

## Robert Jensen Information

**The purpose of the Service Above Self Award is to recognize those individual Rotarians who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service, in any form and at any level, with emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others. This is Rotary International's highest honor for individual Rotarians. A maximum of 150 recipients world wide may be selected each year.**

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. Rabindranath Tagore

### My Quick Summary: Bob Jensen

- Bob Jensen was born in Hampton, Iowa, where he lived until his family moved to Illinois when he was twelve years old. He is the youngest of two children. He is six years younger than his sister.
- 40 Year Career as an audiologist
- 27 years working he led the “help me to hear” in Guaymas Mexico to give the gift of hearing
- They conduct a clinic to medically assess patients, treat minor ear disorders, conduct hearing tests, provide amplification with hearing aids and consult with local school personnel on aural rehabilitation in the school system.
- How many of you here have traveled with Bob to Guaymas to “Help me Hear”?
- Helped nearly 5000 beneficiaries
- Married to Nancy
- Two Children and Two Grandchildren : Kyle & Karen; Kim & Stewart — Emily and Brady

- BS in Speech Pathology from Southern Illinois University
- MS in Audiology from ASU
- Thesis: Effects of Stimulus Frequency and Intensity on Auditory Brainstem Response and middle Latency evoked Potentials
- Passion for travel — Trans-Siberian Railroad from Beijing to Moscow

Bob Jensen is a retired audiologist. His career spanned 40 years and during that time, he helped numerous people to hear better. Bob earned a BS degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Southern Illinois University and an MS in Audiology from Arizona State University. His thesis was on the effects of stimulus frequency and intensity on auditory brainstem response and middle latency evoked potentials. Throughout Mr. Jensen's career, he has worn many hats. He has been a health program manager and consultant for the Arizona Department of Health Services, a consultant to the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, and a consulting audiologist for Arizona Affiliated Tribes and Migrant Head Start Programs. Bob has served in a number of roles as an audiologist in private practice before founding a series of companies over the last three decades devoted to helping people with hearing issues. During that time he was named by Governor Bruce Babbitt to a four year term on the Arizona Council for the Deaf. He also has held over half a dozen roles with the Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Bob holds a Certificate of Clinical Competency-Audiology-American from the Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Bob has received numerous awards including the 2007 Crystal Award for Community and Healthcare Excellence in Audiology from A.T. Still University - Mesa, the 2016 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the American Academy of Audiology, the 2011 Honors of the Association recipient from the Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association, a professional award from the Danish Institution, William Demant Foundation, and the 2007 Rotary Citizen of the Year (Mesa Baseline Rotary Club). Bob joined the Mesa Baseline Club in 2007 and transferred to the Mesa West Rotary Club four years ago. Bob retired from private practice in the last five years but still owns a medical service company, Arizona HearCare Network which is dedicated to helping people with hearing impairment lead more meaningful and satisfying lives. Bob met his future wife — also a practicing audiologist — while working in an Arizona hospital for children with disabilities. Bob has been married to Nancy Linville Jensen for 38 years and they have two children and two grandchildren. Their children both inherited their parents' passion for helping people through the medical field. Their son, Kyle, is 36 and a radiologist and Assistant Professor at OHSU in Portland, Oregon. His wife, Karen Saks Jensen, is a gastroenterologist in private practice. Bob and Nancy's daughter Kim is 33 and is a nurse practitioner specializing in cardiology in Tucson. She is married to Stewart Lewis who is also a nurse practitioner. Kim and Stewart have a daughter Emily who is three years old and a son, Brady, who three months old. Bob has traveled extensively in Asia, Europe and South America. Most recently Bob travelled to China and Tibet and now is actively seeking fellow travelers who would like to take the Trans-Siberian Railroad with him from Beijing to Moscow.

## Rotary Service Activities

For 27 years Bob has led the Ayudame a Escuchar (“Help me to Hear”) mission to Guaymas, Mexico which has been sponsored by local Rotary clubs. In 1992, a medical fact-finding-mission was organized by a Rotarian to assess the need for medical services in Guaymas. Dr. Bob Jensen was the audiologist on the team. After returning to the US, they assessed the needs resulting in a proposal for a hearing program with Bob as the lead audiologist. Over the next 27 years the original program has continued and expanded annually to as many as thirty six members. Under Bob’s leadership the team has served nearly 5,000 people with hearing issues over the years. Bob has been a tireless inspiration and leader for 30-40 volunteer professionals including audiologists, ENT physicians, and audiology students who travel annually to Mexico, where they see as many as 400 children and adults in two twelve hour days. They give not only the gift of hearing, but of themselves as well.

Bob’s most significant volunteer experience has been the Ayudame a Escuchar (“Help me to Hear”) mission to Guaymas (“y’-mass”), Mexico which has been sponsored for all 27 years by local Rotary clubs.

In 1992, a medical fact-finding-mission was arranged by Rotarian Dr. Albert Olivier (of Mesa Baseline Rotary) to assess the need for medical services in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico. Dr. Bob Jensen was the audiologist member of that initial team. After returning to the US, the team assessed the needs in Guaymas resulting in a proposal for a hearing program with Bob as the lead audiologist. The proposal had the objective to conduct a clinic to medically assess patients, treat minor ear disorders, conduct hearing tests, provide amplification with hearing aids and consult with local school personnel on aural rehabilitation in the school system.

Knowing that many of the patients would have sensorineural hearing loss and that the need for amplification would be great, a program that would emphasize sustainability in terms of service and product was anticipated. Therefore, continued funding of the international program over time was a primary concern.

Over the next 27 years the original program has continued and expanded annually to as many as thirty six members led by Dr. Bob Jensen. The teams are made up of physicians, Rotarians and students. Over the years the team has seen an average of 175 patients in Guaymas, but in the upcoming trip expects to serve between 250 and 300 patients as the project has continued to grow. Under Bob’s leadership the team has served nearly 5,000 people with hearing issues over the years.

Bob has been a tireless inspiration and leader for the team of approximately 30-40 volunteer professionals including audiologists, ENT physicians, and audiology students who travel annually to Guaymas, where they see as many as 400 children and adults in two twelve hour days. They give not only the gift of hearing, but of themselves as well. They are compassionate and loving to a group of strangers just because they know they have the skills that these people need.

## **Embodiment of Service Above Self**

Dr. Bob Jensen is the epitome of Service Above Self and has been so for over 25 years. Many times he returned to Guaymas shortly after the team-visit in order to provide hearing aids for those who ended up without them due to lack of supply on the previous trip. This is more than a project for Bob, it is a calling.

The thousands of people helped with their hearing issues would not have been possible without the singleness of purpose and focus of one man — Rotarian Bob Jensen. Bob's passion for bringing together financial resources and people to provide medical treatment for those in need is contagious. It is why the Mesa West Rotary Club and (previously) the Mesa Baseline Rotary Club have been dedicated to the cause for 27 years.

Bob provided the vision and the leadership to the Rotarians, physicians and students to make a difference in the lives of the thousands of people that they never would have met were it not for his passion to ask himself every day how he could make this project more successful. It is an example of the pebble that is thrown in the pond and the wonderful ripple effect it has. Bob's service has impacted children, parents and grandparents — changing lives one at a time — and has inspired Rotarians to help others reach their full potential — for without hearing, communication and education are limited. He is providing hope to those for whom none existed before.

Through Bob's leadership and passion dozens of Rotarians have been there to watch a child and his mother as she/he hears for the first time. It is touching beyond words. But that is just the beginning for that child as she/he is now able to communicate and have a chance at a life-changing education and future.

Bob's rationale for his selfless work is that "We need to give back a little to society." He has never asked for recognition of his work in Guaymas, which may well be the most wide-ranging, on-going humanitarian mission in audiology. Indeed it is notable that he does not even mention the program in his curriculum vitae.

Bob's Mesa West Rotary Club is honored to have him as a member. His passion is contagious and many in the club have caught the Gift of Hearing "bug". They are grateful for his vision and leadership and feel strongly, as we all do, that he should be awarded the Service Above Self award for District 5495.