

## **THE EARLY YEARS**

Friday, October 24, 1997 Glen W. Kinross, President of Rotary International, welcomed the Rotary Club of Georgetown – Sun City to membership of Rotary International. And on Thursday December 4, 1997 the club held its charter banquet at the Berry Creek Country Club.

23 Charter members were in attendance including **Norm Peters, Linda Roberts,** and **Adaire Wolf** who have remained to help this club continue to grow and prosper and live up to the motto of Service Above Self. The 23 charter members hosted 78 guests and representatives of 14 other Rotary club from as far away as Dallas.

In May 1998 the club held its first fundraiser in conjunction with Sunrise Rotary Club selling fajitas and cokes at the air show. The following month new officers were selected and Adaire Wolf was named Rotarian of the Year. She was presented with a recognition plaque and a notice, complete with photograph was printed in the *The Sunday Sun*.

It was in May 1999 that the club participated in its first Group Study Exchange Program by hosting two Korean citizens, Mr. Jangwoo, a cable broadcasting manager, and Dr. Mijae Lee, an English Department professor. The following month **Bill Bryce,** while not actually a member of our club but always so much a part of it, was installed as District Governor.

Another fundraiser was held later that year on July 4<sup>th</sup>. A \$1 ticket gave you a chance to dunk the Del Webb V.P. and there were plenty of takers! In 1999 the club made its first donation – \$1,000 to the Georgetown Alzheimer's Project, an organization with which the club stayed in close contact for several years.

The club was featured in *The Sunday Sun* again in June 1999 for sponsoring an art auction the proceeds from which benefited the Extended School Enrichment Program of the Georgetown schools and the Alzheimer's Project. While 150 people attended the 1999 art auction, in 2000 another art auction was held, this time in March and many more people participated. The result was \$2000 was donated to the Alzheimer's Project and \$2000 to the ESE Program.

In June 2000 all the school supplies which would normally be thrown out was gathered into piles to send to school children in Honduras by the Rotary Club of Georgetown – Sun City and representatives M.E.D.I.C.O. in a joint effort. And in November that year the club had its last fundraiser for the year, "A Taste of the Wurst".

Early March 2001 saw the club hosting another Art Exhibition and Auction which generated \$2000 each to the Alzheimer's Project and to the Extended School Enrichment program. Since its inception, the Sun City club, along with a grant of \$12,500 from Rotary International, has now donated to various projects almost \$18,000. And once again, the club was featured in an article printed in *The Sunday Sun* newspaper.

The first Breakfast With Santa project was started in December 2001 with the Georgetown Fire Department and the Sun City club, among other local clubs, joining forces to raise money for children of needy families. At this first breakfast, the Rotary Club of Georgetown – Sun City provided the Santa and the firemen were the clowns who brought Santa to the breakfast in an antique fire truck. As well, Santa was a surprise guest at the Christ Lutheran Church featuring the Children's Choir. This fundraiser culminated in delivery trips to families by Santa and his firemen on Christmas Day. Some of the children later wrote sweet thank you notes to Santa.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual School Supplies project was co-ordinated with the help of the Sun City and Downtown Rotary clubs with final distribution of presents being made by the San Pedro Sula Rotary Club in Honduras. Several non-profit organizations that serve as M.E.D.I.C.O.'s field team host organizations were recipients of five pallets of medical supplies as well as a pallet filled with walkers, wheelchairs and crutches along with the school supplies. All together, a full container of 18 pallets had now been shipped to Honduras in each of the last three years.

The Stacy Group, hosted by our club, presented an art exhibition and auction in March 2002 which was successful in raising more funds for our projects.

Once again in December 2002 the Sun City club along with the fire department hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Breakfast With Santa at the fire station - with Santa arriving on "Betsy", an antique 1922 Seagrave fire pumper. Over 200 children and adults attended the event thus providing funds which were used to buy clothes and toys for needy families. The *Williamson Country Sun* printed big articles complete with photographs of Santa with some very excited children.

2003 began with Sun City Rotary presenting a cheque to Ambassador Scholar, Prakash Thaps, sponsored by our club. The club has continued to sponsor young adults not only with cheques but also through the RYLA programme

In February 2003 the Leas and Wolf families attended the XVIII Bi District Conference in Nuevo Laredo and the following month there was another Art Auction and Exhibition held which netted \$1000 for the ESE.

The final meeting of the year was held for the last time in the Masonic Lodge.

2003 and 2004 saw similar fund raisers: Breakfast With Santa, Art Auctions, and the School Supply program. To gauge the success of the auctions, it was exciting to recognize that over \$22,500 had been raised for scholarships for approximately 45 students to attend the ESE after school program. All in all a great feat for a young club.

