



COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS



ABOVE:
Rotarians Lee Hieronymus, Erich Eggers, Bob Jackson and Bill Reber celebrating the 4th of July in the antique fire truck.

TOP RIGHT:
Bob Fry, Jeff Senney and Judy Budi

BOTTOM:
Judy Budi and Bob Fry



AMERICANA FESTIVAL

Every year, the city of Centerville celebrates the 4th of July with the “Americana Festival.” The Centerville Rotary enters a float each year. The floats have ranged from Lee Hieronymous driving an antique fire truck to a decorated float with water guns. Great fellowship is built when working on the float and for those that ride in the parade. Centerville Rotarians and their families ride on the float.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. sends packages with snacks and necessities to U.S. soldiers. In 2010-2011 the Centerville Rotary completed service projects in support of the “Blue Star Mothers of America.” This group - with a local office in Kettering - accepts donated items to be able to send care packages to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our club collected items to donate, provided financial contributions and packed items.



DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS PROJECT

Each year club members volunteer to place stickers in the front of the dictionaries and thesauri that are distributed to 3rd and 5th grade students in all Centerville elementary schools. Third graders receive a dictionary and fifth graders are given a thesaurus. Club members volunteer to distribute these items to the various classrooms. The Rotarians have an opportunity to educate the students about Rotary and the service projects we participate in locally and internationally. The club is rewarded by receiving hundreds of thank you notes from the students expressing their appreciation for these items. Sometimes students in elementary schools receive additional books, such as *The Apple Dumpling* and *Children From The Slums*. In the last couple of years, our District 6670 has awarded us several District Simplified Grants to offset the costs for this project.



ABOVE:
Fifth graders in Miami school receive their thesaurus.

TOP LEFT:
Rotarians packaging “care packages” for the troops overseas.

BOTTOM LEFT:
PDG Harvey Smith and the 40th Club President, Erich Eggers, with 5th graders.

BELOW:
Rotarians putting labels in the dictionaries and thesauri before handing them out.



CENTERVILLE SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Students participating in these Centerville High School programs on occasion (every few years) attend a Rotary meeting seeking financial support for their program and /or travel expense to support them as they compete in national competitions.

“ADOPT-A-FAMILY”

Each year at Christmas, Rotarians “adopt” a minimum of 20 children from the most needy families in our city. The children are identified by the Centerville City Schools and employees of the school system take care of the distribution of the presents. Rotarians buy presents for the children based on their wish list.

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Our club has provided holiday food to local needy families. At Easter, 15-20 families would receive a ham and at Thanksgiving, 15-20 families would receive the ingredients to make a Thanksgiving dinner, including turkey, roasting pan, and the ingredients to make a green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, Idaho potatoes, stuffing and a pumpkin pie. Rotarians would meet, organize the supplies and ingredients and then deliver the items to the designated homes.

CENTERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SPIRIT CHAIN

Each fall, the students of Centerville High School and Fairmont High School in Kettering raise money to support local charities as part of the annual football game rivalry called the Spirit Chain. Representatives of the Spirit Chain committee attend a Rotary meeting during which individual Rotarians contribute to this effort. The club matches the individual contributions. In 2011 “Food2Go” a program for under served children in elementary and middle schools was one of the recipients of this fundraiser.



ABOVE: Packaging Thanksgiving dinner supplies.



RIGHT: Newspaper article about delivering Easter hams by Rotarians.



ABOVE: Ready to deliver food (John Callander).

FISHER/NIGHTINGALE HOUSES

The Fisher Houses are serving Military and Veterans’ Families in their time of need. This program provides families of service men and women who are hospitalized a place to stay if they are not from the Dayton area. In 2009, all 254 Rotary clubs in Ohio collected non-perishable items for the Fisher House. A year later, the Centerville club again contributed items and made a financial contribution to the Fisher/ Nightingale House at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.



ABOVE:
Unloading of the truck with supplies.

TOP RIGHT:
Rotary clubs from all over Ohio brought boxes with supplies for the Fisher House.

MIDDLE RIGHT:
Rotarian Mae Berkel with the Director of the Fisher House in Dayton.

BOTTOM:
PDG Pat Edwards, PDG J.T. Capps, Mae Berkel and PDG Hans (J) Berkel loading one of the two trucks with supplies for the Fisher House.



HOUSE OF BREAD

“It’s more than just a meal.” The House of Bread, established in 1983, serves an average of 260 people per day a warm lunch. In addition, breakfast is provided on Saturdays. They host an annual Mayor’s dinner for the under served. A Christmas dinner and the Combined District/ Montgomery County summer picnic are also held every year. This, in addition to many other vital programs that enhance the neighborhood and the entire community. As of June 9, 2008 the House of Bread has served 1,564,589 meals. Located in downtown Dayton it primarily serves the homeless and needy in the city of Dayton. The mission of the House of Bread is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community on behalf of our local health and human services network. Our club has provided financial support, served meals four times a year, and provided support for a variety of special projects over the years including an Eagle Scout project to build raised gardens.



ABOVE:
Past-President Greg Horn doing the dishes.

TOP:
Preparing the food (Ray Merz; Dale Berry et al) at the House of Bread

MIDDLE:
Keep on cutting...

BOTTOM:
Serving food at the House of Bread.





FOOD2GO/ FOOD4SUMMER

Local Centerville churches started the “Food2Go” program to feed elementary school students on the weekends after teachers noted that some students came to school hungry on Monday mornings. The churches collaborated with the school system to provide these students with a “backpack” each week. Many local organizations have participated and have donated food items, backpacks and other needed supplies. The program serves over 100 students a week. In 2010 the program expanded to “Food4Summer” with the recognition that these same children that receive free or reduced lunches during the school year and the Food2Go bags for the weekends, are hungry during the summer without some type of support. Centerville Rotary was one of the sponsors of the Food4Summer program together with many churches, the Washington/Centerville

Foundation, the Heart of Centerville etc. In the summer of 2011 a total 45 families with 108 children were served.

The children were identified through the counseling services of Centerville City Schools. Some were referred by the local churches. In 14 weeks 1,022 backpacks with food were distributed which contained 15,664 food items. Centerville Rotary also donated bags with a large Rotary logo to 108 children. Our club has supported both programs through food donations and financial contributions. Lately it was also recognized that smaller children in the same households needed nutritious meals as well...hence the new program “Food4Tods.” Centerville Rotary is supporting all three programs.

RIGHT:
Check for Food2Go
presented to Jeanne
Costales.



BENHAM’S GROVE GAZEBO

by John Beals

After the City acquired the Gerber property (now Benham’s Grove) in early 1991, the City Planners developed a site plan for the property identifying buildings to remain, walks, drives, parking spaces,

pond and a proposed gazebo in the rear lawn. The property opened to the public in the spring of 1992 with a “Decorators Showhouse” event which sped the landscaping and interiors work at a low cost to the residents. The gazebo was not included in this initial construction work. On June 14,

ABOVE:
Dedication of the
gazebo at Benham’s
Grove.

1994, John Beals approached Centerville Rotary through President Eric Schryver to accept the foundation slab and steps portion of the gazebo project as a Rotary community improvement project. Between that time and January 1996, the idea was reviewed and accepted by the Rotarians, but the situation began to look bleak when the Friends of Benham's Grove could not get funding from other local service clubs. Then Past President Dave McDaniel took a strong leadership position

on the issue and recommended that the Centerville Rotary carry out the entire project. This position was supported by both the Board and the general membership by secret ballot: 40 in favor of, 6 against and 2 abstained in December 1995.

Benham's Grove Administrator, Judy Kunas, chose Vixen Hill Model VK 24 (Victorian model 24 feet span) and a site location suited for good appearance, accessibility, relative quietness and proximity to possible tent locations. The administrator preferred it to be elevated three steps above existing ground as ideal for viewing events and for stair stepping vocal groups or wedding parties.

LJB Engineers executed the topographic surveys and plan preparation, and project contractor Fred Weir received the construction permit in mid-April. Pyper Construction dug the footings in early May, and the footings concrete was placed on May 10. Snyder Brick donated the limestone and block which Artisan Masonry, hired by the city, constructed the limestone foundation walls while Rotary financed the concrete block walls hidden by the steps. Pea gravel backfill was hauled to the site by City trucks with Rotarians shoveling and grading the material under the slab. Fred Weir hired Preferred Electric to construct the buried electrical cable access and the finish wiring after gazebo erection. Fred also hired Guardian Sheet Metal to modify the corner post anchor brackets supplied by Vixen Hill to allow for the two power feeds located under the slab. The concrete slab was formed by Weir Construction. On June 12, Ernst Concrete donated the slab concrete which was placed and finished by Baker Concrete at no

charge. By June 25, the steps were formed by Weir Construction, concrete was placed by Rotary and was finished by Baker Concrete.

During June, the gazebo kit arrived and was temporarily stored in vacant rental space near Continental Florist, owned by Rotarian Bob Ferguson. Rotary members and Friends of Benham's Grove spent many hours painting the primer coat and final coat for upper sections of the gazebo at this location. Color scheme was developed by local decorator Sharma Stone.

The gazebo was then transported to Benham's Grove by Fred Weir's truck and erected on June 30, a Sunday afternoon, with the help of about 20 Rotarians and truck mounted lifting equipment provided by Don and Dan Sortman. The ribbon cutting ceremony was performed on July 4 by Mayor Sally Beals with a message from Rotary President Paul McCollum.

The six foot wide brick landing at the base of the steps and the brick wheelchair ramp was constructed by John Reese Construction in mid-July under contract by Rotary. Earth grading was performed by the City to meet the brick and to smooth low and construction-damaged areas. Centerville Rotary split the cost of sodding the area with the City and contracted with Stickel Painters to finish the final coat of gazebo painting. Landscaping was done by Friends of Benham's Grove and all work was completed in time for the Friend's Garden Fest activities held on July 26, 27 and 28, 1996.

The gazebo is very Victorian in appearance having a stepped cedar shake roof and cupola, being 23

BELOW:
Rotary plaque at the
Benham's Grove's
gazebo.



ABOVE:
Gazebo at
Benham's Grove.

feet across flat side to flat side, 24 feet across post to post and 9'-6" between posts. It is made of cabinet grade cedar and painted in cream with green and red highlights to match Benham's Grove color scheme. The cupola has a photoelectric cell operated light that glows each night and events are lighted fully by rheostat controlled lighting. Three 20 amp duplex outlets are available on the posts. Three gentle steps, 16" tread x 6" rise, was provided along with a 1:12 slope bricked ramp access. Rotary funds used for the project came from our general account and represented perhaps 15 years of savings set aside from our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.



OAK GROVE PARK SHELTER

ABOVE:
Lunch at the
Rotary Shelter.

In May 2006, a Rotary planning committee - consisting out of Rand Oliver, Jack Workman, Fred Weir, Don Gerhardt, Erich Eggers, Dan Hodapp, Harvey Smith, Greg Blatt, Jack Shelley, and Carol Kennard - met to discuss ideas for the design and construction of a shelter in Oak Grove Park. In the fall of 2007, the shelter framework was constructed and - after the winter - the construction continued and the shelter was finished in June 2008. Primary builders included:

Fred Weir, Erich Eggers, Jack Workman, Dan Sortman, John Callander, and Dave Dawson. Those club members who couldn't participate in construction type work provided meals for the crew. The cement floor of the structure includes memorial bricks honoring the club and individual Rotarians: 59 Rotarians purchased dedication bricks. On November 6, 2008 the Rotary Shelter was dedicated. Since then, the club has enjoyed several meetings at the site and the shelter is used by many in the community for family events.



TOP FAR LEFT:
Work begins. Rotarians
as construction
workers.

2ND PHOTO FAR LEFT:
The beginning of the
roof of the shelter.



3RD PHOTO FAR LEFT:
Progress is being
made.

FAR LEFT BOTTOM:
Judy Budi is working
hard.



TOP:
Blue skies while
working on the roof.

2ND PHOTO ABOVE:
Rotary meeting at
the Oak Grove Park
Shelter with President
Carol Kennard.

3RD PHOTO ABOVE:
Rotarians purchased
bricks.

LEFT:
And then it was all
completed.

ROTARY MEMORIAL PINE FOREST

This memorial honors deceased Centerville Rotary members. Norway Spruce, Colorado Blue Spruce, White Pine trees and evergreens are planted around a large granite stone with a memorial plaque. Each year Rotarians mulch around the trees. The Rotary Memorial Pine Forest was dedicated on May 21, 2000. The plaque has a quote from John Ruskin: “The highest reward for a man’s service is not what he gets from it, but what he becomes by it.” Construction of the Memorial was handled by John Beals, Fred Weir, Don Overly and Dick Hoback.

RIGHT:
Fred Weir planting
trees...the beginning
of the Memorial
Forest.

BELOW:
The Memorial Forest
in 2011.



Memorial to be dedicated to former Rotarians

By Jim Good
Staff Writer

An evergreen grove and other amenities will bestow a lasting tribute to former Rotarians.

A memorial to 12 deceased members of the Centerville Rotary Club will be dedicated at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21 at the west entrance to Grant Park on McEwen Road. The public is invited to attend.

Honored at the memorial will be past Rotarians Nels Anderson, Harold Bailey, Russell Brinkman, Glenn Copeland, Anthony DiPasquale, Robert Ferguson, David Hill, William Kelley, Dr. Harold Kelso, Nicholas Peth, Sidney Roach and Dale Whitridge.

The memorial consists of a pine tree for each of the 12 Rotarians; a large granite boulder with a plaque and a name-inscribed walkway leading to the boulder, according to Mike Gentile, Centerville Rotary Club president.

The idea for a memorial came from several Rotarians who wanted to do something in remembrance of deceased club members. The Rotarians nominated the individuals, which were then approved by the board. Gentile said John Beals led the way in the design of the project.

The memorial is situated on one acre of Centerville-Washington Park District land. The passive conifer forest contains 112 Norway spruce, Colorado blue spruce and white pine trees planted in a bowl-shaped area. Mature ash trees line the drive, and 12 large evergreens also grace the site.

Each honoree served the Centerville Rotary Club in a variety of capacities, including service as committee chairs, officers or board members. A number of club when it started in 1972.

Kelso served as the third president of the Centerville Rotary Club, while Anderson also served as president. Brinkman, terville Rotarian to serve as district governor of Rotary International.

Kelley served as Rotary district treasurer, and popular local pharmacist Bill served the Centerville club as a director, treasurer, vice-president and president.

Anderson, Bailey, Brinkman, DiPasquale, Ferguson, Kelley, Kelso, Roach and Whitridge were Paul Harris Fellows, having made significant contributions to Rotary International.

Many of these individuals were well

known for their contributions on the regional and state level. Kelso served as president of the Centerville Board of Education, Chief of Staff of Kettering Hospital and president of the Montgomery County Medical Society.

Copeland was the senior pastor at the Normandy United Methodist Church. Ferguson and his wife, Martha, were involved with civic activities and were both instrumental in endowment fund-raising for Ohio Wesleyan University.

Roach served as scholarship committee chair for the Centerville club and was assistant superintendent of Centerville City Schools.

DiPasquale, owner of the popular local restaurant Antonio's, served in fund-raising efforts that benefited the area as well as offering scholarships for local students.

Peth was a charter member of the club and was a well-known realtor in the Dayton area for many years.

Gentile said the purpose of the Rotary Club is to make the community a better place to live by doing community projects, giving scholarships to local students and donating money to schools and organizations.

All the money raised by the club goes directly back to the community.

 **DEDICATION CEREMONY**
The Rotary Club of Centerville
DEDICATION
Of a Memorial to
Deceased Club Members
Sunday, May 21, 2000
2:00 P.M.

Centerville-Bellbrook
TIMES



A mulching morning at Grant Park

The Centerville Rotary Club was joined by Cub Scouts from St. Charles Park 813 on April 12 for their annual mulch spreading service project at the Nature House in Grant Park along McEwen Road. The combined team, which spanned three generations, spread more than seven yards of mulch over fifty young trees in less than two hours. The mulch will help the young trees retain soil moisture during the hot summer.

TOP:
The plaque at the
Rotary Memorial
Forest.

MIDDLE:
The walkway to the
memorial stone.

BOTTOM LEFT:
Brick dedication
service at the
Memorial Forest.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Annual mulching
"party."

BELOW:
Rotarians and
boy scouts after a
morning of hard
work.



DECEASED ROTARIANS

We honor those who have gone before us. We honor their service and commitment to the ideals of Rotary.

- Nels Anderson
- Hal Bailey
- Russell Brinkman
- Glenn Copeland
- Anthony DiPasquale
- Robert Ferguson
- David Hill
- William Kelley
- Harold Kelso
- Nicholas Peth
- Sidney Roach
- Dale Whitridge
- Jack C. Bowman
- Don Sortman
- Allan C. Wright Sr.
- Jac Sheeley
- Tom Stephens
- Dave Dawson
- John Thompson
- Neal Tidwell



PARK DISTRICT SCHOOL HOUSE PARK- CONSTRUCTION OF AN ASPHALT WALK

In 2000 the Centerville Rotary Club hired John Reese to pave a walkway at the Schoolhouse Park south football field to provide convenient access from the home side to the visitors' stands. The walkway donated by Centerville Rotary replaced a muddy path and is now heavily used by football fans each fall during football season and in the spring by lacrosse fans.



ISUS, (SCHOOL FOR AT RISK YOUTH)
DAYTON, OHIO

Ann Higdon believed in these youth. She knew that while they were not successful in school and classroom work and studying was difficult, they needed skills for their future. She created the ISUS program which is supported by many local businesses. ISUS provides these students with the opportunity to learn construction trade skills. They have built many homes in the Dayton area. Centerville Rotary has provided a financial contribution in 2010 and 2011.

LEFT:
Plaque at the
beginning of the
walkway.

ABOVE:
ISUS President Ms.
Ann Higdon speaking
at a club meeting.



KALAMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 1998 police officer John P. Kalaman responded to an accident on I-675 at Wilmington Pike exit around 7:00 am. A car traveling south lost control and hit both officer John Kalaman as well as Robert O’Toole a Washington Twp. firefighter, killing them both. John’s parents, Paula and John, established a scholarship fund in their son’s honor. Annually a golf outing is organized to raise funds and Centerville Rotary is a hole sponsor and provides a foursome to play in the outing. The parents were instrumental in the establishment of the Ohio law which requires drivers to move over a lane and to slow down for red flashing lights at an accident or when someone is pulled over.

BELOW:
At the Kalaman
Memorial Golf
Outing.

RIGHT:
At the 2011 Miami
Valley Freedom
Alliance Golf Outing.



MIAMI VALLEY FREEDOM ALLIANCE

The Miamisburg Rotary Club is the sponsor of the local Miami Valley Freedom Alliance golf outing. The golf outing raises funds for scholarships for children of members of the Armed Forces. The Centerville club has 8 members that golf each year and supports the program through a financial contribution from the club.

MERCY MANOR

The Mercy Manor House...“Home is where the heart is.” It is a place for homeless woman with histories of addiction, incarceration and abuse. The Mission statement of the Mercy Manor is: “To develop accountable, contributing members of society while providing a structured spiritual residence for homeless women with histories of addiction, incarceration and abuse.”

Since opening its doors, Mercy Manor has served over 300 women in the residential program and an additional 175 have received supportive services.

Centerville Rotary has contributed supplies of all kind of hygienic needs, paper products, etc. as well as monetary help.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Gives 4 to 6 college scholarships to high school students from Centerville each year. Students are recommended by the school counselors and have to write an essay.



TOP:
Club President Carol
Kennard provides
a scholarship to a
Centerville High
School student.

MIDDLE:
Bob Corbin,
Chairman of
the Scholarship
Committee, with
6 recipients.

BOTTOM:
Joyce Young and
Sally Beals with
5 recipients.

ROTARY 4-WAY SPEECH TEST

Every year Rotary District 6670 organizes the “4-Way Speech Contest.” This competition for high school students requires the student to give a 4-6 minute speech on a topic of his/ her choice, applying the Rotary 4-Way Test to this topic. Most clubs in the district have “club competitions” and the winner of these club competitions are then sent to the district-wide event to compete for the “grand prize.”

RIGHT:
PDG Pat Edwards
with the top four
students of the 4-Way
Speech Contest
(2009).

BELOW:
Vaneela Appalanneni
tries out her 4-Way
Test speech at a club
meeting.



SERVICE-LEARNING TRIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The intent of this program is to sponsor high school students to participate in a trip to a foreign country where they will live with the local population, learn about the culture of the country, and work on a Rotary service project.

My Trip to Peru...An Experience of a Lifetime
by Lindsey Eggers

Nine years ago, I had the opportunity of a lifetime...one that many people only dream about, and one that could have never come true without the influence of the Centerville Rotary Club. The Centerville Rotary Club has not only directly affected my life, but I have been able to see the impact that the men and women of this club have had on children and families, including my own. I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to go on two international service trips to Peru and Honduras with members of the Centerville Rotary Club, as well as having been supported for various other projects, including a generous donation to purchase hooded sweatshirts for a home group in South Africa.

As a freshman at Centerville High School I had always had a heart for service work, but had only been able to show my passion through local agencies and community projects. As the school year began, I became familiar with the Interact Club, a high school club dedicated to service



ABOVE:
Lindsey Eggers in
Peru.

work in the community. I attended meetings and I learned that they had teamed up with The Centerville Rotary Club to do a service project in Peru, working in a deaf orphanage. A team made up of five Rotary Club members and six high school students flew down for a week during our Spring Break, a week that changed my life. As a freshman who had spent her whole life in Centerville, Ohio, I did not know much about poverty. I will never forget the children who lived at the orphanage...their smiles, the way they communicated with each other and more importantly how they loved one another. We had the opportunity to prepare and eat meals with them and organize games and community team building events within the orphanage. We also brought shoes and glasses to give the children and workers who didn't have a single pair that provided functionality, as well as provided dentistry support.

My trip to Peru had such impact on my life that I knew I had to do more. It left my heart hurting for people who were not as fortunate as we were. When the opportunity came up to go on another service trip to Honduras with the Rotary Club, I immediately started to beg my parents to let me go. That Christmas, I opened a present that had a note from my dad that said he wanted to go with me to Honduras! As a team with other Rotary Club Members and Centerville High School students we flew down to Honduras for a week this time having the responsibility to build a chicken coop for the community. The process of building something for a community that they can utilize and continue to grow on their own has more meaning than giving them chickens.

BELOW:
Lindsey Eggers with
new friends.



We also had the ability to paint a school, play with the children in the school, visit a family in the community, and go to an international Rotary Club meeting. The part that had the most impact on me personally was that my dad was able to come with me to experience my own passion. Since this trip to Honduras, he has become very involved with the Centerville Rotary Club and is currently the President.

My passion for service trips only intensified after my trips with the Centerville Rotary Club. As a sophomore in college, I decided that I wanted to go to South Africa to work in the community. While I was there, I had the opportunity to serve in a men's home called Beth Uriel. Men from the ages of 13 to 22 were able to live at BU, attend high school or college, seek outside employment, and have the opportunity to become successful students and citizens. The men at BU started a 'family' run business called 'MeKasi'. They sold t-shirts, notebooks, jewelry, and most commonly, hooded sweatshirts. The money from this company helped to pay for the men to go to school, their meals, and utility bills. I came to the Centerville Rotary Club after returning home to ask for their support in this project. I was amazed at the generosity that I received! We were able to ship enough hooded sweatshirts for them to sell for an entire season, which provided them more stability than they had ever had before. The members of Beth Uriel were ecstatic and beyond grateful for such a large donation.



In 2004 five Rotarians and six high school students went to Cuzco, Peru. The story from the trip was told in the Rotarian magazine shown on this page.

The impact that the Rotary Club has had on my life is immeasurable. I have been touched by so many people in the Centerville Rotary Club and am continually shown love and support. My story is just a small glimpse of what the members do on a daily basis. These people and trips have helped shape me to be who I am today, and I am honored to say it has been with the assistance of the Centerville Rotary Club.

First Trip to Honduras

In 2005 a trip to Honduras was organized. Jack Workman, Erich Eggers, Fred Weir, Rand Oliver and seven students traveled for 10 days to Honduras to build a chicken coop. The structure was to be 25 x 50 x 10. They had to dig a three foot trench around the chicken coop to keep out the snakes. They had only two electrical tools to use and the cord stretched hundreds of feet to the chicken coop so they had minimal power. It was hard work. One of the girls chased a chicken for 45 minutes to try to have one in the new chicken coop before they left but she was unable to catch one.



The group visited a tilapia farm and ate at a local restaurant. The girls stayed in one house and the men in another house and the boys house had a kitchen and more space, so the girls would frequently go to the boys house to play cards and snack. The mode of transportation to work each day was in the back of an open pick up truck.



Second Trip to Honduras

The second trip to Honduras took place from March 31 to April 7, 2006. The group included PDG Susan Bantz from the Farmersville club and two other Germantown club members. The six students (3 girls and 3 boys) included two each from Centerville, Oakwood and Valley View high schools. In just six days a one room (16'x16') house for Vidal and Rosalinda Ortiz and their three children was constructed and furnished. The wood was green and it was not easy to pound nails into. The students carried dirt from the outside of the home into the home to make the floor of the home. The father was handicapped and the family was being evicted from their roadside home due to the continuing construction of the Pan American highway. The group ate local cuisine and John Callander noted the coffee was great. Peanut butter and jelly was a lunch staple and they had plantains and rice. The students swam in the river and used trucks as transportation.



ABOVE:
PDG Susan Bantz
and six high school
students in Honduras.



LEFT:
Work on the new
home.





Trip to Brazil
On March 28, 2008, five high school students and three Centerville Rotarians left on a trip to Candido Mota, Brazil. The purpose of the trip was to help in the painting of a school for disadvantaged children. The Rotary Club of Candido Mota sponsored our group. And



they did it up big! We were met at the airport in Sao Paulo and taken northwest for a five hour private bus drive on super highways and country roads. We passed large lush farm land, stopped at a super highway five-star restaurant with many tasty dishes, desserts, and drinks, and finally arrived at the Candido Mota Rotary Building. There we were met by an enthusiastic welcoming gang of Rotarians, their families and well wishers – all waving and shouting greetings. Everybody was shaking hands, hugging and back slapping. There was even fireworks – we felt loved and welcome! We all went home with a sponsoring family where we immediately

became a family member. The next morning we went to the Centro Vocacional Frei Paulino school to be greeted by a mob of smiling children, Rotarians, family members, and staff. Great excitement for all! Pictures were being taken by everyone who had a camera, including the local newspaper. Painting...we did painting – with Rotarian families and Rotokids also taking brush in hand. Now let’s mention the children who made us feel so welcome: disadvantaged is a word of many meanings – some with no parents, being taken care of by brothers and sisters, little food at home, very poor. All of them smiling and friendly, and wanting their picture to be taken with a Rotarian from the US. Look at their pictures! Their faces! As well as painting, the Rotarians made sure we enjoyed our time in Candido Mota: Ice cream, trips to local towns, dinners out, home cooking, farm visits, and wonderful hospitality; one day an outing with our “families” to a lake/river with much good food, boat rides, swimming, and seeing new things (monkeys, how bananas grow, coffee trees, new fruits, and more). What a great and worthwhile trip for us from Centerville, as well as for our new friends in Candido Moto!



ABOVE:
Students having fun with the kids in Candido Mota.

FAR BOTTOM LEFT:
Check delivered to Candido Mota for shoes of the athletic team.

TOP:
Centerville Rotarians at the Rotary Club meeting in Candido Mota.

2ND PHOTO LEFT:
Rotarian Lori Shade painting.

LEFT:
Robin Parker planting the Centerville Rotary tree.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Helping to build the greenhouse.



TOP LEFT:
Rotary Flag from Candido Mota, Brazil.

ABOVE:
President Carol Kennard, Robin Parker, Don Gerhardt and the students who went to Brazil after returning from their trip.

TOP RIGHT:
Arrival in Candido Mota.

RIGHT:
The Centerville High School Students with the kids in Brazil.





INTERACT

Interact's name is a combination of the words international and action. With clubs in over 120 countries and geographical areas, Interact is truly an international phenomenon. Since its earliest days, Rotary has been committed to helping children in need. But in 1960, the organization took a new approach to youth service. Recognizing the untapped potential of young men and women, RI President Harold T. Thomas urged Rotary clubs around the world to find ways to encourage service among youth, foster their active interest in the community, and offer opportunities for them to develop as leaders. Two years later, 23 students at Melbourne High School in Melbourne, Florida, USA, came together to form the first Interact club. Now, Rotarians were not just helping youth but empowering them to serve locally and internationally with their Rotary club sponsors. Ever since, thousands of communities around

ABOVE:
DG Ute Papke
installing the new
officers for the
Centerville High
School Interact club.

RIGHT:
Interactors helping
out with the pancake
breakfast.

BELOW:
Interactors at a club
meeting.



the world have benefited from the service of Interact clubs. Interactors have discovered a program that offers fun, meaningful service activities while providing a chance to develop leadership skills and meet new friends. In turn, sponsor Rotary clubs have gained increased support for projects and fresh ideas for service while helping to develop future Rotarians.

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 14 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting. Club membership varies greatly. Clubs can be single gender or mixed, large or small. They can draw from the student body of a single school or from two or more schools in the same community.



TOP:
DG Ute Papke,
President Erich
Eggers and Vas
Appalannenni whose
daughter Vaneela
became Interact
President in 2011.

MIDDLE:
Interactors listening.

BOTTOM:
Mae Berkel, Kim
Paras and Vaneela
Appalannenni, the
Interact President for
2011-12.

Each year, Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts, Interactors develop a network of friendships with local and overseas clubs and learn the importance of (1) developing leadership skills and personal integrity; (2) demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others; (3) understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work; and (4) advancing international understanding and goodwill.

As one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary service, with more than 10,700 clubs in 109 countries and geographical areas, Interact has become a worldwide phenomenon. Almost 200,000 young people are involved in Interact.





TOP:
Chartering of the
community-based
Rotaract club in
Centerville: DG Ute
Papke, President
Erich Eggers and
Mike Wier, district
Rotaract chair.

ROTARACT

Rotaract clubs are part of a global effort to bring peace and international understanding to the world. This effort starts at the community level but knows no limits in its outreach. Rotaractors have access to the many resources of Rotary International (R.I.) and The Rotary Foundation. Rotary International provides the administrative support that helps Rotaract clubs thrive.

History

Rotaract has evolved quickly in its short but dynamic history. In the early 1960s, Rotary clubs around the world began to sponsor university youth groups as community service projects. The 1967-68 RI president, Luther H. Hodges, and the RI Board of Directors considered this club activity to have international relevance, and Rotaract was approved in 1968 as an official program for Rotary clubs. The first club chartered was the Rotaract Club of North Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, on March 13, 1968. Several decades later, the Rotaract program has grown into a strong, international network of 7,300 clubs in more than 150 countries and geographical areas. Rotaract's 145,000 members are young men and women (ages 18 to 30) who serve the needs of their communities, widen their personal and professional contacts, and increase their understanding of the world.

Goals

- To develop professional and leadership skills.
- To emphasize respect for the rights of others, based on recognition of the worth of each individual.



- To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations as opportunities to serve.
- To recognize, practice, and promote ethical standards as leadership qualities and vocational responsibilities.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the needs, problems, and opportunities in the community and worldwide.
- To provide opportunities for personal and group activities to serve the community and promote international understanding and goodwill toward all people.

How Does It Work?

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and they're sponsored by a local Rotary club. This makes them true "partners in service" and key members of the family of Rotary. As one of Rotary's most significant and fastest-growing service programs, Rotaract has become a worldwide phenomenon.

All Rotaract efforts begin at the local, grassroots level, with members addressing their communities' physical and social needs while promoting international understanding and peace through a framework of friendship and service.



ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you'll spend up to a year living with a few host families and attending school in a different country. Whether you participate in Rotary's long-term or short-term Youth Exchange programs, you'll learn a new way of living, a great deal about yourself, and maybe even a new language. You'll also be an ambassador, teaching people you meet about your country, culture, and ideas. You can help bring the world closer – and make some good friends in the process.

For over 75 years, students and host families have broadened their horizons through Rotary Youth Exchange. More than 80 countries and over 8,000 students each year participate in the program, which

is administered at the regional level by Rotary districts and at the local level by Rotary clubs. Globally minded Rotary clubs are made up of volunteers who are involved in community service, emphasize high ethical standards, and work toward peace and understanding in the world. Over 1.2 million Rotarians in more than 32,000 clubs around the world create the extensive network that provides support for Youth Exchange.

With a commitment to youth, Rotary maintains a strong connection to youth and young adults. Besides Youth Exchange, Rotary clubs sponsor youth service clubs such as Interact, Rotaract,

LEFT:
Tsebe, Centerville
Youth Exchange
Student with her
family in Lesotho.



RIGHT:
Short term exchange student Martha Porter and her Spanish counterpart Carmen.

BOTTOM:
Youth Exchange Students performing at the District Conference.

RIGHT:
Short term exchange student Bo Wang at the club's garden party.



and RYLA and offer career development and mentoring programs. Rotary is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in its programs, including Youth Exchange.

Rotary club volunteers administer the program at the local level, which helps keep costs low for students and their families. These volunteers often offer years of experience with students, host families, and fellow Rotarians who are involved in the program. Rotary Youth Exchange is open to young people ages 15-25 worldwide. There are two basic types of exchanges: short-term or long-term.

Exchanges can take place in more than 150 countries and geographical areas. Please note, however, that the countries you visit depend on your home Rotary district. Contact your local club or district for more information. We have, from the very beginning of our club, hosted exchange students from many countries, on all continents both short and long term.



program for young people. RYLA participants can be ages 14-30, but most clubs and districts choose to focus on a narrower age range, such as 14-18. In our district, participants for RYLA are chosen by the high school counselors and are usually high school juniors or seniors. The Rotary clubs sponsors the high school students for this event, which traditionally is held mid-March. RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth.

After District 5520's first RYLA camp, about 20 years ago, a participant summed up his experience in one word: Camelot.



He wrote: *"If you know the story of King Arthur, you may recall that as King Arthur was dying in a young man's arms, he turned to the youth and said, 'If you learn of anyone that has not heard of Camelot, tell them loudly and clearly that there really was that one wisp of glory called Camelot.'*" Gundoo or Camelot? RYLA is both, and aren't we fortunate? Dedication, passion, and love describe the heart of RYLA, a most remarkable investment that assures Rotary's future. Every Rotarian should take the opportunity to enjoy this exciting program and life-changing experience.

TOP LEFT:
Shanel de Groot at the RYLA event (2009).

TOP RIGHT:
Flag from a Rotary Club in Queensland, Australia.

ABOVE:
Centerville students at the RYLA event (2009).



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

In 1959, the state government of Queensland, Australia, invited local Rotarians to help plan a festival celebrating Queensland's upcoming centennial. Learning that Queen Elizabeth II was sending her cousin Princess Alexandra, who was in her early 20s, to the celebration, Rotarians planned activities specifically for the princess's age group. The resulting gundoo, an aboriginal word meaning "festival" or "fun together," was a rousing success. More than 300 men and women between the ages of 17 and 23 attended. Encouraged by the event's popularity with the young attendees, Rotarians saw the potential to create a similar annual youth program. With little hesitation, Art Brand, governor of what was then District 260, approved the project, and on May 2, 1960, RYLA was born.

By 1998, RYLA had become an established program in more than half of the 521 Rotary districts worldwide. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is Rotary's leadership training