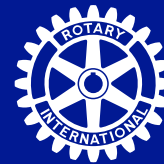




BING



The Newsletter of the

Rotary Club of Dover, NH since 1924

Zoom Meetings: Wednesdays at 12:00 pm

May 12, 2021 - Zoom Meeting

Program: Joe Berninger, Exec. Dir., Guatemala Literacy Project



Bio: Joseph Berninger, is a member of Ohio Pathways Rotary Club and Exec. Dir. for the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) and its Cincinnati-based fundraising partner, Cooperative for Education. Celebrating 23 years of service, the GLP is dedicated to "Breaking the cycle of poverty in Guatemala through education." He lives in Cincinnati with his wife, 2 sons, daughter and a dog.

Joe spoke last June to our club about the Guatemala Literacy Project. Today's focus was specifically about the RISE Scholarships project, which is a component of the Guatemala Literacy Program. This project is widely supported by over 600 clubs, in more than 80 Districts and in 8 countries. Half of all the Guatemala Rotary clubs are heavily involved.

A few statistics about the Guatemala Literacy Program:

- 225,500 students benefitted from this program
- 207 text book projects
- 53 computer centers: serving 1500 kids per day
- 94 reading programs
- 731 Rise Scholars

Upcoming meetings/events:

May 18: BOD, 12:30 p.m.

May 18: Together Tuesday:

Biehl/Locy backyard, 6 p.m.

May 19: Grant Nichols Assistant Director NH Homeland Security

May 22: Garden planting, 9 a.m.

May 26: Club Assembly

Upcoming Dist. Assembly

May 18: International Service

May 24: Fundraising

June 1: Club Secretaries

Pledge & 4-Way Test: All

Reflection - What was your all-time favorite Rotary gathering?

Editor's note: *Maybe it's next Tuesday? Come and find out!!*

Rotary Moment: Read the recent article in *Rotary Magazine* on Rotary's *Hidden Influence*: Did you know Rotary started: Easter Seals, Shelter Box, Little Free Libraries, Aquabox, Citizen's Climate Lobby and Rotaplast? *Wow, Rotarians are awesome!*

Today's newsletter submitted by Cate R.

When the program started 2 of 3 Guatemalans could not read. Now 1 out of 3 cannot read. RISE programs are in the Guatemalan highlands, west & north of Guatemala City. Why?

Why Guatemala and ONLY Guatemala?

- It is the poorest country in the western hemisphere
- It is the least educated place in the West hemisphere.
- In Guatemala, 2 of 3 children are pulled from school by 7th grade
- High poverty + Low education + Low Opportunity = High Migration

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- Guatemala is the number one source country for immigrants to the US. Even though it has 1/10 of Mexico's population, more migrants come to the US from Guatemala than from Mexico

RISE Scholarships address a big education gap. Most children's education stops at 6th grade because families don't have the money to send their children to school, and, as they get older, they are able to work and provide support to their family. The goal is to get children through high school because a high school education expands opportunity and breaks them from poverty for the rest of their lives.

Students are vetted for the scholarships with local support. Family commitment to education is a key component in eligibility. RISE is more than just an academic scholarship. This program acknowledges other things in life get in the way of success and RISE addresses all of those things - support & skills. RISE provides wraparound services such as job skills, life skills & community service. They learn things such as how to interview for a job, open a bank account and how to budget. Because the children's lives are isolated, it is hard to imagine what life can be, so they go on field trips to introduce them to a variety of careers. This allows the program to get local Rotary clubs involved in conducting workshops and teaching practical and soft skills - self-esteem, leadership & teamwork.

The children practice their skills by finding situations in their own community and they work to come up with solutions. Kids learn to design community service projects included helping the homeless and needy, gardening, recycling and teaching younger children how to brush their teeth. This service puts them in the role of helper.

There is a huge ripple effect from these scholarships. Scholarship changes a family which changes the community which changes Guatemala which changes the world. Sometimes one scholarship leads to someone being successful and them educating younger siblings which changes the family. The program has had great success

- 87% go on to continue their education
- 100% get out of extreme poverty

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on the area. Those who were previously managing are now struggling. The demand for scholarships and the number of families who cannot afford secondary education has doubled. People have moved from poor to extremely poor.

Joe's goal is to put the word out to fellow Rotarian's – he and his colleague are hoping to share the message with 250 Rotary Clubs. They are trying to find support for 750 more scholarships. He also mentioned that Jennifer Jones, 2022/2023 incoming RI President, is an ardent supporter.

If you would like to donate, go to: **Portal.coeduc.org/glp-rise**

\$960 per year to sponsor a student. But you may make a donation in any amount – anything less than the \$960 is combined with other donations to make a scholarship.

NOTE to the Dover Rotary Club: The International Committee will discuss this at our next meeting.

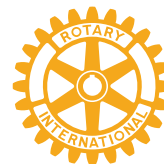
Announcements:

Get Ready to **Get Together, Tuesday Bonfire - May 18th, 6:00PM, Biehl, Locy Residences, 183 & 185 Spur Rd., Dover.** Bring a dish to share and a chair. Tables, paper and plastic ware will be provided along with water and soft drinks. Beer and wine will also be available but you are welcome to bring any other libations you wish. There will be a fire pit to enjoy along with great conversation and fellowship! *Noreen promises s'mores!*



District 7780 Conference: Friday June 4 & Saturday June 6 District Conference!

- June 4th 6:30-8:00 Live Auction, music, entertainment, guest speaker
- June 5th 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Memorial Service, President's Forum, Breda Cressey, Mike McGovern, Recognition/Awards. Dover will donate a Dover Family Day Basket for the auction.
- Registration opens Thursday, May 13. \$20.
- Proceeds from the event go to Polio Plus & proceeds from the auction go to the Rotary Annual Fund.
- Gregg is considering organizing a "watch party" – *BOLO for more info*



Friday, June 4 is the Annual Chamber Awards. Our club is a table sponsor. Tickets are \$90. Let Gregg know if you would like to attend. SOS is being recognized as Dover non-profit of the year! *Go team Cara!*

Club Committee Reports:

Golf Committee Update: Kathy F. Thanks to 56 Self-Storage we are now at \$6000 in sponsors. Goal is 80 golfers. All golfers will choose their lunch and tee time.

- TO REGISTER: <https://dover-rotary-charities-annual-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/>

Mental Health: Melissa L. *Out of Darkness* event will kick-off on **Saturday, May 15** at 9:00am at City Hall. *Out of Darkness* is an event for suicide prevention. Ride, run, walk, yoga, hop or whatever between May 15 - June 18 to support this important cause.

Scholarship: Norm H. Committee met on May 11th and has selected this year's 3 winners (1 awarded \$10K and 2 awarded \$1K). And the winners are...a secret for now. School Guidance has been notified. Thanks to all who have participated in this committee! *And thanks to Norm for running such a great process!*

Rotary Gardens: Noreen B. As of today, Dover will not be restricting watering usage but there is a meeting tonight to discuss. Unfortunately, there is a broken pipe at the garden and it is not yet known about repair. We will meet at the gardens at **9:00am on May 22** to clean up and spread mulch and start the planting. Noreen will be flower shopping on May 21 at Wentworth Greenhouse (which provides us a discount). Let Noreen know if you want to help shop!

Happy Bucks

(How to pay? Send to Phil R. at Rotary Club of Dover, Box 1801, Dover, NH 03821-1801)

Rod B. - 9 Happy Bucks – he's going to be a first-time grandfather, hears it's a great gig – you play and then hand them back when you're tired.

Malcolm M. - 40 Happy Bucks – he was surprised to learn during last week's meeting he has been in our club 40 years! *Malcolm we are lucky to have you.*

Frank C. - 10 Happy Bucks – he just got back from spending a month in Florida, near the beach, met lots of Rotarians and had a beautiful time. Unfortunately, he is back to take care of his skin cancer. We are all wishing you good health!!

Phil R. - Peggy Casey asked Phil to say "Hi" to everyone. Phil reminded us that Peggy was his Bingo-wife in the old days!

Nancy B. - As a non-mother she had a marvelous Mother's Day. She went out to dinner, was given flowers, plants and phone calls. She says she has "More g-d kids than anyone she knows."

Kathy F. - 10 Happy Bucks – The first 5 were for her son's belongings delivered to her home in a U-Haul box. All was safe and unbroken. The other 5 were for spending Mother's Day with her mom and dad. She feels fortunate that her parents are still around. Her dad turned 89 and for his birthday she got him a trumpeting gig. She hired a trumpeter to play for her dad and then he joined in and they jammed for half an hour and had a blast. Her dad can still high a high B-Flat on a trumpet. (For all non-trumpeters in the crowd – this is a big deal) *Go Kathy's dad!!*

That's it for this week! Wishing everyone health, joy and a grateful heart!

ROTARY'S 4-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 & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?