

## **DG Penny's April message on Mmagazine month**

### **The Rotarian Magazine and Rotary Canada. Telling our story.**

The Rotarian Magazine is the official Rotary magazine. About 450,000 Rotarians in North America and 50,000 outside North America receive *The Rotarian*.

More than half the Rotarians worldwide are served by one of 31 regional magazines. These publications are produced independently by Rotarians, distributed in more than 130 countries, and published in 25 languages. They have a combined circulation of 780,000. Each magazine has a local editorial slant but includes required articles and photographs of international Rotary interest from *The Rotarian*.

Rotary International publishes [\*Rotary Canada\*](#), a quarterly supplement to *The Rotarian* with a circulation of 28,000 with an advisory board of Canadian Rotarians Chaired by PDG Chris Offer District 5040.

These magazines are all about telling our story. The story about the impact, the benefits – the difference the work of Rotary makes in our world. It is the story about Rotarians doing good in our communities locally and in our world community – not about meeting for lunch or presenting a cheque. It is the story about the people we help, whose lives are changed because Rotarians care.

The story about the mother in Africa with a smile on her face because her child will not get polio because a Rotarian put two precious drops of polio vaccine in the child's mouth. The story about the school in South Africa that no longer has broken windows and can grow trees in the school yard – all because of a new fence around the school. The story about the child in China who can go to school without being teased because Rotarians supported a medical team to provide cleft lip and cleft palate surgery. The stories are endless. What are your Rotary stories?

A great story was told recently by Brenden Kelly the son of a Rotarian in Pemberton about his mother's commitment to the children in Lesotho Africa. He wrote about her trip to a small community and her desire and plan to make quilts for the children and her endless heart to help others. He wrote the story for a school essay. The story was in the local Shaw TV news and can be viewed on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=St5RN9cnlJE>. The story prompted more donations for her project.

Read more about Liz Kelly's story this month below. Remember it is the **STORY** that matters. Share your copy of the Rotarian and Rotary Canada with friends and neighbours so that we spread the Rotary story of doing good in the world and making a difference in people's lives. Tell your story.

## PEMBERTON INSIGHT

Written By Brenden Kelly

### Lizz Kelly Starts Quilting Foundation within Her Own Home

Elizabeth Kelly, mother of two children, is now, as a result of the inspiration of Paul Selina, working with her foundation to help African children. "Yes, I was inspired by Paul who does international volunteer work, previously in Romania and currently in Africa.



He sets a quiet example of doing what needs to be done simply by using the skills you already possess. "In Lesotho, the Country in Africa that she visited, some children would qualify Ms. Kelly as their hero and returning back there soon next year she should be proud of her work. Helping people should and indeed is a heroic act upon a community in need. Helping children, in some cases is qualified as a greater act of kindness because of their age. By helping them now it could solve problem they would have for the rest of their lives. The children that she has focused on helping are ones with parents that have died from HIV/AIDS.

Kelly inspired people all over the Whistler and Pemberton community to make quilts for her take with her on her trip. She also received Quilts from Ontario that were brought to her by close relatives. Over all, thirty quilts went to Africa with her last March. Also, she worked in Africa with Shannon Ellis. In the Lesotho HIV/AIDS consumes over 25% of pregnant women. This in 1992 was as low as 3.9%. "So many children are orphaned due to AIDS/HIV that they have no one to take care of them, also many have homes have no form of heating." This was one of her main reasons to send quilts to this small African village. While she spent three weeks in Africa last year, she stayed just outside of the capital city of Maseru, in the town of Lithabinang at the SOS Children's Village Orphanage. In Maseru it would not be safe to walk on the streets at night. Therefore at night they stayed at the SOS as it was walled and gated and had a security guard. The Orphanage had 10 houses for young children and 7 houses for older children. On site were also a health clinic, a school and a library. During their trip she also traveled to the town of Morijia where they visited a dinosaur footprints site from millions of years ago.

The main bases of her help in Africa were her enthusiasm to volunteer. Paul Selina informed her that he was going overseas to help build houses in Africa; therefore, she went back to what she could do best to help – quilt. In her time before her travel, alone, she designed and created 3 quilts.

One of the other projects she started with Quilts for Africa was a Special quilt made of pieces you could buy, color on, and finally return. All the profit from the pieces was donated to Africa and the quilt was giving to one of the children there. "I think quilts are an expression of love, they give warmth and embrace." Lizz expressed as she described her love of making quilts. I asked her about the traditional Basotho blanket and if it had anything to do with her inspiration and she responded "No, The traditional Basotho blanket is woven and usually has a royal insignia on it and normally would be worn over the shoulders of a man like a shawl. There are other Basotho blankets that are woven and have a plaid pattern on them. Women use these types of blankets as a child carrier for their babies and young children." When asked if she had a specific inspiration about her work it is clear that she is a simple woman when wants to help everyone in need.

Lizz Kelly also does volunteer work in all of Pemberton, this being the only year in the last 5 that she is not working with Winter Fest. She has also been a member of Rotary for the last 5 years. After she returned from Africa last year, she then began her new search for more quilts and more fabrics starting back in Pemberton. This year she expects to expand her reach with the people of the community to get other communities involved with her small foundation. Having a busy life full of volunteer work, and balancing that with an everyday job is a difficult task to manage and she was clearly master at that.



When Lizz Kelly was in Africa she noticed the amount of children staying at home without an education due to their parent's death. When in Africa, the Government will pay for each child to go to elementary school. But when a child passes elementary school and would like to move forward with their education they either cannot afford it or their parents are no longer there to take care of the younger children. Consequently these older siblings are left at home to take care of their young siblings. "When going into the school on the SOS grounds the children were so full of life and energetic. I'm guessing they were excited to see someone with a different color of skin."

When a woman, or a man, goes out of their way to help people, not even in their community, it shows how much effort they put in and how much heart these people possess. Lizz Kelly possesses too much heart! When she decided to help in Africa the money that she used to pay for travel and to pay for her accommodation came right out of her pocket. Before she left she also took vaccination against disease she could get there. She took a Hepatitis A and B, Polio, and Typhoid vaccination. These vaccinations cost \$300, which she also paid for by herself. I chose Lizz Kelly as my hero because of her endless heart and her open arms to help everyone in need she can. Also because she is a wonderful person and a wonderful mother.