

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

October 16 - 6:30pm Meeting—Hunters Inn

Oloror Marvis – Wheelchairs for Nigeria

Marvis arrived in the U.S. on September 3, 2004. He originally thought he would never come to the U.S., but rather Europe if he were to ever leave his home, Edo State in Nigeria. But, he entered a lottery in Nigeria and won. The winner was provided the necessary paperwork to immigrate to the U.S. and find work. Currently working at the Manor Care Potomac Nursing Home, Marvis' dedication to helping others began as a child. Coming from a single parent home he helped care for his great grandmother whom was crippled. When his mother became incapacitated while still young and had to be institutionalized, he became responsible for his two younger siblings and took care of them even after the children moved in with an uncle. Marvis counts himself very lucky. In Edo, Marvis would see a young woman peer out from the door of her family's home and she would never leave the house because she couldn't walk. There are no social programs in the smaller towns of Nigeria that can really assist the disabled. Marvis befriended the young woman and promised himself that if there were anything he could do to help her he would.

Manor Care Potomac disposes of wheelchairs that it can no longer use, because of age, missing parts or physical neglect. Marvis was able to rescue three such wheelchairs and with permission of Manor Care Potomac take them off of the premises. On his last trip back to Edo to see family, he smuggled them into Nigeria by placing them in the trunk of a vehicle being taken back by a friend to use. The young woman became a recipient of one of the three wheelchairs. Marvis and wife Eniye are expecting their first child (twins) in 2009.

October 18 - 10:30am Potomac Day Parade

October 20 - 2:30pm - Dictionary Project at
Wayside Elementary School

October 23 - 6:30pm Meeting—Hunters Inn

Kanae Tsutsumi, Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar

October 25 - Rotary Leadership Institute
Marriott Courtyard, Frederick

October 27 - 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Potomac Elementary School

October 30 - 6:30pm Meeting—Hunters Inn

Steve Naron on Biking the Entire C&O Canal

November 6 - 12:30pm - Dictionary Project
at Seven Locks Elementary School

November 6 - 6:30pm Meeting—Hunters Inn

November 11 - 7pm Manna Food Center

November 13 - 6:30pm Meeting—Hunters Inn

November 14 - 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Bells Mill Elementary School

November 20 - 6:30pm Meeting—Hunters Inn

November 21 - 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Poolesville Elementary School

Rotarians "Light the Night" at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Fundraiser in Rockville



On October 11 thousands walked almost two miles including **Don Hiruo, Noel Howard and his family, and Steve Naron and his family**. "Light the Night" is a real light show since the balloons light up.

Over \$400,000 was raised by the Rockville walk. To donate in memory of Rotarian Jackie Naron go to http://teams.lightthenight.org/JackiesTeam_RockvilleTownCenter.

We had a great time and are thinking of doing this every year. - **Steve Naron**

Rotary Dictionary Project Kicked Off for 2008



Lydia Eddy, Steve Naron and Bob Nelson distributed dictionaries to third graders at Waters Landing Elementary School on October 13. The team gave the

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students an overview of Rotary and showed them how to look up words and almanac information. About half of the students also had communication skills in another



language with families coming from various countries including Armenia and Honduras. If you want to see students really appreciating their new dictionaries, just come to one or more of the dictionary distributions listed in the calendar and let **Alan Grant** or **Lydia Eddy** in his office know that you're coming. Don't miss out on the fun!

October 2 Meeting Report



President Elect **Noel Howard** introduced two speakers from "Veterans for Obama" who simulated a lively debate between the two Presidential Candidates. **Scott Allen**, a veteran from the merchant navy during the Vietnam War represented Senator John McCain and Jim Morin who served in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars spoke for Senator Barack Obama. Since Senator McCain attempts to keep budgets low, he received a 41% rating from Disabled American Veterans. Senator Obama received an 80% rating since he promises to fully fund veterans' medical care and allow all veterans back into the Veterans Administration. Jim Morin said that he doesn't feel that the Iraq War was a mistake.



George Mattamal returned from his trip to India with a book from the Rotary Club and a report on the orphanage operated by his sister (see page 3).

(Below) **Nabil Bedewi** and **Anil Alpay** enjoy the spacious dining room at Normandie Farm. **Klaus Ordemann** and **Don Hirvo**

stand by fireplace and flag donated by Klaus.



Rotarians enjoyed the popovers and dinner service at Normandie Farm (there was a choice of two entrees):



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St. Teresa Convent's Home for Children and Sirumalar Carmel Convent's Home for Children Near Manalikai, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu (Madras), South India

By George Mattamal

Both St. Teresa Convent and Sirumalar Carmel Convent are part of the congregation of Teresian Carmelites/Sisters and have homes for children under the guidance of the head of Amala Province, Trichy, India. This area is one of three areas in coastal India hit the hardest by the tsunami on December 26, 2004. The homes for children provide shelter, education and life to abandoned, destitute, and needy children.



St. Teresa Convent's Home for children is under the guidance of my sister, Rev. Sr. Mary Valeria (former Mother Superior), and it is run by five sisters of Congregation of Teresian Carmelites and has been operating over 10 years. This Home supports currently 58 orphaned children (mainly girls from battered women) and children from all castes and religions are welcome to this Home to study at the school and practice their own rituals.



Sirumalar Carmel Convent's Home for Children is under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Rose Mary Xavier, Head Mistress and Sr. Superior and it is run by seven sisters of Congregation of Teresian Carmelites and has been operating since 1991. This Home supports over 154 orphaned children, boys and girls ages 5-15, from

mixed castes and religions. The majority of these children are Scheduled caste and other Backward Class children who are destitute, orphaned and neglected from different places of Tamil Nadu (Madras). Aside from supporting orphaned children, the Sisters operate an elementary school for 280 children from grade 1-8. The school has been operating for 39 years. The students consist of the orphans from the Home as well as local children from surrounding villages with all castes and religions including a number of children from the Tsunami disaster.



Sisters of Congregation of Teresian Carmelites operate these two orphanages on a monthly budget of approximately 45,000 rupees (\$1000.00). This income comes from the donation of one Nun's salary, which is paid to the Nun by the Government of Tamil Nadu (Madras) for her teaching responsibilities at the school, and a temporary emergency loan from the Catholic Dioceses. Also they have received a one-time donation of \$8000.00 in 2004 from the Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters, a catholic organization, based in Los Angeles, California. The sisters who manage the orphanages and schools are hardworking, honest and reliable women who have done well with little resources to serve the Home. However, despite their efforts, the children are not healthy and are not able to maximize their potential in order to escape a life of poverty. Currently, the Home is continuing its search for additional sources of sustaining financial help from all available sources.

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Child Mortality Conference Draws 10,000 In Korea

By Susie O. Ma RI News – 6 October 2008

RI President Dong Kurn Lee presents a check on behalf of Korean Rotarians for W500 million (US\$431,890) to two organizations working to reduce childhood mortality. Photo courtesy Rotary Korea

Nearly 10,000 Korean Rotarians gathered on 2 September to pledge their commitment to reducing child mortality, the focus of RI President Dong Kurn Lee's service emphases for 2008-09.

"Together, we can save a child who is at the threshold of death," Lee told the audience at the Kintex convention center in Ilsan, Korea.

On behalf of the gathered Rotarians, Lee presented a check for W500 million (US\$431,890) to two Korean organizations working to reduce child mortality, Korea Foundation for International Healthcare and Community Chest of Korea. The groups will match the funds with the goal of building a small hospital dedicated to mother and child care in Africa.

Conference attendees spent the morning in a symposium on child mortality with medical and academic experts and a UNICEF representative. In the afternoon, Rotarians heard from the heads of several nongovernmental organizations, such as World Vision Korea.

"It was awesome to see 10,000 Rotarians gathered in one place to get energized and educated about reducing child mortality," said Past District Governor Sang Koo Yun.

Korean President Myung-bak Lee, a Rotarian, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent video messages to the gathering. Reducing child mortality is one of the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

"I am heartened that President D.K. Lee and Rotary International have also taken up this issue," Ban said. "I am sure this will bring the same energy and dedication as Rotary [has] marshaled in the fight against polio."



At the end of the event, Rotarians adopted a statement on child mortality.

A second presidential conference on child mortality will be held in Singapore on 6 March.

RI President Addresses UN Forum

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 9 October 2008

RI President Dong Kurn Lee praised the 20-year partnership between Rotary and the United Nations in

fighting polio during a 25 September forum convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

At the forum in New York, attended by top government and civic leaders, Lee reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to working with the UN to eradicate polio and build a healthier, more peaceful world.

"We have brought the world closer to the end of a disease and to the achievement of the fourth Millennium Development Goal: reducing child mortality," Lee said in a speech during a breakout session on health and education. "We have created

partnerships that will endure and will yield benefits far beyond the elimination of one disease."

RI President Dong Kurn Lee addresses government and civic leaders during a 25 September forum convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in New York. Photo courtesy of the UN Photo Library

Lee and other RI leaders spent four days in New York in September participating

in several forums, convened to assess progress made toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders in 2000.

The forum brought together a broad coalition of government leaders, philanthropists, and development agencies who recommitted to slashing poverty, hunger, and disease by 2015.

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Speakers included Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-chair Bill Gates, UNESCO Director-General Kiochiro Matsuura, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan, and other philanthropists and government leaders.

"Rotary's agenda addresses all of the millennium goals: health, hunger, cleaner environment, and education," says Sylvan Barnet, RI representative to the United Nations. "This event was a useful way to promote Rotary to different world leaders and organizations."

RI General Secretary Ed Futa said the meeting he attended was a high-powered event.

"The thing that impressed me the most was that everyone – heads of state and CEOs – recognized Rotary International and the work we are doing," Futa said.

Other events during the week included:

- A White House symposium on global literacy on 22 September, attended by RI Vice President Monty Audenart and hosted by U.S. First Lady Laura Bush. The event summarized and reported on the six UNESCO literacy conferences held around the world since an inaugural White House conference on global literacy in 2006.
- A luncheon discussion on 23 September focused on financing education to achieve the millennium goals. Representing RI, Barnet shared information about some of Rotary's recent polio immunization efforts in Afghanistan with Afghan officials.
- A 24 September forum on long-term solutions to the global food crisis. Futa was among the 100 CEOs, government leaders, and heads of foundations and UN agencies who participated.

UN Secretary-General To Attend 2008 Rotary-UN Day

RI News - 7 October 2008
Rotary members and their guests are invited to attend a landmark Rotary Day at the United Nations on 8 November in New York City, USA. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is slated to give a special presentation at the annual event.

The meeting, scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UN Headquarters, will include presentations and panel discussions addressing key humanitarian issues such as water, health, literacy, and hunger. To attend the meeting, Rotarians and guests must register online at <http://riunday.org> or submit a registration form available on the same website via email, fax, or post. The registration deadline is 24 October.

In addition to Secretary-General Ban, other key presenters will include UN senior officials, representatives from key non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Rotary International leaders. The day-long event is sponsored each year by the RI Representatives to the United Nations in New York.

Key presenters include:

- Eric Falt, Director of Outreach Division for the United Nations Department Public Information (DPI)
- Salil Shetty, Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign
- James Sniffen, Information Officer for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Nicholas Alipui, Director of Programmes for UNICEF

For the fifth consecutive year, there will be a separate youth program for students of high school age. This year's program includes the unique opportunity for high school students to learn how Rotary International partners with the UN to do humanitarian work worldwide. They will learn how to immediately start to make changes in their own communities.

Twenty-two panelists from the four Rotary Youth Programs (Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and RYLA) will showcase their successful projects that cover topics such as, Building Water Wells with Engineers Without Borders, Saving AIDS Orphans in Africa, Putting a Stop to Child Trafficking, and Making School Breaks into Meaningful Experiences.

Students must register online or submit the youth registration form via email, fax, or post by 24 October.

For additional information, contact Brad Jenkins, RI Representative to the United Nations in New York, at: bradjenkins@att.net or +1 908-766-4790.

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Quarters For Kenya Helps Orphans

By Tara Kalmanson RI News – 13 October 2008

Quarters for Kenya honors the memory of Rotarian Charles Kean (right) who died of a bacterial infection of the blood in 2004. Bottom: students at an orphanage in Sidona, Kenya. Photos courtesy of David Armstrong



A project begun by a Rotarian to honor the memory of his friend is now helping Kenyan orphans who've lost their parents to AIDS.

David Maupin, a member of the Rotary Club of Redlands, California, USA, launched Quarters for Kenya in the spring of 2004 to honor the memory of his friend and fellow Rotarian Charles Kean, who died that year of a bacterial infection of the blood.

The project helps raise funds to build orphanages in Kenya through The Shepherd's Homes. Donations have helped feed, house, and educate orphans in the small town of Gilgil, a suburb of Nairobi where Kean went to primary school, and in nearby Sigona.

The project is sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Downey, Redlands, Redlands Sunrise, and San Bernardino Crossroads, California, USA. In addition, students from local elementary schools and universities in California raise money for the orphanages through various fundraisers.

Maupin modeled his project after Joseph Pulitzer's Pennies for Liberty campaign to bring the Statue of Liberty from France to the United States in the 1880s. He reasoned a quarter, with inflation, was the current equivalent of Pulitzer's penny, and set out to raise \$250,000, quarter by quarter.

Students became involved in the drive when a five-year-old agreed to raise \$50 in exchange for having his name painted on a Cessna that Maupin chartered for a fundraising flight to Kenya. The boy's teacher took notice, and began planning fundraisers at his school.



Global business professor Jack Osborn, a member of the Redlands club and a friend of Kean, also introduced the program to his students at the University of Redlands.

Four years later, a Quarters for Kenya group on the campus is almost entirely student-run and has raised more than \$35,000. David Armstrong, who coleads the group with Kaitlin Moore, spent two weeks visiting the orphanages.

"They're so happy to be where they are, with the shelter they have and the love they're given," he says. "They're living comfortably and safely and are given a high-quality education. That makes every ounce of effort worthwhile."

Rotarians and Redlands students have worked side by side on the project. Students have held silent auctions, benefit concerts, and forums with local AIDS experts.

Rotarians have used their connections to secure large raffle prizes. Maupin and Armstrong have visited church groups, Kiwanis clubs, women's groups, high schools, and universities seeking donations.

"Students can reach a different type of people than Rotarians can," said Moore. "Maybe they don't have the money that Rotarians do, but now

Quarters for Kenya is recognized by the Redlands community."

"It's a fantastic tribute to Charles," says his widow, Susan. "He would be amazed. It wouldn't have occurred to him that people would be working so hard in his name." Find more on Quarters for Kenya or make a donation at www.quartersforkenya.org.

Thanks so much for sharing your photos and news! You are invited to submit articles and photos to BobNelson20854@yahoo.com.

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