

## February Website DG Penny Story

February is World Understanding Month in the Rotary Calendar. Our Mission in Rotary is to “provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders”.

Rotary International President Ray set as our theme for the year - Build Communities and Bridge Continents. In talking about the theme he said

*“Rotary is the best in the world at linking people of goodwill around the globe and then gaining their cooperation and support to make the world a much better place to live and work.”*

Everything we do as Rotarians and in our clubs as we build communities and bridge continents through our service projects, our youth programs and our educational scholarships helps to achieve our mission and improve understanding around our world.

It is a time to think about the International service provided by Rotarians, clubs, and districts and the Future Vision pilot our district is involved in to provide more innovative and creative service to others. We have six clubs using Global Grants for projects in countries like Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, Mexico and a Global Grant Scholar studying in London England. As well most of our District Grant Applications involve international partnerships.

It is a time to think about our Youth Exchange program and the opportunity we give as Rotarians to young people in our communities and from countries around the world to experience another culture. What better way to increase world understanding and peace than with approximately 7000 Rotary youth exchange students each year. This year in District 5040 we have 18 students hosted in our communities and 18 students from our district learning about another culture.

Rotary also takes a direct approach to world understanding by providing future leaders with the tools they need to “wage peace” on the global stage with the Rotary Peace Centers program. Launched in 2002, Rotary awards up to 100 full scholarships each year for master’s-level degrees or a professional certificate in peace and conflict studies at six Rotary Peace Centers. It is time for our clubs to nominate a young person in your community for one of these prestigious scholarships. The deadline for submitting an application to District Chair Gloria Tom Wing Staudt is March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Clubs in District 5040 are finding ways to celebrate Rotary's birthday on February 23<sup>rd</sup> also known as World Understanding and Peace Day. The three clubs in Prince George are holding a joint dinner to celebrate Rotary and invite potential members to learn about our organization. Many clubs have asked their city councils to proclaim February 23<sup>rd</sup> as Rotary Day.

We have a great brand and mission as Rotarians – lets share our story in our communities.