

## Rotarian Action Group expands maternal health project in Nigeria

By Vanessa N. Glavinskas  
Rotary International News -- 6 July 2012

In Nigeria, one out of every 18 women dies as a result of childbirth. The country has the second-highest maternal mortality rate in the world.

That's why the [Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development](#) targeted the northern Nigerian states of Kaduna and Kano with a pilot program aimed at reducing maternal mortality by preventing and treating obstetric fistula, a serious birth injury. From 2005 until 2010, the project, partly supported by a grant from The Rotary Foundation, reduced maternal death by 60 percent in participating hospitals, reached 1 million women of childbearing age, and repaired obstetric fistulas for 1,500 Nigerian women.



Former fistula patients in Nigeria. Photo courtesy of the Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development

"We have to empower women, and women cannot be empowered if they can't make their own choices in antenatal care and child spacing," says Dr. Robert Zinser, CEO of the Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth and Sustainable Development and member of the Rotary Club of Ludwigshafen-Rheinschanze, Germany.

Zinser has been to Nigeria nearly 20 times to work on maternal and child health projects, including the northern Nigeria pilot focused on the prevention and treatment of fistulas. An obstetric fistula is a birth injury that can cause stillbirth and, in the mother, chronic incontinence, infection, nerve damage, or death. The primary cause is labor that goes on for too long, often for days. Because 70 percent of Nigerian women deliver at home, often without access to proper medical care, long labors that would be prevented in the developed world are more common.

According to the World Health Organization, "prevention is the key," Zinser says. "We insisted on a comprehensive approach of better antenatal care" that includes training, equipment, quality,

Read more at [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org)

# Spokes

July 31, 2012  
[www.hattiesburgrotary.com](http://www.hattiesburgrotary.com)

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Organized 1918

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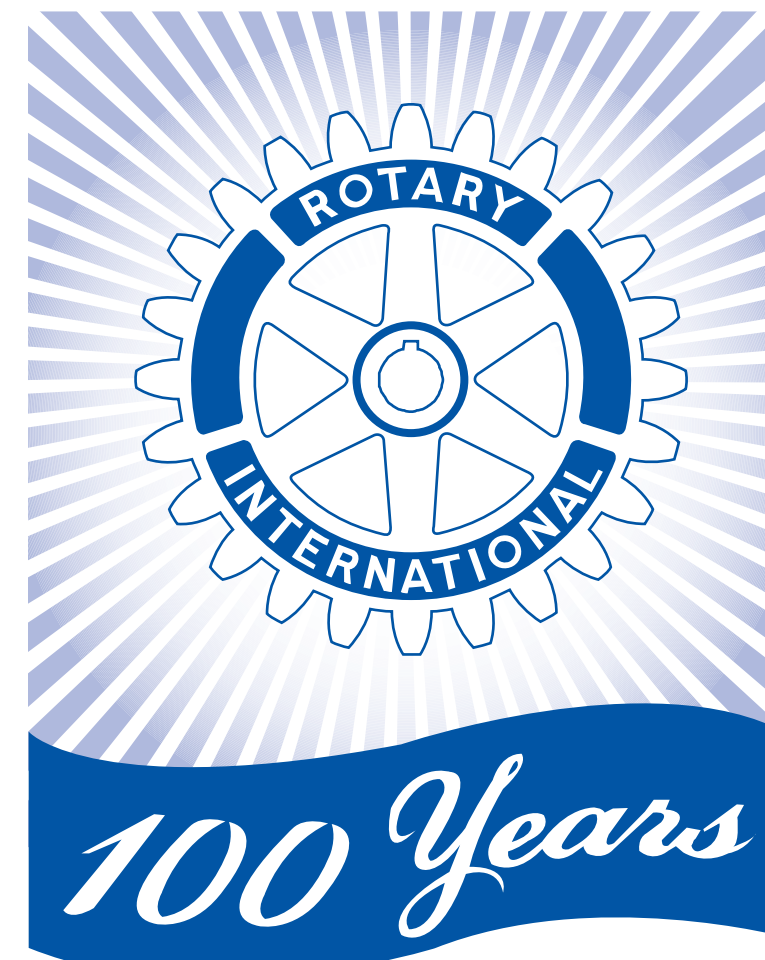
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## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

**"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"**

President Maura McLaughlin presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Mike Ratliff, who gave the invocation and to Allen Anderson, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks, also, to Aime Spears for greeting attendees today.

McLaughlin led the Club in the 4-Way Test and then asked Chris Price to introduce today's guests and visiting Rotarians. Milton Wheeler visited from the Petal Club and David McPhail of Hattiesburg Sunrise Rotary also visited. Ashlea Maddox was a guest of Lamar Evans from Association Management Systems. Mike Ratliff introduced Consuelo Oster as his guest. Mary Cromartie brought Dr. Dean Cromartie as her guest, while Lucy Parkman introduced Allan Burton from Birmingham as her guest. Dick Vogel of William Carey was a guest of Scott Hummel and Andreas Moffett introduced Maurice Brown as his guest.

McLaughlin reported on the most recent death of Rick Lambert. Club members are encouraged to keep Rick's family in their thoughts and prayers in the coming days.

The next board meeting will be held Monday, July 30th at 5:30 p.m.

If anyone is interested in participating in District 6840's Leadership Academy, which meets on Saturdays, please contact Maura.

Wes Brooks then came forward and introduced David McRaney as the guest speaker.

Originally from Sumrall, McRaney lives in Hattiesburg and is enjoying his status as international best-selling author. "You Are Not So Smart" celebrates self-delusion.

"You believe you are a rational, logical being who sees the world as it really is, but you're as deluded as the rest of us," says McRaney. "But

that's okay, delusions keep us sane."

McRaney earned a degree in journalism, but since leaving the hallowed halls of the University of Southern Mississippi, his keen interest in psychology has remained, and is the inspiration of subject matter of his blog, You Are Not So Smart. After a short time of existence, his online musings developed a loyal following. One particular, yet fateful day, the blog featured a discussion about Android versus iPhone, which attracted the attention of blog giant, Gizmodo. They asked to publish his blog and the day they did, You Are Not So Smart generated one million hits. With an increase of followers and publicity, this gifted writer and his built-in audience were appealing to publishers. He was approached by a publisher who asked McRaney to write a book based on his blog of the same name. Published in October of 2011, McRaney's "You Are Not So Smart" can be purchased at Main Street Books. He is currently working on the follow up to the book that has gained international notoriety.

After the Club recited the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self," McLaughlin adjourned the meeting.

**FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Dan Davis is being proposed for membership by Tracie Fowler. Dan is the Manager of Marketing and PR with Southern Pines Electric Power Association

Also proposed for membership is Kevin Zemetis. Kevin is President of The Strategic Results Center and has been proposed by Scott Hummel.

If you have any questions or comments about those proposed, please see our Membership Chair, Scott Hummell.

**Rotarians carry the Olympic torch**

By Arnold R. Grahl  
Rotary News -- 24 July 2012

In 1958, Bob Izon ran the mile in world-record time in the under-16 age category, becoming the English schools champion.

But the most meaningful run of his life took place in May, when the founding member of the Rotary Club of Hereford Wye Valley, Herefordshire, England, carried the Olympic torch through his hometown.

Izon is one of several Rotarians who have carried the torch on its relay to the new Olympic Stadium in London for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics on 27 July.



Rotarian Bob Izon carries the Olympic torch through Hereford, England, in May. Photo courtesy of Bob Izon

"I consider myself very fortunate to have been chosen, as half the bearers are ages 15 to 25," he says. "It gave me a chance to pursue three objectives: inspire the younger generation, publicize Rotary's good works, and show that a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease does not always condemn one to a nonactive life."

[Read this entire story at Rotary.org](#)

**REGISTER NOW FOR DISTRICT 6840  
FOUNDATION, MEMBERSHIP, & PUBLIC RELATIONS SEMINAR**

Aug 18, 2012 at 08:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Pearl River Community College

All officers and any interested members are encouraged to attend this informative event. Register online at [rotary6840.org](http://rotary6840.org). Also, please let Maura know if you plan to attend.