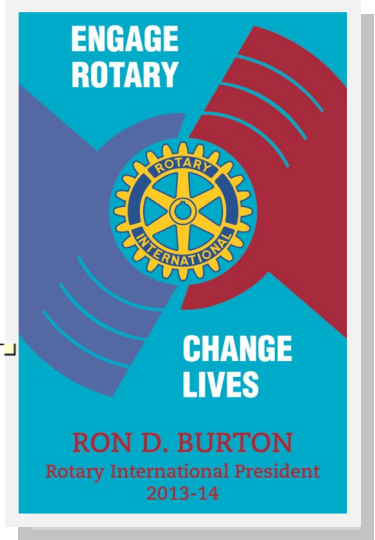


# Avon Rotary News

November 4, 2013



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Hello Everyone, I hope this finds you all doing well. If you haven't joined us at a meeting in a while we have missed you and hope you will join us soon.

First of all I want to thank you all for all of your efforts for this years Auction. I know we will pull together and everything will fall into place and we will have a very successful Auction. Thank you so very much to the great efforts of our Auction Committee. We all appreciate the hard work that you all are doing and the effort going into making our job easier. We need everyone's help to make this a success. I know it gets hard to do this year after year but the things we accomplish with the money we raise is absolutely amazing and help so many peo-

ple. Keep up the good work Avon Rotarians you are awesome.

The Halloween meeting was a great success and I was happy to see that so many of you could make the meeting and had some wonderful costumes on, at least I think you all were in costumes.

November is Foundation month so please contribute to this worthy cause. It's almost time for Thanksgiving and we will be having another great buffet from Peppermints so I hope you can all plan on attending on November 19th and give thanks for everything we have and our wonderful club.

See you all at the Auction. Remember to bid often and bid high and remember to invite all of your family and friends. Take care all. Till we see each other soon.

President/Queen Marcia

Avon Rotary Club  
Meets Tuesdays at 6pm  
Peppermints Restaurant  
Board of Directors  
Marcia Cameron, President  
Tim Dickinson, PE  
Dan Jones, Director  
Scott Holmes, Director  
Bob House, Sr. Rep  
Laurie Vonglis, Past Pres.  
Cathy Murphy, Secretary  
Kelly Cole, Treasurer

**Saturday, November 9**  
**Avon Primary School**  
**Preview: 8am**  
**Auction: 9am SHARP!**

# Avon Community Playground

By Cindy Zhe

The Avon Community Playground Project is being undertaken to support the development of the children of Avon in a healthy, natural environment through unstructured play. The project is the replacement of the existing playground in the Avon Driving Park with a more complete, age appropriate layout that is in compliance with the current standards and guidelines for playgrounds and playground safety. This new playground will be an important opportunity for the children to grow and prosper through more creative and natural events. The existing playground has minimal equipment that is very old. Some of the equipment was removed recently because it was believed to be unsafe. Bears Playgrounds from Lima, NY has designed equipment for two age groups, ages 2-5 and ages 5-12. In addition there will be a natural play site. The natural play area will include



elements of our world that encourage closeness to and respect for nature.

The entire Avon community is coming together to make this playground a reality. The fundraising goal for the new play space is \$80,000. This includes in-kind services that will be provided by various community groups, including the Village of Avon's DPW crew. Avon Rotary has pledged \$7,500 and has worked to obtain a Rotary District grant for \$3,750. These donations,

along with \$2000 from ACE (Avon Community Engaged) has given the project a great running start. Support from community organizations is growing. A large donation of over \$1,000.00 was given by Avon's "Girls on the Run" organization. A community/business campaign is presently underway to add to the fundraising total. The Avon schools are sponsoring fundraising events, such as Penny Drives and Dress Down Days this fall. Although a family fundraiser was rained out in September, enthusiasm for the project is growing. The playground committee is also working on obtaining grants from several sources. It is hoped that this community engagement will help the project to meet the projected goal quickly, and a new play space for our children will be ready sometime during the summer of 2014.

Cindy Zhe & Avon School Penny Drive



John Marks & Girls On The Run Donation



## *A Message From Our Outbound Student—Ashley*

Dear Avon Rotary,

I hope everyone is doing well at home! I would just like to send you an update about my exchange from the past 2 months. I have been living in Gdansk, Poland since August 15 and have been here about 2 months now. I have already done so many new things! My host family is amazing. There are my 2 host parents, Jerzy and Katarzyna, and a 15 year old host brother, Wojtek. I also have a host sister, Maria, but she went on exchange to Maryland a few days after I arrived. They have taken me to see many new places around our city. Poland, and Gdansk more specifically, is filled with history. I visited Westerplatte here in Gdansk, which is the site where World War II began. I have also visited nearby cities and islands, all of which are filled with history! When I first arrived I went to central Poland to Bydgoszcz for 2 weeks to learn the language with all of the other Exchange Students! I learned a lot of Polish and made some wonderful friends. I started school on the second of September. That was probably the most terrifying day so far but I have adapted well and made many friends. My peers and teachers are wonderful and really try to help me understand and learn with the rest of the kids! I am taking a number of classes that are very new to me. I am taking Spanish Language, Basics of Entrepreneurship, German Language, and Theater, along with a few more familiar ones like math, physics, and luckily English where my teacher now refers to me as "The walking, talking dictionary". It has been very interesting and day by day I am able to understand more as my Polish improves. I also met with my club here, the Gdansk Rotary Club. I gave a presentation about myself a little in Polish but mostly in English and it went very well! Their club is composed of only men but most of the clubs here include women. I also had the chance to go to Lublin with the exchange students for the weekend and visited some places. We saw the main city as well as a nearby city known as



Kazimierz. This past week I went to Krakow with my school class for an entire week. It was so beautiful, if anyone is thinking of visiting Poland I definitely recommend Krakow! There we were able to visit Wawel Castle, St. Mary's Basilica, and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Auschwitz was a very difficult experience for everyone but really opened my eyes and made me appreciate not only this amazing experience more, but also everyday things. Next weekend I am headed to Szczecin (which I can't pronounce) for a family wedding! I will keep you all updated on my upcoming adventures! I would like to thank you all for allowing me to participate in such an amazing experience, I have already had the most exciting and enriching weeks of my life and it has only just begun! Thank you Rotarians!

Sincerely,

Ashley Stappenbeck



# ***GVRC Celebrates 50 Years***

By David Henehan

On Saturday, October 5, 2013, eleven Avon Rotarians joined the festivities at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp held at the River Reception and Conference Center. Present and former board members, Camp staff, campers, family and friends attended. Mike Woods band provided the music. Rotary Governor Ellen Hughes attended. Senator Cathy Young attended and presented a proclamation for each Rotary Club from the New York Senate. A slide show covering all of the Camp's activities was shown.

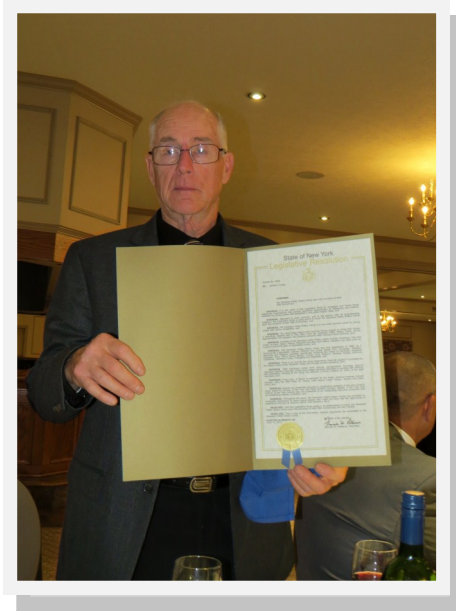
In 1963, Avon Rotarians Jesse Furlan and Ira Brown along with 21 Rotarians from other clubs signed the

Certificate of Incorporation for the Camp. Avon Rotary has continuously since then supported the Camp. For many years Ernie Wiard, Dave Henehan and Linda Kime have served on the Board of Directors and have served in various officer positions, including, President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The individual Rotary Clubs donated various gift baskets which were raffled off as a fund raiser. Even though the Anniversary Celebration was not intended primarily as a fundraiser, the raffle proceeds and other gifts relating to the event provided a very much appreciated infusion of funds for the Camp's operations.



*Avon Rotary extends sincere thanks to Ernie Wiard & David Henehan for their many years of service with GVRC. Their time & talent has provided a critical link between Avon Rotary and the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp. Congratulations on this special anniversary!!*



**Ernie Wiard Displays the Legislative Proclamation for GVRC Presented by Senator Cathy Young**



**Avon Rotarians & Guests in attendance at the GVRC Celebration: L-R Jan Ryan, David Henehan, Donna George, Rodney George, Bob House, Bill Gee, Jim Ryan, Ernie Wiard, Laurie Vonglis, Tom Vonglis, Jerry Dougherty, Kim Dougherty**



## Avon Rotary Supports Literacy Through Nicaraguan School Construction

By Rob Lupisella

The New York State Common Core Learning Standards and corresponding aligned assessments have created quite a stir throughout Livingston and Monroe County, as school districts are now faced with increased levels of academic rigor and expectations for the children in their communities. The mantra from the State Education Department is to “prepare students for success in college and careers.” Helping children to reach their full potential and increase their likelihood of success in their future is something educators, concerned citizens, and parents strive for.

Children in other parts of this world are not near as fortunate as our own. It is very difficult for children who live in mountain communities in rural Nicaragua to receive basic education. Although education in Nicaragua is free for all children, access has always been limited due to the lack of adequate resources to construct schools within a reasonable distance of these impoverished areas. Children in these mountain regions begin their educational journey at five years old with good intentions, travelling across great distances to attend schools. Some of these students walk for hours each day, across extremely rough terrain to attend. In the end, for many of these once eager learners, their educational journey comes to an abrupt halt before it even has a chance to flourish. The promise of a bright future, which can be realized through learning to read and write, quickly dims as the realization sets in that such daily travel is much too difficult to overcome. Very few of these children persevere through this difficulty.



This makeshift school structure was replaced in Las Minitas.

Over the past two years, a group of concerned citizens in the Rochester, NY area have partnered with a non-profit organization called *The Enlace Project*, to begin addressing this issue. This group focuses on economic development in the town of El Sauce, Nicaragua and the surrounding mountain region of Ocotal. Creating opportunities for its citizens and developing self-reliance is the objective of this Nicaraguan based non-profit organization. The concept of building schools was initially not part of their plan, until they were approached one day by someone who had a dream for his community and its children.

Gustavo Martinez, a subsistence farmer and the elected leader of Las Minitas, asked the governing board of *The Enlace Project* for their assistance in building the first ever permanent school structure in his community. The money required to build such a structure was well beyond the means of the citizens of Las Minitas, and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education had no plan to provide such a school for the community. Many of the citizens who live there, located at the top of the Ocotal mountain range, and a four hour hike from El Sauce, scoffed at his dream and believed the request was foolish and would only lead to bitter disappointment for the children of their community. His cousin, Emilano, was one of those in a chorus of others who proclaimed that his dream would never be realized. “I never believed that this day would ever come. That we would be building a school like this for our children,” he would later say.

Meanwhile, at around the same time, and over two thousand miles away, Jeanine Lupisella, an elementary school principal, and now a Honeoye Falls Rotarian, was also dreaming about her desire to make a difference for those less fortunate. Through a mutual friend, she was introduced to the co-founder of *The Enlace Project*, Kellan Morgan who shared with her Gustavo’s request for assistance. In an instant, along with her husband Rob, also an elementary principal and Honorary Member of the Avon Rotary, agreed to begin efforts to raise the necessary funds to help construct a school. Through

various efforts in both the Honeoye Falls-Lima and Avon, New York communities where they work and live, the money was raised to help construct a sturdy one-room



Gustavo Martinez proudly gazes at a wall being built for his community’s new school in Las Minitas, Nicaragua.

schoolhouse.

Groundbreaking took place in early December of 2011, and the school was completed and ready for the start of the new school year in February 2012. The construction project was a collaborative effort. Community members, who included men, women and children, were active in assisting with the construction effort. Since that time, through on-going efforts, an additional school was constructed in the community of LaFlor, which was opened for students in May 2013. The Avon Rotary Club has been a significant financial contributor to both construction projects.



The new school in Las Minitas opened for the first time in February 2012. Approximately thirty-five students in grades K-6 attend school there.

This philanthropic work continues to grow as additional volunteers take up the cause.

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## *The Rotary Foundation Receives Coveted 4-Star Rating From Charity Navigator*

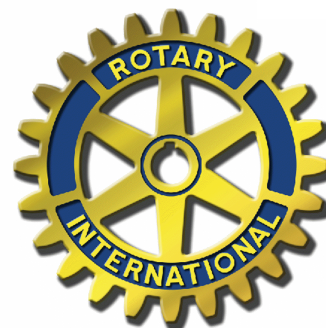
From Rotary.org

The Rotary Foundation earned a 4-star rating from “Charity Navigator”, the largest and most prestigious independent evaluator of nonprofits in the United States.

The 4-star rating, the highest that Charity Navigator awards, recognizes sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Charity Navigator evaluates thousands of

nonprofits each year, and only one of four earns 4 stars.

This year’s top distinction marks the Foundation’s sixth straight, placing it in the top 3 percent of U.S.-based charities. In a letter to the Foundation, Ken Berger, the president of Charity Navigator, wrote, “This ‘exceptional’ designation differentiates The Rotary Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.”



## *Avon Rotary Supports Literacy Through Nicaraguan School Construction... continued*

Presently an effort is underway to build a school in the community of Buena Vista, Nicaragua. A group of concerned students at the Avon High School, who call themselves Avon for Nicaragua, has been actively involved in raising funds for this construction project. The goal of the students is to raise the entire amount needed to construct a school, roughly \$10,000, by this coming February 2014. They began raising money several years ago with the intention of making a difference in the world, and over the past year stepped up their efforts after making the decision to build a school in Nicaragua.



Some of the members of Avon for Nicaragua gathered for a picture recently at a fundraising pasta dinner. The dinner resulted in \$2,000 for the effort.

Students Miranda Luft, Grace Gilmore, Kelly Morgan, Caroline Hecht, Megan Allen, Briar Rose Murphy, and Mary McCormick have held a variety of successful fundraising events including, a chicken barbecue and a pasta dinner to name a few. Their plan is to travel to Nicaragua, along with their parents, and others to assist in the construction project. The effort to collect additional money continues as they have presently raised approximately \$6,000.

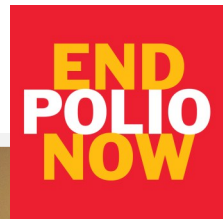
The blessing we share is to live in a country where access to education is plentiful and the resources provided to achieve dynamic results are many. Teachers are highly trained in their practice, and are provided with the materials and resources needed to enhance learning. Within the greater Rochester area are some of the nation’s best schools, one of which is our own Avon Central School District. The new state assessments do not measure caring and commitment, but if they did the students of Avon for Nicaragua would “far exceed the state standards.”



The current school structure in the community of Buena Vista will soon be replaced by Avon for Nicaragua and The Enlace Project.

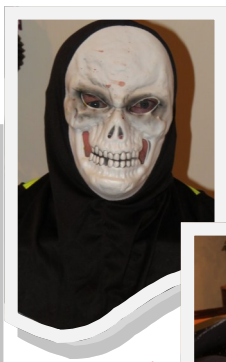
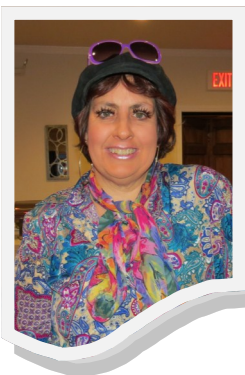


# Avon Rotary ... We Are This Close To Ending Polio!



As we begin November remember it's FOUNDATION MONTH!  
Now is a great time to make a donation to the RI Foundation to help the fight against Polio.  
WE'RE SO CLOSE!

## Halloween Fun



BOO!



## *Avon Interact Update*

By Briar Murphy, Interact President

On the morning of October 19, several Interact students woke up early to assist in the Roadside Clean-Up at the Avon Driving Park. Different teams, each made up of about five students, scoured various parts of the park from 8:00 to roughly 9:30. At the end, there were about 5 large bags filled with litter and a tire.

That evening, we ended the day with a Halloween party at the Hayes' home. The Interactors eagerly accepted the costume requirement with costumes ranging from vampires to superheroes. From 7:00-11:00, the students enjoyed refreshments, played games, chatted, and watched horror films.

All in all, it was a very productive and fun day for the Avon Interact Club!



*“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” ~ Audrey Hepburn*

### ***NOVEMBER CLUB SCHEDULE***

Tues. Nov 5	Reg Mtg—Auction
Sat. Nov 9	AUCTION 9 AM, Auction Dinner 6 PM
Sun. Nov 10	Foundation Brunch
Mon. Nov 11	Board of Directors 7 PM
Tues. Nov 12	NO MEETING
Sat. Nov 16	District Advisory Council 9 AM
Tues. Nov 19	Special Thanksgiving Mtg
Tues. Nov 26	Reg Mtg—Auction Wrap Up & RYLA-Briar Rose