

Rotary Action

The Future of Rotary is In Your Hands



Spring/Summer 2010 | www.ridistrict5730.org



A child receives oral polio vaccine. Polio has been eradicated in all but a handful of Third World countries.

that this was more than a service club, I joined. At my first meeting as a member, the president told us about a new program that was being implemented by Rotary International called PolioPlus; its mission was to eradicate polio from the planet.

This was a real shock to me, as when I was 7 years old, I had polio. I

do not remember much about it, but I do remember being rushed to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and to St. Mary's Hospital. While there, I remember getting repeated spinal injections and immediately after, being wheeled past rooms with little human heads sticking out of big round gray machines that made loud sucking sounds.

When I asked who they were, I was told that they were being treated for polio. After the spinal, I was taken by a nurse, Sister Mary, who would massage me in a tub of warm water, then put me back into bed. One day, I asked her if the hospital was named for her. She replied "No" but she had a surprise for me. I was expecting to be put into the gray machine, but as we entered the room, my

parents were there to take me home. I do remember the ride home, as when I asked why I was not put into the gray machine,

my mother said "We prayed for you."

Initially as a Rotarian, I thought that total eradication of polio was a rather ambitious undertaking, but through the years, since 1985, more than a million volunteers have given more than 2 billion children polio vaccines in 122 countries.

In the early 1950s, there were 16,000 polio-paralyzed Americans per year; today, there are fewer than 2,000 polio cases worldwide annually. This past year, The Bill Gates Foundation challenged Rotary with a \$200 million matching grant to continue the effort and finally eradicate polio from the planet.

We are nearly there, and when there are real needs, and there is a dream to accomplish them, I know that Rotary International will be unafraid to get it done. ❄

Paul Borchardt is a member of the Rotary Club of Amarillo.

Polio Plus

By Paul Borchardt

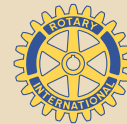
PolioPlus and Rotary have a special meaning to me. The first I heard about Rotary was when I graduated from high school. I was asked to attend a Rotary meeting along with two other graduating seniors. During the meeting, I was introduced as the "Outstanding Senior of 1961." I was so shocked that I never did know what the other two got recognized for.

After my military service and returning to Amarillo, I was asked to attend a Rotary meeting by a Rotarian with whom I had done business.

After a couple of meetings and learning



Paul Borchardt

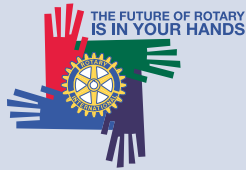


THE FOUR-WAY TEST:

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?





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, Rotary Club presidents Bob Dempsey, Rotary West; Wes Conner, Rotary East; Karen Hicks, Rotary Club of Amarillo; Ron Knoy, Rotary South; and Keith Brown, Canyon Rotary Club.

Presidents' Letter

Think of what the words "Rotary International" mean.

They tell of an organization with a worldwide scope and reach. So it is with Rotary and the five clubs that serve the Amarillo and Canyon communities. While we, as Rotarians, are proud of the work we do to improve our home region, we also are proud of the outreach we extend throughout the world.

The Rotary Foundation embodies that work. And our clubs are involved in various fundraising efforts to shore up the Foundation's good work around the world. We raise money at our weekly meetings; we develop special fundraising events throughout the year; and, best of all, we get involved at the ground level with projects meant to improve the lives of the less fortunate folks who share this world with us.

We also welcome students from abroad, and we send our own students to foreign lands to learn of new cultures and gain new life experiences.

Several of our clubs have sponsored young professionals to take part in Group Study Exchange, which each year sends people abroad to study their professions and to be ambassadors for Rotary, our Rotary District, West Texas and the United States of America. This year, Rotary South and the Rotary Club of Amarillo each sponsored a member

of a team that has just returned from a month in Thailand.

Rotary West has partnered with St. Stephen's Lutheran Church to provide mosquito netting for residents in Ghana.

The Canyon Rotary Club is working with West Texas A&M University's Rotaract Club to assist physicians working in a hospital in Pakistan. The Canyon club is helping finance a water well project in that nation as well.

Rotary East has sponsored development of a school in the Dominican Republic, sending Christmas cards and money annually to the school.

The Rotary Club of Amarillo, in addition to sponsoring a GSE team member in Thailand, is working to help residents of Panama on a whole array of issues: better health care, water development, food and school supplies.

And we are working year-round on ways to raise money for Rotary International's signature project, Polio Plus, which since 1986 has virtually eradicated the disease from the planet. We're not there, but we're getting close.

Take a look at this special section to learn how Rotary is helping our communities extend their giving spirit from the Panhandle to the far reaches of the world.

Enjoy. ❁



Group Study Exchange

By John Kanelis

It's called Group Study Exchange.

A "group" of young professionals goes abroad to "study" their craft with colleagues and "exchange" ideas with them, and with their colleagues back home.

It's a worthwhile endeavor that changes the lives of those who participate.

GSE occurs every year with District 5730. The Amarillo and Canyon Rotary clubs participate actively in this project, which is funded fully by the Rotary International Foundation.

“ [Rotary's] larger mission is... building peace and understanding among nations through person-to-person contact. Based on the success enjoyed by many prior GSE's with many districts around the world, we can say without a doubt that we are accomplishing that mission. ”

District 5730 assembled a team that traveled to Thailand during the month of February; it exchanged with District 3360, which sent a team to West Texas this month. The team leader for the 2010 GSE is Dan Linebarger, past president of the Rotary Club of Midland and a former GSE team member; Dan took part in the GSE journey to South Korea in 1992. Dan's first GSE experience acquainted him with Rotary, which he joined upon his return from the Far East – and he continues to serve Rotary in an outstanding manner.

The Rotary district puts out a call for non-Rotarians to apply for spots on the team. The district sets aside four spots on the GSE team. Rotary International rules require that team members be non-Rotarians, age 25 to 40 and with at least two years of experience in their profession.

The team embarks on a four-week adventure abroad. Rotary International pays

for the roundtrip air fare, plus all GSE-related expenses.

The 2009 GSE team spent most of May and part of June in Israel and toured District 2490 while a team from Israel was touring District 5730.

The project is designed to promote Rotary at home. Its larger mission is to advance Rotary International's mission of building peace and understanding among nations through person-to-person contact. Based on the success enjoyed by many prior Group Study Exchanges with many districts around the world, we can say without a doubt that we are accomplishing that mission.

The next inbound GSE team is coming in April 2011 from the Dominican Republic. And the next outbound team from District 5730 will be visiting that island nation in April 2012. It is not too early to begin looking for qualified professionals who are eager to take part in a life-changing adventure. 🌸

John Kanelis is a member of the Rotary Club of Amarillo and served as GSE team leader for exchange that toured Israel in May and June.

(Clockwise from top) GSE team members (from left) Joel Morris, Danielle Baeza, Dan Linebarger, Kristen Carter and Jennifer Rankin, in front of many sights the group saw during its tour of Thailand; Jennifer Rankin examines ancient "gong"; GSE team enjoys hospitality of host Rotarians in District 3360 in northern Thailand.

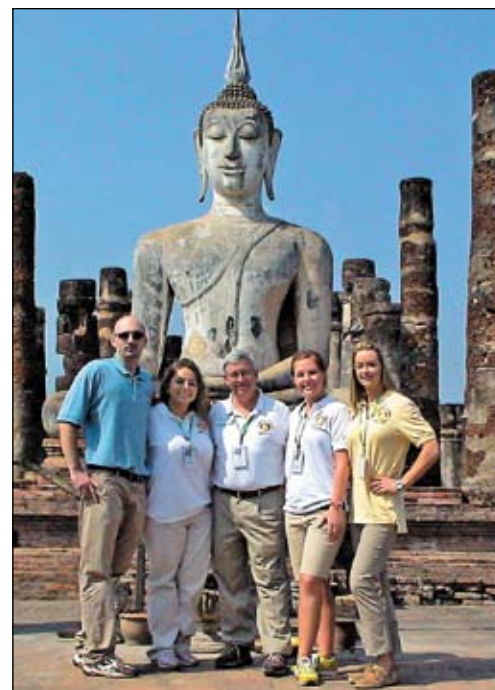


GSE Meet and Greet Scheduled

A Group Study Exchange team has just landed in West Texas from Thailand. The Rotary clubs of Amarillo and Canyon want to extend a heartfelt welcome to the public to attend an event at the Virgil Patterson Auditorium, 701 S. Taylor, in the Happy State Bank building.

The team, representing District 3360 in northern Thailand, will be touring West Texas for the month of April, concluding its visit by attending the multi-district Rotary conference in San Antonio, which begins April 29.

The event occurs on Monday, April 5, from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Come meet our Thai visitors and extend a warm and hearty West Texas welcome.



Dominican School

By Zack Wilson

The Rotary Club of Amarillo East and the Amarillo-based Christian Relief Fund have shared a dream for more than 20 years to give children access to education in the underdeveloped western region of the Dominican Republic.

The association of the two groups began in 1988, when the Amarillo East International Committee met with CRF to discuss the possibility of an international project. At that time, the charity had received a request from CRF workers in the community of Neiba, Dominican Republic to start a primary school.

The rural communities of the Dominican Republic, especially those in the western region near the Haitian border, suffer from extreme poverty and a low investment in education. The schools for the poor were overcrowded and had practically no supplies. Amarillo East Rotary Club helped start a small school in the poorest neighborhood of Neiba. It began with only two grades and two teachers. A grade was added each year until the school became a full primary

school serving students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

The school literally transformed the neighborhood. Parents felt an ownership and became more involved in the school activities and their children's lives. Since the Christian Relief Fund Primary School began there have been many successes. One student who got his start at the school, Winton Brito, received a full four-year scholarship to Utah State University in 2007. Winton was able to visit the club and personally thank the members for their donations and interest.

The school has grown to an enrollment of



Students study their lessons in Dominican Republic school sponsored by the Rotary East Club.

600 students. Amarillo East Rotarians still make an annual gift and send encouragement to individual students through a Christmas card project. The simple international project has helped hundreds of students have the opportunity of education. ❄

Zack Wilson is a member of Amarillo East Rotary Club.



Rotarians at Work



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Panama Project By Paige Carruth

Rotarian George Pat Walsh and his spouse, Betty Gray, spent several years working with his church to improve the lives of destitute Panamanians living in a remote area of northwest Panama. Tragically, George Pat was killed in a car accident in Panama in early

In 2008, Rotarian Rosemartha Cates and her husband, Jim, traveled to Boquete, Panama to develop plans and priorities for this project with members of the Rotary Club of Boquete. Visits to the Llano Nopo community resulted in a long list of needs focused primarily around the school



Panamanian women forge stream.

2008. Betty wished their work to continue and provided a substantial endowment to our club to fund assistance needed.

operated by a Jesuit priest. Their school provides educational opportunities for approximately 1,000 students in grades 1 – 12 while dealing with a very challenging struggle to make it worthwhile.

Llano Nopo is in the Ngobe Bugle Comarca (reservation), approximately 35 miles (four hours) from Boquete. Access to this mountainous area is difficult at best and impossible during the region's monsoon season. Water storage, a



Workers examine construction site in northwest Panama.

dormitory, food, school supplies, a generator, batteries for a solar system, beds, mattresses and other basic necessities were initially addressed. Children's shoes were in demand since many of them walked great distances to attend the school. Gifts to our club and matching grants from Rotary District 5730 and The Rotary Foundation enabled our club to supply funds in excess of \$75,000 for this project so far. Helping this community will continue for several more years.

Rotarians in Boquete, Panama oversee the actual work that is being done. They gather supplies and truck them to Llano Nopo and continuously plan for future needs. This small Rotary Club is providing a monumental service that will enhance the lives of many people in years to come. ☸

Paige Carruth is a member of the Rotary Club of Amarillo and is a past district governor for District 5730.

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Mosquito Net

By Jeffrey Bempong

Malaria is a mosquito-borne infectious disease. It is widespread in tropical and subtropical regions, including parts of the Americas, Asia, and Africa.

The word malaria is derived from the Italian for “bad air” because of the early belief that the disease was caused by breathing the stale, warm, humid air found in swamps. The Italians were not far off because it is in the warm, humid air of tropical climates where malaria carrying mosquitoes thrive.

Scientists believe mosquitoes evolved about 230 million years ago in what is now South America. Malaria has been around for 50,000 years. Of the roughly 3,500 mosquito species, approximately 40 transmit malaria. Each

year, 350 million to 500 million cases of malaria occur in at least 109 countries. One to 3 million of those cases result in death, the majority of whom are young children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Childhood Mortality

A child dies of malaria every 30 seconds, according to the World Health Organization. In Africa, one in every 5 childhood deaths is due to the disease. Worldwide, malaria is the fourth-leading cause of death in children under 5 years old.



Jeffrey Bempong

Malaria is not just a disease of the poverty stricken but also a cause of poverty and a major hindrance to economic development internationally.

Worldwide, malaria is the fourth-leading cause of death in children under 5 years old. Illnesses and deaths due to malaria cost African countries about \$12 billion a year total in lost productivity. The economic impact includes costs of health care, working days lost due to sickness, days lost in education, decreased productivity due to brain damage from cerebral malaria, and loss of investment and tourism.

Poverty is both cause and effect, however, since the poor do not have the financial capacities to prevent or treat the disease. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, malaria was a major factor

“ These nets can last five years and cost about \$5-\$10 – less than the cost of our lunch, but much more than the \$1 per month many of those impacted earn. ”

in the slow economic development of the American southern states. In some countries with a heavy malaria burden, the disease may account for as much as 40 percent of public health expenditure, 30-50 percent of inpatient admissions, and up to 50 percent of outpatient visits.

What Amarillo West Rotary is Doing

One of the most sobering facts about malaria is that it can be prevented simply by sleeping under an insecticide-treated mosquito net. These nets can last five years and cost about \$5-\$10 – less than the cost of our lunch, but much more than the \$1 per month many of those impacted earn.

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Rotarians at Work



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Rosemartha Cates

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Youth Exchange Program

By Pei-Chun "Lydia" Shen

Through Rotary's Youth Exchange Program, I became an exchange student. Before we came here, our district gave us a lot of training on how to be a good exchange student. However, when you did come here, you would find everything is so different from what they said.

The first month here, I thought everything was so novel and different: How could the way Americans live be so different from the Taiwanese people? Here, people hug and gossip a lot, etc. However, when the time passed, my mind shifted from looking at how novel everything was to making the adjustment.

Therefore, the second and third months were the hardest time for me. I am learning to adjust to how fast people speak English here. In school, I don't even know how to chat with my fellow students and our teachers. They speak too quickly. I also

miss Taiwan, my family and friends – everything back home.

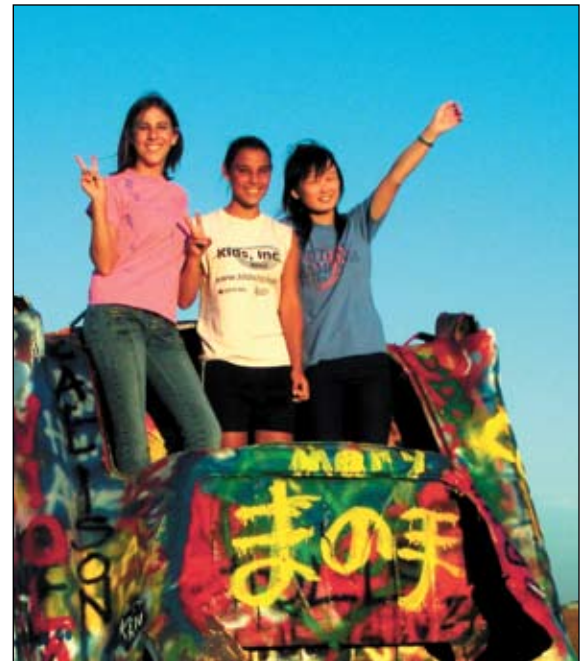
When you are alone while abroad, you must do everything on your own. You do not have parents beside you to count on. You do not have friends to give you a shoulder to cry on. And you have responsibility for everything you did. I think these are what I learned when I got here.

However, there are still lots of fun experiences here.

I learned how to ride and control a horse. I saw how children celebrate; we went to a haunted house – the funniest place I ever saw. And we went to a cabin during the Christmas holiday. I have not seen so much snow. My host brother and I went skiing, which was my first time to ski.

Although it is kind of hard to learn it – I still don't know how to stop well – when I learned how to ski, I found out just how much fun it is.

Fun experience and difficulties, I think this is what the exchange year is all about. When I return to Taiwan at the end of the school year, I think I will be more independent and will know more about different cultures. I have learned lots of things here.



From left, Amanda Braden, Emily Braden and Lydia Shen. Amanda and Emily are Lydia's host family "sisters" during her stay in Amarillo.

And to my host sisters and brother, thank you. You have made my special exchange year more fun than ever. ❁

Pei-Chun "Lydia" Shen is a native of Taipei, Taiwan, and is attending Ascension Academy as part of Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program.

Rotarians at Work



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RAFA

By Janna Kiehl

Imagine being a young teenager, leaving home for the first time to live in a foreign country with strangers. It would take mature, brave and adventurous young men and women to make the commitment and fulfill the obligation of becoming foreign exchange students. Rotary International provides this opportunity to young men and women from around the globe.

A few months ago, my husband John and I were blessed to be a part of one of these student's lives; hosting a young lady from Brazil. We first met Rafaella "Rafa" Bianchi at a dinner party hosted by her first host parents, Hank and Denise Blanchard just a few days prior to having her come live with us. Our first impression of Rafa was that she was a quiet and intelligent young lady. Rafa moved in with us and she quickly adapted to life in the Kiehl home.



Janna Kiehl

Rafa came to the U.S. to learn English and to learn our way of life, the culture and to take back home with her the experience of a lifetime. While she was here she was blessed to meet other foreign exchange students and they did become close having shared similar experiences of longing for their native homes while at the same time sharing life in the

U.S. Cowboy hats and country music, barbeque and Texas talk are things we take for granted but are exciting experiences for anyone living outside of Texas; and these young people relished in their new found culture.

High school graduation was in June and we hosted a graduation party for Rafa and her friends, including Dani (from the Philippines) and Sarah (from South Africa). The evening was capped when Dani and Rafa both performed traditional dances native to their homelands and Sarah sang the South African National Anthem (comprised

of five different languages).

Rafa returned to Sorocaba at the end of June and we were amazed at how quickly the

The evening was capped when Dani and Rafa both performed traditional dances native to their homelands and Sarah sang the South African National Anthem (comprised of five different languages).

time had gone. We were sad to see her go but knew she was anxious to see her family. As we had anticipated, the experience was full of surprises, laughter and new friendships. Rafa was a very interesting and mature young lady and she was also a normal teenager. When we opened our home and our hearts, John and I were the ones who gained much from the experience. ❀

Janna Kiehl is a member of Rotary South.



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Proud to Be a Rotarian

By Gene Shelburne

Just as any patriot might cite a dozen reasons for being proud to be an American, so could I list at least a dozen reasons why — for almost 40 years — I have been proud to be a Rotarian. All of them would be true. But the main reason I'm glad to be connected to Rotary is the extraordinarily fine people

“Now I knew competent, trustworthy professionals — people with unquestioned skill and integrity — to whom I could send hurting people to find help.”

Rotary links me to — people who otherwise might never be part of my life.

In the summer of 1968, when I returned

to Amarillo to accept the pulpit of a neighborhood church, I soon found myself isolated and lonely. When Mac McClish invited me to attend a Rotary meeting with him, I had no idea what special doors this would open for me. Soon my world expanded to include educators, bankers, attorneys, store owners, doctors and a host of other professional and business leaders. Many of these strangers soon became my trusted friends on a first-name basis.

These new friendships were a source of immense personal pleasure to me. More important, however, they opened all manner of doors for worthwhile service. Meeting community and area leaders through Rotary strengthened my ministry. Now I knew competent, trustworthy professionals — people with unquestioned skill and integrity — to whom I could send hurting people to find help. Making such a broad circle of friends also generated many unexpected requests for me to get involved in exciting, valuable community projects.

When I look back at 40-plus years of enjoyable civic involvement, I can see that in almost every opportunity I've been given to serve — in BSA Hospice, High Plains Food Bank, United Way, BSA Foundation and a dozen others — the door opened for me



Gene Shelburne

because of a Rotary friendship.

At its core, Rotary is people, good people — with hearts committed to doing good for others. ❁

Gene Shelburne is a member of Amarillo West Rotary Club.

Rotarians at Work



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Opportunity to Serve

By Zack Wilson

How do you know when a life has been changed? Does someone come to you and tell you his/her testimony? Can someone even put this into words? Rather, the sign of a changed life is shown through expressionless yet powerful gestures: a smile on a child's face as they receive a warm meal or the joy in a child's step when receiving a special gift. I believe anyone can impact a life in a special way. By giving service above self, a person can truly impact the world around them (as well as his own). This is why I am a Rotarian.

Being in the presence of such people whose will to serve those around them is invigorating. Seeing community leaders and members alike sharing the motivation of service others drew me to Rotary. This civic organization's secret to service: let's not wait one minute to help



Zack Wilson

someone today. I believe Anne Frank said it best: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

I am very proud to be a Rotarian and to see a worldwide organization so committed to touching people's lives – from far away lands to our own neighborhoods. The ideals of Rotary did not cease at the end of weekly meetings. The joy of service stretches through the workplace and to household. Members are active in their families, neighborhoods and community gatherings. Above all, I am humbled to see that members believe service coupled with joining together can solve anything.

Whether it is fighting for a cure for polio, volunteering time during the day or helping to feed those in need, Rotarians truly exhibit "Service Above Self." This is why I am Rotarian. ✿

Zack Wilson is immediate past president of Amarillo East Rotary.

Mosquito Net...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 72

Amarillo West Rotary Club, with the help of Saint Stephen's United Methodist Church, purchased and delivered over 100 nets for children in a village in Accra, Ghana in July 2009. This was an impromptu project put together after hearing a program put on by Readership WTAMU essay contest students. These students won a contest which flew them to Zambia where they performed many service projects; one of which was providing mosquito nets to families. We are currently looking for community and international partners to assist with our plans to do a much larger project in 2010. We would like to deliver a minimum of 2,000 nets to children in Ghana. There are matching grants available that can make the impact of our donations go much farther than our individual contributions. ✿

Jeffrey Bempong is a member of Amarillo West Rotary Club.

Impact of Malaria Internationally
Source: Wikipedia



Rotarians at Work



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ROTARY CLUB OF AMARILLO-SOUTH



Four Questions By William Boyce

Many people have often heard about Rotary or they have heard about their father's Rotary Club but, if they really knew about Rotary, they would already be a member. On the local level, Rotary is a group of civic organizations consisting of men and women who hold weekly meetings to share fellowship and the common goal to do something better for the Amarillo community at large.

Rotary is a worldwide organization consisting of more than 1.2 million business, professional, and community leaders. Rotarians provide humanitarian service, encourage ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries.

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago was formed in 1905 by Paul Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. In 1932, Rotarian Herbert Taylor created "The Four Way Test," a code of ethics adopted 11 years

later that asks the following questions: "Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

These ideals may sound great but ultimately how does it impact my life and why did I join Rotary? I joined the Amarillo West Rotary Club in 1996 under the classification "Insurance Casualty." My father and two of my brothers are members of the Rotary Club of Amarillo. Not only am I connected with my family members in Amarillo, I am also connected with another brother in San Antonio and two cousins in Waco through Rotary. I have been able to develop personal friendships with the other members of the Amarillo West Rotary Club.

I was able to move through our club's ladder of officer positions and served as president in 2007-2008. By serving in these various leadership capacities, I can attest to the impact made by our club's many service

projects including the YMCA Rotary Park project, our club's annual tree planting performed in partnership with the AISD, our club's volunteer efforts with the High Plains Food Bank, our club's assistance with the Salvation Army at Christmas, and our club's participation in the presentation of personalized school books to AISD kindergartners made by all local Rotarians.

We have the opportunity to serve others in ways that otherwise could not be accomplished. Rotary is truly an international service organization and due to the fact that Rotary does not have religious or political affiliations, Rotary has the ability to cross many international. As a result of a Rotarian's big idea in 1985 to eradicate polio worldwide, Rotary has worked to make this idea a success. There are still

borders to cross but this single big idea has led to a better world for all. 🌐

William Boyce is a member of Amarillo West Rotary Club.



William Boyce

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It's Better to Give

By Richard Hanna

My first experience with Rotary was similar to a lot of our members. When I was a young lawyer, one of the senior partners in the law firm that I was associated with at that time “invited me” to go with him to his rotary club’s lunch meeting. As you may know, when your senior partner “invites” you to lunch, you go to lunch. At the meeting, I recognized that a majority of the members were successful business owners and leaders in the community; and, I quickly “grasped” the fact that it would be beneficial not only to myself but also my professional career to be associated with Rotary. In addition, the Rotary motto “Service Above Self” and the fact that Rotary encouraged all of its members to adopt and abide by the Four Way Test went “hand in hand” with the ethical standards that I had taken with my oath when I was sworn as a lawyer, and were consistent with my faith and my involvement with my church.

❁

“...you find that our youth are deeply involved, and have deep feelings about what is going on in our world today.”

Particularly impressive was the fact that the Rotarians were undertaking service projects for which no one was clamoring for attention, or self-laudatory goals, but for the pure joy of “doing the job” and taking responsibility and accountability. Because of the selfless attitude that is adopted through

the motto, and which motto is consistent with my beliefs and faith that it is better to give than receive and that each person should take responsibility for his or her actions and that your community is improved when you help the less fortunate, I accepted the club’s invitation to become a member.

Since my membership in Rotary, Rotary International has taken on the “job” to rid the world of polio and hunger. But, at the same time, Rotary has strongly emphasized that its true strength is maintained by each individual member and each individual club. Rotary is only as strong as the commitment of the individual to the motto, the observance of the four way test, and a belief that it is better to give than receive. From that viewpoint, I have had the privilege to be able to share the joy of seeing a kindergarten student receive his or her first book to keep for his/her very own; to see a teenager understand what it means to be a Rotarian and leader after completing a week at Camp RYLA and the eagerness to pass that along to others; and to see the joy on a parent’s face when for the first time his/her child is able to spend a week at our Rotary Diabetic Camp and being the first time that the parent and child have been separated from the child’s birth.

We sometimes “bemoan” the failures in our youth, but when you participate in

Camp RYLA, a mentoring program to high school students, a scholarship program to provide funding to a needy and well qualified student to go to college, or visit with a foreign exchange student, you find that our youth are deeply involved, and have deep feelings about what is going on in our world today. Consequently, our future is much



Richard Hanna

brighter than the “pundits” gives them credit for and Rotary has provided a well grounded guiding force.

But for Rotary, I would not have been able to fully appreciate these experiences, or have the knowledge and understanding, that when individuals are committed to doing what is right, the world is a much better place. ❁

Richard Hanna is an Amarillo lawyer and a member of Amarillo South Rotary Club.

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. ❁

