

# The Rotary Wheel

P.O. BOX 4376, OLATHE, KS 66063

June 2018

CHARTERED AUGUST 9, 1937



## OLATHE ROTARY CLUB

District 5710

Club 1625



**Don't Miss Our Rotary Year-End Celebration, June 27<sup>th</sup>!!**

### Olathe Rotary Speakers/Events

Jun 06 Jerry Glazier, HR/Corporate Relations

Jun 13 Club Business Update

Jun 20 Larry Campbell, Kansas Budget Director, Update on State Budget

Jun 27 Year End Celebration, 6:00 PM, Hilton Garden Inn

Jul 11 John Allison, Superintendent Olathe Public Schools

**Vernon Avant, Program Chair**  
[coachavant@gmail.com](mailto:coachavant@gmail.com)

### Olathe Rotary Club Foundation

7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

#### President

Terry Lynch, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term  
[tjl@midamericatitle.com](mailto:tjl@midamericatitle.com)

#### Treasurer

Jason Armstrong, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

#### Secretary

Sandy Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term  
[swilson199@msn.com](mailto:swilson199@msn.com)

David Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Mark Myer, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Mark Romain, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Ernie Hicks, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Vanessa Vaughn West,  
1<sup>st</sup> of 1 yr term

Pat O'Donnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

**Include our Foundation Among Your Beneficiaries in your Will, Trust, or IRA by stating:**

"Olathe Rotary Club Foundation"  
"Tax ID Number: 38-3746610"  
Nature of intended gift  
Percentage or dollar amount of gift

### Olathe Rotary Year-End Celebration

**June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Wednesday  
6:00 P.M.**

**Hilton Garden Inn**  
12080 S. Strang Line Road  
Olathe, Kansas

**Club Members and Guest  
NO Charge**

**Great Food from the  
Chefs at Hilton Garden Inn!**

**Great Entertainment!**

**Fun!**

**Good Ol' Rotary Fellowship!**

**Business Casual**

**Olathe Rotarians Celebrate Our  
2017-2018 Rotary Year  
and  
Look Ahead to Our  
2018-2019 Rotary Year**

**Look for sign-up sheets  
at Rotary meetings!**

**Our Weekly Noon Meetings  
Are Now Being Held at:**

**Hilton Garden Inn**  
12080 S. Strang Line Road  
Olathe, Kansas

**2017-2018**

### Olathe Rotary Club Officers and Board

7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

**Vanessa Vaughn West,  
President**

Larry Rinne, Past President

Pat O'Donnell, President Elect

**Dacia Moore, Secretary**  
Year 1

**Jason Armstrong, Treasurer**  
Year 1

**Jasen Mangrum, Director**  
1<sup>st</sup> of 2 year term

**Terry Lynch, Director**  
1<sup>st</sup> of 2 year term

**Karin Brownlee, Director**  
2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

**Geoff Neufeld, Director**  
2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

**Vernon Avant, Director**  
1<sup>st</sup> of 2 yr term

### Who Do I Contact

**Chad Hollins,**  
Membership Chair

**Darrel McDaniel,**  
RI Foundation Chair

**Sandy Wilson**  
Newsletter Editor

**Pat O'Donnell**  
Webmaster  
[www.olatherotary.org](http://www.olatherotary.org)

**Jerry Johnson**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Karin Brownlee**  
Olathe Rotary Reading  
Program Chair

**Wes McCoy**  
International Service Chair

**Jasen Mangrum**  
**Nathan Rackers**  
Monthly Service Project Chairs

**Olathe Rotary Email Address**  
[www.olathenoonrotary@gmail.com](mailto:www.olathenoonrotary@gmail.com)

## A Big Thank You to All of Our 2017-2018 Olathe Rotary Readers!

Our award winning Olathe Rotary Reading Program continues to be a huge success year after year. During the 2017-2018 school year, Olathe Rotarians gave more than 152 hours of their time and effort to make a difference in the lives of Olathe School District elementary children. Below is a list of Rotarians on the 2017-2018 Olathe Rotary Readers Team.



Great photo Jasen!! Thanks for sending. Looks like the kids loved having you read to them!

**Todd Lynch**  
**Jasen Mangrum**  
**Chad Hollins**  
**Alex Richard**  
**George Schlagel**  
**Emily Baker**  
**Karin Brownlee**  
**Dan Vanderpool**  
**Wes McCoy**  
**Bob Wilhelm**  
**Michael Ashcraft**  
**Elizabeth Cowan**  
**Vanessa Vaughn West**  
**Bill Treu**  
**Pat O'Donnell**  
**Gregg Herbert**  
**Mark Gash**  
**Doug Brownlee**

## Rotarians From Several Clubs Meet at Midwest Gateway Intermodal Facility

80 Rotarians and guests from Olathe Rotary, Overland Park, Gardner, Shawnee Mission, and Olathe Sunset Rotary gathered May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Midwest Gateway intermodal facility in Edgerton, KS to learn how the intermodal benefits national goods suppliers and how it has helped local job growth and economic development. The Midwest Gateway facility was just completed and is ready for a tenant and can accommodate manufacturing, warehouse and distribution tenants. It is the closet facility to the Intermodal. The Copaken Brooks' project development principal, Bucky Brooks, spoke to Rotarians about the facility. We appreciate George Schlagel and Pat O'Donnell for organizing this unique and informative meeting.



## Monthly Service Projects

Our May Service Project was volunteering at Frontier Park as the Olathe Library kicked off their summer reading program. Rotarians helped serve lunch to about 400 folks. Our June Service Project is the painting project at Central Elementary in downtown Olathe. No date set at the time of this writing. Service Project co-chairs: Nathan Rackers and Jasen Mangrum.

## What Made the May 1992 Airlift to Russia Possible?

This year Heart to Heart International proudly celebrates 25 years of strengthening communities through improving health access, providing humanitarian development and administering crisis relief worldwide. The organization engages volunteers, collaborates with partners and deploys resources to achieve this mission. Since 1992, **Heart to Heart International has shipped product to 131 countries, delivered \$1.6 billion in aid, and has volunteered 1.1 million hours.**

*What follows is a history of Heart to Heart International as remembered by Olathe Rotarians Dave Lundgren, Ray Mattix, Jerry Johnson, Betty Houglund (from notes before she passed away), George Schlagel, Ernie Hicks, and Darrel McDaniel. If you have a note of interest you would like included in this history, please contact Sandy Wilson, [swilson199@msn.com](mailto:swilson199@msn.com). This is a work in progress. Heart to Heart International is an important legacy of Olathe Rotary.*

**In May 1992, one of the largest private voluntary airlifts in U.S. history took place, sending 75 tons of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, worth \$5 million, from the heart of America to the heart of Russia (Moscow). This was the first airlift under the name of Heart to Heart International.**

**What made this airlift possible? It is a combination of many things, one thing leading to another and then another and all brought about by compassionate, caring, and determined Rotarians.**

1. Charles Morrow, Professor, Mid America University, in the mid 80s, was guest speaker and challenged Olathe Rotarians to do something big, meaningful, and memorable and possibly do it internationally. (He was later killed in a plane crash over Honduras, a plane that Dr. Gary Morsch was also supposed to have been a passenger.)
2. The club brainstormed to meet the challenge and went to Belize on the eastern coast of Central America to rebuild a YWCA, including electrical and construction. Approximately 11 Rotarians went to Belize to complete the work.
3. Rotarians were energized and went to St. Croix to rebuild a fish market in Fredericksted and a vegetable market in Christiansted, both destroyed by hurricane Hugo. About 20 Rotarians went on the trip again to provide the labor, including Rotarian Ray Mattix who owned and operated a construction company. This was the first project Olathe Rotary used a Rotary matching grant.
4. Rotarians were energized and representatives from Olathe Rotary flew to the Rotary International headquarters in Chicago to discuss further grants and projects. They went back home to brainstorm for the next major project. At a Rotary meeting Ray Mattix, Jim Kerr and Gary Morsch were discussing the next possible project when Gary said the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Pripjat, Ukrainian SSR, Soviet Union in 1986 is most likely taking its toll on Russian lives and health system. They included Rotarian David Lundgren, accountant, so he could take care of all accounting for the project. Fellow Rotarians agreed it should be investigated, Ray Mattix made 2 investigative trips to Russia and found that Chernobyl was not the only issue. They would not allow him within 300 miles of Chernobyl. He found the entire country desperately needed medical assistance. Ray made a great contact when in Moscow that helped the Olathe Rotary project move forward. He met Thomas Kauffman, a U.S. citizen, based out of Moscow, and in the import/export business. He was a Rotarian and active in the Moscow Rotary Club.
5. Once home, Ray helped to organize a 3<sup>rd</sup> investigative trip, that included Gary Morsch, Dan Ostergard (non Rotarian), Chuck Wills (World Vision), David Lundgren and Ray. They took a trip to Minsk, capital and most populous city in Belarus, to determine the health situation and what could be done. In the spring of 1991, these men met in Warsaw, then took a train to Minsk, still under the Soviet Union, and with machine gun nests along the border. As Ray reported they found a totally broken health system. The 40 duffel bags of medicine they took to Minsk would not be enough.
6. It was clear Olathe Rotary could not mend the Russian health system. With more brainstorming back at home, Rotarians determined an airlift of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies would help meet the greatest need.
7. **Olathe Rotarians jumped into action and the project began to snowball.**
  - \* Ray Mattix took care of instrumental shipping/receiving and logistical things.
  - \* Rotarian Carl Seaton (owned Seaton Van Lines) let his fellow Rotarians store/sort pharmaceuticals and medical supplies in one of his big warehouses.
  - \* Dave Lundgren took care of all accounting.
  - \* Jim Kerr, Pharmacist, made strong and lasting relationships with large pharmaceutical companies that could supply the much needed medicines. **Without Jim's incredible success story, the trip could not have happened.**
  - \* Jerry Johnson had his own printing company and provided proper labeling for medication, to show in English and in Russian.
  - \* Securing an aircraft was a must and several worked on this effort. Jerry Johnson was a retired Commander in the Air Force and made several contacts. He went to the base at Forbes, but was turned down. Because of his high security clearance they would not release approval for him to go into Russia, nor any of their planes. Jerry made a call to Congresswoman Jan Meyers for help. At the same time, Rotarian Jim French had a strong relationship with Bob Dole. **With the combined help of Jan Meyers and Bob Dole, they worked with Richard Armatage in Washington DC to secure a C5 Galaxy aircraft, the biggest aircraft in the world.** (The aircraft opens so that tanks can be driven into it!)
  - \* All Olathe Rotarians were busy getting donations for the effort.
  - \* With a matching grant from Kansas Rotary district 5710, and the donations and matching grant from the Kansas City Missouri Rotary district, Olathe Rotarians had **gathered \$50,000 desperately needed to make the effort possible.** Thank you KCMO Rotary District Governor Hahn!
  - \* **Gary Morsch saw the vision of the project and help to inspire and mobilize Rotarians** as they worked toward the day of the airlift. He is a family and emergency physician and retired from the U.S. Army Reserve in 2012 with the rank of Colonel.

8. This Olathe Rotary project needed a name. Rotarian Keith Johnson offered the best idea, Heart to Heart International, since the airlift was from the heart of America and going to the heart of Russia (Moscow).
9. Olathe Rotary met grant project requirements and teamed with Moscow Rotary and another sponsor Russian club to help coordinate the effort.
10. Jerry Johnson called Richards Gebaur Air Force Base for the take-off and landing location for the C5 Cargo plane. They even had an aircraft loading unit Olathe Rotary could use!
11. A week prior to the May 1992 famous airlift, Rotarian Ray Mattix, Rotarian Jim Kerr, and Barbi Moore traveled to Moscow to take care of all details and make sure everything was to be done properly from the moment the C5 Galaxy aircraft arrived. (Barbi Moore was not a Rotarian, but became the first employee of Heart to Heart International. She was honored at the 2018 Heart to Heart International Gala as the "5<sup>th</sup> Founder".) Rotarian Joyce Coker helped to organize every detail of the lift back home.
12. In May 1992, the Heart to Heart International C5 Cargo plane landed in Moscow with 75 tons of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies along with Rotarians and news media, including both TV and radio reporters. Those who flew on the C5 Cargo plane included Rotarian George Schlagel and his wife Gale, Rotarian Gary Morsch, Rotarian Betty Hougland, Leslie Knopp, Congresswoman Jan Meyers, and a top executive from Marion Merrell Dow, John Detwiler. Also on the trip was Channel 5 news anchor Wendall Anschutz and his videographer, Jeff Roberts and Darcie Blake, KUDL radio, husband of Channel 9 news anchor Lori Everett, as well as her videographer, and Leslie Knopp, Daily News reporter.
13. Once in Moscow, medicines and supplies were distributed to 32 different medical institutions in and around Moscow. When they were told they could not enter a medical institution, one of the airlift reporters would turn on the camera and ask why. They usually were able to then enter where needed.

From the initial idea of sending a mobile medical unit that transformed into actually sending a C5 Cargo plane carrying 75 tons of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies exemplifies our Rotary Motto, **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**. This is an effort that will always be held dear in the hearts of those Rotarians that helped make it happen, as well as all Olathe Rotarians today.



Above, Heart to Heart founders Gary Morsch, Jim Kerr, Dave Lundgren, and Ray Mattix were honored at the Heart to Heart International April 2018 25 year gala. Jim Kerr has served honorably as Heart to Heart International Board Chairman and has practiced in pharmacy for more than 30 years. Gary Morsch is a volunteer and currently honorably serves as a Board of Director. David Lundgren is a certified public accountant and volunteered to take on the incredibly big accounting job for the Airlift from beginning to end. Ray Mattix made a total of 4 trips to Russia, three to assess the proper needs and 4<sup>th</sup> to go in early to prepare and organize for the arrival of the airlift. as did Barbi Moore and Jim Kerr. Barbi Moore presented the four founders an award. She was also honored by the founders for her organization skills, compassion and dedication as she helped Heart to Heart International begin its wonderful and very successful journey of hope and healing.

## **The Heart to Heart International Success Story After 25 Years**

**May 1992 Inaugural Airlift:** In one of the largest private voluntary airlifts in U.S. history, HHI sent 75 tons of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, worth \$5 million, from the heart of America to the heart of Russia (Moscow). Heart to Heart International was born.

**1993 Physicians with Heart (PWH):** Heart to Heart International began a long-term partnership with the American Academy of Family Physicians and the AAFP Foundation. Each year, PWH focused on a different former Soviet republic and provided an influx of vital medical aid, maternal health and obstetrics medical training, and volunteer support at local orphanages. (20 Year Program)

**1995 Goodwill Airlift to Vietnam:** Heart to Heart International delivered 50 tons of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to the Vietnamese people. This project launched our long-lasting partnership with FedEx and was instrumental in improving relations between the two countries.

**1996 India:** Heart to Heart International sent \$12 million worth of medicine, toys, and clothing to health care facilities in Calcutta, India, including some run by Mother Teresa.

**1997 Milestone –** We surpassed \$100,000,000 in aid distributed worldwide! China: When a FedEx aircraft and volunteer delegation distributed more than \$6 million in medicines and supplies in the Sichuan capital of Chengdu, Heart to Heart International became the first foreign non-profit to airlift humanitarian aid to China's interior.

**2005 Tsunami Response:** As one of the first organizations to respond to survivors of the South Asia tsunami, HHI delivered aid to Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Hurricane Katrina – Heart to Heart International delivered 43 shipments of aid and provided free medical services in six locations in Louisiana in the days following Katrina. Over the following 12 months, more than 250,000 people received aid from HHI and nearly 12,000 people found healing at one of HHI's mobile clinics.

**2006 Milestone** – HHI reached the milestone of distributing **more than half of a billion dollars' worth of humanitarian aid!**

**2007 Greensburg, Kansas, Tornado** – Within 24 hours of a devastating tornado, Heart to Heart International mobilized to send staff, volunteers and the MMU to the Greensburg community. Because the hospital and clinic were destroyed, HHI was the sole provider of health care for nearly a month.

**2010 Haiti Earthquake** - A 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, killing hundreds of thousands of people and leaving millions homeless. HHI responded with medical teams, medicines and supplies, and marked the beginning of our long-term commitment to Haiti and its recovery.

**2011 Joplin, Missouri, Tornado** – Heart to Heart International responded quickly with the MMU and medical staff to provide medical services to survivors and rescue personnel. This response led to the creation of HHI's Point-of-Care laboratory training program.

**2012 Hurricane Sandy** – Heart to Heart International responded to the destruction of Hurricane Sandy, driving the MMU to Long Island, New York, and shipping supplies and medicines to locations throughout New York and New Jersey.

**2013 Milestone - Product distribution reached \$1 billion in aid distributed worldwide!** Typhoon Haiyan – Heart to Heart International deploys almost three dozen medical providers and ships more than 44 tons of medical aid, food, and survival supplies following the landfall of the strongest cyclone to ever hit the central Philippines.

**2014 West Africa – Ebola outbreak** – HHI staff and volunteers traveled to Liberia to provide primary care during the Ebola outbreak, but ultimately created its own Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) to help combat the epidemic. HHI remained in Liberia for a year, with the ETU operating for about seven months of that.

**2015 Nepal** – Following a deadly earthquake, Heart to Heart International quickly deployed a mobile medical team that trekked into the Himalayas to provide aid where no other teams had reached. HHI also shipped more than 15 tons of emergency supplies and food. PowrServ – Since the inception of PowrServ in 2015, more than 17,439 volunteers have participated in building 139,209 hygiene kits to improve health and give those hope after a crisis.

**2016 Milestone** - Product distribution reached \$1.5 billion in aid distributed worldwide! Hurricane Matthew, Haiti – Heart to Heart International responded to Hurricane Matthew, treated over 14,000 patients and shipped 30 pallets of medicine and supplies. When an outbreak of cholera developed, HHI built and operated Cholera Treatment Units (CTU).

**2017 Hurricane Harvey, Texas** – Widespread flooding devastated areas of Texas, and HHI responded with the MMU, volunteers, medicine, hygiene kits and other supplies. Volunteers worked throughout the fourmonth response to boost the capabilities of safety net clinics and provide medical outreach events. Hurricane Irma, Florida – The MMU was in place and ready to begin treating patients in the Florida Keys as soon as the highway reopened after the storm. HHI provided much needed medical care and supplies in the aftermath of the storm. Hurricane Maria – Puerto Rico – Arriving on the island shortly after Hurricane Maria hit, HHI traveled into the hardest hit mountain region to provide medical care to more than 7,000 people. HHI also shipped more than \$1.5 million worth of medicine, hygiene kits, water and supplies to victims of the hurricane, and continues to aid in the long-term recovery of health care on the island.

**2018 Haiti Market Woman Clinic** – HHI-Haiti opened a medical clinic in the largest vendor market in Pétienville, Haiti. Thousands of women working as market vendors who had no previous health care options now have quality, accessible health care available in their workplace.

**Thank you to those men and women who organized what at the time was the largest private humanitarian airlift ever, and to those who then pushed forward to grow the organization to impact lives in numerous and incredible ways for the better for 25 years.**