

Rotary District 6000  
Iowa USA  
Steve Dakin, Governor

Rotary



Second Issue  
2020-21  
(November thru  
February)

# ***District 6000 News***

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Rotary



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## EDITOR

# The spirit of tolerance

*Friendship was the foundation rock on which Rotary was built and tolerance is the element which holds it together. There is enough atomic energy in every Rotary club to blow it into a thousand bits were it not for the spirit of tolerance.*

— Paul Harris, My Road to Rotary

## Dear Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,

Emil Hirsch, secretary of the **Rotary Club of Munich, Germany**, delighted to receive the invitation of **William Fulton** of the **Rotary Club of Keokuk** in 1932, to smoke the ceremonial pipe of peace. Fulton, as has been reported previously, returned from the 1931 RI Convention in Vienna determined to do something positive as an answer to nationalism that was on the rise in the wake of economic, social and political unrest. He sent letters to 501 Rotary clubs in 210 countries inviting them to smoke the ceremonial pipe of peace.



Bill Tubbs

Hirsch's reply, one of 21 received by Fulton from Rotary clubs in Germany, signified Rotarian goodwill and friendship: *"Your Club's idea, that we Germans should smoke the peace pipe with you in the spirit, is delightful. When your letter was read at our last luncheon, we unfortunately did not have a suitable pipe on hand and had to make do with cigars. We hope this was a worthy replacement."*

As humorous as these lines sound, Hirsch's own membership in Rotary came to an ignoble end. He was expelled from the club as a Jew in April 1933, one year after this letter, and had to vacate his successful antiquarian bookstore in 1935. In 1938, he was able to emigrate to the United States, bringing along a large number of valuable books to New York City where he worked in a well-known antiauarian book store on Madison Avenue.

## Jerusalem leads the way

This story, one of many mined from the **Peace Pipe Letters Briefe project** (p. 10), shows how fragile relationships can be. At any moment, the whims of a dictator or populist uprising can disrupt lives in ways never imagined. Which is why we are called to cherish each moment and nourish fellowship and the spirit of tolerance which founder Paul Harris said is the element which holds us together.

Nowhere was this more evident than the **Rotary Club of Jerusalem**, whose president, in 1932, replied to Fulton: *"We have all sorts in our Club, about 10 nationalities, at least five different languages represented, and we find in Rotary a common meeting ground in spite of differences of Race, Religion and Tongue. We have strong Zionists and equally strong Anti-Zionistic Arabs in the Club. Britishers, American, and Germans, etc. And they all meet amicably as Rotarians. although disagreeing acutely on most other points."*

If Jerusalem can make it work, so can we! Our name is Rotary **INTERNATIONAL**, and membership in a Rotary club gives us the opportunity to engage with persons of different vocations, cultures and experiences, not just in our clubs, but around the world. **Des Moines Rotarian John Lewis'** excellent article about **Friendship Exchange** (p. 24) is but one example. Cover to cover in this newsletter you'll see stories of Rotarians reaching beyond themselves to build a better world.

All in the spirit of tolerance. And the people said, Amen!

Bill Tubbs, District Governor 2004-05  
Editor, *District 6000 News*



**DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

# New opportunities now for Rotarians

**Dear Rotarians and Friends of District 6000,**

**A**s I look back at previous *District 6000 News*, I have found there have been changes in the cover just like Rotary Magazine. However, inside are similar stories of success and of Rotarians volunteering. Articles submitted by your clubs may inspire other clubs and develop into “springboards” for future projects.

**Steve Dakin**

Taking a page from my monthly District 6000 letter, “Knock, Knock, Opportunities Knock,” **Mary Giese**, Marshalltown president, and volunteer **Mike Schlesinger** started a successful food drive driven by an event shared in the Rotary Magazine.

There is inspiration and creativity in each club. Often seeing what other clubs have achieved, brings about a perfect opportunity to try something new in your community.

As Rotarians, we all have different talents. You can do things I cannot; I can do things you cannot. But together we can do everything. Yes, that is why I am proud to be a Rotarian.

**Zoom to the future**

Back in March before the full force of COVID hit, I had my full year planned. We all know how COVID changed our lives. Along came VIRTUAL. I knew nothing of Zoom. I admit I was resistant to change, but chose to look at it as an Opportunity. Hybrid meetings and virtual gatherings are not going away. We can resist, but eventually our clubs need to embrace this new (new to me and numerous others) aspect of being. Positive features include:

**Keeping in contact with a larger number of members** when meeting in-person is not recommended, and also increasing attendance when in-person is a possibility. Members who are unable to meet in person can “zoom” in from their home, car, or office, and stay as long as they are comfortable/able. Snowbirds, who are absent for several months of the year, can keep in contact with a home club from the beach or desert.

**The meeting can be recorded** so others can view it at a later date.

**Ideas for programs can be local or reach across oceans.** The ability to see and listen to a speaker’s message is limitless.

I encourage each club in District 6000 to investigate and try virtual-streaming meetings. It is not a replacement for in-person meetings, but could be an additional feature of your club’s connections. For help initiating virtual meetings, you can contact Gretchen Nollman from the Rotary Club of West Liberty or myself.

**Rotary Opens Opportunities****District Conference**

COVID brought a change to the 2020-2021 District Conference. There will be only one site, the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny. The large room can handle 140 persons as COVID-compliant. This is a room that normally could hold 420 people.

Hybrid will be an option with a \$25 charge. All proceeds from hybrid registrations will be divided between PolioPlus and Sukup Safe T Homes. The conference planning committees is busy making arrangements for a successful event on April 24. Registration is available on the District

6000 website. Masks will be required. We look forward to seeing many familiar and new faces, in person or virtually.

**Hot Meals USA**

Hot Meals USA, started by Rotarians in Kearney, Neb., features a trailer that can serve up to 8,000 meals in one setting. After the derecho, the Salvation Army of Tama requested meal distribution in their area. Hot Meals USA arrived 36 hours after receiving the call. Many Rotarians in District 6000, besides myself, volunteered for more than one meal shift.

Hot Meals USA is now going to station a new trailer and truck in Cedar Rapids. This will give a fast response time to our area and can provide food support as far east as Indiana. If you or your club would like to learn more, please contact me for information or a presentation.

For District 6000 to grow we must ask, just as you were asked. There is power in numbers. Thanks for all you do for Rotary and your communities.

**District Governor Steve Dakin/Boone**

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## DISTRICT CONFERENCE, APRIL 24

# In person, virtual: Living the Five-Way Test

By Lisa Mount/Bonne

District Conference Co-Chair

District Governor Steve Dakin and his wife Lesley, invite you to join them for the "Living the Five Way Test" District Conference! It is set to take place Saturday, April 24th at the Courtyard Marriott in Ankeny.

This will be a hybrid event with both in person and virtual options.

### Social hour: 4:30-5:30: Desserts, photo opportunities

The night of the conference, in-person registration along with social hour will start at 4:30 p.m., until approximately 5:30 p.m. This social hour will be a great way to kick off the conference with plenty of smiling Rotarians, and trade booths set up to browse showcasing District and Club activities. It's a great way to see what fellow Rotarians are up to and hopefully get some ideas to take back to your club!

There will also be a table with some delicious dessert options displayed which will be sold at silent auction – win your dessert for the evening! We are hoping a table or two will go together to bid on a dessert to share so we can start off the night raising some funds for the two Conference charities, PolioPlus and Sukup Safe T Homes.

One last feature of the social hour will be a photo opportunity in front of the "Rotary Opens Opportunities" display, complete with professional photographer for a free will donation to PolioPlus. Facemasks will be required while walking around the lobby during the social hour and when you are seated in the dining room, unless eating or drinking. This so all in person attendees can feel comfortable and safe.

### Zoom at 5:30: Dinner and program

At 5:30 p.m. we will move into the dining room to start the program. You will be welcomed by District Governor Steve Dakin and our emcee for the evening, Iowa State's own **Jeff Johnson** from the Rotary Club of Ames.

In-person attendance will be limited to 140 and will be spaced out in the large banquet area with only six to a table to be socially distanced.

This is also the time – 5:30 p.m. – when our virtual attendees can choose to log on to the Conference via zoom for

opening remarks. Those attending virtually will be emailed out a Zoom link along with a PDF of the conference handout prior to the Conference, so you can follow along with the flow of the evening.

The program will kick off with a Rotary International guest, followed by some District speakers talking about Rotary's work with PolioPlus. Dinner will be served around 6:15 p.m. and those attending, both in person and virtually, will be treated to a slide show of District 6000 Rotarians in action while enjoying their meal (in person meal provided by the hotel, virtual meal provided by you!).

### Youth, service projects, awards, auction

Following the dinner break, we will be listening to speakers representing our District youth, as well as awarding the Guardian of Integrity Awards to deserving Rotarians. We'll also learn more about District 6000's Community and Global Grants, hear how some clubs have been celebrating their Centennials, and we'll be treated to a handful of Rotarians sharing Rotary Moments.

To top the evening off, we will hopefully have some Rotary International awards, and PDG Loring Miller from the Rotary Club of Decatur County will close the night with a live auction. Among items auctioned will be a wood and a metal American flag, a handmade quilt, and six spots on a private airplane flying to a destination TBA to help build a Sukup Safe T Home!!!!

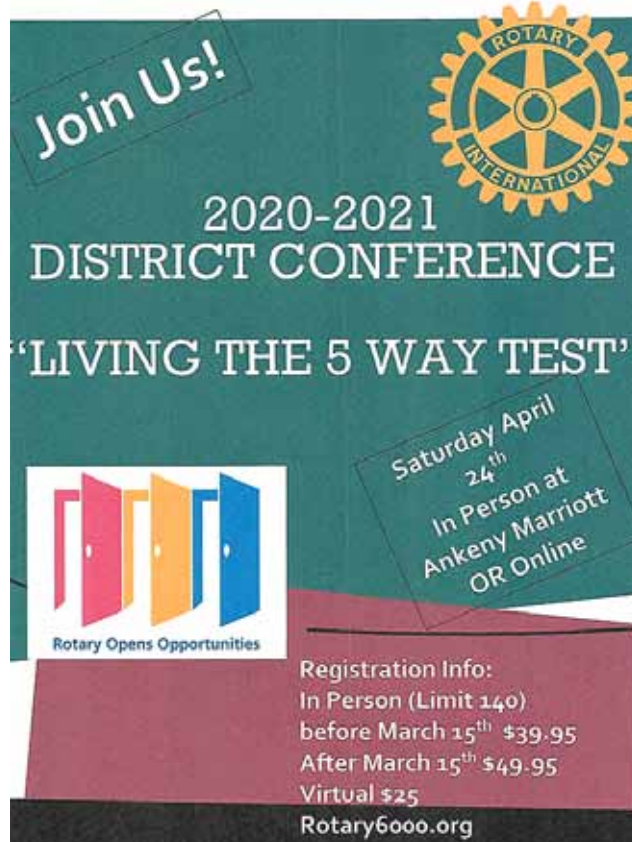
As you can see, this is going to be a very exciting evening filled with lots of fun and celebration of the AWESOME Rotarians in District 6000. We hope you will plan to attend either in person or virtually to share in the festivities and to help us raise money for two great causes.

### Registration

Please check the District website at [www.Rotary6000.org](http://www.Rotary6000.org) for how to register online or by

mail. Early bird registration ends March 15th, so don't wait!

Feel free to shoot me (Lisa) an email at [lhitsman@hotmail.com](mailto:lhitsman@hotmail.com) if you would like more information or you are interested in a booth (free of charge!). Our committee will keep Rotarians informed with any news leading up to the Conference as needed, so stay tuned.



Join Us!

2020-2021  
DISTRICT CONFERENCE  
"LIVING THE 5 WAY TEST"

Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>  
In Person at Ankeny Marriott  
OR Online

Rotary Opens Opportunities

Registration Info:  
In Person (Limit 140)  
before March 15<sup>th</sup> \$39.95  
After March 15<sup>th</sup> \$49.95  
Virtual \$25  
[Rotary6000.org](http://Rotary6000.org)

### Join us in person, or by Zoom



### One of two specially crafted flags that will be auctioned



**NCPETS, MARCH 12-20**

# 'Changemaker Team' prepares virtual training

By **DGE Alka Khanolkar/Keokuk**

District Governor 2021-22

**WE ARE READY! CHANGE MAKER** Presidents-Elect, President Nominees, Assistant Governors, Rotaractors and all attendees – mark your calendars for March 12-20 for an exciting opportunity to gather online. Be inspired, join in networking opportunities, instruction, collaboration and resource awareness all from the comfort of your home!

Our very first all Virtual North Central PETS 2021-22, President-Elect Training Seminar, is an annual training event for incoming presidents and presidents-nominee in Districts 5610 (IA/MN), 5950 (MN), 5960 (MN/WI), 5970 (IA), and 6000 (IA).

You will have the opportunity to hear exceptional featured speakers, Rotary International President-Elect Shekhar Mehta of India, Rotary International General Secretary/CEO John Hewko, and our very own Rotarian speaker, author and work-life coach, Aaron Putze, a member of the Rotary Club of Wauke.

There will be multi-district sessions and district-only sessions. You may also choose to attend some or all of the electives that are being offered.

The main purpose of NCPETS is to motivate our attendees to ensure they are extremely well prepared for their year of leadership. We will also have a House of Friendship showcasing projects from our districts. There will be several vendors displaying Rotary items for sale on the virtual site.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you "Changemaker" PEs, PNs, Assistant Governors, Rotaractors and all attend-



North Central  
President Elect Training



**Shekhar Mehta**  
RI President-Elect



**John Hewko**  
RI General Secretary



**Alka Khanolkar**  
District Governor 2021-22



**Aaron Putze**  
Featured Speaker

ees for adapting, being flexible and accommodating your time to attend PETS 2021-22. We really appreciate all your dedication and "Service above Self" for your clubs, district and Rotary International. Making the connections, taking the opportunities to "Serve to change lives!" We cannot thank you all enough!

**PDG Chris Knapp** from District 6000 is General Chair for NCPETS.

Looking forward to seeing you all! Rotarians are People of Action with a positive mindset who can overcome any challenge that is before us! Let's go TEAM!

**Register at NCPETS.org or Rotary6000.org. Fee: \$150 for club presidents-elect, club presidents-nominee and assistant governors. \$15 for Rotaract leadership.**

## AGENDA OVERVIEW

### Friday, March 12

8:00-9:00 a.m.: Opening Session/Shekar Mehta  
4:00-5:30 p.m.: Training Kickoff/John Hewko

### Saturday, March 13

8:30-11:30 a.m.: Multi-District Sessions

### Tuesday, March 16

4:00-5:00 p.m.: Elective Sessions  
5:15-6:15 p.m.: Elective Sessions

### Thursday, March 18

4:00-5:00 p.m.: Elective Sessions  
5:15-6:15 p.m.: Elective Sessions

### Saturday, March 20

8:30-9:30 a.m.: Elective Sessions  
9:45-10:45 a.m.: District Session  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Closing, Aaron Putze

## Deadline June 1 for 2021-22 Community Service Grants

By **Norlan Hinke/Clinton**

District 6000 Community Service Grants Chair

The Grant Seminars will be virtual this year. They are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27 and Saturday, March 6, both from 9:00 a.m.-noon. As the dates approach, Carolyn will contact District 6000 Rotary clubs concerning registration, attendance requirements, etc.

The Community Grant requirements for 2021-22 are the same as previous years. Clubs must have completed all previous year's projects and have the Final Report completed and approved; they are required to participate in a Grant Seminar, with preference for the President-Elects for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 as well as the individual Rotarian who will manage the grant application and final report; they need to have submitted two Memorandums of Understanding for 2021-2022. Rotarians can find the 2021-2022 grant application and Memorandums of Understanding in the Rotary District 6000 website under The Foundation, Community Grants.

District administrator Carolyn Scharff will be responsible for receiving the 2021-2022 MOUs. The Community Grant applications should be forwarded to me. The deadline for a grant application is June 1, 2021. A club may apply for more than one grant, as long as the total requests do not exceed \$5,000.

We are updating the Quick Reference Guide ( QRG ), so I will forward it to you when completed in case you want to print it. It would be good information to Rotarians.

The committee altered the Score Sheet for the upcoming year to better reflect each club's commitment and contribution to the project, as well as community impact.

As for 2020-2021, we have received two grant project modifications due to COVID or other reasons. In both cases, the Rotary club made adjustments to complete a viable, beneficial project similar to the original project. Otherwise, it appears Rotary clubs continue to conduct great projects for their local communities. The Final Report forms for 2020-2021 grants may be found in the Rotary District 6000 website.



You don't need uniforms like PDG Chris Knapp (l), PDG Jacquie Andrew (c) and Ed Arnold (r) to join the April 10 Ride to End Polio. You can ride anytime until April 10, and you can even use the "think" system in your easy chair. But let's all rally to End Polio Now!



## HELP DISTRICT 6000 WIN

# Clubs challenged to join April 10 Ride to End Polio

By PDG Susan Herrick/Boone

District 6000 PolioPlus Chair

In 2009, Rotary joined the El Tour de Tuscon as part of its November bicycle ride to raise money for the Ride to End Polio.

District 6000 joined the Indoor Ride to End Polio because an outdoor ride in Iowa in November was unthinkable!

In 2017, District 6000 finished in first place, raising over \$8,140. Other Districts noticed the District category and the next year D6000 finished in second place, raising \$15,051.87 – with the Gates match tallying up to \$45,153.

The Indoor Ride to End Polio has thus become a tradition in District 6000. In 2019 D6000 raised \$14,542 and with the Gates match contributed \$43,626 to end polio.

Due to the pandemic of 2020, the Ride has been postponed this Rotary year until April 10, 2021. The PolioPlus District Committee is encouraging all of the clubs to make this our biggest fundraiser yet! We have set our goal at \$20,000, which with the Gates 2:1 match would send \$60,000 to The Rotary Foundation for the eradication of polio.

In past years we have seen as many as 19 clubs join us with over 172 riders.

This is an easy fundraiser. You can join other members of your club at a local fitness business that has station-



District Governor and snow biker Steve Dakin will lead the way for the April 10 District 6000 Ride to End Polio.

ary bikes, or you can ride in your own home on your own bike. Or, as has been suggested by some of our less athletic members, you can sit in your easy chair and imagine yourself riding a bike!!

At any rate, get friends and family to pledge a dollar a minute for every minute you ride and then collect those

dollars and turn them into TRF for Polio. Thus, if you ride for 30 minutes, you'll collect \$30. Imagine if every Rotarian in our District each raised \$30 or more for PolioPlus!

If we invite our Interact and Rotary Youth Exchange students to join us, we will multiply our number of riders!

Don't be bashful about asking community friends to contribute – it is in the best interest of all of us to wipe this crippling killer from the face of the earth. When Rotary accomplishes this goal, this will be the second disease to be eradicated from the planet with Small Pox being the first.

We are SO CLOSE to seeing the end of this crippling killer! With only two endemic countries in the world – Pakistan and Afghanistan – we are watching their Wild Polio Virus cases closely. I had just been rejoicing that there had not been a WPV case reported in Afghanistan since November of 2020 or in Pakistan since Jan. 8, 2021 – but the Feb. 5 case report has one case now reported in Afghanistan.

Still, we are getting close to the end of this fight. And with each dollar raised for the eradication of polio with the Gates match, six children receive the vaccine. Let's keep our promise to the children of the world. Join us in supporting Rotary's PolioPlus campaign and push our fundraising over the top in 2021!



**OPPORTUNITY STILL OPEN**

# Safe T Homes provide shelter in Haiti

**By DG Steve Dakin/Bonne**

Sukup Safe T Homes and GoServ Global have distributed over 400 homes around the world. The Village of Hope in Haiti provides homes for single mothers.

GoServ Global has now opened a birthing clinic in the Village of Hope. Also, at this site, learned skills are taught for future independence.

Sukup Safe T Homes, featured on the cover of the fall issue of *District 6000 News*, protect lives and now give life.

Homes cost \$7,500. At this time 10 homes have been purchased through our efforts in District 6000. I want to thank the following Rotary Clubs and individuals who have purchased a Safe T Home:

**The Rotary Club of Ames AM, the Rotary Club of Ankeny, the Rotary Club of Boone, Tim Hawkins of the Rotary Club of Ankeny, Ron Bovard of the Rotary Club of Fairfield, Thompson Financial of the Rotary Club of Boone, and Bill and Linda Tubbs of the Rotary Club of North Scott.** An additional home was purchased by a Rotarian who asked to remain anonymous.



There were many donations from numerous Rotarians around District 6000. An opportunity still remains to build additional life-sustaining homes around the world. I believe that each home will provide shelter for families now, and influence generations of the future.

Donations are still being accepted and I am

looking forward to another exciting announcement on March 1 in conjunction with the District Conference.

Thanks again to Rotarians in District 6000 for their support.



## Xicotepec Project on hold for 2021; hopeful for 2022

**By Jim Peterson/Iowa City AM**

Xicotepec Project Co-Chair

Approximately one year after the start of the pandemic in the U.S., many businesses and organizations continue to operate at reduced levels as we await widespread vaccination and the resulting herd immunity from COVID-19.

While the Xicotepec Project of District 6000 and the Xicotepec, Mexico Rotary Club remains dormant for the time being, Rotarian communications and fellowship have been maintained via WhatsApp, Facebook, and email, and life goes on – albeit masked, distanced, podded, quarantined, etc.

In more normal times, the annual cycle for each March trip by an Iowa project team to Xicotepec would begin in the previous September, and would include a trip to Xicotepec by a small planning team from D6000 in October or November. This is a pattern that has been followed since 2002, in preparation for the first project team trip to Xicotepec in 2003.

While it is still too early to know, project organizers in Iowa and Mexico are hopeful that by fall conditions will be such that travel and face-to-face meetings can be conducted safely, allowing planning to move ahead for a project team trip in March, 2022. The last time Rotarians from D6000 and Xicotepec

were together was during such a trip in October, 2019.

Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and their family members have all made important contributions to the project with their participation and financial support. Whether the pandemic and its aftereffects will bring big changes to the Xicotepec Project going forward is still unknown. However, it is a given that the project will continue to evolve as new people and new ideas are incorporated.

Any District 6000 Rotarian, Rotaractor or Interactor is welcome to apply, and no particular skill or language ability is necessary in order to be a productive member of a D6000 project team. Members from all of these groups are encouraged to consider participation in this unique opportunity for international service, which will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first contact between Xicotepec and D6000 Rotarians later this year.

Photos and information about the Xicotepec Project can be found at <https://xicoproject.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/xicoproj/>. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, and along with requests to be put on the Xicotepec Project mailing list, can be sent to [info@xicoproject.org](mailto:info@xicoproject.org).

## FOOD BANK OF IOWA

# District 6000 Rotarians provided 440,000 meals

By PDG Erna Morain/Waukee

During 2020, Rotary District 6000 donated \$110,000 to help solve food insecurity in central Iowa. Under the leadership of District 6000 Governor Erna Morain, Rotarian projects in 2020 focused on the state's most vulnerable citizens. When her tenure began in early 2020, Erna drew attention to the existing high rate of poverty and food insecurity in Iowa and was determined to help folks living in this dire place of scarcity and fear.

"We are grateful for the support of big-hearted Rotarians," said Michelle Book, CEO Food Bank of Iowa. "They provided 440,000 meals and without their help, many families would have faced a much more difficult 2020."

As the year progressed and COVID-19 wreaked havoc on the economy, Erna and District 6000 had incredible foresight as food insecurity doubled overall and tripled for households with children. When asked to help, generous District 6000 Rotarians stepped up. Working with Feeding America food banks, they provided the equivalent of 440,000 meals for Iowans struggling to make ends meet.

"I want to thank all District 6000 Rotarians and Friends who so generously contributed to the food needs of others," said Erna Morain, District 6000 Governor. "This is just one



PDG Erna Morain presented check to Michelle Book, CEO Food Bank of Iowa, on behalf of District 6000 Rotarians.

more example of Rotarian generosity."

PS We recently received one more check for \$2,470.00 from the District 6000 HEF to the Food Bank of Iowa program, which I have forwarded since the press release was issued.

## Virtual Foundation Seminar celebrates success

By Olabisi Gwamna/Mount Pleasant

District 6000 Rotary Foundation Minute editor

District 6000 of Rotary International is one of 535 districts of RI. Our district comprises 3464 members. We have 124 Major Donors, 86 Bequest Society members and 94 Paul Harris Society members. District Rotarians have contributed to TRF Endowment Fund contributions totaling \$2,753,000. Per capita giving in D6000 in the last five years is an average of \$125.



Holger Knaack  
RI President, 2020-21

At its first **Virtual Rotary Foundation Luncheon** on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020, District 6000 was recognized for being No. 1 in Zone 29B-30 for percentage of Rotarians giving to TRF. Our district's humanitarian gestures and laudable achievements make D6000 third in our zone for Annual Giving, which for 2019-2020 was \$405,133.

RI President **Holger Knaack**, the luncheon keynote speaker, recognized how emergencies like Coronavirus and Derecho can force some financial strain on Rotarians, causing a drop in giving to TRF. RI

President Holger commended our district for its tenacity at staying focused on increasing demands, noting that District 6000 Foundation giving did not decrease.

### Paul Harris Fellows

The heart of the luncheon program was District recognition of Paul Harris Fellows, Paul Harris Society members and Major Donors. Attendees were reminded that our district received two \$25,000 District Rotary Foundation Grants.

In Rotary year 2019-2020, \$25,000 was received and those funds were directed to the **Food Bank of Iowa** for distribution to Food Pantries across the district's footprint. This year we applied for a \$25,000 Foundation grant for **Derecho Recovery**. These funds are available to district clubs to aid community

recovery.

The final segment of the luncheon were success stories that highlighted a district grant, a global grant and a Rotary Scholar. **Norlan Hinke**, District Community Service Grant chair, introduced **The Tiny Homes Project by the Rotary Club of Bettendorf**. Their club president, **Rick Bormann**, explained how his club was helping to combat homelessness and its attendant psycho-social problems in the Quad City area.

Global Grant Chair, **Brock Earnhardt**, introduced a D6000 Global Grant success story, joint effort with **God's Mercy Orphanage in Uganda**. **North Scott Rotarian Merle Anderson** told how club and district contributions and a matching grant from TRF funded medical equipment for **Imbabazi (Mercy) Centre for Women and Children** where more than 40 orphans learn to read and write while improving their overall hygiene and mental health.

Finally, **DG Steve Dakin** introduced **Rotary Scholar Simone Jean-Marie Renault**. Speaking from Los Angeles, the district's recipient of a \$30,000 Global Scholarship, Simone expressed her gratitude to the district and TRF for sponsoring her Graduate Program in Global Mental Health, Public Health and Psychiatry at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine & King's College, London.

In the district, 49 Rotary clubs with matching grants of \$408,000 from TRF have funded 42 projects in 23 countries resulting in better health, much literacy, improved economic potentials and a higher quality of life for more than 362,000 poor people.

The 2020 D6000 Foundation Luncheon was presided over by the **District Foundation chair, Chris Knapp**, who commented, "It's our Foundation. We give to it. We spend the money. But If we don't give to it, there is no money to be spent... We are contributing to...a safer world, a healthier world, a world based on peace and harmony."

Rotary is an opportunity, if we don't share it, it will wither."



**SIMONE RENAULT**

# Keeping in touch with Rotary Scholar

*Our Rotary Scholar, Simone Renault, kept in touch with Liz Beck of Ames, District 6000 Scholars chair, with this short note on Jan. 31. She is a third-year medical student at UCLA with previous experiences in international service in Gambia, Romania and India, research studies and course work in neurobiology and bioethics at Harvard and MIT. Currently she is pursuing a master of science degree in Global Mental Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine/King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Neuroscience.*

**Hey, Liz!** Oy vey! I've been notifying and switching all over the place.

The new national UK lockdown at the top of the year plus the announcement that I could receive my COVID vaccine in Los Angeles delayed my travels once more. I am due to my second vaccine next Friday (Feb. 5, 2021) and my plan is to now fly to London the 16th or 17th of February. Holy Cats.

I am doing well, taking classes, found my thesis mentor, and getting incredible mentorship for the development of a mental health project through the clinic in Los Angeles I work with. LOVE my classes and y cohort!



**Simone Renault**



**Dennis Drager and his wife, Heidi**

## Dennis Drager nominated District Governor, 2023-24

The nominating committee of District 6000 interviewed candidates in November and recommended Dennis Drager of the Rotary Club of Marshalltown for District Governor 2023-2024. His appointment will become official with a vote of club representatives at the Virtual District Annual Meeting March 20th from 9:45-10:45 a.m. at NCPETS.

Born and raised in Tipton, Iowa, Dennis entered the Air Force right after graduating from high school in 1974. After four years in the Air Force he enrolled at Iowa State University and graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1985. He spent a few years working in Illinois and Wisconsin before returning to Iowa in 1988 to buy a practice in Marshalltown. There he spent the next 30 years building a thriving practice, Animal Clinic-The Vet. In 2019, Dennis was awarded the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association Veterinarian of the Year award. Dennis retired from full-time practice in March of 2020.

Dennis has always been active in his community. He has been a Boy Scout leader and reserve police officer. He has also served as a board member of several organizations including First United Methodist Church, Marshalltown Regional Partnership and the Animal Rescue League of Marshalltown. Dennis also served as Vice-Commander of the American Legion Post 46 and chairman of the Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce. In 2017, Dennis was selected as Marshalltown Optimist Citizen of the Year.

Dennis joined the Rotary Club of Marshalltown in 2000 and has actively served locally and at a district level. He has served on the environmental and membership committees as well as the board of directors. He was grant coordinator for his club for several years and served as president in 2017-2018. Dennis currently serves on the Marshalltown Rotary Foundation Board and as an Assistant Governor for District 6000. Dennis and his wife, Heidi, had the pleasure of hosting a Brazilian Rotary Exchange Student. Bringing Daniel into their home was an amazing experience and they would encourage all Rotarians to give serious consideration to participating in the program.

Dennis and Heidi were married in 2006. He has one son, Jason, who lives in Clive with his wife Jessica, and two daughters, Caitlin and Vivienne. Dennis's greatest pleasure is being grandpa to those little girls. He and Heidi recently moved to Urbandale to be closer to family.

**KNOXVILLE**

## Zooming along in service

**By John Mertz/Knoxville**

Knoxville Rotary is zooming along and seems to be working well. Since we are not eating meals together, we donated one quarter's meal expense to the food pantry.

The club is currently delivering Meals on Wheels to Knoxville residents for the second time this year. We have always delivered in January because one of our early members felt January had the worst weather and Rotary could get it done. Those 40-degree days were brutal. However, this week's snowstorm proved a little more of a challenge.

The club received a \$5,600 grant from the Bayer Foundation. The monies will be used to promote STEM projects in the elementary schools. The Knoxville club also was a participant and sponsor for a lighted display during the Christmas season. This event was hugely popular and attracted visitors from all the surrounding towns as well as people driving on Highway 92 and saw all the lights. Profits will be given to several charitable organizations.

## WHAT IS PEACE?

# Committee promotes essays, civil dialogue, Braver Angels project

By Ron Heideman/Indianola

Chair, District 6000 Peace & Conflict Resolution Team

Our team includes Peggy Doerge (Iowa CITY AM), DGN Alka and Kiran Khanolkar (Keokuk), PDG Bill Tubbs (North Scott), Dev and Ed Kiedaisch (Keokuk), Ron Heideman (Indianola), Jan Heinicke (Indianola), Sherry Gupta (Des Moines), and Steve Rose (Indianola).

We recognize our country is extremely divisive now and we need to do what we can to help it heal. Our team will work with Braver Angels.

**Braver Angels** seeks to depolarize American politics. Their work is rooted in grassroots organizing. From the grassroots however, their volunteer leaders (supported by a small staff) leverage Braver Angels programs and unique organizing structure to impact community life and American institutions. The Braver Angels Pledge:

**As individuals**, we try to understand the other side's point of view, even if we don't agree with it.

**In our communities**, we engage those we disagree with, looking for common ground and ways to work together.

**In politics**, we support principles that bring us together rather than divide us.

We will share Braver Angels ideas throughout the year to encourage clubs and Rotarians to engage in healing our nation. The mission of Braver Angels is to reduce political polarization and promote civil dialogue. The Iowa Volunteer State Coordinator is Dr. Christopher Peters of Iowa City, Ph. 319-400-3051, and email: christopher@doctorpeters.org. See <https://braverangels.org/> for more information.

*Other actions we want to do this year include:*

**International Day of Peace** on Sept. 21.

**"What Is Peace?"** essay contest and posed to Rotarians, Rotaracters, and Interactors in the district.

**Rotary International President 2022-23 Jennifer Jones** will speak in August.

**Schedule Global Peace Scholars** for club meetings.

District 6000

Peace & Conflict Resolution

## What Is Peace? ESSAY CONTEST



Please invite entries for our essay contest, up to 250 words, on the subject, "What Is Peace?" Peace can be within yourself, your community, or the world. There will be separate divisions for **Rotarians and Adult Non-Rotarians, Interactors/High School/Junior High students, and Rotaracters**. The deadline will be May 1. The top entries will be published in future issues of District 6000 News. Submit them to: Ron Heidemann at [heidemanron@gmail.com](mailto:heidemanron@gmail.com). Call 515-979-7470 if questions.



The publishers Joachim Reppmann (left) and Tony Conn holding their book and a peace pipe.

## Peace Pipe Letters project gains international audience

By Tony Conn/Keokuk

Peace Pipe Letters Project

Rotarians around the world continue to learn of the Rotary Club of Keokuk's 1931-1932 International Service project, The Peace Pipe Letters.

This project, developed during the Great Depression and between the World Wars, sought to develop international understanding and promoted world peace. Keokuk Rotarian Tony Conn rekindled this program after discovering the long-forgotten letters in 2016. Had it not been for COVID-19 and Zoom meetings, we would have only reached a fraction of what has been achieved.

Along with Conn, presenters include Dr. Yogi Reppmann (Rotary Club of Northfield, MN), Thilo von Debsitch (Rotary Club of Wiesbaden, Germany), and Matthias Schutt (editor, Rotarian magazine, Germany).

The presentation is tailored to the location of the club, and time allotted, typically 20 to 40 minutes. This past January, programs were given to 17 Rotary clubs, notably the Rotary Clubs of Dublin, Ireland, London, England, and Berlin, Germany.

### Project expands

This group is taking on an aggressive agenda as Rotarians have turned this amazing story into a movement. In 2021, they are on target to:

**Expand team of presenters** and languages offered.

**Develop presentations** focusing on Asia, South America, and South Pacific.

**Produce a second publication**, The Signers of the Peace Pipe Letters.

**Host the October 2021 Peace Conference**, "Dealing With The Past," in Northfield, MN.

**Organize a Peace Pipe Letters Rotaract e-Club**

**If your club is interested in this program**, you can schedule with Tony Conn at 515-418-5865 or email [conn.tony.2013@gmail.com](mailto:conn.tony.2013@gmail.com).

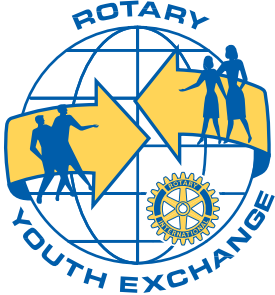
Recent and upcoming Peace Pipe Letters presentations, as of Jan. 31, give an idea of how the word is spreading: **Feb. 1:** Jefferson; **Feb. 1:** Bruehl, Germany; **Feb. 2:** South Africa E-club; **Feb. 3:** Biberach, Germany; **Feb. 3:** Greater Des Moines; **Feb. 9:** Bad Oldesloe-Stormarn, Germany; **Feb. 15:** Bayerwald-Zwiesel, Germany; **Feb. 22:** Davenport; **Feb. 23:** Cannon Falls, MN; **Feb. 27:** Ansbach, Germany; **Feb. 27:** Global Horizons E-club; **March 3:** Kirksville, MO; **March 31:** West Liberty; **April 26:** Muscatine.



# Youth Exchange 'cautiously optimistic'

## Hello Fellow Rotarians:

We held our district's first virtual training session for next year's outbound students on Jan. 16. While planning any first-time event comes with some uncertainty in its results, our nearly six-hour event was active and included all 10 outbound students, their parents, Rotex, and Rotary Youth Exchange team members.



We will be continuing the training program with upcoming mini-Zoom events to keep our students more engaged during the process, and more than likely an aspect of our program we will carry forward in the future. If everything works out, we hope to have our first in-person training session on April 17th. If your club is sponsoring a student, please ensure that they are actively involved in your club's meetings and activities.

We are all still cautiously optimistic that our students will be safely undertaking their exchanges this coming fall, and your district's Youth Exchange team continues to work towards this goal. However, we also realize that we have numerous challenges ahead.

## Rotary International

Rotary International has prohibited formal agreements between districts for future exchanges until July 1. In March, we expect to have more guidance from Rotary International on whether they will be allowing exchanges to resume this year and if there will be any additional safety requirements related to the pandemic. If we get RI's approval and everything safely works out, our district's team will have quite a bit to accomplish in a short amount of time to keep exchanges on schedule.

While all of us attempt to ramp up to some form of normalcy,



**Rotary Youth Exchange can create lifetime relationships. Here, Jo McLean from Australia happily joined a Zoom 90th birthday party for PDG Ev Laning of Indianola on Jan. 31.** Contributed photo

your district's RYE team continues to ask for your support of the Rotary Youth Exchange program by helping recruit future outbound students and host families for inbound students.

We are also seeking additional Rotarians to join our team to help grow our exchange program. So, if you are interested, please contact me. I realize that it can seem like it's quite the mountain to move in planning around the uncertainties of our time, but as I have noted before: undertaking uncertainty, conquering challenges, and adapting to the world around us is nothing new to Rotarians.

**Greg Probst, chair**

D6000 Rotary Youth Exchange  
greg.probst@rye6000.org  
greg@icdesigns.com  
319-331-5987

## 501C3 FOR OUR DISTRICT

# Donors gave more than \$250,000 though District 6000 HEF

## By Phil Peterson/Iowa City AM

Treasurer, District 6000 Humanitarian, Educational Foundation

Thanks to HEF donors for making a difference at home in Iowa and around the globe!

District 6000 HEF donors stepped up to the challenges of 2020 providing over \$250,000 for projects. Nearly half of the donations addressed unique 2020 issues from weather related events like our derecho and Honduran hurricane relief, to food bank support for those impacted by the economic impact of COVID, and to ventilators to treat COVID patients in India. Other funds were given to support club projects, district projects and global initiatives including clubfoot, Xicotepec and the Flight to End Polio.

Thank you so much for your generosity. Donations to HEF are eligible for tax deduction, so don't forget to check to see if you can take advantage of that on your tax return. There is now a limited deduction available even if you do not itemize. For most donations, your check or credit card statement is adequate documentation. For contributions of \$250 or more, tax receipts were sent out in January per IRS requirements.

HEF exists to help Rotarians raise money for the many

charitable projects initiated by District 6000 Rotarians. You can check District 6000's website for information including HEF's tax return and Independent Accountant's Review Report. Please contact HEF Treasurer Phil Peterson at ptpeterson33@gmail.com with any questions or about how you might use HEF to help with fundraising for your next project.

## Watch for RLI sessions in summer, fall

The Heartland Division of Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is making plans to offer in-person training between August and November 2021. We are hoping to offer educational sessions in West Des Moines, East Central or Southeast Iowa and Omaha and/or Lincoln, NE.

RLI offers training in leadership skills to advance Rotary. Questions? District Governor Nominee Steve Wieneke, swieneked6k@gmail.com, or 515-250-0507.

## MEMORIES OF POLIO

## Give the gift of life: Take COVID vaccine for yourself and others

*This editorial, which recounts Rotary's success with polio, first appeared Dec. 16 in the Eldridge North Scott Press and was reprinted in several newspapers, including The Sunday Des Moines Register.*

**By PDG Bill Tubbs**

Editor District 6000 News/Publisher, Eldridge North Scott Press

**M**y dear wife, Linda, remembers well her mother's tears and father's joy that cold day in 1955 she and her sister and brothers stood shivering outside Briggs Elementary in Maquoketa waiting to receive the polio vaccine.

Nothing could stop them.

The availability of a vaccine to rid the people of the curse of polio was a *cause célèbre* not just in Maquoketa, but nationwide, and worldwide.

For Linda, it was personal. The life of her father, the late Laurence "L.L." Long, the pioneer educator and county superintendent of schools, was abruptly and cruelly interrupted in 1931, just as he graduated after working his way through Cornell College and landing one of the best jobs in the state.

It was a devastating blow. With legs too weak to support his athletic frame and an arm unable to perform many tasks, he picked up the pieces, married my mother-in-law, Zoe Shipton, and lived a productive life until he died in 1997 at age 89, the heavy leg brace notwithstanding.

Laurence was lucky. He survived. Many did not.

In the absence of a vaccine, polio, which afflicted mostly children, exploded worldwide, reaching a climax in Iowa in 1952 with 3,564 cases and 163 deaths. Nationwide, there were 58,000 cases and 3,000 deaths.

In fear, swimming pools and theaters were closed. Quarantines were imposed. Children were warehoused in steel tubes called iron lungs and had no contact with the outside world. One in 10 died. Survivors had reduced mobility, and later in life suffered a weakening of muscles called post-polio syndrome.

### At last! A vaccine for polio

It was awful. Moms and dads worried – and then, Dr. Jonas Salk produced an injectible vaccine from a killed virus in 1953. It was announced as effective and safe in 1955, and parents breathed a sigh of relief. It never occurred to them to pass up the miracle of science that gave new life. Schools required it – and it worked!

In 1961, Salk's vaccine was replaced by Dr. Albert Sabin's live-virus vaccine which is given orally, with sugar cubes ("A Spoon Full of Sugar Helps the Medicine Go Down!"), and by 1979, polio was gone from the U.S.

But polio was not gone. A thousand kids were contracting it somewhere in the world every day – 350,000 a year – when

a trial in the Philippines in 1985 went well and the leadership of Rotary, a group I'm proud to be a part of, decided to take action. No child anywhere should live a life of paralysis when prevention is possible, they said.

With technical and logistical support from the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Rotary put its "boots on the ground" to work, with members in 35,000 clubs in more than 200 countries. Members have given \$1.8 billion (that's billion with a "b"). That was augmented by governments of the world, Unicef, and more recently, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Rotary members have traveled to the ends of the world to administer the polio vaccine to more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. I was one small part of a National Immunization Days team in India in 2012 when the oral vaccine was given to 172 million children under 5.

Think of it. 172 million!

The logistics were staggering, but successful. India has not had a case of polio since.

In all, more than 16 million children have been spared paralysis. The virus is in retreat.

But the virus is still alive, no thanks to anti-vaxxers, led by Muslim clerics in Nigeria, which this year, at last, for the second time, was declared polio-free, and the Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where 136 children have contracted polio so far in 2020.

As long as the wild polio virus is alive anywhere, it can spread everywhere. It is but one airplane flight away.

That polio wasn't eradicated years ago is inexcusable. Billions of dollars and millions of man hours have already been invested in the coordinated effort to rid the world of polio – dollars and man hours which could be dedicated to another worthy cause, were it not for ignorance and superstition.

### 300,000 lives, and now a vaccine

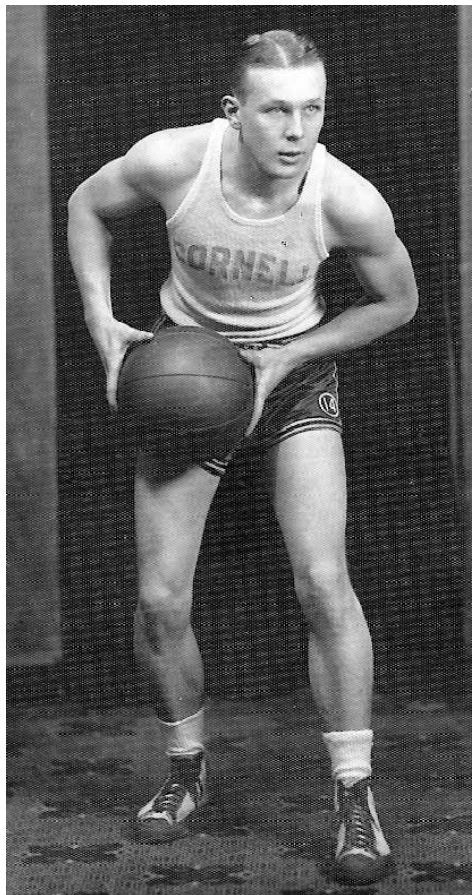
Comes now COVID-19, which has claimed more than 300,000 lives (now 500,000) in this country, overwhelmed our healthcare institutions, disrupted our schools, and sent shock waves through our economy, including small businesses here and everywhere.

It is a cause for celebration and hope that on Monday, a vaccine was rolled out in this country which has been tested and re-tested by medical and scientific experts who have pronounced it effective and safe.

And yet 20 percent nationally – and 26 percent in *The NSP's* question of the week – say they will "definitely not" take it.

Is that a kick in the gut, or what?

Thirty-three years ago, Rotary raised the vision of a polio-free world – which still has not been achieved due to ig-



**The author's father-in-law, Laurence Long, was an athletic young man when his life was permanently altered by polio in 1931.**



# Flight to End Polio postponed to 2022

By PDG John Ockenfels

In the spring 2019 Peter Teahen, a Rotarian from Cedar Rapids, approached me with an incredible vision about flying around the world in his airplane. Peter owns a private airplane called a Piper Lance. This is a single engine, six-seat aircraft that flies about 175 miles per hour.



**PDG John Ockenfels**

He talked about a trip of more than 20,000 miles, stopping in 18 different countries over a period of seven weeks. I was amazed at the reality of what he had planned and knew that this was a massive dream, even for the dreamer he is.

After over an hour of discussion, he floored me with a simple statement. "Well, you could come along if you want to."

This led to almost a year of planning and preparation to embark on The Flight To End Polio.

## Dedicated to polio

Since Peter and I are both Rotarians, we decided that the flight should serve a humanitarian purpose as well as our personal quest for adventure. It only took a few minutes of discussion to settle on using the trip as a vehicle to raise significant funds to help support Rotary's Eradication of Polio and help put the worldwide effort back in the public eye.

Because over the years we frequently heard the phrase "Polio is only an airplane flight away," we decided to call our endeavor "The Flight To End Polio."

We also agreed that Peter and I were paying 100 percent of the cost of the trip personally, and with some private corporate in-kind support. Every dime donated to the flight was to be sent to The Rotary Foundation's Fight to End Polio. (and it has been).

We did many presentations around Iowa and found additional support from people around the country who were touched by polio in some way and wanted to help.

Our planning involved many logistical factors of international navigation, weather conditions, fuel availability, aircraft and crew safety, customs, and immigration at each country we landed in and many more issues as time went by.

We spent almost a year preparing for the flight. We had planned for almost every contingency that we thought might shut us down.

## Planning did not include pandemic

What we did not plan for was a worldwide pandemic with potentially fatal consequences if we were to become ill along the way. Just as bad would have been to spread the disease as we



traveled across borders. There was an extraordinarily strong potential to end up with us and (or) the airplane stranded in a foreign country unable to get home without a huge amount of red tape and cost.

Two weeks prior to our planned launch date of March 24, 2020, it became clear that we needed to delay the trip until it was safe to go. So, we reset to a possible departure window of sometime from July to September of 2020. Eventually it became obvious that the pandemic was only getting worse and almost all countries were going to be shut down for the next year.

Even though we are seeing progress around the world in vaccinating massive numbers of people, it still will not be safe to travel in 2021.

We have removed the special fuel tanks and radios from the airplane and reinstalled the standard interior seats and panels.

Everything has been put in storage and the airplane is ready to use as normal again.

## Takeoff now planned for April 2022

The Flight To End Polio is NOT CANCELLED. We have continued to get updates from many countries, and we expect that we will launch out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, about April 24th, 2022.

We do plan to alter the route to go over the North Atlantic through Greenland, Iceland, and Scotland so we do not spend so much time over the open ocean.

In the meantime, we are still looking for support to help tell Rotarians, and the rest of the world about Rotary's goal of eliminating the Polio Virus from our world.

Visit [www.flighttoendpolio.com](http://www.flighttoendpolio.com) for more information and updates as we prepare start again in the spring of 2022.

## COVID-POLIO, continued

norance and superstition.

Now we're only at the beginning of a campaign to stamp out COVID-19, and one fifth of the people say NO?

I say NO WAY. GET YOUR SHOTS. It's not about YOU when YOUR activities affect OTHERS. Get your shots so our schools and churches and families and businesses can resume normal activities. So we can come together safely as a community again, with concerts and plays and fairs and festivals and ballgames with fans in the seats and all the rest.

I think of Linda's parents, and my parents, and everyone

in the community who rallied to stamp out polio, FOR THE COMMON GOOD, and shake my head in dismay that medical science, which serves to protect, is so disregarded.

The question is not, "Do you believe in vaccines?" That's like asking if you believe the earth revolves around the sun. Science is fact. Belief is faith. Both are important, but they should never be confused.

Give the gift of life. Get your shots.



## ROTARY FOUNDATION

# 'Let your heart lead you to give'

**By Bill Koellner/West Liberty**

Club President and District Annual Funds Chair

I joined Rotary in January 1968. When I joined, there was little talk about The Rotary Foundation (TRF) from District leadership, let alone at the club level.

In 1969, the Foundation unveiled the first Paul Harris Fellow medallion at the Rotary Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Paul Harris Fellowship was started in 1957. To become a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF), it required a \$1,000 donation to TRF. The first 3 PHF in District 600 (now 6000) were awarded in July, 1972 at the District Convention in Knoxville by **Governor Keith Hawk**.

I knew two of the three, **PDG Wayne Douglass** of Oskaloosa, and **Ken Wagner** of West Liberty. The number of Rotarians who earned PHF were 30-40 each Rotary year until 1987 when gifting increased and more than 100 Rotarians became PHF each year thereafter. Many members of my Rotary club began to donate to TRF in 1970. The presentation about where the Annual Funds were used was so inspirational when the first three PHF were given.

After Rotarians attained their initial PHF status, they continued to donate to TRF because Annual Funds and Polio Plus funds were making a significant difference in the world – plus, TRF has superior management, leadership, and strong fiscal policies. In 1983, the first multiple PHFs were awarded to Rotarians who donated the second \$1,000 or more. Presently, there are 7,054 PHFs awarded in District 6000, many to family and friends.

**Polio's strong influence**

Other events impacted my giving to TRF. In September 1979, Rotary volunteers administered drops of oral polio vaccine to children at a health center in the Philippines. Over 6 million drops were given. **PDG Dave McFerren** asked Rotarians to donate to this cause, and I felt if during my lifetime I could help eradicate a disease, it would make a difference.

While I worked at the Corps of Engineers, **PDG Doyle McCully** was the chief, engineering division, and he began several TRF programs that year, Annual Fund donations and International Grant programs. In addition, he had **PDG Ken Noble** giving a program on Polio eradication throughout the District. Ken and his wife, Jo, had been on four National Immunization Days (NID). I am so impressed that Rotarians from our District have attended 18 NIDs since 1991.

The total amount of Annual Funds given in **Doyle McCully's** year were \$3,572 and the donations to matching grants were \$7,661. Rotarians who worked at the Corps would talk about the grants programs and growing the Annual Fund giving. In 1988, the multi-year PolioPlus program in District 600 began under **PDG Cecil Porter** and \$247 million was raised to eradicate polio. In 2007, **Bill and Melinda Gates** joined Rotary with \$100 million for PolioPlus, and they continue. Rotary is so vital to this program and I am so proud to be a part and contribute every year.

**Benefactors and Endowed Fund**

In 1990, **PDG Breckenfelder** began the Benefactor program and five Rotarians became Benefactors that year. When **PDG Ken Noble** was governor, 29 Rotarians signed up in 1995 to become Benefactors. There are now 238 Benefactors in District 6000,

and I am one, as the interest from the Endowment Fund helps support all the TRF programs in our District.

"Doing Good in the World" is the motto of The Rotary Foundation, which was conceived by **Rotarian Arch Klumpp**. The Bequest Society was established to recognize our support for the Permanent Fund of The Rotary Foundation through bequests – gifts at death.

In 1999, the year **PDG Ray Muston** spoke to the West Liberty Rotary Club on its 75th anniversary, he spoke of the great value of TRF. That night, seven Rotarians became PHF, including myself. Between 1999 and 2006, with the help of **PDG Herb Wilson**, West Liberty became the first 100 Percent PHF club in District 6000. From 1999 to 2006, 46 Rotarians and friends became PHF. West Liberty was in the spirit of giving. Now there are 18 clubs that are 100 Percent PHF clubs.

My story is I became sick when **Bill Tubbs** was DG. I was in the UIHC for one year and one week. Other than my family, the most frequent visitor to my bedside was **Bill Tubbs**. After I got out of the hospital, I made a commitment to give to The Rotary Foundation. As an engineer, I had

thoroughly examined the benefits of giving to the Foundation. I committed in 2005 a monthly gift to the Foundation of \$500. The interesting part of my giving relates well to Global Grants. For a Global Grant the minimum funds required is \$6,700, and with the 4.7 to one match, the Global Grant would be \$33,000. The sum of my annual gift was \$6,500.

**Testimonial of a 37-year-old**

Well, three years ago I passed the \$100,000 gift threshold. What was I going to do? Our club's president-elect, **Gretchen Nollman**, a 37-year old professional, self-employed agricultural specialist came into my office to talk about Rotary. I told her of my situation. This is what she said to me, "Bill, for my work, I have travelled to 39 countries in the world, and lived there for a short period of time while I worked with companies on large grain purchases. Bill, the world needs Rotary. Rotary brings Peace into countries, Rotary brings opportunities to Make a Difference in the lives of less fortunate people, and Rotary is understood as an organization to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. And most of all, through Rotary, we make good and trustworthy life-long friends."

Pretty amazing for a 37-year old young professional. So, I decided to make another \$100,000 in 10 years would require me to increase my monthly contribution. At the District Conference in 2015, **Gerald Miegs** spoke about Peace and Conflict Resolution and the Peace Centers, thanking **Bill and Linda Tubbs** for their endowment gifts. Peace and Conflict Resolution parallels my Christian thinking. I am giving an additional \$250/month to the Annual Fund for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

The power of Rotary and the power of your gifts are Making a Difference. Iowa has Rotarians who are the most generous of Rotarians. I've looked at 33 Districts in North America, and our District has about the highest Sustaining Member giving of any District. We have about 70 percent EREY (Every Rotarian, Every Year \$100) Rotarians, and 99 Paul Harris Society members (\$1,000 a year) in which **DGND Steve Wieneke** is the latest to join.

Listen, observe and let your heart lead you to donate to TRF.

**Bill Koellner**



# Rotary Foundation Giving: APF, Polio, Endowments

## District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2020 - Feb. 14, 2021 (Interim Report)

(Members: July 1, 2015-16-17-18-19-20)	(1) 20-21 Goal	(2) % of Goal	(3) Per capita	(4) Thru 2-14-21	(5) PolioPlus	(6) Other (*)	(7) TOTAL
Adel (37-37-34-32-28-24)	\$ 2,800	87	\$ 86.71	\$ 2,081	\$ 250	\$ 0	\$ 2,331
Albia (22-28-28-24-24-29)	750	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ames (224-226-217-206-186-172)	20,000	55	64.22	11,046	6,385	0	17,431
Ames Morning (55-55-59-59-52-46)	6,000	120	155.98	7,175	0	0	7,175
Ankeny (61-77-85-86-83-101)	13,600	65	87.33	8,820	485	125,225	134,530
Atlantic (58-58-58-56-62-62)	2,000	103	33.24	2,061	0	0	2,061
Bettendorf (103-101-102-105-93-100)	10,000	53	52.75	5,275	0	0	5,275
Bloomfield (10-10-10-11-12-12)	1,100	193	177.08	2,125	20	0	2,145
Boone (42-34-41-51-50-46)	4,000	314	273.23	12,568	3,528	0	16,096
Burlington (80-79-80-80-76-73)	1,000	74	10.14	740	0	0	740
Carroll (46-44-43-44-42-26)	3,500	67	65.28	2,350	250	0	2,600
Centerville (50-46-45-46-45-38)	3,899	75	76.97	2,925	0	0	2,925
Chariton (41-41-34-30-39-40)	4,000	136	136.00	5,440	0	0	5,440
Clinton (98-97-94-90-91-80)	5,000	99	61.21	4,929	1,008	100	6,037
Coon Rapids (27-31-34-30-29-28)	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coralville-N. Corridor (20-21-22-24-23-22)	2,000	55	50	1,100	0	0	1,100
Corning (34-33-32-32-31-30)	1,252	90	37.40	1,122	1,000	0	2,122
Corydon (18-15-15-17-16-18)	1,800	61	61.11	1,100	0	0	1,100
Creston (23-19-17-18-21-21)	200	38	3.57	75	50	0	125
Dallas Center (27-29-26-25-28-30)	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davenport (112-113-110-107-101-94)	10,000	73	77.55	7,290	225	0	7,515
Decatur County (30-32-31-30-30-28)	6,000	78	167.86	4,700	0	0	4,700
Denison (x-x-x-x-x-31)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Des Moines AM (170-170-179-189-194-200)	7,000	75	26.38	5,275	110	0	5,385
Des Moines (276-270-269-255-240-227)	21,000	37	34.48	7,828	2,550	18,500	28,878
East Polk County (34-31-29-29-27-22)	2,500	39	44.32	975	440	0	1,415
Fairfield (74-60-57-56-47-41)	4,000	50	48.54	1,990	100	6,180	8,270
Fort Madison (49-53-55-51-48-42)	3,000	88	63.10	2,650	96	0	2,746
Greater Des Moines (12-12-11-13-26-17)	1,000	5	2.94	50	425	350	825
Grinnell (38-40-35-38-36-34)	5,000	118	173.38	5,895	0	500	6,395
Indianola (54-53-54-47-39-37)	3,000	92	74.86	2,770	520	0	3,290
Iowa City (312-329-333-317-293-271)	50,000	29	53.67	14,545	100	500	15,145
Iowa City AM (66-69-74-71-74-79)	15,000	95	180.76	14,280	26,708	3,300	44,288
Iowa City Downtown (23-21-23-25-22-24)	3,500	73	106.25	2,550	0	2,000	4,550
Iowa Quad-Cities (41-42-38-42-38-36)	1,000	50	13.89	500	100	0	600
Jefferson (59-59-56-60-59-55)	5,500	70	70.45	3,875	300	0	4,175
Johnston (60-49-52-43-49-44)	1,500	98	33.30	1,465	0	0	1,465
Kalona (42-41-43-40-38-38)	1,500	8	3.29	125	2,000	0	2,125
Keokuk (66-71-57-53-45-41)	2,500	65	39.76	1,630	0	105	1,735
Keosauqua (24-22-23-24-26-26)	1,200	75	34.62	900	0	0	900
Knoxville (61-58-48-53-45-34)	3,200	0	0	0	2,422	0	2,422
Lenox (29-28-27-25-25-25)	900	0	0	0	350	0	350
Manning (19-25-21-23-22-22)	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marengo (11-10-10-11-10-10)	250	80	20.00	200	0	0	200
Marshalltown (150-147-145-133-127-117)	7,500	45	29.10	3,405	2,195	0	5,600
Mount Pleasant Noon (52-55-47-51-56-53)	1,200	83	18.87	1,000	0	0	1,000
Mount Pleasant (20-20-18-18-16-15)	1,400	45	41.67	625	0	0	625
Muscatine (79-77-69-66-67-62)	10,000	67	107.48	6,664	2,135	0	8,799
Nevada (71-69-61-53-54-48)	8,000	148	247.40	11,875	2,425	0	14,300
Newton (60-55-49-40-36-38)	1,500	17	6.58	250	1,725	0	1,975
North Scott (85-86-89-88-88-95)	15,000	62	98.05	9,315	0	17,500	26,815
N'West Des Moines (34-40-36-37-36-37)	8,000	66	142.57	5,275	126	0	5,401
Norwalk (0-0-20-24-18-18)	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Osceola (28-29-25-22-22-21)	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oskaloosa (56-55-57-54-59-59)	4,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ottumwa (97-98-92-89-82-75)	7,500	120	120.33	9,025	0	0	9,025
Pella (29-30-29-29-26-26)	3,000	47	54.44	1,415	1,300	0	2,715
Perry (26-26-26-23-23-22)	500	0	0	0	670	0	670
Tipton (30-26-27-22-28-23)	1,500	151	98.65	2,269	0	3,000	5,269
Washington (49-48-43-42-43-41)	4,200	24	24.39	1,000	0	0	1,000
Waukegan (58-64-69-64-68-73)	8,500	40	46.51	3,395	405	0	3,900
Wellman (36-34-30-29-26-23)	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Des Moines (62-63-52-51-50-45)	3,000	91	60.67	2,730	1,000	0	3,730
West Liberty (43-44-46-41-38-36)	12,500	46	159.72	5,750	1,500	1,000	8,250
West Polk County (31-18-19-20-24-21)	500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winterset (25-30-33-29-28-30)	3,500	103	120.27	3,608	4,437	250	8,295
<b>Total (3854-3853-3793-3693-3580-3464)</b>	<b>\$ 341,351</b>	<b>63.87%</b>	<b>\$ 62.94</b>	<b>\$ 218,026</b>	<b>\$ 67,341</b>	<b>\$ 178,610</b>	<b>\$ 463,977</b>

(\*) Other includes endowment fund and restricted giving for grants

## ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES

# BLESSMAN MINISTRIES: EYE

By Dr. Jim Blessman/Waukee

CEO and Founder, Blessman Ministries

Have you ever dreamed of doing a real African safari? It is now possible for you to join with fellow Rotarians in a service trip to beautiful South Africa where you can visit numerous projects that have been funded by four separate Rotary Foundation Global Grants. You will also be able to attend a number of South African Rotary meetings and take part in the Rotary International community!



For the past five years, Blessman International has hosted a team of Rotarians at their beautiful game lodge near Mokopane South Africa. Lee Homes, a retired veterinarian and Blessman International board member, will be leading this team. Lee is

a great tour guide and has led three previous teams to South Africa. His passion and love for South Africa and its people along with his experience and knowledge will be the perfect mix for any Rotarian interested in this experience!

### Rotary a major contributor

Rotary has been a major contributor to the mission and goals of Blessman International in South Africa. With the help of Rotary, Blessman International has completed a large water and sanitation project with 30 newly drilled wells and the construction of 165 new composting sanitation toilets to replace dangerous and unsanitary pit toilets.

Together Blessman International and Rotary have partnered on a grant providing agricultural education and complete school gardens in 10 rural impoverished schools. These gardens are helping provide food for approximately

*, continued on next page*



Girl at Del Cramer Child Development Center with a new pair of glasses.



Members of the mission team washing children's feet before giving them their new shoes.



Children at Del Cramer Child Development Center eating lunch.



# VE ON AFRICA

7,000 children while equipping the community to learn many sustainable agricultural techniques!

Rotarians, a part of this service trip will also be visiting Blessman International's newest grant project which is providing education for South African women in sewing menstrual health kits. Members of this team will be put to work helping us distribute the kits to middle and high school girls in impoverished schools.

Blessman International has a nutrition program providing food for 20,000 children. Team members will be able to serve many of these children in one or more of the various feeding centers in the program. Rotarians will not only serve in helping provide food for these children, but also will serve in the educational and literacy program provided for these same children after receiving their meal.

In addition, Blessman International is busy constructing a new sports complex for the children to play soccer, net ball and volleyball. Rotarians traveling to South Africa will be a part of the early stages of developing this sports league.

## Photo safari experiences

The photo safari experience will be on a 50,000-acre game reserve park where there is a good opportunity to see most of the famous big five game of South Africa, along with plenty of giraffes, zebra, wildebeest and several species of antelope.

There are side trips available to have an up close and personal encounter with lions and elephants, as well! For people interested in other side trips, they can easily be arranged



at Kruger National Park which is about the same size as the country of Israel and packed full of South African game animals running free throughout the national park.

Another favorite side trip is to Victoria Falls between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Upcoming Trip Date:** March 11-23.

**Cost of basic trip:** \$5,500 (this includes most meals, airfare and lodging and also land transportation in South Africa.)

**Blessman International**

2557 106th St., Urbandale, IA 50322

Ph. 515.343.5920 Mobile 515.778.4143

Website: <http://www.blessmaninternational.org>

**Team leader Lee Holmes (l) with Dr. Jim Blessman, 2018**

Blessman's ad is on p. 19; information about fundraiser is on p. 30.



**Dr. Jim Blessman doing optical outreach.**



**A child eating his meal provided by Meals from the Heartland and Blessman International.**



# Rotary steps up to stem human trafficking

By Tom Barr/West Liberty

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds reaffirmed Iowa's dedication to fighting Human Trafficking by signing a proclamation declaring January to be "Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month." The governor recognized several individuals and the Rotary Club of West Liberty Rotary Club on January 14, 2012 in the State Capitol for their outstanding efforts in fighting Sex and Labor Trafficking in Iowa.

Rotary is the largest global service organization, with clubs in over 33,000 communities worldwide. Rotarians are dedicated to providing service to others and advancing peace and goodwill, within their communities and around the world.

The Rotary Club of West Liberty was just one element of Rotary's effort in fighting this heinous crime in Iowa. This Rotary club distinguished itself in bringing education to the community over the past four years, working with Braking Traffik, a Division of Family Services of Davenport. Their community programs included general public forums, presentations to their local Christian Youth Group and the entire staff and faculty of the West Liberty Community School District.

Additionally, as their community is 52 percent Latino, the club developed a Dual-Language Rescue Sticker, which is placed in restroom stalls of restaurants, service stations, convenient stores and any other public restroom with the owner's permission. The Rescue Sticker provides both an Iowa and National 800 Phone Number plus an Iowa and National Text Number for Help or Assistance.

## Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking



Dr. George Belitos

Also participating in the recognition was the Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery, (NAHT), which celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2020. The NAHT organization was founded by Dr. George Belitos, of the Rotary Club of Ames.

Dr. Belitos is vice chair of the Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery.

The Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking and Slavery (NAHT) was Iowa's first and remains the only statewide volunteer organization devoted exclusively to ending human trafficking in all its forms. The NAHT believes that human trafficking is modern day slavery where vulnerable people are forced or coerced into involuntary servitude for the purpose of financial profit for traffickers. We also believe that human trafficking is:

**A crime against the most basic human rights**, affecting women, children and men.

**An underground activity** about which there is limited information and knowledge.

**The result of complex issues** with global magnitude, involving



**Davenport Rotarian Maggie Tinsman (I) and North Scott Rotarian Deanna Jensen-Valliere provided resources at an anti-trafficking awareness event sponsored by the Rotary Club of West Liberty in 2020. Maggie is secretary of the Iowa Network Against Trafficking and Slavery, and as a state senator, was the first to create awareness of the extent of human trafficking. Deanna is a board member with Tinsman of Braking Traffik, a Quad-Cities organization.**

Photo by Bill Tubbs



IOWA NETWORK AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY

social, economic, health, political and legal factors.

**Force or coercion need not to be shown** for a minor to be considered a victim of trafficking.

Rotary also celebrated the first non-geographic Rotary club in 2020: "District 5950 Ending Human Trafficking." This Rotary club previously served Minneapolis and central and western Minnesota, but now has members from four foreign countries as well as across the United States.

## Rotary District 6000 Resolution

Rotary District 6000 of Iowa, has also developed a Resolution which is being submitted to Rotary International. The purpose is to ask Rotary International to take a more active role in fighting both Sex and Labor Trafficking around the globe, which has over 40 million trafficking victims worldwide.

Rotary, with over 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide, is uniquely positioned to address global issues, and has a successful track record – we have helped eradicate polio, and can mobilize thousands of Rotary clubs to tackle this issue in their own communities.

The exceptional Iowa anti-trafficking heroes included:

**Ruth Buckels, Advocate Extraordinaire.** Foster/adoptive parent to eight sex trafficked female survivors. Ruth is also a licensed therapist and has been a counselor to dozens of victims and survivors.

**Marc Kirkbaum, U.S. Attorney For The Southern District of Iowa.** When Marc Kirkbaum became U.S. Attorney, he prioritized human trafficking investigation and prosecution.

**West Liberty Rotary Club.** This service club organized four anti-trafficking education and prevention projects for the public schools and community at large.

**Iowa City Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Task Force.** This task force carried out a sex trafficking investigation that received what is considered the highest federal honor for victim services by law enforcement.

**Stacy West, Survivor Who Has Now Turned Her Scars Into Stars.** According to her nominator, Stacy is the very definition of a trafficking "survivor."

The United States has over 460,000 children reported missing each year and in 2017, Iowa reported 4,311 children missing, an average of 12 per day.

How can YOU Help?

**On the Cover:** Rotary Club of West Liberty member Cliff McFerren, with District Governor Steven Dakin, receive the award given by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds. On the left is Iowa Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg. Rotary District 6000 Governor Steve Dakin is at right.



## IOWA CITY

# The Rotary-Kerber HeartSafe Community Campaign

By Ryan Bell/Iowa City

Saving a life from sudden cardiac arrest through cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) is dramatic, but all too rare. This year the Iowa City Rotary Club (Noon) received a letter, followed by a presentation, from a RAGRBRAI rider whose life was saved by immediate CPR given by other riders, and later defibrillation by a state trooper who happened to be carrying an AED donated by the Iowa City Area clubs year earlier.



**Rotarian Jim Merchant providing CPR certification training to Rotarian Brianna Wills.**

Inspired by this life saved, the Iowa State Patrol now requires AEDs in all of its squad cars.

350,000 suffer a sudden cardiac arrest annually in the U.S. The survival rate is only 10%, but research has shown that more than 60% can survive with timely CPR and use of an AED. The Rotary-Kerber HeartSafe Community Campaign was begun in 2019 with a \$10,000 grant from Rotary District 6000 and the Iowa City Rotary Club (Noon).

Its goals include:

**Raising community-wide awareness;**

**Training Rotarians** as CPR/AED instructors;

**Service club and nonprofit** educational programs and training (currently suspended due to COVID-19),

**Provision of AEDs** to nonprofits and now to local businesses through cost-sharing programs,

**Collaboration with local government** and the University of Iowa to map all known AED locations,

**Collaboration with the Iowa City Area Business Partnership** and use of social media to identify, register and map community AEDs,

**A dedicated website** ([iowaheartsafe.org](http://iowaheartsafe.org)).

## Future is bright

As Rotary projects go, the future is bright. All grants require an element of maintenance and growth. The potential for this one to expand is enormous. Longer term, the goal is to make this a district-wide model. For now, local adoption is crucial to prove the model is ready for expansion.

That local adoption can come in a variety of ways, but the most intriguing is the campaign offers local businesses a great incentive to take the crucial step for more AED availability. Based on business size, the campaign will cover between 50-62.5 percent of the cost to implement an AED!

An essential element to the successful roll-out of any community program is PARTNERSHIP! As such, we've found it beneficial to partner with our local Chamber of Commerce: the Iowa City Area Business Partnership. Both our Rotary club and its HeartSafe Committee seek to benefit through this partnership.

For the HeartSafe Campaign, the primary goal is to make CPR training resources and the AED cost-sharing program available to any entity. The Business Partnership provides a

great platform to connect with these businesses and nonprofits. Since our campaign will offer our community a greater level of available emergency response, spreading the word is of benefit to everyone!

This partnership works both ways, too. Upon learning more about this project coupled with knowledge she had gained from her father-in-law, a Rotarian himself, our local Business Partnership CEO, Kim Casco, became a member of our club! Kim has the "Four-Way-Test-approved" heart of a Rotarian, and we are happy to work together to make our community stronger!

Recognizing this natural partnership, Kim commented "The Iowa City Area Business Partnership and Rotary share similar histories rooted in service and both of our organizations are fueled by people who are passionate about making their communities better places to live, work, and learn. I am excited for what we can do together!"

More generally, the Business Partnership has helped our club make this campaign more visible in the community. Our Zoom "Ribbon Cutting" was a very well attended event with 77 participants!

While COVID-19 has slowed some progress, important connections have been made and our club is excited about the additional benefits this partnership provides, including an upcoming "Speed Networking" event where our club members can visit (via Zoom) with other business professionals in the community and further spread the word about Rotary. It's crazy, but MOST people have NO IDEA how awesome Rotary is!

## MOKOPANE, SOUTH AFRICA 2021



\$2,250 + AIRFARE | 2021 TRIP DATES ARE PENDING



TRAVEL WITH OTHER ROTARIANS!  
Experience "Service Above Self" on a 12-day trip with opportunities to serve, meet Rotarians, and visit South African Rotary Clubs!

BLESSMAN INTERNATIONAL  
2557 106th St. Urbandale, Iowa 50322 515.343.5920  
[OFFICE@BLESSMANINTERNATIONAL.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@BLESSMANINTERNATIONAL.ORG)

# Literacy project ideas provided to presidents

By Carolyn Jons/Ames Morning and Carol Narak/West Des Moines  
District 6000 Literacy Committee

The District 6000 Literacy Committee has been busy! Members Carolyn Jons, Bill Morain and Jerri Heid created a video about literacy, which was narrated by PDG Tom Narak. The video, along with other resources, was included on a flash drive sent to each club president.

The resources included on the flash drive were chosen to inspire and support Rotarians who want to promote literacy and to help Iowa kids get the best possible start in life. Ideas for adapting programs so they can be implemented safely in a pandemic environment are also included.

- Item # 1** lists the contents of the flash drive;
- Items # 2-5** are resources for club or community presentations;
- Items # 6-15** highlight the importance of early literacy and provide guides for implementing several effective programs;
- Item # 16** features literacy programs reported by D6000

clubs in 2019.

Members of the D6000 Literacy Team are available for club presentations. Several clubs have already requested programs.

PDG Jacque Andrew commented: "Jerri Heid presented an excellent program at our Jefferson club on Nov. 30. A highlight was a video produced by the District Literacy Committee. The committee has put together an effective program utilizing technology with resources available (including the video) on the District 6000 website at <https://rotary6000.org/SitePage/literacy-promotion>. The Community Literacy Toolkit has many great ideas to help clubs promote literacy."

To request a program, please contact **Carol Narak** at tom.carol@msn.com, 515-229-9847.

Due to COVID-19, you should

plan for your program to be virtual.

**D6000 Literacy Team members:** *Deb Dunkhase, Iowa City AM; Jerri Heid, Ames; Mandy Gustafson, Boone; Carolyn Jons, Ames AM; DGE Alka Khanolkar, Keokuk; Elizabeth Miner, Ames AM; Bill Morain, Decatur County; Carol Narak, West Des Moines; PDG Tom Narak, West Des Moines; LaDonna Wicklund, Iowa City*



The District 6000 Literacy Committee sent flash drives with resources for club literacy projects to club presidents.

## IOWA QUAD CITIES

# Rotarians make 51 desks for Monroe Elementary

By Doug Peterson/Iowa Quad Cities

It started, like so many Rotary projects, as an idea. Iowa Quad Cities Rotary member, Mark Nagan, saw a pattern for a simple school desk that could be easily constructed from plywood and pine boards. He suggested during a meeting that perhaps the club could adopt a project that would construct a number of these desks and donate them to a school whose elementary students are having to learn from home and may not have an adequate workspace to complete their homework or participate in class.

It goes without saying that Rotarians are "People of Action."

This was never truer when the club decided that, YES, we could do this! Six days later, club members had donated the necessary funds, approximately \$1,100, to buy materials; President Mark Collier

worked with the local Anchor Lumber Company of Silvis, Ill., to provide material at a discounted price; and members volunteered to work on an upcoming Saturday to begin building desks. It took two Saturday-project days at President Mark's business, Todd's Mudjacking, for club volunteers as well as Rotarians constructing desks at home, to complete the project.

In all, 55 desks were constructed. This was the Iowa Quad Cities Rotary Club, People of Action, at its finest!

On Dec. 6th, 51 desks were delivered to Monroe Elementary School in Davenport. Principal Ben Driscoll happily opened the school that Sunday afternoon to receive the delivery of 51 desks. Four other desks were provided to a special needs class in another school.

Principal Driscoll was overwhelmed

at the generosity displayed by Rotarians and expressed his gratefulness on behalf of the children, and their teachers, who will be thrilled to receive these gifts.

In less than three weeks' time, an idea from a Rotarian became a reality for over 50 school children who in many cases may never have had a workspace to call their own. As people of action, Rotarians open doors of opportunities. The children of Monroe Elementary are witnesses to that reality.



Desks in the school gymnasium Contributed photo



Monroe Principal Ben Driscoll with club president Mark Collier.



# It's about books for Boone County second-graders

By Lesley Dakin/Boone Satellite

During the 2019-2020 Rotary year, the Rotary Club of Boone was granted funds from District 6000 to provide a book per month for every second grader in Boone County. Boone County schools include Boone, Trinity Lutheran, Sacred Heart, Ogden, United and Madrid.

Each second-grade teacher was given monies with the expectation that each student would order their own book from the classroom book order once a month. With our grant during that year, we supplied books to about 270 second graders. We had a great time providing books for students to keep and share with their families. Students, teachers, and families were very grateful for our efforts.

With the precarious start to this Rotary year, the Rotary Club of Boone ventured on a campaign to improve the literacy of young people in Boone County. We are also providing books for each second grader, but with accommodations brought about by the pandemic.

In October and January, masked club members have bagged up three books for each second grader (295). Rotarians have shared the tasks needed: ordering books, obtaining bags, purchasing "Rotary" stickers, printing bookmarks, confirming the number of second grade students in each location, and delivering the books to each school. Funds for this activity were collected from "sponsors." Our heroes were asked to sponsor one month of

book purchases (\$300) during the year. Luckily, we had eager volunteers stepping up to help us.

This year, 2020-2021, the Rotary Club of Boone wanted to expand our reach by providing books for youth of all ages. We have had to scramble for methods/events for reaching as many youth as possible. At Halloween our group shared books during the "Trunk or Treat" event held by the Cham-

ber of Commerce – 558 books were distributed to "tricksters" parading past our stand. In fact, we ran out of books with 30 minutes left of the evening!

During the holiday season, books were added to the "Shop with a Cop" boxes (270), the Boone High School Student Council "Christmas in a Box" (22), Madrid Christmas Families (56), and also Salvation Army distributions (20). We have been able to fulfill these needs through our District 6000 Community Grant written for this Rotary year. During this spring and summer, we are looking forward to additional opportunities to safely share books with youth in our Boone County communities.

Through our grants and creative methods fueled by our passionate members who find literacy a valued focus, we have provided books for hundreds of youth in Boone County.

We hope owning books and having reading material in homes brings about a bright future for Boone County youth. Our club looks forward to many years of sharing our focus with the families of Boone County.



**Second-graders in Boone County had books to read, thanks to the Rotary Club of Boone and its Satellite club.**

## ANKENY

# 'Warm Hearts, Warm Beds' provides 439 fleece quilts

By Brenda Wieneke/Ankeny Satellite

The Ankeny Evening Satellite Rotary Club conducted a virtual community service project to support Warm Hearts, Warm Beds 2020. The project is sponsored by the Huebsch family in Ankeny, with a goal to give back to children in need and to make fleece tie blankets for our local hospitals, Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, Mercy One in Des Moines and the A Helping Hand organization in Ankeny.

This project began in November 2015, after the Huebsch family heard a sermon that discussed fostering generosity among children. It featured a number of great

things kids in the congregation could do to help people in their community and/or around the world. And that's how the project began for the Huebsch family!

This project has grown from 55 blankets to over 493 fleece blankets which have been picked up by families, friends and various community organizations. On behalf of the Evening Rotary Club, we had 10 Rotary members with family members, who were able to complete 16 fleece tie blankets during our Evening meeting Dec. 8th via Zoom and working together while social distancing.

**Final Update:** Warm Hearts Warm Beds 2020 - <https://mail.google.com/mail/>



**Kristofer Orth, a member of Ankeny Evening Satellite Club, and his daughter, Olivia, with one 493 fleece quilts provided to area families.**



**Ankeny Rotarian Marie Kline.**

## You're Invited. Be a part of history. Help the Rotary Club of Boone fund Phase 2 of the Welcome Train!



Additional funds are needed for lighting, sidewalk, benches and signage. Your tax deductible donations will be welcomed and acknowledged. Send to:

**Welcome Train/Boone Rotary - P.O. Box 532 - Boone, IA 50036**

Visit [www.boonerotary.com](http://www.boonerotary.com) for more details, or email [booneiarotary@gmail.com](mailto:booneiarotary@gmail.com)



(Advertisement)



# Winterset Rotary's 'amazing Maze'

By AG Chris Bertelson/Winterset

In December, a new sidewalk was installed in the Winterset City Park connecting a parking area by an Arbor Picnic Shelter and the Rotary Maze. The sidewalk was built with accessible design to allow all visitors easy access to the shelter, maze, and bocce courts. The \$10,000 project was funded by the Rotary Club of Winterset with a matching Community Service Grant from The Rotary Foundation through District 6000.

Sarah Simon, Rotary Club of Winterset president, worked hard to coordinate all the parties involved in the project. "This is a great example of the community coming together to fill a need and enhance our beautiful city park."

Winterset Parks and Recreation supported the project in every way from past director John Pletchette to new director Sky Smothers. "Rotary is a great partner for a project like this and I look forward to working with them on future endeavors" said Smothers.

Shive-Hattery, a civil design firm and great friend of Rotary, volunteered their expertise in designing the sidewalk. Greg Alexander with Alexander Construction built the sidewalk and contributed his own expertise. Local businesses and individuals also made this project possible with their annual sponsorship of the Rotary Races. "We couldn't do as much without our sponsors. They help us to go the extra mile to fund our youth and community projects," said Winterset club treasurer Dan Nielsen.

## 30,000 visitors a month

Over 30,000 people visit the Winterset City Park each month for its many features including the 1870 Cutler-Donahue Covered Bridge, three-story limestone Clark Tower, classic picnic shelters, maze, campground and more. It's become a Top 10 Park Destination for central Iowa. Now all those visitors can enjoy the gentle sloping curves of a wide sidewalk taking them from their car to a wedding in the Arbor Shelter, or down to the Rotary Maze for an adventure or the two bocce courts for the annual Rotary Bocce Tournament fundraiser for local charities.

Constructed in 1998, the Rotary Maze is one of only a few known mazes in the entire country to offer visitors a chance to experience the excitement of wandering through a lush, English-style maze. The maze consists of 1,850 privet hedges and was planted in the spring of 1998 in four hours by 25 high school students and volunteers. A four-foot fence divides each double row of hedges with a five-foot fully accessible walking path dividing the double-rowed hedges. In the center of the

Rotary Maze is an old English sundial purchased in London, England, at an antique shop. It was adjusted to tell the correct time at this longitude, and adjusted for daylight savings time. A perennial garden in the center is maintained by the Madison County Master Gardeners.

## Maze maintained by Rotarians

The Winterset club is committed to maintaining the maze and spends 100 hours each year in trimming, repairing and improving the maze. Last summer we needed to straighten the posts on a guard rail overlooking the maze, so over a dozen members and half a dozen trucks pulled, straightened and cemented the railing back to plumb. Each spring when the local high school has Community Service Day for graduating seniors there is a crew that works on the maze raking, painting and prepping it for the season ahead. The maze is a great focal point for bringing the Winterset club and the community together in common service.

The maze was inspired by a visiting Rotarian from England in the 1990s and designed by Robert Harvey, Winterset native and professor of Landscape Architecture in the College of Design at Iowa State University in Ames. It is soon to be highlighted in a new book about Mazes around the world to be published later this year. Most recently it has inspired the Rotary Club of Corning, New York, to consider a maze in its community. Plans are underway for the 25-year silver anniversary of the maze in 2023. The Winterset Rotary Club has been giving back to the community since 1922.



**The Winterset Rotary Maze was built in 1998 and will be highlighted in a book featuring mazes around the world.**

Drone Photo provided by Christ Bertelsen



**The newest addition is the accessible sidewalk to the shelter, maze and bocce courts, thanks to Winterset Rotary.**



# The value of Rotary Friendship Exchange

By John Lewis/Des Moines

District 6000 Friendship Exchange

As a bit of background on my Rotary travel experience and its impact on my thinking, I'd like to share that I first joined in 1964, but because of geographical relocations as a result of employment opportunities, I am now in my third club, the Rotary Club of Des Moines, where I've been a member since 1980.



John Lewis

So I have known a lot of members, presidents and DGs, and eaten a lot of mashed potatoes, carrots and peas over the years. I thought I knew quite a bit about the objectives and workings of the organization, gained by regular attendance at weekly meetings, but I can honestly say that I simply didn't appreciate the breadth and depth of RI until I got involved in one of its international programs, Rotary Friendship Exchanges (RFE).

Good friends approached my wife, Wanda, and me about joining a team going to South Africa and Zimbabwe back in 1999. Quite frankly, we had never given a lot of thought to such a venture and, in fact, were not really even familiar with what it was. But we had the time and thought, "Why not?," and off we went for three weeks or so, visiting major parts of South Africa and a significant foray into Zimbabwe, all of which was most interesting.

## Teams of 10 to 16

In the RFE program, a team is developed of 10 to 16 or so persons, either couples or singles, select the team leader, and travel to another RI District somewhere in the world. In response, a team from that District will likely be formed to come visit D6000.

Quite often, the initial contacts leading to an exchange agreement between districts are a result of meetings or acquaintanceships formed at international gatherings of DGs. But in many cases, the connections start as a result of contacts between individual members in their respective clubs. The team members are guests of the district being visited, various local clubs there, and are most likely hosted in the homes of individual Rotary members and their families, where they will meet the spouses, the children and/or grandchildren and often the neighbors, go to the Rotary club meetings, and visit locations through arrangements made by the local members where it is unlikely that we would ever gain access as part of a commercial tour.

## Opportunities to serve

In our case, out of that initial exposure to the program came further involvement, eventually joining the District RFE committee and later chairing it for multi-years. In addition to the initial visit to South Africa and Zimbabwe, the visits in which we were involved included a four-week trip to New Zealand (two weeks on each island), a 31-day outing to Australia and later a three week visit to England and Scotland.

Exchanges have also been made with Districts in India, Canada, Ireland, and perhaps other areas that I don't remember. Many D6000 Rotarians have more experiences than we did, but everyone, I believe, would attest to the impact and effectiveness of the program and its potential for world peace and understanding.



In our experience, when the team members were guests at local club meetings, it was typical for us to provide a short program about our District, State and home areas. And also about some of the things our clubs were doing as projects and programs. When it was my

turn to make comments, I often would ask all the Rotarians present to take a moment to look at the lapel pin I assumed they were wearing and call attention to the fact that it says, "Rotary International," and the significance that I believe that has. It doesn't say Rotary Local, and every member should realize that being a part of it carries world-wide implications as to our purpose and standing. I would also note the specialness we felt in coming from a place perhaps half-way around the world and, because we were Rotarians, we were immediately welcomed into their homes, clubs and social groups, and that we appreciated that very much.

## Opportunities to host

Similarly, when it was our turn to host teams from those districts one of ours had visited, there were similar moments of international goodwill and the opportunity to learn about other societies and to show our communities and clubs to them, along with inviting our local friends and acquaintances to join us in welcoming them.

Even if world travel doesn't appeal to a Rotarian or if health concerns prohibit long trips, helping to host visitors is a wonderful way to learn more about Rotary around the globe and possibly develop personal friendships that will last a lifetime. Wanda and I feel truly blessed to have a number of such friendships that still exist after these years with persons and families that we met as a part of RFE, through either an inbound or outbound experience.

The reason I share my story with you is that I believe there will be tremendous opportunities shortly in international travel and a furtherance of Rotary's ideals. The COVID pandemic makes for a difficult time and causes us all to be more immediate in our planning. But it will be brought under control and there will be, I truly believe, a great desire and quest for meaningful interface with others in the world and a sharing of the objectives of Rotary and other positive ventures.

## Be ready to make connections

Toward that expectation, I recommend that you consider what your place in the effort can be and to be ready to commit to being a team member or to being part of hosting others. If you have Rotary friends in other parts of the world, don't be reluctant to ask them if they might help organize an exchange. They may be thinking the same thing.

And I would hope that today's Rotary leaders will direct substantial efforts toward continuing the level of involvement in that program that we have seen in the past. I would caution, though, that it requires persistence and ingenuity to ferret out possible agreements between districts and regions. The Exchanges don't just fall from a tree, to say the least. But they are there and in the near to mid-future, the international interest in rekindling travel and social connections should be good for finding new friends around the world, and what way better than through Rotary?

And when they happen, everyone will agree that it was worth all the effort and planning that was required. Good luck!



## PONSETI

# 'Lucky's Feet' placed in Iowa City libraries

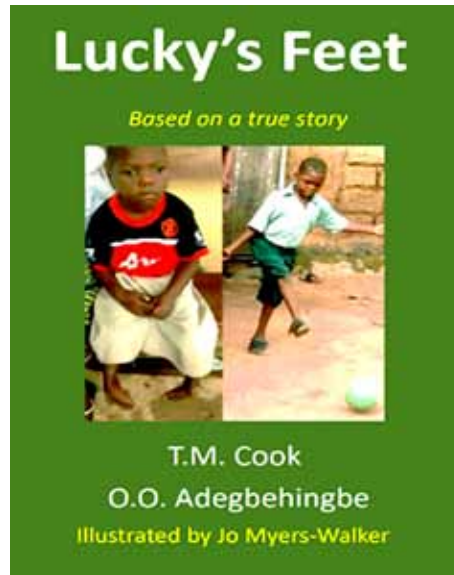
By Tomeka Petersen/Iowa City Downtown'  
Co-Chair, RAG4Clubfoot

Rotarian Byron Bork and his wife, Suzanne, are pictured with a copy of Lucky's Feet, a recently published children's book that tells the story of a young boy's remarkable transformation from a life of isolation and disability due to clubfoot to a normal, happy childhood.

Suzanne is a retired media specialist from the Iowa City Community School District. Byron is a retired lecturer from the University of Iowa and member of the Iowa City Noon Rotary Club.

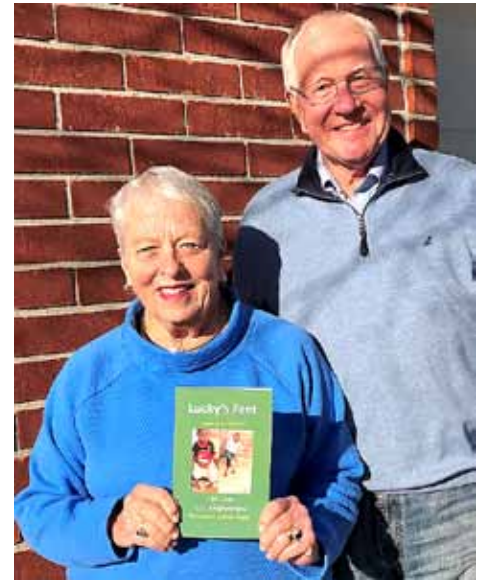
The Borks were so impressed with Lucky's Feet that they donated a copy to each library in their district's 21 elementary schools. Kristi Harper, the district's library coordinator, said, "The book is very informative and child-friendly with beautiful illustrations. It will be a wonderful addition to our elementary school libraries."

The Borks hope members of other Rotary clubs will consider providing copies of Lucky's Feet to schools in their communities to help the Rotary



The book, "Lucky's Feet"

Action Group for Clubfoot build awareness of clubfoot and its treatment. A narrated version of the book is avail-



Suzanne and Byron Bork.

able on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/TeHZ6ssGgmK> or Facebook <https://fb.watch/26wcbhMhmW/>

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Clubs cooperate to clean Iowa City roadways

By David Brown/Iowa City

In the middle of October our club was able to get together to clean up a stretch of highway that we adopted this year. Prior to the event, we visited with our club to convey how we proposed to be safe during COVID, and then asked for any volunteers who would be comfortable coming out to help. We took precautions with masks and by bringing individually

wrapped energy bars and drinks. We had about 25 people who showed up that morning.

The stretch of road is coordinated to be shared with all of the Iowa City clubs (though the sign gives credit to a much more ambitious "Iowa"). We will plan another event for this upcoming spring and continue to clean the road twice a year going forward.



The Rotary Clubs of Iowa City Noon, Iowa City Downtown and Iowa City AM participants in the cleanup included Don and Peg Carstensen, Joe Hughes, Briana Hoffman, Angie Brown, Peter Wallace, Tomeka Peterson, Barbara Thomas, Dave, Eva and Emery Brown, Brent Bonner, Elsa Janle, Tara Minetos, Ryan Bell, Amy Nicholson, Mark Stanley, Paul Nichols, John Schneider, Linda Muston and some members of their families. Ryan Bell volunteers with the Big Brothers and Sisters of Johnson County and brought along his Little Brother.



Students at local school using water distribution points provided by Rotary.



Containment pool of natural spring water for Mhezi.



Construction of the water tank.

## AMES

# Foundation grants bring water to villages in Tanzania

By Mary Wells/Ames

Club Global Grants Team

Mhezi Phase I and Mhezi Phase II are two Rotary Global Grants that were created to bring safe water system development to several small communities in the Kilimanjaro Region of northern Tanzania. The village of Mhezi is the first and largest community in the group. Both Global Grants bear this name. Mhezi I began in 2018 and completes in 2021. Mhezi II began in 2020 and will be completed in 2021. When both Global Grants are completed, an integrated water system will be created to provide safe water to residents of four villages.

The Rotary Club of Ames is the International Sponsor and the Rotary Club of Same, Tanzania, is the International Host Club for all four Global Grants since 2014.

## Ten clubs in District 6000

Looking at Mhezi I and II grants partners, there are 10 Rotary clubs partners in District 6000 (Ames, Ames Morning, Ankeny, Boone, Des Moines, Grinnell, Indianola, Manning, Newton and Winterset) with three more Rotary districts (nine Rotary clubs) throughout the United States. Most of those clubs are in Rotary District 5970 which is the northern half of Iowa. There are four Rotary districts (one Rotary club per district) outside of the United States.

Mhezi has a population of around 2,000. The other villages to be included in the second Global Grant range from around 2,000 people to under half that size. These villages have had no safe water source within their community centers, schools or health centers. Historically, the villagers have walked to a spring on a side of a mountain. Through the first grant using the spring, a holding pond was created, below ground piping laid to the village below. A large water tank, water treatment center and pump house were built in the village. Many water distribution points were built around the village with below ground piping laid from the water tank to the distribution points. Most of the water distribution points are now complete and working. Villagers did the trenching and laying of the pipes.

Mhezi II will expand the concept to the other villages in the area, making it one unified system with an additional water source. Throughout the system, one distribution point can easily accommodate 200 villagers per day with safe water. The whole system will also provide water for gardens and livestock.

How has this enhanced the lives of the villagers? Compare them to Iowa. Well over 50 percent of Iowa's 1000-plus cities and towns have 2,000 residents and below. Safe drinking water has been available to these towns for decades.

Mhezi I and II are the third and fourth Rotary Global Grants to provide safe water to towns in northern Tanzania. A few Rotary clubs in Districts 6000, 5960 and 5970 began in 2014 with our first Rotary Global Grant for a sustainable water

system for the village of Kigogo.

The second Rotary Global Grant, with even more District 6000 and other U.S. partners, provided a safe water system to Masandare by 2019. Our partnerships with Rotary clubs outside the United States began with Mhezi II, our latest Rotary Global Grant.

## Join us in our next water project in Tanzania

Two newly created water sources at Mchamweni Spring high on a mountain above the village of Mhezi, Tanzania. Underground piping leads the water to a filtration and treatment facility and storage tank over 1,000 meters downstream.

The Rotary Clubs of Ames and Same, Tanzania, have been bringing sustainable clean water to rural villages in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania for seven years through Global Grants partnerships of Rotary clubs in the United States. We welcome you to join us. For more information how your club can learn more: Contact Glen Rippke, [rippkegs@gmail.com](mailto:rippkegs@gmail.com) or Karin Sevde, [kmsevde@gmail.com](mailto:kmsevde@gmail.com) for more information.

## NORTH SCOTT

# Keeping members engaged

The Rotary Club of North Scott, under the leadership of president Dr. Brad Burt, is doing its best to keep members engaged. Since July, meetings have been hybrid with 30 in person and 25-30 by Zoom. Smaller groups have **kept projects alive**, assembling **bicycles** for differently-abled kids, replacing the annual **Harvest Party** by taking 300 pumpkins and 576 decorated cookies to kids in Quad-Cities' after-school programs, and presenting **Student Dictionaries** to 265 fourth-graders by Zoom in a partnership with North Scott teachers and students.

Fellowship has continued with physically-distanced socials: Outdoor **Installation Party**, **Corn Boil**, and **Christmas and Valentine** events. The **golf outing** was unfortunately rained out. A new "**Mystery Rotarian**" feature in the club newsletter, with the "reveal" at meetings, has helped members have fun discovering unique things about their fellow Rotarians, and speakers, in person or by Zoom, from **Congressional candidates** to **ballet** to **country music** to **vocational** talks, have educated, engaged and entertained.

As this newsletter went to press, members were ramping up for the Feb. 27 **North Scott Rotary Rallies for Youth Virtual Auction**, with in-house professional videos and bidding by QTEGA. The goal is to keep the momentum going through which the club has funded \$627,000 of service since 2014.

— provided by Bill Tubbs



## NEVADA

# Derecho relief fund restores historic house

By Emmi Miller/Nevada

As hard as the Nevada Community Historical Society has worked to improve Evergreen Lane, in less than an hour this past August, a highly unusual inland hurricane in Iowa caused \$70,000 damage to the property's house alone. "That's just the house," emphasized Kris Corbin, a member of the Nevada Historical Society who lives across the street from Evergreen Lane and helps with much of the property upkeep.

For days on end, volunteers worked at Evergreen Lane to clean up downed trees and parts of trees. Next spring, more repair work will happen, thanks to the goodness of so many Nevada residents, businesses, and organizations. One of those organizations, the Rotary Club of Nevada, made a presentation in November to the Nevada Historical Society.

As explained by current Rotary President Dick Pringnitz, Rotary District 6000 Disaster Response Team received funding from The Rotary Foundation to assist the clubs with derecho damage. The Nevada club, which has a history with the Dutton house (Evergreen Lane), applied for assistance. Pringnitz said Nevada Rotary received the highest grant amount possible, \$7,500, which was presented this week to the Nevada Historical Society. It was a gift that carried sentimental value.

The connection between the historical home and Nevada Rotary dates back to the club's earliest days. Nevada Rotary started May 1, 1922, and its first president was Mr. Jay Dutton, who lived in the home that is the centerpiece of Evergreen Lane. Club history tells of Rotary members often gathering at the Dutton home for its first meetings.

Fifteen years ago, Nevada Rotary helped restore what used to be Jay's old study on the main level of the home. Its current financial contribution will help repair the retaining wall in front of the home. That wall was torn apart in the derecho when a tree fell on the wall. Corbin said bids are being received at this time to replace the wall with either a



Members of the Nevada Rotary Club and the Nevada Community Historical Society celebrate a \$7,500 grant for repairs at Evergreen Lane, (-r): Kris Corbin, Dick Pringnitz, Ros Dunblazier, Marty Chitty, Jenny Helland, Marlys Brehm, Linda Wright and Dorian Myhre. Not pictured Rotary President-elect and grant facilitator, Emmi Miller.

poured concrete wall or a block wall.

Much of the damage from the August storm will be covered by insurance. What wasn't covered has been of huge importance to Nevadans who want to help. Corbin noted the Historical Society is very thankful for the huge fundraising effort, with matching funds from Burke Corporation, which will help cover other repairs not covered by insurance.

"This town of Nevada, it's fantastic," Corbin said. Also fantastic for the Rotary club is a future celebration which will put the Dutton home front and center. The club will celebrate its centennial anniversary in May 2022, and it plans to have that celebration at the place where everything started, the Dutton home/Evergreen Lane.

## WEST POLK COUNTY

## Club provides diapers, wipes and formula

By Brian Buethe/West Polk County

The members of the Rotary Club of West Polk County have really missed doing traditional service projects this year, many of which couldn't happen because of safeguards against the Coronavirus. We had hoped to adopt a family in need this Christmas season, but by the time we reached out to our contact, all of the families that they had identified had already been adopted (this is a wonderful statement of the greater community stepping up to the plate).

So, instead, we had a conversation with a representative from Iowa DHS, just to see if they had any ideas for an area of need that is currently underserved. A very quick response from them was that they work with a number of young mothers who would use a hand. In particular, it was identified that their greatest need was for diapers, wipes, and formula.

Our leadership team, led by President Mark Watson, made the determination that we were going to ask our members to consider donating to this identified cause. Although we are a small group, we managed to accumulate a vehicle full of the requested supplies. Hopefully they will help someone this Christmas season.



Amanda Hardin, volunteer coordinator from the Polk County River Place DHS Office, and West Polk Rotarian Brian Buethe provide needed essentials at Christmas.

## TIPTON

# Community service: Greenhouse, playground, coats



**Greenhouse at Tipton High School.**

The Rotary Club of Tipton was awarded a 2019-2020 District 6000 Community Matching Grant to purchase equipment for a greenhouse at the Tipton School District. The school had received funding to purchase and build the greenhouse. Tipton Rotary Club purchased rolling tables, garden wagons, a liquid fertilizer system, heating system, ventilation system and other items needed to put the greenhouse to use.

After a rough start between wet weather in the fall of 2019 and then COVID in March and the derecho in August of 2020, the building was erected and the items assembled and installed. Tipton Rotarians assisted in building the building as well as assembling the tables, wagons and fertilizer system that we purchased. A ribbon cutting was held on Oct. 29, and the Tipton faculty are ready to put it to use this winter. The greenhouse will be used to supplement the school's STEM programming through all grades.

— provided by Laurie Brandenburg



**Inclusive playground groundbreaking.**

The Rotary Club of Tipton donated the net proceeds from its annual auction to spearhead fundraising for new inclusive playground equipment at the Tipton Elementary-Middle Schools. Along with a \$10,000 Cedar County Community Grant, \$1,000 from the local Lions club and other donations, the \$100,000 worth of equipment has been purchased and installed.

New equipment was purchased for the PK-K classes, grades 1-3 and a Ninja skills course for grades 4-6. This is the only inclusive playground equipment currently in Tipton and will provide hours of fun and exercise for children of all ages and abilities. Ribbon cutting was held Oct. 29, 2020.

— provided by Laurie Brandenburg



**President Laura Twigg with coats.**

The Rotary Club of Tipton's annual coat project donates coats, with matching hats and gloves, to students in need at Tipton and Bennett schools, donating 53 coats this year. Coats are also donated to senior citizens.

This project began in the fall of 2014 when the club participated in PDG John Ockenfels Operation Warm Coat project and grant. The following year we also purchased coats from Operation Warm, using funds from our budget. In 2016 the club's board of directors made it an annual budget line item, using funds from the proceeds of our annual auction, as well as donations from our members. In 2018 we began working with the Tipton Senior Center and Meal Site, helping to ensure that our senior citizens were also able to have a winter coat.

Since the project began we have donated well over 350 coats in Tipton and Bennett.

— provided by Laurie Brandenburg

## MOUNT PLEASANT

# COVID canceled Centennial, but we have mugs for sale!

**By Olabisi Gwamna/Mount Pleasant**

The Mount Pleasant Evening Club has kept up the Rotary spirit in spite of the depressing atmosphere of COVID-19. During the summer, we tried some in-person meetings for a while, but had to rapidly switch back to the safer, even if distant virtual platform. Since November of 2020, our 15-member club has been meeting unfailingly via the Microsoft Teams, which under the technical guidance of president Cal Litwiller, has been generally user-friendly.

While the virus has impacted much of our club's agenda, we've still been able to achieve some of our programs. Before Thanksgiving, some of us lent our helping hands at The Fellowship Cup packaging food items to needy neighbors. In lieu of the regular meals, members donated to the food pantry. Usually, our club supports the local school district by purchasing needed gadgets, or building gym equipment; however, due to the constant disruption of the K-12 schedule, we are considering ways of improving the academic welfare of our



schools. Still on community projects, we are hosting another Blood Drive in coordination with the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. At the summer 2020 event led by Rotarian Don LeBlanc, three double red cell and one plasma were given by 20 blood donors. Past President Don LeBlanc will again lead this year's event, which will take

place in February at the Van Allen Elementary School.

COVID-19 has greatly impacted our program, but we have coped so far by adjusting the schedule, such that our weekly virtual meetings have been reduced to every other week. Our only regret has been the cancellation of our much-anticipated Centennial Celebration in 2021. However, our Centennial souvenir is available, and could be purchased at a fair price. Contact Cal Litwiller, if your club wants some. We plan on meeting as regularly as possible, holding fast onto all that is true and fair, encouraging goodwill and better friendships and supporting things that are beneficial to all concerned.



**INTERACT**

# Students active, engaged

## Liberty: Ronald McDonald, fleece, pen pals

**By Peggy Dolson**

Iowa City Liberty High School Interact Adviser

The Interact Students Helping Our Community (IN SHOC) Club has been busy even though many businesses are closed. We have adapted to the times to continue our service learning.

Students have picked up garbage on the North Liberty Trail. Not only does this serve the North Liberty community and the local neighborhoods, but it also is a service to the environment as the garbage could eventually end up in waterways. We are hoping to do this one more time before the snow falls.

Another service students have been performing is to make fleece tie blankets for those in need or to give Liberty students a sense of belonging. Materials are purchased by IN SHOC fundraisers, Rotary support, and through the Liberty Fund.

Most importantly, we are maintaining our relationships with the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) families and with The Residence seniors. Since the school opened, IN SHOC members have been serving a monthly meal at the RMH; however, pandemic precautions do not allow outside members into the facility, so IN SHOC members have paid to sponsor a meal and have challenged Liberty's faculty to sponsor a meal. Donations from the community are helping the RMH to serve its families.

The IN SHOC Club has also found a way to continue our monthly relationship with seniors at The Residence. Instead of hosting bingo at The Residence, students write a set of monthly trivia questions which are delivered to the facility with prizes. We have also started a pen pal relationship with interested seniors in the hopes that we can soon be with them in person.

## IC West: Houses Into Homes, Shelter House

**By Nancy Pacha/Iowa City AM**

Iowa City West High 1440 Interact has been meeting virtually since last March out of great caution. Each Thursday there are two half-hour meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, giving students lots of opportunity to easily attend. Interactors have been very creative in planning safe, but effective ways to do "Service Above Self."

Hosted at the first meeting of 2021 was a speaker from Houses Into Homes, a non-profit organization that helps people in need by providing them donated furniture, beds and other housing items. In more normal times, Interact could help in the warehouse or help move furniture, but to be safer, one could help by spreading awareness of the organization and its needs on social media or sign up to do laundry of donated items.

Interactors have written thoughtful notes to accompany blankets they are donating to clients of Shelter House, and they have made cookies and gift baskets for a holiday party for Open Heartland, a new Iowa City area non-profit that has organized a learning nest for students with inadequate support for virtual learning.

Currently, students are making short videos with entertaining content for residents of nursing centers. Musicians can play instruments, storytellers can tell stories, artists can show artwork. The technology wizards will weave it all together to create an uplifting video.



**Northwest Des Moines Rotarians Bill D. Corwin and son, Bill W. Corwin, and Brenda Auxier-Mailey prepare coats for kids.**

## NORTHWEST DES MOINES

# Rotary club provided 2,492 warm coats to kids since 2014

**By Brenda Auxier-Mailey/Northwest Des Moines**

Over the past seven years, the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines has purchased and distributed 2,492 winter coats to students. Since 2014, the club has been determined to keep kids warm during our long Iowa winters.

Starting in 2014, the club provided coats to students in Urbandale Schools (Rolling Green, Olmsted, Valerius, Karen Acres, Jensen, and Webster Elementary Schools; Urbandale Middle School; Urbandale High School and Metro West Learning Academy (serving students from the Urbandale, Johnston, Waukee, Saydel, Adel and Dallas Center-Grimes School Districts). In 2015, St. Pius X Catholic School was added and in 2017, West Des Moines School, Clive Learning Center, and Des Moines Public School, Cowles Montessori located in Windsor Heights were added.

This year the Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines was able to provide 684 coats to preschool, elementary, middle, and high school students. To purchase the coats the club partners with Operation Warm (<https://www.operationwarm.org/>), a nonprofit organization that provides coats at a significant discount. Operation Warm's mission is, "to provide brand new winter coats to children in need, helping to improve self-confidence, peer acceptance, school attendance, and overall wellness."

On the day the coats were distributed, parents and students in Urbandale expressed their appreciation. One little girl said, "I love it ... I feel like a princess!" Two middle school students commented that the coats were so cute and picked identical coats to show that they were best friends. After receiving a new coat a third-grade boy at Karen Acres Elementary excitedly stated, "This is the best coat ever! It's so warm!" A first-grade girl at Valerius Elementary said, "Thank you for my coat, it is so beautiful!" A mother of four children stated, "Thank you for helping us with coats for my kids. It helps me a lot!"

To fund Operation Warm, the Rotary of Northwest Des Moines relies on the profits of raffle ticket sales and two yearly tournaments, a Pickleball tournament at Smash Park, and a Golf Tournament at Urbandale Golf and Country Club. This year the club also received a much-needed \$5,000 grant from Endow Urbandale (<https://endowurbandale.org/>) to purchase the additional coats needed to keep kids warm this Winter.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, there are many needs in our community, providing brand new warm coats to PreK-12 students is one way the Rotary of Northwest Des Moines Club can make a difference.

# NEWS NOTES

## RYLA

Plans for Iowa RYLA, a project of District 6000 and 5970 (northern Iowa), once thought to be certain, remained in flux as District 6000 News went to the printer. Watch for communication from Wayne Steen, our district's chair, 563-607-3367, pythagoras78@hotmail.com.

## THEME ANNOUNCED

Incoming Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta urged members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own. Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, revealed the 2021-22 presidential theme, Serve to Change Lives, to DGE Alka Khonalkar and incoming district governors on Feb. 1 during the Rotary International Assembly. The assembly, a yearly training event for district governors-elect, was originally



## Wrapper ...

The Rotary Club of Iowa City AM participated in its annual tradition of wrapping presents on Christmas Eve at the Coral Ridge Mall in Coralville. Rotarians, family, and friends volunteered to wrap throughout the day in shifts. Their cheerful wrapping garnered free will donations totaling \$692 to be put toward local community projects, (l-r): PDG John Ockenfels and Jackson Cameron, the son of Rotarian and sergeant-at-arms Jack Cameron.

Provided by Amanda McFadden



set to take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, but was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## TAIPEI CONVENTION VIRTUAL

The Rotary International Convention, scheduled for JUNE 12-16 in Taipei, Taiwan, will now be a virtual event in response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. "We are sorry that we will not see you in Taipei this year, but this decision, made by the Rotary Board of Directors, is necessary to protect the health of everyone involved. We will share more details about the 2021 Rotary International Virtual Convention soon. RI will automatically cancel and refund all existing registrations. This includes purchases made for Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and Intercountry Committees preconvention events, and ticketed meal events."

## SKIING FELLOWSHIP

Allyson Walter, past president of the Rotary Club of Ames, is president of the International Ski Fellowship of Rotarians. Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion. They are open to Rotarians, their family members, and participants and alumni of all Rotary programs. In January 2020, ISFR held the Annual Ski Week in Sun Valley, Idaho, but due to COVID, did not meet this year, but secured a week in 2022 to gather and ski in Banff & Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, Feb. 26-March 5. Allyson says if your club is interested in learning more about ISFR and Rotary Fellowships in general, she has developed a presentation, which includes information about fellowships and the International Skiing Fellowship. "I would be delighted to be a guest speaker via Zoom for any club that might be interested." Allyson can be contacted at ISFRSki@gmail.com.



## DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

This FREE training is Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and is especially for incoming club officers to help prepare for their responsibilities, but all Rotarians are invited to participate in this online event! Some of the topics that will be presented are Supporting and Strengthening Membership, Promoting Rotary, Foundation's Impact and Rotary Youth Programs. Training for Club Secretaries will be from 8 to 8:45 so they can also attend District Training Assembly. For more information and to register, C

## FOOD BANK

The financial review for 2019-20 was presented by CPA Matt Corwin Dec. 3 and accepted. It was voted unanimously the unspent contingency funds of \$13,021.16 will be donated as directed by PDG Erna Morain to the Food Bank of Iowa.

## DISTRICT MEETING

District Governor **Steve Dakin** will convene the District 6000 Virtual Annual Meeting the last day of NCPETS on Saturday, March 20, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. On the agenda is: 1) Approval of the **district budget** for 2021-22 with dues of \$35 per member, which was approved last year but not implemented. This will be the first increase since 2009, and dues will remain among the lowest in Zone 29. 2) Amendment of the **bylaws** to allow for proxy voting at the Annual Meeting. 3) Approval of the **Nominating Committee** recommendation of **Dennis Drager** of the Rotary Club of Marshalltown for District Governor 2023-24. 4) Approval of the nomination of **Scott Naumann** of the Rotary Club of Bettendorf as at-large member of the Executive Committee. 5) **Youth Protection Policies**.

## BLESSMAN FUNDRAISER

The 9th Annual Blessman International Gala will be Thursday, April 29, at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. "See how God's moving mountains in Africa." Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and program at 7:00 p.m. Live entertainment will be provided by the Brazilian Twins. Emcee will be Eric Hanson from KCCI-TV. The evening will include silent auctions and updates on Blessman's work in Africa (p. 16-17). Single tickets are \$150 for dinner and admission of one. Tables of eight are \$1,200. You may also choose to join our virtual Gala. Additional information coming soon. Information: 515-343-5920, or office@blessmaninternational.org.



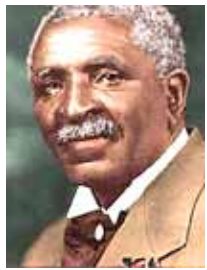
# NEWS NOTES

## District backs George Washington Carver statue for U.S. Capitol

By PDG Jacque Andrew/Jefferson

Assistant Editor, District 6000 News

District 6000 of Rotary International has endorsed the addition of a statue of George Washington Carver in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol by the State of Iowa. The action was taken by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of Rotary District 6000 Dec. 3, 2020.



Carver

Rotary District 6000 represents over 3,000 members in the southern half of Iowa an area where Carver, a freed slave, distinguished himself as an agricultural scientist at Iowa State University in Ames after beginning his post-secondary education at Simpson College in the late 1880s.

Carver's humanitarian and agricultural legacy aligns with Rotary's dedication to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world by supporting efforts to foster peace and to end polio forever.

Each state has the ability to place two statues in the U.S. Capitol. In 2014, Iowa unveiled the statue of Dr. Norman Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize winner and also an agricultural scientist. The proposed Carver statue would replace that of Civil War era Iowa Governor Samuel Kirkwood.

The Carver statue initiative is championed by Ambassador Ken Quinn and international opera star Simon Estes, two who share with Carver the distinction as recipients of the Iowa Award, the state's highest citizen recognition. By illuminating the remarkable Carver story of overcoming the extreme hurdles of racism with the support of Iowans, they envisioned a unique historic opportunity to bring Americans together following the nation's tumultuous year.

Just as Carver was dedicated to enhancing the lives of his Tuskegee Institute students while also advising Mahatma Gandhi of India, Rotary members are focused on serving their communities and their world as part of an international organization of 1.2 million members in 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries.

## Our credible Rotary Foundation!

For the 13th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities in the United States. According to Rotary International, TRF earned this recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only 1 percent of the organizations Charity Navigator evaluates have received 13 consecutive 4-Star evaluations.



We all want the same thing.

And the 1.2 million members of Rotary around the world are making it happen. Rotary's educational programs and scholarships are dedicated solely to promoting peace. Together we can create a more peaceful world.

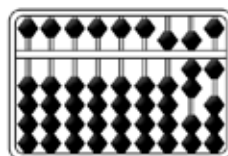


Rotary. Humanity in motion.

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)



This message proudly sponsored in the interest of Rotary by ....



SKINNER &  
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Nevada, Iowa



Rotary's goal is a polio-free world! There were 173 cases of polio in all of 2019, and 140 in 2020. As of Feb. 19, 2021, there were no new cases in Pakistan and only one in Afghanistan.

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## Rotary Opportunities!

**REGISTER YOUR 2021-22 club president, and 2022-23 president** is encouraged, for **NCPETS** (p. 5).

**ENCOURAGE MEMBERS** to sign up for the **RIDE TO END POLIO**, and invite others to join. (p. 6).

**REGISTER YOURSELF** and invite others to register at [www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org) for the April 24 **"Living the Five-Way Test" District Conference**, virtually or in person at the Marriott in Ankeny. (p. 4).

**ENCOURAGE CLUB LEADERS** to register and attend the March 27 **Virtual District Training Assembly** (p. 30).

**SUBMIT ENTRIES** for the **"What Is Peace?" essay contest**, and invite Interactors and Rotaractors to do the same (p. 10).

**PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT** for **Sukup Safe T Homes** (p. 7).

**ASK MEMBERS** to give generously to support the programs of **The Rotary Foundation** and **PolioPlus** (p. 14-15).

**SUBMIT APPLICATIONS** for **Rotary Foundation Community Service Grants** on or before the June 1 deadline (p. 5).

**SUBMIT NEWS** of your activities by MAY 21, 2021, for the next issue of District 6000 News to PDG Bill Tubbs at [btubbs@northscottpress.com](mailto:btubbs@northscottpress.com). Send text or a Word file or in the body of the email; and free-standing, high resolution .jpg images.

## The Object of Rotary

The **Object of Rotary** is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**FIRST:** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**THIRD:** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

**FOURTH:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the

## The Four-Way Test (of the things we Think, Say or Do)

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Rotary Opens Opportunities

## District 6000 News Opens Opportunities!

Your sponsorships with paid ads will underwrite the cost of our three-times-a-year magazine and present your message to 3,575 Rotary leaders and decision makers. Prices: \$250 (1/8-page); \$400 (1/4-page); \$750 (1/2-page); and \$1,250 (full page), payable to District 6000. Color included. Design services available. Contact Editor Bill Tubbs: [btubbs@northscottpress.com](mailto:btubbs@northscottpress.com).