

CWG WHEEL

STILLWATER ROTARY CLUB - Chartered August 1, 1919

FOUR WAY TEST - Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Service above self.

This Week's Program

This week will be the second program in the Science Series - The topic is Science and STEM Education at Stillwater Area High School. (Arranged by Rex Cattanaach.)

Last Week's Program



Dr. Les Grant, University of Minnesota, spoke on the topic of aging services. This was the first in a series of programs on science. (Arranged by Nathan Pearson.)

Upcoming Programs:

- Sept 6 Program to be announced Sept 6 (Bev Driscoll)
- Sept 13 TBD
- Sept 20 District Governor
- Sept 27 Scientific Innovation at 3M, Matt Scholz, Corporate Scientist

Make-Up Opportunity

Dennis Erno of the Arden Hills/Shoreview Club has arranged for Mark Ritchie, MN Secretary of State, to speak on Sept 4.

Please feel free to join us to hear Mark's message. The Arden Hills/Shoreview Club meets from 7:15-8:30 at the Hampton Inn, 1000 Gramsie Road in Shoreview. Exit I-694 at Lexington Avenue (exit 43A). At the top of the exit ramp turn right on to Lexington Avenue. The first road on the your right (about two blocks) is Gramsie Road.

John Suzukida
Rotary Club of Arden Hills/Shoreview

Prospective Member

Angie Lien has submitted her application and is a candidate for membership. Her sponsor is Erv Neff. Please take a few minutes to say hello.

Weekly Newsletter Stillwater Rotary Club

Club 2171, District 5960

- Birthdays (8/26-9/1)
John Lammers (8/29)
- Wedding Anniversaries (8/26-9/1)
Kathy & Brian Buchholz
24 years (8/27)
Dave Wettergren &
Gretchen Stein—1 yr (8/28)
Orv & Kathy Johnson
54 years (8/29)
- Club Anniversaries (8/26-9/1)
Linda Moore 18 yrs (9/1)
- Guests Last Week
Rich Cummins (visiting Rotarian);
George Denastas (guest of Rich Cummins); Cindy Rosters (guest of Holly Minners); Angie Lien (guest of Erv Neff)
- Attendance last week
38 members attended (66.7%)

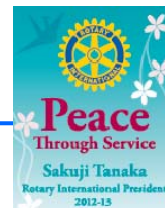
Note: All dates come from the Club website. If they are not correct, please let Bill Turnblad know and he'll correct your profile for you.

Officers

President:	Bob Eiselt
President Elect:	Bev Driscoll
Vice-President:	Molly O'Rourke
Treasurer:	Keith Komro
Secretary:	Dolly Parker
Immediate Past Pres:	Katie Rolf

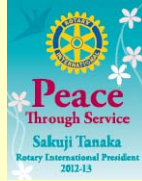
Meetings

Thursdays @ 11:45 AM
Lowell Inn
102 N. 2nd St, Stillwater, MN



Save the Date!

DISTRICT 5960 ANNUAL ROTARY FOUNDATION CELEBRATION



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012
PROM CENTER, OAKDALE, MN

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

6:00 to 6:50 p.m. Social time and Silent Auction
6:50 to 8:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Your Foundation & Peace Through Service

EACH CLUB WILL BE ASKED TO DONATE A SILENT AUCTION ITEM
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENING OF INSPIRATION, INFORMATION, AND FUN!
DETAILS ON THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW SOON

Small grants pay off big for students

By Stephen Yafa
The Rotarian -- August 2012



At a middle school in Monterey, California, music teacher Jim Paoletti needs to replace old strings on violins and violas.

With no spare money in the school budget, he gives up hope – until he hears about an outside source of funding. He fills out a simple online application, agrees to submit receipts, and promises that every cent will go toward replacing the strings. Shortly afterward, a check arrives for the full amount: \$489.50.

“When the kids played with new strings for the first time, their faces lit up,” Paoletti says. “The difference is like stepping up from a minivan to a Porsche.”

At a nearby elementary school, a kindergarten teacher, Stacy Gnibus, receives enough money from the same source to build raised garden beds on the playground so her students can grow vegetables and flowers with their own hands.

If these scenarios sound like scaled-down episodes of that old TV show *The Millionaire*, there's a reason: The sums, though small, are as effective and appreciated as many much-larger grants. And though there's no John Beresford Tipton handing out million-dollar checks to deserving recipients, there's his contemporary surrogate, Greg Migdale, opening new vistas of discovery for local students.

Several years ago, Migdale was a man with a good idea. He did his research and found that good ideas hold currency in Rotary, so he joined the Rotary Club of Monterey Peninsula-Sunrise and pitched the project. He explained that in California's cash-strapped public education system, enrichments such as art supplies and field trips are the first to be eliminated when money is tight. “All the things that make education interesting, that make you *want* to learn, are the things that have been cut,” Migdale noted.

He chose the name Project Helping Hand. “We're not here to do the real work,” says Migdale. “That's done by the teachers. We're here to help them with the heavy lifting they do every day.”

Club members liked the idea of putting funds directly into teachers' hands but persuaded Migdale to pare down his initial plan, which was to serve all of Monterey County. They urged him to focus on the local area so the club could monitor the project's performance. Club members contributed an initial \$3,000, and a district grant provided \$1,500.

“The beauty of Greg's idea was the simplicity of it,” says club member Ted Balestreri, who now serves on the committee that evaluates applications.

Migdale solicited help from an elementary school principal, Jone Amador, and a school board member, Elizabeth Panetta. Together, they designed a simple set of requirements. Teachers come up with the initial funding request. The school's principal must sign off on the application, and the Project Helping Hand committee votes on it. The contract stipulates that the grant money will be used solely for the purpose indicated on the request, and that all receipts must be turned in.

Project Helping Hand has given more than \$20,000 to Monterey schoolteachers over the past three years, in small amounts that belie their true value: \$1,000 to fund a field trip to the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum in San Jose, \$477 to buy a microscope, \$300 for an alphabet rug, \$500 for an accelerated reading program, \$1,000 for the raised garden beds.

“We couldn't have built the garden as well as it turned out without the Rotary club,” says Gnibus, who also received help from Rotarian volunteers. “They brought most of the tools we needed, plus the expertise, including three architects. There were as many Rotary club members as parents, plus a bunch of kids. They made nine boxes – two more than we expected. We've planted strawberries, several flower species, peas, and different lettuces. A few weeks back, I heard one of my kindergartners let out a loud squeal. I ran over, and she's next to a box, pointing and shouting, ‘I see a strawberry, I see a strawberry!’”

The club created Project Helping Hand with a certain type of teacher in mind. “There's always going to be a group of teachers who have fire in the belly, the desire, the intelligence – all those factors that can have such a huge effect on someone's life,” Migdale says. “And when we help them ignite passion and excitement in their students, that's the payoff. I had a friend who became a scientist because she went on a field trip to an observatory near San Francisco in the second grade. She told me that it opened her mind to science. And it shaped what she did with her life.”

Migdale is working with Balestreri and others on a strategy to expand Project Helping Hand to Rotary clubs across the state. He wants to keep it simple, for teachers and for Rotarians. He posted a blueprint with instructions for replicating the effort on the project website.

“This project,” he says, “is self-serving in some ways. When I'm old and these kids are running the world, I want them to have had a well-rounded education. I want them to be empathetic and community-minded. With the direction schools are headed, the kids are not exposed to the richness of the world.”