. Tonya Albee is the broker/owner of a local real estate firm and was instrumental in restoring the Cathedral of the Pines after the ice storm of 2008, the Jaffrey Town Beach restoration, and remains the moving force behind Quest.

Kathy Batchelder is a Selectman in the Town of Jaffrey and former executive director

of Team Jaffrey. Tammy Griffin, Branch Manager of the TD Bank of Jaffrey, and Gail Theriault, a long-time community real estate agent are active in numerous community activities.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Vocational Service calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club quickly became an important source of social capital in the community. Club members are a group of accomplished professionals who are networked and can be mobilized to focus on community needs and issues. Members provide their time and energy, the most valuable resources in any community.

Club members are found on virtually every community board. This includes organizations such as Monadnock At Home, Shelter from the Storm, Team Jaffrey, the Jaffrey Civic Center, the Monadnock Community Hospital, and the Jaffrey-Rindge Ambulance Service, RiverMead, and Cathedral of the Pines.

The ability of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club to serve the community in times of need is illustrated by the support given the Cathedral of the Pines after the powerful ice storm of December 2007.

The Cathedral of the Pines, founded in 1945 by Sibyl and Douglas Sloane III; is a memorial to the men and women, including their son Sandy, who sacrificed their lives in World War II. Situated on a hilltop in Rindge with a panoramic view of Mt. Monadnock, the Cathedral of the Pines was devastated by the ice storm.

Members of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, serving on the Cathedral board, played a leadership role in efforts to restore the Cathedral of the Pines, enabling it to open on schedule on May 1, 2008.

Cathedral of the Pines board members in-

cluded Rotarians Tonya Albee, Jed Brummer, Allen Clapp, and Donald Upton. Allen Clapp, a retired businessman and World War II veteran, served as voluntary executive director prior to the restoration.

The membership of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club showed up on a Saturday morning in late April of 2008 to clean the grounds, paint buildings and put up new signs designed by Rotarian Tonya Albee.



Rotary at the Cathedral of the Pines

Rotarian Jed Brummer served as Chairman of the Cathedral of the Pines during its restoration. Three Rotarians, Judy Tomlinson, Tim McMahon and Don Upton, the current chairman, have served as Chair of the Cathedral Board since the restoration.

The Cathedral of the Pines is just one example of how individuals come together under the network and organization of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club to serve the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service encourages Rotarians to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.

From January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club gave \$16,200 to support community service projects. Twenty-eight organizations received donations and grants ranging in size from \$150-\$2,500.

Groups receiving funds are diverse and reflect a wide spectrum of need in the community. The list includes food pantries in Jaffrey and Rindge, the Jaffrey-Rindge Ambulance Service, hurricane relief for Vermont Rotary District 7490, the New Hampshire Association for the Blind, the Rindge Veterans Association, Shelter from the Storm, the Jaffrey Civic Center, and the Rindge Chamber of Commerce.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, over the past decade, has been very supportive of services directed at community youth. This includes an annual \$2,500 a year scholarship presented to a graduating Conant High School senior.



Scholarship being awarded to Haley Goodwin, not only a good student but an Interact member and future Quest Volunteer



Rotarian Joe Manning at Operation Santa

Service projects directed to young people in the period January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 include Project Shakespeare at Conant High School, Destination Imagination, Conant Science Robotics, the start-up of the Conant Interact Club, Santa House and Operation Santa, Rindge Boy Scouts, St. Patrick's School, and Victory High School.

Supporting community service is not limited to financial donations. One of our oldest community service projects is the Roadside Clean-up, a part of New Hampshire's "Adopt-A-Highway" program. Twice a year, in the fall and spring, Rotary volunteers under Andy Lawn's leadership gather early on a Saturday morning to pick up trash along Route 202.

Throughout the year the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club responds to requests for manpower to support community projects. This includes RiverFest, the Scarecrow Festival, serving as "Cup Cake Cops" at the Jaffrey

Civic Center's Cup Cake Festival, and parking cars at Jaffrey Center during the summer auction.



Rotarians at Cup Cake Festival

Youth service projects have been a focus of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club since its inception in 2003. Monadnock Healthy Teeth, various activities focused on youth recreation, and Quest provide an historical perspective on this commitment.

Monadnock Healthy Teeth

One of the first high impact service programs of the newly formed Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was a collective effort with the Monadnock Community Hospital and the Peterborough and Monadnock Rotary Clubs.

David Knight, a Jaffrey dentist and charter member of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, organized support in 2003 for a school based dental health program, Monadnock Healthy Teeth.

The goal of Monadnock Healthy Teeth was to provide access to dental care and instruction on dental hygiene for children in grades K-3. Each of the three Rotary clubs provided \$5,000 toward the purchase of a van that allowed a dental hygienist to visit fourteen towns in the Monadnock region.

In May of 2009 the program expanded to

include childhood nutrition and obesity. The name was changed from Monadnock Healthy Teeth to Monadnock Healthy Teeth to Toes.



Today Monadnock Healthy Teeth to Toes is still using the van provided by the three Rotary clubs in 2003. On an annual basis approximately 2,000 children, spanning grades K-3 in fourteen Monadnock area schools, are taught by a Monadnock Community Hospital registered dental hygienist and registered dietitian.

In 2013 the Monadnock Community Hospital reported that tooth decay among the K-3 population had been reduced by over 44% since 2003.

Youth Recreation Activities

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has a history of consistently supporting recreational activities for youth in our community. Mike Shea recalls during his presidency that the club, still in its infancy in 2005, was looking for a Community Service project that would make the Club more visible in the community.

At the time there was an identified need in the community for another baseball field, but efforts lacked a driving force to make it happen. Several meetings in the summer and fall with Walt Pryor, the Jaffrey Recreation Director, made it obvious there was a true need. Funding a new baseball field, however, would be a challenge.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club made the decision to step forward and become the primary conduit for raising funds. The Club approached local businesses as well as individuals for financial support, and on Jaffrey Town Meeting day, March 16, 2006, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club presented a check to the town earmarked for a baseball field in the amount of \$16,000.

In addition to financial support, Rotarian and Town Selectman Clay Hollister worked with the Town of Jaffrey to procure the land on Union Street. Mike Shea, as Club president, successfully applied for a District Simplified Grant for \$1,000 for a scoreboard.

Other youth recreation projects include repaving the tennis courts at the Rindge Recreation Center and support for the renovation of the Jaffrey Town Beach on Lake Contoocook.

People in small communities take pride in the accomplishments of their athletic teams. Rotarians are no exception. When the Conant High School men's basketball team won the state championship, the club bought team members jackets to commemorate the event. And when the Conant High School women's basketball team won the state championship, the Club purchased commemorative jackets.

The Conant men's baseball team won the state championship in the spring of 2013. In lieu of jackets, the baseball state champs requested that the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club make a contribution of \$1,000 to the New Hampshire Special Olympics.



Check to Conant's State Championship Men's Basketball Team



Jackets for Conant's State Championship Basketball Team

Special Olympic teams from the Jaffrey-Rindge School District include athletes now in their 40's who have continued to participate as adults as well as their younger Conant counterparts.



Quest

Quest (Quality Unlimited Educational Summer Training) may turn out to be one of the defining events in the history of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. Many of the Club's earlier service projects, i.e. roadside clean up, scholar of the month, and scholarship programs, were borrowed from other clubs. Quest is an event unique to our club and surpasses in scope and scale anything previously attempted.

Quest had its origins in early spring 2011. A group of Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club members under the leadership of Tonya Albee created a task force to identify community service projects that would fulfill the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self".

Several and varied areas of need were identified, but when Rotarian and Superintendent of Schools, Jim O'Neill said there were no summer activities planned for the middle school students and that this was a critical need for our community, it resonated clearly with the Rotary task force.

The idea to create a summer camp for these children was enthusiastically embraced by Rotary members and Quest was born. The idea of a summer camp was further embraced when Rotarian and Franklin Pierce University President, James Birge, offered the University

campus as a host site.

So with the unanimous support of Rotary and the leadership of Tonya and her team: James Birge, Jed Brummer, Allen Clapp, Bruce Edwards, Clay Hollister, Jim O'Neill, and David Tower, and with the strong support of Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School administrators and faculty, a program designed to provide both an academic and fun summer camp was designed and came to life.

Quest is divided into two daily segments. The morning features academics- math, English, and technology- taught by Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School teachers. There is no homework and no pressure of performing for grades in the 35- minute classes. Some of it is practical such as how to open and balance a checkbook. The morning is focused on avoiding the "summer slide" where at risk kids fall further behind during the summer.

The afternoon, led by Rotarians, is dedicated to recreational programs. Campers can choose from a variety of activities such as canoeing, kayaking, sailing, art, archery, fly fishing, music, photography, gardening, dance, swimming, jewelry making and community history.

Quest is an "all hands on deck" experience for Rotary. Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club members participate in both morning and afternoon



Rotarian Alan Clapp helping a Quest student with math

activities. Volunteers from the community join in to assist Rotarians as instructors, coaches and mentors when the skills cannot be found within the club.

Campers are hand picked by teachers and administrators at the Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School. Be it unstable family situations, economic disadvantages or other adverse circumstances, the campers are kids who probably would not be going anywhere in the summer. The selection focus is on students who will most benefit from the Quest experience.



Rotarian Bill Driscoll working with a student on a writing journal

The camp is free to campers and is paid for

by the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, via fundraisers and the support of generous donations from the community. The SAU pays for teachers and the buses. Franklin Pierce University provides the facilities gratis. Volunteers from both Rotary and the community make Quest work.



In June of 2012, at the regional meeting of 61 Rotary clubs in northern New England, Quest was selected as one of the four best community service projects in Rotary District 7870. The New England Board of Higher Education has recognized Franklin Pierce University for its efforts with Quest.

The Peterborough Rotary Club, one of the founding co- sponsors of the new Jaffrey-Rindge Club in 2003, will sponsor a Quest in 2014 for middle school children in the CONVAL school district. Ludlow, Vermont is in year two of Quest.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

The International Service Avenue exemplifies Rotary's global reach in promoting peace and understanding. Local clubs support the International Service Avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club's contribution to the International Service Avenue has been primarily financial. Each Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary member is asked to make a voluntary \$100 a year contribution to the Rotary International Foundation. The Foundation supports international programs such as education, clean water, and the most notable current project, Polio Plus, focused on the eradication of polio.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has donated approximately \$48,600 to support Rotary International Service projects since it was founded.

In 2008, Rotary International Foundation received a \$100 million challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the eradication of polio. Rotary committed to raising \$100 million. Bill Gates announced a second challenge grant of \$255 million in January of 2009. Rotary again committed to raising another \$100 million.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club made a contribution of \$5,000 to the Rotary International Foundation in 2009 as part of this matching grant.

Part of each local Rotary club contribution to the Rotary International Foundation goes into a fund that is shared by Rotary clubs in their district to support international projects. In 2013, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was the seventh most generous club in our district. Clubs within the district can make application for grant money to support a project.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has never taken on its own international project, but has

offered support to other clubs in the district who have taken on projects. Through cooperation with other Rotary clubs, the Jaffrey-Rindge club has supported an educational effort in Guatemala, purchased "shelter boxes" for use after a natural disaster and given \$1,000 through a Rotary club in Puerto Rico to support Haiti after the devastating earthquake of 2010.



During Tony Cassidy's tenure as President, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club hosted a Group Study Exchange team from the Philippines. David Tower coordinated the effort, the first time that the Jaffrey-Rindge Club had hosted a Group Study Exchange team. Those involved had an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Unfortunately it was dropped the following year and has not been resumed.

YOUTH SERVICE

The Youth Service Avenue recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact and Rotary Youth Exchange.

The Conant High School Interact Club

The Conant High School Interact Club was formed in the school year 2012-2013. Kelly Bergeron, Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club President, served as the club's first advisor, and Tom Doane served in that capacity for the



Start up of Conant High School Interact Club

academic year 2013-2014. David Dustin, a Conant High School social studies teacher, serves as the academic advisor.

The Conant Interact Club got off to a great start, building a membership of 53 students by December of 2013. The Club has quickly made its presence felt in the community.

In May 2013, the Conant Interact Club hosted a Spring Festival on the Green in Rindge Town Center. Other Conant clubs were invited to participate, and in their initial public activity they raised \$800. A second Spring Festival is slated for May 2014 and will kick-off with a 5-K road race.

The Conant Interact Club made a signifi-

cant contribution to Quest in the summer of 2013. Some Interact members were there every day, helping out in the morning classes and with afternoon activities.

In the final week of Quest, the Conant Interact Club designed a Quest "Olympics". This very successful, high-energy event consisted of a tug of war, touch football, track races and kickball.

The Conant Interact Club participated in a number of community projects in 2013. They painted benches at the Cathedral of the Pines, served as tutors in the Jaffrey-Rindge after school program, and at the "Scarecrow Festival" sponsored a "Haunted Hay Ride" to raise money for Team Jaffrey and the Jaffrey Rec-

reation Department.

The club demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit when they came up with the concept of "Flocking". For a fee, club members will plant a flock of plastic flamingos in some unsuspecting person's yard. A flock of pink flamingos really stand out in a yard with two feet of snow.

The Youth Exchange Program

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is for high school students. It has the dual function of allowing American students to experience another national culture and for young people from other cultures to experience the United States.

Mike Shea recalls that the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club's participation in the Youth Exchange Program got off to an interesting start. Early in the history of the club, Susan Emerson was the first Youth Exchange Officer. There was a limited understanding of the Youth Exchange Program within the club.

During announcements at one morning meeting, Susan said the District wanted to know if our club would be willing to host an inbound exchange student. Because of the limited understanding of the Youth Exchange Program there was little member interest.

Susan then asked if any club members would be interested in learning more about hosting a student from another country. Tammy Griffin and Mike Shea raised their hands, but nothing came from their interest until a few months later when they both received panic calls from Susan. Susan informed Tammy and Mike that their student would be arriving soon and that they needed to sign some forms that afternoon.

Both Tammy and Mike were quite surprised and had not even broached the subject with their respective families. A week later they were picking up Mihai Ionita from Romania at Logan Airport. Mihai split time with both the Griffin and Shea families, and it turned out to be a richly rewarding experience that both families still reflect upon fondly.

Today the Youth Exchange Program under John McCarthy's leadership is one of the most valued Jaffrey-Rindge activities of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. John explains the value of the Youth Exchange Program in this way: "Jaffrey and Rindge are small insular communities. The Rotary Exchange Program gives a student the opportunity to experience the larger world and to interact with people from other cultures."

But the benefits of Youth Exchange do not end there, John explains: "with in-bound students from other countries, our Conant students have the opportunity to interact with someone from another culture and see the world through their eyes."

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has had one outbound student from Conant, Derek Turgeon, who spent an academic year in Japan. Derek is the grandson of Rotarian Ed Callahan. The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has also sponsored outbound students from Keene and Peterborough.

Conant High School has had the benefit of hosting six inbound students: Mihai Ionita (2005-2006) from Slatina, Romania; Tabata Campos Araya (2006-2007) from Nicoya, Costa Rica; Jose Andres Loor (2008-2009) from Guayaquil, Ecuador; Isadora Castro (2010-2011) from

Gerais, Brazil; Kate Paristova (2011-2012) from Birsk, Siberia, Russia; and Hank Lai Cheng-Han (2013-2014) from Taiwan.

John McCarthy explains that over the course of a year it is possible to observe these young people growing and maturing as they live in another culture and develop new perspectives and friendships. He refers to Isadora Castro from Brazil who experienced her first snow while riding on a yellow school bus. “ I felt like I was in a movie”, she told John.

The Next Decade

Members of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club can look back on the first decade of their club with pride. Accomplishments include a stable membership, a fund raising event that has become a fun social event, and community service programs that improve the quality of life in Jaffrey and Rindge. Quest has become a signature program, acknowledged for its value to our middle school children and serving as a model for programs in other communities.

Like other service clubs, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has challenges. These challenges include attracting both younger members and more women, broadening our revenue sources beyond the Reverse Raffle, and less reliance on a few individuals who have given so generously of their time and energy.

Members enjoy the informality of our club, but point to the need for more structure going forward. They suggest that the club take a more strategic approach to budgeting and charitable giving.

Finally, there is Quest. Many members identify Quest as the greatest accomplishment of the first decade. Because it is such a major undertaking in terms of club energy and finances, there is a desire to develop a strategic plan that will ensure its sustainability.

Our club has evolved over the past decade, and we expect this evolution to continue. With each challenge, club members have responded with energy and enthusiasm, and leaders have emerged from within the membership to guide change.

It is this momentum that moved the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club forward in its first decade. We are optimistic about the future of our club, and expect a new generation of Rotarians to emerge that will power the next decade of service.

APPENDIX

JAFFREY-RINDGE ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENTS 2003-2015



**David Tower
2002-2003**



**Jed Brummer
2003-2004**



**Bill Gilson
2004-2005**



**Mike Shea
2005-2006**



**Kathy Batchelder
2006-2007**



**Sadie Jackson
2007-2008**



**Tony Cassady
2008-2009**



**Clay Hollister
2009-2010**



**Phil Cournoyer
2010-2011**



**Kelly Bergeron
2011-2012**



**Jim O'Neill
2012-2013**

