

# Rotary Action

The Future of Rotary is In Your Hands



Fall/Winter 2009 | [www.ridistrict5730.org](http://www.ridistrict5730.org)



Emily Abbott enjoys sights of Norway, where she is studying.

## Join Youth Exchange... See the World

By Emily Abbott

I am not sure what inspired me to become a foreign exchange student. I have always wanted to travel and learn the major languages of the world. That might have been what inspired me to make it happen. My freshman year, I started looking up sponsors on the Internet. I found one but it was going to cost \$10,000, and there was absolutely no way my family could raise that much money in less than a year. Mom was determined to help me make my dream happen. She was talking to one of her coworkers, Melissa Carruth, who had been a foreign exchange student, and her father, Paige, was in the Rotary Club.

I applied in October. The application process was pretty brutal, but I think that it was good, because anyone who was kind of questioning being a foreign exchange student would have changed their mind. It was long, but only because there were a lot of medical forms and school forms that needed to be filled out by others. I had my

first interview in November with the local club. I was extremely nervous, but I guess I did all right. My second interview occurred in December with the district club, and they told me I had pretty much been accepted, but I didn't have an acceptance letter.

I got my acceptance letter in January, and ran around my house screaming.

On June 7, I went to a Rotary Outbound Camp in Arkansas. This was a camp that the Rotary Club held for all of the students leaving from the south-central area of the United States. It lasted for four days, and we stayed on the John Brown University campus in Siloam Springs. There, the Rotary Youth Exchange students who have already gone abroad and returned answered any questions we had about the journeys that awaited us. Rotarians told us what we would need to do in any situation we were put in, both good and bad. Overall, the purpose of the camp was to prepare

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 71 | SEE RELATED ARTICLE PAGE 75

## Rotary Youth Exchange

An Opportunity of a Lifetime

By Ken and Elyn Patterson

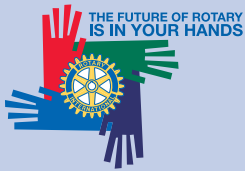
The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is a once in a lifetime experience for any young person who wants to make new discoveries about their world. A year spent in another country is a year full of adventure, fun, developing new relationships, learning a new language and total immersion in a new culture. Each year, Rotary districts worldwide arrange for more than 8,500 high school students to discover themselves as they discover and learn another culture.

The primary goal of Rotary Youth Exchange is to:

- Provide high school students an opportunity to spend a year studying in another country, learning the language, discovering the culture, developing skills and maturing
- Bring the world into our local communities through friendship

| CONTINUED ON PAGE 71





## Rotary Action

### The Rotary Club of Amarillo

Chartered December 1, 1917  
Meetings: Thursday at noon  
Amarillo Country Club  
President: Karen Hicks  
373-2884

### The Rotary Club of Amarillo - East

Chartered February 8, 1968  
Meetings: Monday at noon  
Wellington Room  
505 Tennessee St  
President: Wes Conner  
378-3805

### The Rotary Club of Amarillo - South

Chartered October 24, 1984  
Meetings: Thursday 7:00 am  
Amarillo Club 30th floor  
7th & Tyler  
President: Ron Knoy  
373-2050

### The Rotary Club of Amarillo - West

Chartered April 1, 1957  
Meetings: Friday at noon  
Amarillo Country Club  
President: Bob Dempsey  
683-2052

### The Rotary Club of Canyon

Chartered December 3, 1928  
Meetings: Tuesday at noon  
West Texas A&M - Buffalo Room  
President: M. Keith Brown  
655-2528

  
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From Left: Presidents Karen Hicks, Rotary Club of Amarillo; Keith Brown, Canyon Rotary; Ron Knoy, Amarillo-South; Wes Conner, Amarillo-East. Not Pictured: Bob Dempsey, Amarillo-West.

## Presidents' Letter

Rotary is the world's oldest service organization. It comprises 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries on all six continents. It is divided into districts, which are composed of member clubs. In West Texas, the four Amarillo Rotary clubs and the Rotary Club of Canyon are privileged to be part of District 5730.

This insert in *Amarillo Magazine* is intended to acquaint the community with Rotary, its mission and to tell its story to those who might be unaware of all that Rotary does on behalf of the good folks who live here.

Beginning with this issue, we will tell that story with text and pictures.

Rotary is involved in many areas. In the Amarillo-Canyon community, they include: literacy, building young leaders, sending young professionals abroad to learn their craft, mentoring of young people, development of recreational facilities, working hand-in-hand with other service and civic organizations, and improving the quality of life for area residents.

Each club meets weekly. We enjoy each

other's fellowship. We promote fun and friendship at our meetings – and you will find meeting places and times for all our clubs in this insert. The meetings are educational. But our community mission is much more than that. It is built on Rotary International's long-standing motto: Service Above Self.

That motto has served Rotary well since its founding in 1905. A Chicago businessman, Paul Harris, had this idea of founding an organization dedicated to improving the world. In many ways, Mr. Harris has succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. Much more work needs to be done, and it must be done at the community level.

This is where your local Rotary clubs are stepping up. We are rolling up our sleeves and going to work on many projects.

Take a look at this insert and glean from it the dedication of your friends and neighbors, maybe even some of your family members, all of whom are committed to helping improve life in Amarillo and Canyon.

Enjoy. We look forward to having you join us. 

Welcome to this first issue of *Rotary Action*, an insert of *Amarillo Magazine*.

With this edition, the Rotary clubs of Amarillo and Canyon wish to acquaint readers with the work that the service organizations are doing throughout the greater Amarillo/Canyon area. That work is aimed primarily with the area's youth, whether it's through literacy, mentoring, sending students abroad to study, or teaching them leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

Those who belong to Rotary are immensely proud of the service they perform on behalf of their clubs and on behalf of

Rotary International. They want to serve in honor of Rotary's international motto – Service Above Self.

We hope this edition of *Rotary Action* conveys the selflessness that Rotarians seek to apply to their community service, and indeed to their daily lives.

Our plan is to produce more of these inserts in the months and years ahead. Meantime, take a look at who Rotarians are and how we seek to make the Amarillo and Canyon area a better place to live.

John Kanelis  
Editor, *Rotary Action*



# Celebrating 30+ Years of Camping Fun!

By Sherri Williams

**T**he Rotary Club Camp for Children with Diabetes Mellitus celebrated its 30th anniversary this June.

Each summer, the Rotary clubs of District 5730 sponsor a local camp for children with diabetes in West Texas, eastern New Mexico and the Oklahoma Panhandle.

The special one-week camp is an effort to provide a camp close to home, making it easier for the children to attend. Each year, children ages 7 to 14 suffering from Diabetes Mellitus gather at Ceta Canyon Camp and Retreat Center just outside Happy. The campers enjoy fun and fellowship with other children while they learn to be independent and deal with the various aspects of their disease. Activities include games, sporting events and crafts for all ages and skill levels. Meals and snacks are well planned and supervised by a registered dietician. Young adults and teenagers over the age of 15 with diabetes are eligible to be counselors and junior counselors, many of which have

previously attended the camp themselves.

District 5730 is privileged to have Drs. M.J. Bourgeois and S.K. Varma from the Department of Pediatrics at Texas Tech University Health Science Center as co-directors. They bring with them an

**“The campers enjoy fun and fellowship with other children while they learn to be independent and deal with the various aspects of their disease. Activities include games, sporting events and crafts for all ages and skill levels.”**

experienced staff of nurses and nursing students to assist in providing for the children.

Registration fees are based on a graduated fee schedule and each family's ability to pay. Rotarians do not want this fee to discourage

any child from participating. Parents are encouraged to contact their local Rotary club for information and assistance on sponsorships. The camp is also graciously funded in part by a Grant from Children's Miracle Network (Lubbock) and UMC Children's Hospital (Lubbock).

It is such a great opportunity to serve; just meeting these groups of children and their parents as they leave each camp with the realization that they can lead happy, normal lives playing the same as other children do by simply following good health practices.

The families are so grateful for the opportunity their child experiences. Those in Rotary and all of the volunteers who serve should be very proud to be a part of our children's future in such a positive way.

It's just fun. ❁

*Sherri Williams is a member of the Amarillo East Rotary Club.*

## What is Rotary?

By Jim Cole

**A**s governor of Rotary District 5730, I am asked: What does Rotary do? The answer simply, is this: to try to aid humanity.

Rotarians work to improve the quality of life in their communities and throughout the world. It is a fact that around 30,000 children die worldwide under the age of 5. During the past Rotary year, Rotarians tried to reduce the dreadful infant mortality rate with an initiative called "Make Dreams Real." It is aimed at giving every child a chance in life. Thanks to Rotarians and other individuals who support the humanitarian work of Rotarians from more than 200 countries, more than 2 billion children have been immunized against polio; within a few more years, that dreadful disease will be eliminated from the world. Thousands now have wheelchairs, where before they had no means of mobility.

Thousands have clean drinking water and when disaster strikes, Rotarians are there with tents, sleeping bags and more to help sustain life.

In District 5730, which covers an area from Pecos to Sweetwater to the top of the Panhandle, we have more than 2,000 members in 51 clubs. District 5730 Rotarians are all members of a volunteer organization united to provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace. As district governor, I am proud of the activities of each of our clubs. Each club is different, but with

one purpose: to improve the quality of life in their communities. Each club has a tradition of fundraisers and service projects.

Speaking of fundraisers, you can find

a wide range of ideas. They are numerous and vary from club to club. On Labor Day weekend, you'll find members of the Muleshoe club having their annual calf-roping event. Rotarians in Post conduct several "dog dipping" days annually. Pancake suppers and chili suppers also are on the list of fundraisers, and I cannot forget the cherry pies from the Panhandle each February.

Most club projects include literacy initiatives. Giving each third-grade student a dictionary is a must for clubs throughout the district. Odessa, Big Spring, Childress, Dalhart, Snyder and Canyon are a few of the clubs that give students a dictionary. Clubs in Levelland, Littlefield, Amarillo and Dalhart have given library books to schools and Rotarians read monthly to students.

Most clubs in the district award scholarships every spring. This year, 98 high school seniors were

| [CONTINUED ON PAGE 77](#)



District Governor Jim Cole



# Hold-Up

By John Kanelis

**F**or about a dozen years, the Rotary Club of Amarillo has been holding up unsuspecting travelers.

Club members venture out to the Texas Travel Information Bureau office and rest stop at Interstate 40 and Airport Boulevard. In the company of an Amarillo Police Department officer, Rotarians scour the site for cars with out-of-state license plates. They approach the travelers in the vehicle and spring it on them: We're holding you up – if you approve, of course.

The Hold-Up results in the travelers being treated to a night out, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Amarillo. We take the travelers to dinner that evening and then to the musical "Texas" at the Pioneer Amphitheater in Palo Duro Canyon. We take them back to the hotel, where we put

for Rotary and for the Rotary Club of Amarillo. Without exception, the folks we hold up are "blown away" by the West Texas hospitality they experience. They take that warm feeling with them throughout the country – and around the world. And make no mistake, we've entertained many visitors from abroad.

They take the good feelings with them forever, and share their experience with their friends and family back home and those who hear the stories from their traveling kinfolk spread the word even more. Word of mouth is a powerful purveyor of good news, and Amarillo benefits greatly from the joy spread by the Hold-Up.

The Hold-Up "builds good will" and "better friendships," in accordance with Rotary's Four-Way Test. And, yes, it's "fair" and "beneficial" to all concerned.

The Hold-Up occurs each summer during



Rotarian Jonathan Grammer (right, rear) and Amarillo Police Cpl. Jerry Neufeld (left, rear) welcome visitors during the annual Hold-Up sponsored by Rotary Club of Amarillo.

the run of the musical "Texas," which has garnered worldwide acclaim from those who have seen it. If a visitor is lucky enough to have been snagged by the Rotary Club of Amarillo during its annual Hold-Up program, they have even more good cheer to take away with them. ❁

John Kanelis is a member of the Rotary Club of Amarillo.

**Without exception, the folks we hold up are 'blown away' by the West Texas hospitality they experience.**

them up for the night. Then we send them on their way to wherever they are headed.

The Hold-Up is a first-class public relations instrument for the city of Amarillo,



## Rotarians at Work



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## Emily Abbott...

CONTINUED FROM COVER

us both mentally for what to expect, and inform us that there are some things that can go wrong and in those situations, what we would need to do.

I left Amarillo on August 9 and arrived in Norway the next day – with no luggage.

They told us to be aware of things like that at Outbound Camp, so I had packed a set of clothes in my carry-on baggage. My luggage didn't arrive in Norway until later that week. I moved in with my new host family on August 30 after living with my counselor for two weeks. I started school three weeks ago. I really do love school here. It is a lot different than the school systems in Texas. It is laid back, and it's not really a big deal if you skip class or are late. They do not have a definite schedule for each day, but it is more like a college schedule with certain classes each week.

Over all, it has been an interesting experience. I would encourage anyone who would like to be a foreign exchange student to apply and go for it. You never know what might happen. ❀

Emily Abbott is studying in Norway during the 2009-10 school year as part of the Rotary International Youth Exchange program. She is a student at Bushland High School.

## Rotary Youth Exchange...

CONTINUED FROM COVER

- Promote Rotary's goal of world peace and understanding, one person, one exchange at a time.

This goal is accomplished one youth exchange at a time in over 60 countries. What separates the Rotary Youth Exchange Program from other exchange programs is the support that Rotary provides from both the sending Rotary Club and the hosting Rotary Club. Training and orientation occurs before the student leaves on their exchange and when they arrive in their host country. A Rotary Youth Exchange Student is never abandoned in their host country.

Spending a year in another country will provide a student with the opportunity to develop a lifetime of international friendships.

A case in point is Stacey Franklin from Muleshoe and Tiril Lyberg from Rykkin, Norway.

In the fall of 1981, these two high school students suddenly became host sisters. Stacey had left the South Plains to spend a year in Norway as a Rotary Youth

Exchange Student and her host family just happened to have a daughter named Tiril.

A friendship developed that has lasted for 28 years and now involves Stacey and Tiril's daughters.

Stacey's daughter, Hanna, is a 2009 – 2010 Rotary Youth Exchange Student

❀  
**“What separates the Rotary Youth Exchange Program from other exchange programs is the support that Rotary provides from both the sending Rotary Club and the hosting Rotary Club.”**

from Lubbock; Her host mother in Rykkin, Norway is Tiril Lyberg. Hanna's host sister is Kornelia Lyberg, daughter of Tiril. Kornelia will come to District 5730 next year as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student and her first host family will be Stacey and Kirk Franklin.

A friendship that started in 1981 is being passed on to the next generation. ❀

Ken and Elyn Patterson live in Lubbock.

## Rotarians at Work



David Norris, Executive Vice President

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WESTERN BUILDERS

ROTARY CLUB OF AMARILLO



# Youth Mentoring

By Cristal Robinson

**T**he Rotary Mentoring program has changed many times over the years. Local Rotary clubs joined the Amarillo Women's Network mentor program in 1990. Now, both organizations are full partners in mentoring youth.

The purpose of the Mentoring program is to offer local high school youth at the junior level an opportunity to understand the many requirements for various vocations, and assist them to develop personal goals, while learning the communication skills necessary for success in any profession. This program gives AWN and Rotary club members the opportunity to offer service to youth in the Amarillo/Canyon community.

Students have a structured opportunity to learn the practical requirements, possibilities and stepping stones leading to success in any future vocation they choose.

School counselors and teachers recruit high school juniors, who complete applications to the program. Rotary clubs and AWN recruit mentors from their respective organizations whose profession matches a student's career interests as well as local professionals. The program is free for selected students in eight local high schools.

Each mentored student is paired with an adult mentor. Mentors and students commit to develop a mutual career experience with a minimum of six contacts during a period of six months. Mentors work one-on-one with their chosen student, helping that student establish and meet at least two realistic goals for their brief time together.

In addition, there are structured programs during the year that the mentor and mentee can share that benefit the student, for instance, Career Discovery Day, Engineering Day, a Leadership event, and Medical Seminar.

Career Discovery Day, held at the Discovery Center is partially underwritten by a grant from B&W Pantex. This event gives the students an opportunity to consider careers in many different areas, such as communication, education, medical and legal services, business, and science and technology among others.

The Engineering Day is a new collaboration with WTAMU Engineering department underwritten by Zachry Engineering. It will allow the mentees to see what engineers actually do for a living through hands-on projects with actual

engineers, as well as information on how to become an engineer or another related profession.

Leadership Day is held at WTAMU and developed by the WTAMU College of Business' SIFE program. Another opportunity is Medical Day held at Texas Tech Medical Health Sciences Center that exposes mentored students to the varied career opportunities in the medical field.

In addition to practical field knowledge in their careers of choice, students are encouraged to learn and practice basic skills that enhance their ability to succeed in life as well as any career.

Amarillo Women's Network recognizes students with a special luncheon in March. Mentees, mentors and all volunteers are recognized at a special luncheon program in April, which concludes the program year.

A volunteer steering committee composed of Rotary and AWN members guides the entire program. Funding is provided by AWN and Rotary clubs, as well as private contributions. ❄

Cristal Robinson is a member of the Rotary Club of Amarillo.



## Rotarians at Work



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ROTARY CLUB OF AMARILLO-WEST





# RYLA

By Candy Norris

**R**YLA is an acronym that stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Award. RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth, and aims to (1) demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth; (2) provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders; (3) encourage leadership of youth by youth; and (4) recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.

RYLA has its roots in Australia. The first district in the United States to host a youth RYLA activity was our very own District 5730. Each Rotary district in the world has its own way of providing the RYLA experience to the youth in its District. Every spring, the Rotary clubs of District 5730 select sophomores or juniors for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. Approximately 100 students attend the camp each year. These students are selected based on criteria selected by each club but have the following qualities in common — leadership potential, good citizenship, and demonstrating the ideals of Rotary such as the Four Way Test and Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."

In District 5730, the students selected as RYLA recipients attend a weeklong camp

in the Capitan Mountains just outside of Ruidoso, N.M., at the Lone Tree Bible Ranch Facility. All week, the students participate in activities designed to develop leadership skills centered around the Rotary Four Way Test.

Participants hear from numerous guest speakers on a variety of topics such as the power of intention, life skills, leading by example, the power of one and overcoming adversity. Recipients also engage in a variety of fun activities to reinforce these skills. One activity is a speech contest that provides a \$200, \$150, and \$100 scholarship for the top three speeches.

It is not all work and no play, however.

Other activities include climbing an Alpine tower, horseback riding, Diggers, Mountain Bike rides, as well as a climbing wall. To take a break from the summer heat, there is also the fantastic waterslide. In addition to these activities, a rodeo is held pitting the females and male campers for camp champ. The rodeo is followed by an old-time ice cream social and dance in the camp gym. ❄

Candy Norris is a member of the Rotary Club of Amarillo and is the RYLA coordinator for Rotary District 5730.

## Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Aims to:

- Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth
- Provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders
- Encourage leadership of youth by youth
- Recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities

## Rotarians at Work



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RotaryAction

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# Rotary Park

By Bob Dempsey

**A**marillo West Rotary Club has a fundraiser each year to support the club's commitment to the YMCA Rotary Park at Hillside and Western. YMCA Rotary Park is a multi-field baseball complex for Amarillo youth. The club has committed to raising \$50,000 over a period of 10 years, making the fundraiser goal at least \$5,000 each year.

The fundraiser is a golf tournament at Ross Rogers Municipal Golf Course. A committee is formed to develop the tournament and the long range goal is to create a traditional golf event that will generate enough money to completely fund the designated project with any additional

funds going to other projects. Members are asked to solicit area businesses and/or provide teams and sponsorships for the event. When 25 foursomes and 50 sponsors at various levels are signed up, the tournament is considered a success. The format is usually a scramble.

All par three holes provide hole-in-one opportunities with the key prize being a new vehicle; Street Toyota has always graciously supported our club with the potential prize.

During the tournament, a number of on and off-course opportunities are made available to players to enjoy the golf, increase their fun and enhance the club's net gain for the day. A meal – either lunch or dinner – is included with the entry fee.

Each year, we invite leaders of the YMCA to lunch to give them an opportunity to inform the Rotary West Club membership about their programs and let the club know how the funds are helping as well as what new challenges are arising. ❄

Bob Dempsey is 2009-2010 president of the Amarillo West Rotary Club.



Youngsters watch action at YMCA Rotary Park. Photo By Tom Higley

The YMCA Rotary Park has been the primary fundraising focus of the Rotary Club of Amarillo for the past 10 years.

Until 2008, the Rotary Club of Amarillo conducted a Shrimp and Catfish Roundup at the Tri-State Fairgrounds, but in the past two years has switched its efforts to a Garden Party, held every spring at the Sunset Center. The Shrimp and Catfish Roundup drew significant crowds at the Fairgrounds every May, culminating in a drawing for a new car provided by an area automobile dealer. The Garden Party also features – in addition to great food and refreshments – a silent auction and drawings for valuable door prizes. The next Garden Party is set for February 13, 2010.

The club committed to raising money to build and equip the park at 58th and South Georgia. The YMCA has built ball fields at the site, giving Amarillo-area youngsters a place to participate in myriad outdoor athletic events.

The work goes on. Fundraising is on-going with the Rotary Club of Amarillo, along with the Amarillo-West Rotary Club.



## Rotarians at Work



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ROTARY CLUB OF AMARILLO-SOUTH





# Youth Exchange By Sam Boyce

It was the middle of May, school was coming to a slow, but imminent close, and Germany was all that was on my mind. The Rotary Club of Amarillo had given me the opportunity to participate in a foreign exchange program over in Germany. I was psyched, but also a little nervous, for I had never been out of the great United States before. I was ready to go, but I knew it would be hard at first, being away from all my friends and family. I would be away from my family for the longest time ever, also adding to my apprehension.

Being exempt from all my semester tests, I was able to head out a week before school was actually considered to be officially out. I left May 23 to start the beginning of my three-week journey. After a day-long trek through the airports of Houston and Newark, I arrived in Frankfurt, Germany on Sunday. Awaiting on my arrival at the airport were two members of my host family, the father Michael, and son Marco Wuest. They were very nice when I first shook hands with them, but since it was the first formal meeting – we had only communicated by email prior to me leaving – it was still a little weird. After a two-hour car ride back to the town I was staying in, Erlangen, about 20

minutes north of Nuremberg, I got to meet the rest of the Wuest family. I was welcomed in German by the mother Gabi and Marco's little sister, Marlene.

It was a very hard at first, for I had not studied or even practiced the German language in my life.

I was lucky that the whole family could speak English fairly well. It made me feel a little more comfortable. The Wuest family (pronounced "Voost") was great to stay with. They planned a number of trips and activities during my stay there. Unfortunately, Germany is seven hours ahead of the Central Time Zone.

Being tired and worn out from jet lag, all I wanted to do was sleep the first few days I was there.

All my adventures started in the next week. I had the opportunity to go to a

German school on the next Tuesday and Wednesday. It was interesting in that the school was built in the late 19th century, about 70 years older than my current high school, Tascosa. I got to play a game of soccer in Marco's PE class, and I found out



Sam Boyce in front of Buckingham Palace.

a bad player there would be a great player in the U.S. The classes were all in German, so I didn't understand a thing. I mostly slept through class, because I had not fully recovered from jet-lag. | [CONTINUED ON PAGE 77](#)

## Rotarians at Work



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ROTARY CLUB OF AMARILLO-SOUTH



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ROTARY CLUB OF AMARILLO-SOUTH



# Rotaract

By Bonnie Pendleton

**T**he Rotaract Club at West Texas A&M University is one of three Rotaract clubs in Rotary District 5730; the other two are at Texas Tech University and Wayland Baptist University. Rotaract is an organization of 18 to 30-year-old young professionals and/or college students sponsored by a local Rotary

The Rotary Club of Canyon started a Rotaract Club at West Texas A&M University in September 2003. Bonnie Pendleton and Lal Almas are the club advisors. Officers for 2009-2010 are President Teresa Gaus, Vice President Constant Ouapo, Secretary Rashni Tewari and Treasurer Gopi Girase. The WT

Rotaract members consist of mostly graduate students from all over the world, including Texas. Whereas, most young people in the United States never have heard of Rotaract or even Rotary, students from different countries have experienced first-hand Rotary's humanitarian efforts for polio eradication,

with Christmas lights, help collect, sort, and distribute food to needy families, feed the homeless in Amarillo, collect and distribute

**“...students from different countries have experienced first-hand Rotary's humanitarian efforts for polio eradication, clean water, etc. Rotaract students at WT want to give back.”**

clothing to homeless people in Amarillo, wrap and donate 150 sets of knit caps and gloves for the homeless for Christmas, host guest speakers, and assist Rotary clubs and Rotarians with various community functions including Rotary and United Way banquets and fund-raisers.

The WT Rotaract Club paid \$300 to provide a clean water pipeline to a hospital and village in Pakistan and each year sends medical books and supplies to doctors in Pakistan. The Rotaractors at West Texas A&M University currently are planning to sponsor \$5 mosquito nets to help prevent diseases such as malaria in African countries. ❁



From left, WTAMU Rotaract students Maveen Adusumilli, Abani Kishor Khanal and Moham Kumar Kapanigowda.

Club. Rotaractors meet twice each month for leadership and service. They are expected to do at least one local and one international service project each year.

clean water, etc. Rotaract students at WT want to give back.

Rotaractors at WT have a get-acquainted social for new members, decorate the campus

Bonnie Pendleton is a member of the Canyon Rotary Club.



## Rotarians at Work



Murielle Barnes

### Signs of Change

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ROTARY CLUB OF AMARILLO-EAST



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ROTARY CLUB OF CANYON





## What is Rotary...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 69

awarded scholarships valued at \$70,000 from Rotary clubs. District 5730 is also proud of the Ambassadors Scholarship program of the Rotary Foundation, which is the world's largest private provider of international scholarships. Each Ambassador Scholarship is worth \$25,000 and provides for graduate study abroad. The district will have two such scholars: Kelly Glenn Combs will study for his MBA in Morocco and Jake Kolbe Ricafrente will work on his doctorate in The Philippines.

And I must not forget Rotary Youth Leadership Award camp each June. One hundred high school juniors attended a weeklong camp each year to learn leadership skills. While our RYLA campers were having fun, we also had 70 youth attending Diabetic Camp to learn skills and ways to handle this disease. The district also played host to a Group Study Exchange group from Israel.

These are just a few of the activities that help answer the question: What is Rotary? Contact any Rotarian to learn more about the world's largest service club with more than 32,000 clubs and more than 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries. ❁

Jim Cole is governor of Rotary District 5730. He lives in Levelland.

## Youth Exchange...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 75

Later in the week, I went to a big beer festival called Berg. It is a smaller, but better, Oktoberfest. It had great music, amazing food, and a bunch of rowdy Bavarians just having a grand ol' time. It is a festival I will try to go back to in the future.

The latter two weeks of the trip were filled with many travels. The second week, I traveled with the family to London. I got to see the Parliament building, the Tower of London, and many other attractions that are popular among tourists. The department store, Harrod's, was the most interesting due to the fact it was six stories tall and the length of a city block filled with only the most expensive, extravagant things. After five days of sightseeing in this great world city, we headed back to Germany. The last week, I traveled around Bavaria, discovering its many wonders. In Nuremberg, I had the opportunity to see where the Nazi officers were put on trial in the German Municipal Stadium. It was quite interesting to see what happened during this era. The Nazi revolution was horrible, but it was very well organized by Hitler's powerful intellect. I then traveled to places like Munich, famous for its biergarten (brewery), Hofbrauhaus, Hof, and many other German towns I could not even pronounce or spell. I really got to see

a lot of the Bavarian countryside, including a plethora of castles. Bavaria is wonderful since it has not fully modernized and it has been able to hold and restore its awesome culture that has been around for hundreds of years. I was sad I had to leave in a few days, but it is a trip I will never forget.

On Sunday, June 14, after bidding farewell to the Wuest family, I departed from Nuremberg to Amsterdam, and then back to Houston, and finally Amarillo.

After I reached home, I was tired from spending another full day in airports and planes. I consider myself very lucky that Rotary gave me the chance to partake in this program, and I still thank them very much for letting me do so. I was also lucky I could stay with a great family like the Wuests. They couldn't have treated me any better. I have realized I might not have a trip like this ever again, and I am just elated I got to see another part of the world.

Again, I just want to say thank you to the Rotary Club, my family and all my friends who helped and pushed me to go on a great journey through such a great country. And I am certain Marco received as much from this short-term family-to-family exchange in Texas as I did in Germany. ❁

Sam Boyce is a student at Tascosa High School.

## Rotarians at Work



Karen Eyhorn

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# Service Above Self

By Jo Lynn Harvey

**A**marillo South Rotary Club celebrated its 25th anniversary on October 24. Our small but mighty club with a membership of 19 puts high emphasis on youth projects.

We are fortunate to assist with and conduct fundraising activities at the Budweiser Partnership Golf Tournament held annually at Ross Rogers Golf Course. Proceeds from this, our only fundraiser, allow us to sponsor a car in Amarillo's Soap Box Derby, send a diabetic child to the Diabetic Camp at Ceta Canyon, sponsor two students to RYLA camp in June, provide library books to Robert E. Lee and Margaret Wills elementary schools and present personalized books to kindergartners in four Amarillo elementary schools. We also provide a \$2,000 college scholarship to a deserving high school senior.

Our new project this year will be to give bicycles to students at Humphrey's Highland Elementary School at each six-week grading period. Students in grades 1 through 5, who have had perfect attendance in the six-week period, will be included in a drawing to receive a bike. Twenty-five bikes will be given each year.

Amarillo South provides leadership in a mentoring program that matches high school students in four school districts with volunteer mentors in the students' chosen field. Members offer hands-on assistance and leadership at the Soap Box Derby. We volunteer twice monthly at the Kid's Café program at Robert E. Lee Elementary,

serving hot meals to students and families after school. On a bimonthly basis, we volunteer with food sorting activities at High Plains Food Bank.

Amarillo South selects an Amarillo Police Department officer quarterly to receive an award for outstanding service. From each of the four quarterly officers, the Police Officer of the Year is chosen. The award is presented at a special club meeting. We also honor a Deputy Officer from both Potter and Randall counties for outstanding service with Deputy of the Year awards.

❖  
**“Our small group is dedicated to ‘Service Above Self.’ We are always excited about helping others and recognizing those who excel in their chosen field.”**

In May each year, we celebrate the excellent teaching skills of a teacher from Robert E. Lee Elementary with the Educator of the Year Award. The award is presented at the school in a student assembly and at our Rotary club meeting. The recipient receives a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

Our small group is dedicated to “Service Above Self.” We are always excited about helping others and recognizing those who excel in their chosen field. ❖

Jo Lynn Harvey is a member of the Amarillo South Rotary Club.

## Reading with Rotary

By Denise Blanchard

The Rotary Clubs of Amarillo and Canyon have worked together to support literacy across the city of Amarillo in a number of ways.

Since 2006, Rotarians have partnered with the Amarillo Independent School District and have personally delivered more than 4,000 books to kindergarten students in 12 Title I campuses. Teachers at Emerson, Forest Hill, Hamlet, Humphrey's Highland, Lamar, Landergin, Lee, San Jacinto, South Lawn, Whittier, Wills and Wolflin elementary schools provide information about the school and class of each child that is plugged into the storybook children receive.

“School is Fun” is a custom-made hard-back book for each kindergartener and features a high-interest plot with personalized characters. Rotarians present each child with their personalized copy of the book during a school assembly. Students are excited to see their name in print as well as that of their teacher and classmates.

The Rotary Club of Amarillo partners with AISD to provide new books for several school libraries. Librarians from nine campuses, Avondale, Hamlet, Lawndale, Olsen Park, Sanborn, Sleepy Hollow, South Georgia, Southlawn and Wolflin elementary schools, submit a “Library Wish List” of titles they would like added to the school's collection.

Each week, a new book is presented to a campus in honor of the weekly Rotary speaker. ❖

Denise Blanchard is a member of the Rotary Club of Amarillo.

## Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.
2. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying

of each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to service society.

3. The application of the idea of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life.

4. The advancement of international understanding, good will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service. ❖

