



# District 6000 News

Rotary International, District 6000, Iowa USA

Delwyn D. Bluhm, Governor

– A Global Network of Community Volunteers –  
December/January/February 2006-07

## *Governor's comments . . .*

## Presidential visit, 'Rendezvous in Ames' highlight year

By DG Del Bluhm/Ames

Georgia and I now have time after completing our Official Club Visitations to help plan for the spring training events and the 2007 District Conference. It is going to be an unusual District Conference and will be affordable. We are very fortunate that we have an outstanding District Conference Committee this year under the able direction of co-chairs Bob and Jan Anderson and Dean and Sharon Axland. Notice the article on page 4 in this issue of District 6000 News about the unique conference. Also note the instructions in this issue of District 6000 News which explains how to register for the Conference. We think everyone will enjoy this District Conference as we celebrate the District 6000 accomplishments during 2006-07, so plan to attend and don't miss it! Register now!



Del Bluhm  
District Governor

### Presidential Visit

Iowa was really honored with the visit of RI President Bill Boyd and Lorna to Bettendorf and Cedar Rapids on Feb. 12-14. It is very unusual for a current RI President to visit Iowa and to my knowledge it has only occurred three times previously, during Rotary years 1973-74 and 1981-82 in the Quad Cities, and during 1984-85 visiting Boone.

Due to bad weather, the Boyds left Evanston, Ill., early on Feb. 12, so he was available that evening and the entire next day. We started the day having lunch with a local Interact Club, area mayors, city administrators and the Rotary Club of Bettendorf board of directors. Then there was a press conference before we toured the area for Rotary projects and viewed the special Rotary Club of Bettendorf's Rotary billboard. Bettendorf's 50th anniversary celebration included a group photo of the Rotary Club of Bettendorf, RI President Bill, District Governor Del and all the partners; introduction of dignitaries; and finally, presentation of special awards and the address by President Boyd. He spoke eloquently and easily for almost 30 minutes without a note.

PDG Paul Hellwege received the Distinguished Service Award

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The weather was nasty but the hospitality was warm when RI President Bill Boyd of New Zealand visited Iowa on Feb. 12-14. The magnetic sign on the Weerts limousine welcomed President Boyd with his theme, "Lead the Way," at the Bettendorf Rotary Club's 50th anniversary. More photos and articles are on pages 2 and 15-18.

## Connect with Rotary's network

Make your plans now to connect with Rotary's network of volunteers by attending upcoming district meetings: President-Elect Training Seminar and District Assembly leadership training April 13-14 at Newton, and District Conference May 10-12 at Ames. See pages 3 and 4.



# President Boyd presents top honor to PDG Hellwege

## GOVERNOR'S COMMENTS

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from President Boyd, which is the highest award in TRF. This was an outstanding event by all measures.

We left Davenport at 8:30 p.m. for Cedar Rapids. Georgia and I were pleased to be invited to attend this event by DG Ken Kolek and Ginny of D-5970 (northern Iowa) to attend President Boyd's visit to Cedar Rapids on Feb. 14. This meeting started early with a breakfast for President Bill and the Cedar Rapids area Rotary clubs' leadership teams. All area Rotarians and their District 5970 leadership team members joined together for this luncheon and the formal address by President Bill, again without a note, which was followed by a less formal one-hour question and answer session open to all area Rotarians. Everyone enjoyed the day.

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**Hoover-Wallace:** Last month an announcement was sent to all D-6000 Club Presidents stating that the Hoover-Wallace Dinner will be held this year in West Des Moines at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 16, at the Hy-Vee Conference Center on Westown Parkway. Districts 5970 and 6000 have shared in alternate years in co-hosting this event within their districts in central and eastern Iowa plus co-hosting with Iowa's Regent Universities, the Chamber of Commerce in the host city and the World Food Prize. Rotary has strong ties to this event over the past four years. (See article on page 30 of this issue of District 6000 News, and the registration form for this event on the D-6000 Web site.)

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**Awards and Recognition:** Awards are an important part of the District Conference, so it is important that club leaders track the progress for completion of all criteria. In District 6000 we want to continue to make a difference in the world through our commitments to club service, vocational service, community service, service to youth, international service and The Rotary Foundation plus its supported programs. This requires a motivated club leadership team who commits to providing service on many fronts, and our awards as defined below can help with this motivation.

**RI 2006-07 Presidential Citation:** The RI President, Bill Boyd, is helping to motivate us in this work by offering the 2006-07 Presidential Citation which recognizes the many accomplishments of our Rotary clubs. He asks that your club complete the membership goal and one activity from four of the five categories listed in the criteria between July 1, 2006 and April 1, 2007. So if you are interested in this citation, you have less than one month left to complete this effort. Once your club has met this challenge, please complete the certification form and submit it to me, the district governor, by April 1. Club presidents can find the criteria and the application form for this award in their PETS Manual or they are also available on the D-6000 Web site – "Download Forms" area.

**2006-07 District Governor Club Recognition Award:** As your governor, I, too, want to help motivate and to recognize our Rotary clubs by offering the 2006-07 District Governor Club Recognition Award which identifies other levels of Rotary club achievement. I hope that many of our 63 clubs will compete and try to achieve



PDG 1954-55 Paul Hellwege of Boone (I) received Rotary's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

this recognition. In all the 63 Official Club Visitations now completed, we have seen that all of these clubs are certainly potentially capable of this achievement. You now have less than one month left to complete this effort and submit the certification form. The criteria for this award include four areas:

I. Complete one or more activities noted in the Public Relations D-6000 Challenge Bulletin listed under the four (4) categories titled "Sponsor" of Events, Awards, Programs or Displays.

or Participate in a Literacy Project.

or Participate in a Clean Water/Water Recycling Project.

II. Achieve a net increase of club membership by April 1, 2007 amounting to:

- One member for clubs of 100 or less members;
- Two members for clubs of 200 or less members; and,
- Three members for clubs of more than 201 members.

III. Achieve at the club level for TRF activities:

• The EREY goal of \$100 or more per Rotarian.

IV. Achieve at the club level for TRF activities, any two items:

- Secure one member as a new Bequest Society Donor;
- Secure one new member of the Paul Harris Society;
- Secure two members as new Benefactors;
- Secure one member as a new Major Donor.

Once your club has met this challenge, please complete the certification form, and submit it to me, the district governor, by April 1, 2007. Club presidents can find the criteria and the application form for this award in their PETS Manual or they are also available on the D-6000 Website – "Download Forms" Area.

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**Membership:** As I reported last month, membership is always a big issue with most clubs, since they usually lose approximately 10 percent of their current membership each year and, if they want

## GOVERNOR'S COMMENTS

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# Training, team-building events scheduled

By DGE Diana Reed/Northwest Des Moines

*Three important training events are scheduled in District 6000:*

**Leadership Training:** District Leadership Training is the current name for what in the past has been called Assistant Governor Training. The new name is a result of a new initiative to expand the training opportunities within the district to all the district committee chairs as well as the assistant governors.

The initial start for this will be on March 24. All of the incoming AGs and approximately one third of the district committee chairs for 2007-2008 will come together in Newton for an information-filled day. Each following year, for the next two years, will have a different one third of the committee chairs joining the AGs until all district committee chairs have had a training opportunity.

The three-year rotation will give all the district committees a chance to be involved. The purpose is to provide a better interaction among the various committees in order to be able to take advantage of the expertise in each specific committee as the need for collaboration takes place during the year. It will also give the AGs more resources to share with each of the clubs with which they work. This new approach should provide everyone involved with new and exciting energy to be utilized within the district.

**President-Elect Training Seminar - the great way to begin:** Club presidents are one of the most important resources that any district possesses. It is therefore absolutely critical that the incoming club presidents start their upcoming year in that position in the best possible way. One of the best ways to ensure that this is possible is to begin with President Elects Training or PETS, as Rotary so fondly calls it.

This is the opportunity for the incoming presidents and the district leadership to come together to begin the important work of the Rotary year. It is much more than just adhering to the mandate by Rotary International that all incoming presidents must attend in order to serve as a club president. It provides information, the opportunity to build relationships and to give input to decisions that shape that president's year.

This year PETS will be held in Newton on April 13. It will be especially exciting as zone representatives will be joining the incoming presidents. PDG Mary Beth Selene, representing The Rotary Foundation, will be there to talk about special approaches

## ***Remember to register!***

District administrator Jerri Uitermarkt reminds Rotarians that they need to register to attend the training events. For PETS, that includes your meal preference for Friday evening (meat, fish, vegetarian). Register online at [www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org).

and updates from the Foundation. This will be particularly helpful as each president will be turning in their "Every Rotarian Every Year" goals for 2007-2008. Cathy Smith, Zone and International Assembly trainer, will give us her perspective on strategic planning and its importance. The district is currently in the process of developing a strategic plan, which makes this a timely topic. Cathy has a wealth of information and is a tremendous resource for everyone. It is really exciting to be able to work with these two talented people. There are many special moments during any president's year, so what a great way to begin by starting the 2007-2008 year together. There will be information, new friends and fun for all. What a great beginning!

**District Assembly - come one and all:** The theme for the April 14 District Assembly has been set as "Developing Dynamic Rotary Clubs: Setting Your Future Course." This theme was selected because it reflects the energy that is generated by the opportunity for all participants to come together to find out the latest information on all of the areas that enhance and support all the great things that are going on in the individual clubs. It is particularly relevant to all past, present and future club officers, including presidents, secretaries, Foundation chairs, membership chairs and anyone interested in or involved with international projects.

There will be special sessions in all these areas. There will also be special guests from Zone who will be speaking and participating in the sessions. It is a great way to become informed and find out the latest information, as well as being able to interact with your fellow Rotarians. The interaction with other district Rotarians provides many wonderful, new, exciting opportunities.

Spread the word. Invite all members of your club to attend. "Come one, come all." See you there for a great, fun Rotary Day!

## **Interactors meet RI President on Valentine's Day**

By Nancy Pacha/Iowa City AM

On Valentine's Day, area Interactors had a sweet treat. They spent an hour listening to Rotary International President Bill Boyd talk about the value of service in an address at Cedar Rapids Washington High School. Members of Interact clubs from Iowa City West High and from Anamosa joined the Cedar Rapids group for a rare opportunity to meet an RI president. Josh Lipman represented the West High 1440 Interact Club from District 6000.

President Boyd praised the Interactors for their commitment to service and encouraged them to continue their association with Rotary in the future. Providing service to others through Interact is a means of learning leadership skills, President Boyd told the young people. Asked how he prepared himself for his path of service, he answered that there had been no youth ser-

vice organization such as Interact when he was in high school, but as a young man he always joined groups, Jaycees and church organizations among them, that reached out to the community. His association with the groups led him to know the enjoyment and fulfillment that service can bring. Since he has retired, he has devoted the last ten years to Rotary service. President Boyd urged Interactors to make service a component of their careers as a very rewarding way to live their lives.

Students from the different Interact clubs exchanged contact information so that they can collaborate to carry out a project together in the future. In the past two years, three Cedar Rapids Interact members have participated in the Xicotepec mission trip sponsored by District 6000. That involvement and the enthusiasm it has generated has kindled interest in further collaboration at home in Iowa. (*Please see photo on page 18.*)

# Sponsorships reduce cost of Conference

By Bob Anderson/Ames

Many thanks to those District 6000 clubs and individual Rotarians who stepped forward to provide District Conference sponsorships that will help lower the registration fee for attendees. DG Del, Georgia, and the conference co-chairs are most grateful. The total of all sponsorship pledges as of Feb. 15 is \$8,575. While we have not yet developed the detailed budget for the May 10-12 conference, this level of sponsorship should allow us to lower the registration fee by about 20 percent.

This year's conference will be held at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames. It will feature many short, well-prepared, and well-delivered presentations on many different topics. These will inspire you and provide you with important information that you can use in your Rotary service. To reiterate:

*The goals of the 2007 conference are:*

- Celebrate Rotary.
- Have most-successful-ever conference.

*The objectives of the 2007 conference are:*

- Inspire and motivate attendees to higher levels of service and commitment.
- Increase fellowship among attendees.
- Increase the number of first-time attendees.
- Lower the cost of attendance for attendees.
- Have fun.

*The means by which we will achieve the conference objectives:*

- Dynamic presenters with many short, professional presentations.
- Sharing valuable experience of district clubs.
- Much time for building fellowship.
- Aggressive encouragement to attend.
- Many financial conference sponsorships.
- Light-hearted activities and audience singing.

*Some conference details include:*

- Thursday afternoon, May 10, a golf outing at Coldwater Links followed by a catered dinner at Coldwater that is open to all conference attendees, even if you don't play golf.
- Friday, May 11 has a jam-packed program that includes breakfast



PDG Dave Groner, who has led numerous National Immunization Day teams, will tell the latest in the polio eradication campaign at District Conference. He is a funeral home operator from Dowagiac, Mich.

at 8:00, opening plenary at 10:00 with the RI President's Representative and a presentation on literacy by Tom Thorfinnson. After the AM break, we will have three short presentations – Rotary and Disaster Relief, Special Olympics, and Literacy in District 6000.

- The Friday lunch is the "All Club Lunch." It will feature the parade of flags representing the inbound and outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students and a dynamite, story-telling session by Dave Groner – if you have ever heard him, you will make a special effort to hear him again.

- After lunch we have two sessions – one with presentations on The Rotary Foundation with Doris Heineman, and on membership with Tom Thorfinnson. The other will have two presentations on the world-wide importance of water and Rotary's response by David Suntken and Meena Patel. This second session winds up with District Awards presentations.

- Friday dinner is "Home Hospitality." Many Rotarians say the Rotary fellowship of Home Hospitality is always one of the very best features of any Rotary Conference. The evening will conclude with an informal afterglow in the Gateway lobby bar.

- Saturday morning May 12, breakfast is at 7:30 followed by two sessions – one that will feature three 8-minute presentations on World Community Service projects and three more on fund raising projects of District 6000 clubs. The other session will include four short presentations on/by Inbound Rotary Youth, the Inbound and Outbound GSE teams, and Rotary Friendship Exchange

- Lunch will feature another story by Dave Groner; then two afternoon sessions – another one with three presentations by District 6000 clubs on their community service projects and three more on their fund raising projects. The second afternoon session will have short presentations on Rotary Fellowships, Xicotepec, M.O.S.T., and FAMSCO.

- Saturday, and the Conference, concludes with the closing banquet and some most enjoyable entertainment. All official Conference activities will end by 8:30 p.m.

This conference schedule will allow Rotarians who live far from Ames to drive to Ames on Friday morning, and to drive home on Saturday night. Conference registration will open in early March.

## D-6000 Rendezvous in Salt Lake City



DGE Diana Reed invites District 6000 Rotarians to "Rendezvous with District 6000" at the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City.

The District 6000 Breakfast, which has been a tradition since 1998, will be Monday, June 18 in the Downtown Marriott in the Alta/Snowbird Rooms from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.

"Come meet your fellow District 6000 Rotarians. Other invited guests include PDGs David Groner of Michigan, Mary Beth Selene of Wisconsin, Tom Thorfinnson of Minnesota, Rick Mendoza of California, Mike Johns and Meena Patel of Ohio, Frank Goldberg of Nebraska, and District 5970 governors from northern Iowa."

Cost for the buffet Breakfast is \$25.00/person. Tickets are available from the district office. Send payment by June 1 to: Rotary District 6000 Administrator, P.O. Box 46, Knoxville, IA 50318.

# Reviewing activities of District 6000

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to achieve a net growth, they must first replace this loss, then add additional members. We usually suggest many new ideas given to us by our District Membership Development Co-chairs, and currently the committee is working on several membership pilot projects which will be tested by several clubs before being recommended to all clubs. Always remember the past tried and true membership development ideas which include: using the New RI Prospective Member Service; passing names of resigned members to Rotary clubs where they are moving; appointing a Club Membership Chair if one does not exist now; providing improved new member orientation and mentors; and finally, having a documented Club Membership Plan to be shared with the club board and all club members. Club leadership team members, including the club membership chair, should feel free to contact our D-6000 Membership co-chairs Mike Ruby and Bill Koellner at any time for suggestions, help and programs on membership.

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**Foundation:** District 6000 recently announced a new and special program for support of the Annual Program Fund (APF) of The Rotary Foundation. The District Leadership Team developed materials that were sent to each club Foundation chair (or club secretary) for distribution to their club Rotarians as a special district promotional effort for new Paul Harris Sustaining Members and for new Paul Harris Society members during this Rotary year of 2006-07. If you have questions regarding this special program, please request clarifications from your club Foundation chair or club secretary.

**New Paul Harris Sustaining Members:** We are formally asking all Rotarians who are not already Paul Harris Sustaining Members of The Rotary Foundation, to become a documented Paul Harris Sustaining Member in District 6000 in Rotary year 2006-07! If Rotarians agree to contribute at least US\$100 per year to the Annual Program Fund, they will become a new Paul Harris Sustaining Member. Plus, this program will result in their being awarded 200 Recognition Points from District 6000 or from PDG Herb Wilson that can be used by the Rotarian or their designee towards becoming a Paul Harris Fellow or a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

**New Paul Harris Society Members:** We are also formally asking many Rotarians to become new Paul Harris Society members. Beginning this Rotary year, every donor who annually contributes \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation will be awarded membership in the Paul Harris Society (PHS). Society members will receive a special certificate of recognition and a distinctive gold and blue lapel banner, which can be worn with their Rotary pin. The district will also award 500 Recognition Points from the District or from PDG Herb Wilson for each new donor agreeing to this Special Promotion during the period Feb. 5 to June 30, 2007. These Recognition Points can be used by the Rotarian or their designee towards becoming a Paul Harris Fellow or a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

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**District Strategic Planning Committee:** New this year are the activities of the District Strategic Planning Committee with the objective to develop a Long Range District Plan, to be updated annually, which will guide the district organization and management over approximately a five-year period. This committee has now had additional working meetings to finalize the draft plan af-

ter receiving requested comments from D-6000 Rotarians. These are the first steps to be taken on this multi-year effort to develop a full district-wide strategic plan. Complete details to date and future actions for this strategic planning effort will be discussed by the committee chair, Sheila Tipton, at the annual District Training Assembly, April 14 (information about Assembly is on p. 3).

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**District Incorporation:** The ballot-by-mail affirmative vote by all D-6000 Clubs for District 6000 to be incorporated was reported to RI and we did receive their approval to proceed. Finally, the articles of incorporation were filed with the state and we received the Secretary of State's acknowledgement of receipt of the articles of incorporation of District 6000 on Jan. 10 when they became effective immediately. Many thanks go to our incorporator, Sheila Tipton, for her dedication during this lengthy process.

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**Rotary Youth Exchange:** As a direct result of the successful completion of the district incorporation process, we have received certification of the District 6000 Rotary Youth Exchange Program for 2006-07. This is a tremendous accomplishment and ultimately allows our district to continue its Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Thanks to RYE Chair Chris Knapp and his very proactive RYE Committee, which includes Rotarians and all of their partners.

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**Literacy Campaign "Reach Out and Read":** You will recall in the last newsletter we announced and endorsed a new District 6000 Literacy Campaign titled "Rotarians for - Reach Out and Read." This new campaign was proposed and is now being guided by our district Literacy Promotion Committee which is chaired by Carolyn Jons. This committee and other interested Rotarians are giving presentations explaining "Rotarians for - Reach Out and Read" to most D-6000 Rotary Clubs during the period January to March 2007 (see a report on this campaign on p. 11).

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**Public Relations:** Public Relations (PR) for Rotary International is now an official District-6000 activity with assigned committees. Many Rotary clubs in D-6000 applied for PR Grants which were funded this year. We are hoping that this program is continued next year and that more PR Grants can be applied for again. Please read the article on page 6 in this issue of District 6000 News referring to "Humanity in Motion," which is the name of this new thrust for PR. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the District Public Relations Committee chair, Susan Herrick.

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**Group Study Exchange:** You may recall that the Group Study Exchange Outbound Team to India in 2007 was named the "Willis Shaw Group Study Exchange Team" last fall. This team has gone to India and returned during this quarter. PDG Corliss and Jeanie Klaassen and Georgia and I went to Des Moines International Airport to welcome them back on their return to Iowa. They were very tired after 30 hours of travel but they had a wonderful trip (see their report on page 7 of this issue of District 6000 News).

The GSE Inbound Team from District 3110 in India will arrive on Saturday, April 21 and be here until May 13. The GSE Committees chaired by Karin Franklin and Mark Snell are already preparing host home assignments and itinerary for this team, which includes their visit to our 2007 District Conference.

*Until the next issue of District 6000 News as we all LEAD THE WAY in 2006-07.*





The District 6000 Public Relations Committee sponsored a booth at the Feb. 1-2 Iowa Newspaper Association Convention and Trade Show at the Des Moines Marriott. District Governor Del Bluhm and Georgia shared Rotary information with Wes Ehrecke (l). "Humanity In Motion" CDs were given to editors and publishers. The convention was attended by more than 800 students and newspaper professionals.

## Clubs receive grants to promote Rotary

The new emphasis that Rotary is placing on public image – "Effective As Ever, But Silent No More" – is made clear by this fact reported by PDG Bill Tubbs, who represents North America on the Rotary International Public Image Resource Group: 710 public relations grants were recently approved for clubs in North America at a cost of \$1,356,882.

In District 6000, grants were approved for 13 of the 20 requests that were submitted. Among those that were approved:

**Clinton:** \$900 for billboard and \$1,100 for radio spots.

**Jefferson:** \$1,000 for billboard and media spots.

**District 6000:** \$2,000 to pay registration for State Fair Booth.

**Indianola:** \$1,000 for newspaper advertising.

**Ames Morning:** \$1,200 for newspaper coverage, "Caught in the Act," Rotarians reading to children; \$800 for radio spots.

**Bettendorf:** \$2,000 for newspaper advertising and billboard.

**Boone:** \$1,000 for billboard and \$750 for radio spots.

**Ankeny:** \$790 for billboard and newspaper ads.

**Grinnell:** \$800 for radio and print ads.

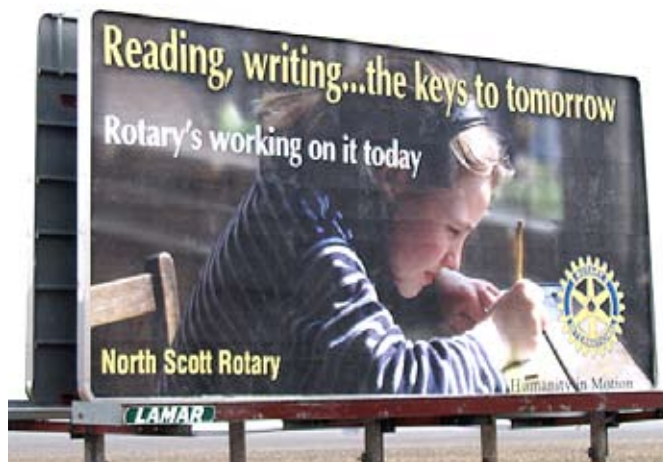
**Iowa City Downtown:** \$1,500 for billboard, print media and county fair booth.

**Manning:** \$2,000 approved.

**Iowa City Noon:** \$2,000 approved.

**Marshalltown:** \$2,500 for ads on radio and newspaper.

Due to the extraordinary number of grant requests, very few clubs received the full amount requested. Clubs who received funding provided substantial matching funds and used Rotary International's "Humanity In Motion" materials.



An example of a Rotary-approved billboard.

## Billboards project positive image

By Tom Brooke/West Liberty

D-6000 Billboards chair

What is your club doing to project the image of Rotary? A billboard is a great way. Clubs and districts around the world are using this medium to promote Rotary. Over 2,756 Rotary clubs in 27 countries around the world are now participating in this effort.

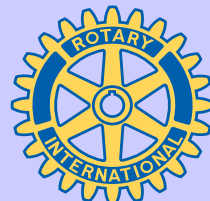
We got off to a slow start this summer and fall partly because most of the billboard space was taken by political candidates. Refer to the billboard section in your Public Image Guide. You will find eight poster selections from which to choose. If you have misplaced your Public Image Guide, contact Jerri Uitermarkt, district administrator.

If you filled out a Public Relations Grant application last fall, that will take care of the billboard cost. Most of the outdoor advertising companies have a public service program where the cost is minimal.

There were three clubs posting billboards in January – Jefferson, North Scott and West Liberty. Bettendorf Rotary posted a billboard in February for President Bill Boyd's visit. Please contact Tom Brooke, (319) 627-7124, or Bill Koellner (319) 627-4545 to help you find a location.

## Manning challenges clubs to sponsor Shelter Boxes

The Rotary Club of Manning, which is one of the smallest clubs in District 6000, is fired up for the humanitarian benefits of Shelter Boxes. The portable units provide immediate relief and temporary housing for victims of disasters. It costs \$900 to sponsor a Shelter Box, notes Manning Rotary president Scott Bowker. Learn more at [www.shelterboxusa.org](http://www.shelterboxusa.org).



# *Willis Shaw GSE Team Report:*

# INCREDIBLE INDIA

**By Amy Swenson/GSE Team Member**

Incredible India. The Willis Shaw Group Study Exchange (GSE) team of five Iowans who visited the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh in January discovered this slogan is more than marketing; it's an accurate description of their experience, "incredible."

"The trip surpassed my expectations," said Kristie Bell, GSE team member from Des Moines. "It was an amazing opportunity to really see what another part of the world is like. It's a unique perspective that we are rarely afforded."

The 21-day cultural exchange started and ended in Aligarh, home of Ashok Saxena, India Rotary District 3110 governor, and his daughter Parul. The Saxenas welcomed the GSE team into their home and hearts, an early indication of how the team would be welcomed in all the host communities.

"By far our hosts and everyone we encountered during the trip made the biggest impression," said Jesse Hornback, GSE team member from Sigourney.

The GSE team schedule was rigorous, visiting 11 communities and attending 13 Rotary meetings in 21 days. Hosts provided background on local businesses, industry and social programs, as well as an introduction to India's well-known cultural focus on family and feeding their guests.

The benefits of the Rotary connection were evident time and again as the group had access to factories as well as museums and universities.

"Our team experienced things and saw places that you would never see as an average tourist," said Jason Walsmith, GSE team member from Des Moines.

The electricity and traffic was unpredictable, but the enthusiasm and initiative of the Rotarians was consistent. The GSE team visited just a handful of the human service initiatives supported by India RD 3110 members: polio eradication rallies, eye clinics, health screenings, schools, homes for orphaned children, the handicapped and the aged. The generosity of the hosts outreached their Rotary commitment – it's at the heart of life.

"We witnessed first-hand their strong dedication to social programs," said Amy Swenson, GSE team member from Ames. "Our host Rotarians are incredible stewards for their communities - with time, talent and finances. We met and developed friendships with truly wonderful people."

The unique perspective from staying with families - GSE team members often displaced hosts from their own beds - afforded the most lasting memory. Conversations at the family dinner table or while relaxing on the deck provided a genuine exchange of ideas, experiences and reflections about the trip.

"True to the mission of the Rotary Group Study Exchange, the team was able to broaden their world vision, experience Rotary service in action, and act as ambassadors of their state and country," said Brian Donaghy, GSE team leader. "I know that this experience has brought a greater understanding of each culture and provided a life long perspective of our global village."



GSE team members at the Taj Mahal (l-r): Jesse Hornback (Sigourney), Kristie Bell (Des Moines), Brian Donaghy (Des Moines), Jason Walsmith (Johnston) and Amy Swenson (Ames).

GSE team members are forever bound by their shared experiences: the exhilaration of the crowded market places, the exhaustion and beauty of travel in the countryside, the love of the food, the contrast of poverty and technology, the open hearts of hosts, and the overwhelming beauty of the Taj Mahal.

"GSE team members brought our own experiences and interests to India yet we traveled as a close knit family," said Bell. "The friendships formed between teammates were an unexpected benefit of the trip."

## *Meet the team from D-3110 at District Conference*

The Inbound GSE Team from District 3110 in India will arrive April 21 and will be hosted in District 6000 until May 13. District 3110 is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, in the northeastern quadrant of India.

Rotarians will have a chance to meet the team at District Conference in Ames on May 10-11. Host clubs include Dallas Center, Chariton, Keokuk, North Scott and Des Moines.





# Interact in action!

## *'Leading the Way' in Fairfield*

**By Doug Flournoy/Fairfield**

D-6000 Interact Chair

When I was first asked to write this missive, I thought to write a "how to" article. But, after getting started it quickly evolved into a reflective piece about my experiences with and thoughts about Interact. For those seeking a formal "how to," I direct you to RI's website ([www.rotary.org/programs/interact/index.html](http://www.rotary.org/programs/interact/index.html)).

That's where I got started and it is an invaluable resource for the beginner. An account of my personal journey follows; I am hoping you will learn a little "how to," but more importantly I am hoping you will learn some "why to" Interact.

When getting started in any endeavor with your club you first must educate the membership. I believe this provides an opportunity for ownership and is important in establishing a sustained commitment for a serious project like Interact. Then D6000 Inter-

**INTERACT/continued on next page**



Fairfield Interactors' service project – making the community a better place to live.

## Des Moines students support Venezuelan orphanage

**By Jason Pulliam/Des Moines Register**

A girls' orphanage in South America will have an easier time providing food, clothing and other basic necessities to its residents thanks to a group of Des Moines-area high school students.

The Greater Des Moines Interact Club raised more than \$5,000 by selling holiday greeting cards to benefit the Casa Hogar Orphanage located in Barinas, Venezuela.

The club, sponsored by the Des Moines Rotary Club, is composed of 30 teenagers who sold about 6,000 greeting cards at several area businesses.

The card designs incorporated drawings created by several of the orphanage's nearly 50 residents.

"I'm very proud and thankful for all of the work these kids have done," said Dick Reasons, chairman of the Rotary club's youth committee.

Interact's orphanage outreach is part of the group's responsibility to perform a service project that promotes international understanding.

Karen Ligas, a school-to-work coordinator with Des Moines public schools, served as the liaison among Interact, the Rotary

club and the school district.

It was a pleasure to watch the energy Interact members showed throughout the project, Ligas said.

"Their leadership was phenomenal," she said.

Annie Ye, Interact's president, said the greeting card idea spawned from a letter exchange Des Moines-area students began with the girls of Casa Hogar during the last academic year.

The club's members oversaw the greeting card project from start to finish, playing key roles in everything from design to sales.

The students bellowed over the buzz of crowded grocery stores, played instruments to energize the atmosphere, and employed a host of other strategies to boost sales during their charity campaign.

The Interact members presented a \$4,750 check to the Rev. Jim Kirby, who coordinates Iowa-based relief projects for Casa Hogar, at the Rotary club's holiday luncheon last week.

Club members continued to sell greeting card packages before and after the luncheon and surpassed the \$5,000 mark by the next day.

The project's success can serve as an inspiration to the club's future leadership, said Ye, a senior at Valley High School.

"Our new members can see what a big impact Interact can have," she said.

Making things a little better for the Casa Hogar orphanage is something the whole community can be proud of, said Vi Nguyen, the club's vice president and a senior at Lincoln High School and Central Academy.

"I'm really proud of the Interact members and also the community of Des Moines," she said. "It really shows people coming together and making a difference."

(reprinted with permission)



These high school students were among members of the Interact Club who sold holiday cards to raise money for a girls' orphanage in Venezuela. The card designs incorporated drawings done by some of the nearly 50 orphan girls of Casa Hogar.



# Interact unifies community, builds diversity

act co-chair Nancy Pacha was kind enough to come to our club and give a program. Afterward, the ball was in my court and I was able to corral Rotarians Carol Young and Sue Bell to help me hatch a plan.

What I had learned from the Web site was that Interact stands for international action and is a service club for high school aged students. Clubs come in two varieties; the most common form is the school-based organization. In this instance the club is an official school organization and subject to all the rules and regulations of other school organizations. A school teacher serves as the club's advisor, although a Rotarian generally acts as a liaison between the Rotary Club and the Interact Club. But, primary responsibility for managing and advising the club falls on the teacher. I call this the low maintenance option.

The other less common flavor is the community-based organization. In this instance the Rotary club takes the initiative to organize and advise the Interact club. The rules are set by the Rotary club. This is a high maintenance option for the club. It requires a serious commitment of people, time, and energy on the part of the Rotary club. But it may, I think, be an ultimately more rewarding track.

In my mind there are many more advantages to a community based program. These are the thoughts that led me to propose this model to our club. First, it is a unifying experience; it serves

to bring the community together, increasing diversity, improving relationships and ultimately eliminating school rivalries.

In Fairfield we have two private schools and a large home-schooled population. Even high school dropouts may join. Interact is now available to all of these youth. Second, a community based club forces direct contact between Rotarians and the youth they intend to serve. Community based Interact promotes the development of a relationship between the youth of the community and its business and community leaders. Through Interact, youth see these people in an up-close and personal way, and in a way that is meaningful to both. This type of sustained experience benefits both the Rotarians and Interactors. Finally, the opportunity exists to pass on the traditions, values and philosophy of Rotary – difficult to accomplish with a school-based program unless the school advisor is also a Rotarian.

With this in mind I made my pitch to Carol and Sue, who enthusiastically went to work making flyers and arranging our first informational meeting. We visited schools and other youth organizations to pass these flyers out and raise awareness. But, don't overlook an important source of young people – your own members. Their sons, daughters and even grandchildren really helped us get started. My step-daughter and her friends were part of our core group in the beginning.

In recognition of the international flavor of Interact we decided to have our first meeting at a local restaurant that serves authentic Mexican foods, Azteca Restaurant. Of course, we also suspected that food and a healthy social environment were essential to our initial and continued success; and the Rotary Club of Fairfield kindly picked up the bill.

Shortly thereafter, I planned a trip to take my core group to visit another Interact Club. Nancy Pacha's group in Iowa City kindly invited us to their lock-in and the kids had a great weekend, learning about Iowa City Interact and their service projects.

Our Interact Club was inaugurated on Feb. 25, 2005 as part of our Rotary club's centennial celebration. We were honored to have then DG Bill Tubbs in attendance, pinning each Interactor personally. At this ceremony, Dave Reiff and I presented the new Interactors with a bell and gavel. This was an important symbol Dave and

I felt was needed to reflect our commitment and faith in them and in their future. That day we closed the Rotary meeting and initiated a new opportunity for our youth with the first ringing of that bell.

These days we still meet at Azteca Restaurant. Rotary still buys the chips and salsa and sometimes the kids will even buy a meal. The owners are gracious and kind, in spite of the fact we don't spend a lot of money. I can't say with certainty, but exposing young people to international affairs, in however obtuse a manner, is



Social activities play an important role in the life of the Fairfield Interact Club.

very healthy – especially in small town Iowa.

Fairfield Interact is a social event. I believe this is important for both the kids and adult Rotarians alike. Our twice monthly meetings are attended by two to three Rotarians, the kids run the meeting and we provide some guidance and advice. I also believe it's important to have a female Rotarian involved. My experience has shown me that Interact is disproportionately attended by female students.

Many school districts schedule parent-teacher conferences during the year. In Fairfield, the public schools are closed the Friday of those weeks. The Rotary Club of Fairfield takes advantage of that opportunity to invite the Interactors to our Rotary noon meeting for lunch and to tell us about themselves and their projects. It is also a good time to induct new members into the Interact Club.

My time as primary advisor to the Interactors of Fairfield is over now. This past year, I passed the baton to Warren Wechsler. He and Emily Humble, one of our newest Rotarians, are doing a fantastic job with the club and have breathed some new life into it. Under their stewardship Fairfield Interact is completing its first international project. I'm happy to say, Interact, although small, is alive and well in Fairfield, Iowa.

Now, go out and get involved with some young people. It'll keep you young!



Rebaz (top) at a farewell party after his surgery in April 2005; Subhey (r); Sgt. Corey Johnston (below, center), in Baghdad, shows his Iowa pride.



## 'PICTURE OF HEALTH'

*Rebaz Shamsideen, the Iraqi boy who came to Iowa for a life-changing surgery, is thriving*

*During Rotary's Centennial year, 2004-05, District 6000 Rotarians arranged for Rebaz Shamsideen, 5, of Kurdistan, to come to Iowa to repair an AP hole in his heart, a condition which claimed the life of an older brother. Rotarians raised \$24,000 for his transportation, and care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, where doctors and surgeons donated their services. From January through April 2005, he lived with Scott and Cindy Yerington at West Liberty. It was Cindy Yerington's son, Sgt. Corey Johnston, an Airborne Ranger Medic, who discovered Rebaz and asked for help. PDG Bill Tubbs (2004-05), recently received this e-mail from Cindy, who has since moved to Eagan, Minn.:*

"I just wanted to give an update to Rotarians on Subhi and Rebaz. I received a phone call on Jan. 1 – that is Rebaz' and my birthday!!! It was wonderful 'trying' to speak with his family. I can tell you that they are doing well and Rebaz is a picture of health. Rebaz is now in first grade and Subhi continues to support his family with his sewing business. He now owns his own shop, thanks to a Rotarian who gave him money to purchase his own machine. While they were here in the states, his business partner was electrocuted and died. When Subhi went back to Kurdistan, he had enough money to buy the business and he is doing very well.

"When they called on Jan. 1, Rebaz sang me Happy Birthday – something to the sort of 'Happy birthday to you, Cindy; happy birthday to you, Cindy; happy birthday to you, Cindy; happy birthday to you, Cindy!!!' It was absolutely priceless!!!! We are so blessed and it continues to be a wonderful story in which we all live happily ever after by being touched and making a difference in a young child's life.

"Subhi went into Iran a few weeks ago to attend a family funeral. We told Subhi the next time he goes to Iran, we would like for him to send pictures to us. I hope he understood us and is able to fill our request. If I receive those, I will share those with you. It was wonderful speaking by phone with you prior to the holidays. We had a great Christmas and are adjusting to Minnesota very well. Corey remains healthy and doing well – we pray daily for his and his fellow soldiers' safety and hope that they will all return soon. Looks like it will be July or August before he returns to the states. God bless and all the best to you in 2007."

## Veterans housing project wins state award

*The following was received from Merrill Anderson, who organized a project in which a four-unit apartment in Davenport was rehabilitated for homeless veterans. The Rotary Clubs of Iowa Quad Cities, North Scott, Davenport and Bettendorf participated.*

"Rick Schloemer, executive director of the Scott County Housing Cluster, sent me this e-mail and I wanted to share it with you. I just want all of you to know that we have received another honor. The Katz House has been selected as an example of one of the successful projects funded by Iowa Housing Trust Fund as they talk to the Legislature about their budget. It goes to show that when people give of themselves with no expectations of anything in return we can receive far more than we ever thought possible.

"Our thanks must go to Rotary, Seabees, ABC of Iowa, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 776, Riverboat Authority, Scott County Regional Authority, The Community Foundation and many others who were involved, giving of their time and money.

"I am reminded of the old quote, 'Real joy comes from sharing good news.' My day has been made a little brighter and I hope yours was as well."



Rotary-sponsored housing for homeless veterans.





# Rotarians Reach Out and Read

*"It really got to me that sometimes the ROR gift book is the first one a child has ever had. Literacy is a priority in life. I donated three sets of books in the names of my two children and wife. I want them to know this is important."*

Jim Dickson, Ames Morning Rotary past president

## By Jane Fogg/Des Moines AM

District 6000 Literacy Committee

Dallas Center leads the way! First to respond, the Dallas Center Rotary Club gave \$25 per member and a total of \$625, which will buy 225 books for children. *Thank you!*

Many of our 63 clubs have already had programs on Reach Out and Read and are beginning to respond with action and compassion. By mid-March "Rotarians for Reach Out and Read" donations totaled \$3,784. This is 12 percent of our \$30,000 goal and was given by just three clubs (Dallas Center, Ames Morning and Nevada) and 194 individual Rotarians - 5 percent of our members. We are well on our way! Hopefully, by this summer we will have met our goal and will have provided over 10,000 books for young Iowa children.

*These generous Rotarians know:*

- Once children start school behind they stay behind without time-consuming and expensive interventions.
- Helping to ensure that all children are ready to learn is as much of an economic development strategy as a humanitarian concern.
- Rotarians are uniquely qualified to help leverage the work of trained medical staff who promotes good physical health and good mental development to parents of children aged 0 to five.

Reach Out and Read is a national, public-private partnership which has helped primary care physicians to practice medicine in a new way. During regular well-child check-ups, trained doctors and nurses promote literacy as part of the development of a healthy child. A child goes home from a check-up with an age-appropriate book. For some young ones, it will be the first book they have owned.

We're asking all District 6000 clubs to schedule a Reach Out and



Rotarians and Rotary clubs are asked to raise \$30,000 for Reach Out and Read, which focuses on childhood literacy.

Read program and then follow the lead of Dallas Center by giving \$25 per member to positively impact Iowa's children and the future of our state. A voluntary gift of \$25 buys eight new Reach Out and Read books - the number that one child receives between 6 months and 5 years.

We are very grateful to our Rotarian members of the District Literacy Committee and other volunteers who are making presentations to our clubs: Carolyn Jons and Jerri Heid, Ames morning; Jacque Andrew, Jefferson; Faye Clow, Bettendorf; Margie Oldhoeft, Ames noon; Nancy Pacha and Pat Schnack, Iowa City AM; Bill Morain, Decatur County; Karen Stinson, Keosauqua; Mike Wells, Corning; John Roederer, Mt. Pleasant; Russ Weisley, Waukee; Tom Williams, Muscatine; Diana Reed, Northwest Des Moines; and Jane Fogg, Des Moines AM.

Find out all about District 6000 Reach Out and Read: <http://www.amesamrotary.org/RotaryDistrict6000LegacyOfLiteracy/index.htm>, or [www.reachoutandread.org](http://www.reachoutandread.org).

## Student Dictionaries lead the way in Ankeny

### By Cathy Spencer/Ankeny

As I started my year as my club president, I contemplated the different types of projects that our club could tackle. When I attended the PETS conference, I discovered one that I fell in love with. All Rotary clubs were challenged to identify a literacy project to conduct this year. At the conference, I was introduced to Ted and Kay Carpenter, two Rotarians from the Iowa City area who were conducting an ongoing community service project called "The Dictionary Project." Their excitement for the project was infectious and I was hooked. The project consists of providing a dictionary to fourth graders. As I brought the suggestion back to the club, they immediately embraced the idea. We decided to provide a dictionary to every fourth grader in the Ankeny Community School District. We worked with the administrative office to acquire total headcount and with every elementary principal to arrange distribution of the dictionaries. We distributed dictionaries to students the week of Nov. 13.

Why dictionaries? A dictionary is one of the most powerful reference tools that a child should own. Its usefulness goes beyond the spellings, pronunciations and definitions it lists. It is also a companion for solving problems that arise when a child devel-

ops their reading, writing, and critical thinking abilities. It gives students an opportunity to expand their vocabulary. A strong vocabulary is important for gaining knowledge because this is the only way people have of sharing their ideas and thoughts through communication. We love this particular dictionary, because it is compact, lightweight, and contains so much more information than many dictionaries. Within the covers, the students will find information about the Presidents, the Constitution of the United States, Geography, Science, and even the longest word in the English language (1,909 letters long!).

This project has been rewarding in so many ways. I think it has given more awareness to the Rotarians about the needs of our community. We got chills as we saw the excitement on these kids' faces. We never knew that something as simple as a dictionary could do so much. It was great to hear the room "buzzing" after finishing a presentation. We hope that the students will carry these in their backpacks for years to come. It is one more tool to help them be successful in school. It is Ankeny Rotary Club's intent to make this an ongoing project in our community for years to come.

*Information: The Dictionary Project, P.O. Box 1845, Charleston, SC 29402. Ph. (843) 388-8375. [www.dictionaryproject.org](http://www.dictionaryproject.org).*

# 'Charity Event of the Year'

## *Auctions raised over \$160,000 in Jefferson*

By Jacque Andrew/Jefferson

It was a leap of faith for the Jefferson Rotary Club. Give up the tried and true, primary fundraiser chicken barbecue for an unknown – a dinner and auction event. Two Jefferson club members were inspired at the District 6000 Assembly in 1999 by tales of an auction in another community and convinced the club to make the jump. The barbecue grill was trashed the day after the first auction in November 1999 and the club has never looked back.

Now after seven successful auctions, held the second Friday of November each year, reflecting on the success of this fundraiser takes on a more significant perspective. During those years, over 1,600 have attended the event (Rotarians, guests, community mem-

bers) plus several Rotary district governors. About 50 Jefferson Interact members have helped with registration and delivering items to successful bidders. Thousands of items have found new homes at the final rap of the gavel – and, drum roll, please – over \$160,000 has been raised!

The leap of faith is looking better. It would have taken a century of chicken dinners to net that much!

The success of the event is rightly due to the 56 members of the Jefferson club who contact local businesses and other professional and personal associates to secure items for the auction. You

name it and it's been on the "block!" From a year's worth of homemade cheesecake or pie to ownership of an Okoboji timeshare and vacations in Maui, Jefferson Rotarians have been resourceful in snagging interesting and profitable auction items. Cash donations are even accepted and used to buy "enhancements" for auction packages!

Billed as the charity event of the year, the auction also features an elegant and delicious dinner served with complimentary bottles of wine (donated by a Rotarian) for the enjoyment of those in attendance. Each table is set with crisp linens and unique centerpieces designed especially for the occasion by a local florist (for sale, of course!)

During the evening there are drawings for a raffle featuring eight envelopes of \$250 in cold, hard cash. Rotarians sell \$5 tickets for the raffle with each ticket having eight chances to win the \$250 envelopes. Winners almost always end up using the cash (burning a hole in their pockets) for more purchases during the evening.

A colorful sale bill which is cleverly written to describe the auction items is distributed to those who will attend the auction the week before the event. This gives them a chance to "plan" their bids and whet their appetites for items on the bill.

The auction itself is live and conducted by a professional auctioneer with "color commentary" offered by a glib Rotarian. Interspersed with the live auction items, a warning is announced that bidding on groups of silent auction items will be "closed" shortly

and the winners of that bidding are announced.

The whole affair is a fun evening for all but the real reward comes later. When the bills are paid and the final net is announced, the satisfaction comes as the recipients of the proceeds are selected.

When the auction was conceived, the club vowed to support local, community projects as well as The Rotary Foundation and District 6000 initiatives. Funds from the auction have made it possible for Jefferson youth to: participate in national polio immunization days in India; travel to Xicotepec, Mexico to contribute to the partnership there; travel to the Ukraine with a school research exchange program; participate in the Jefferson-Scranton High

School's Interact Club and more. Links have been made with a Rotary club in Kenya to assist with a school and purchase boxes of books for the students there.

Thousands of dollars have gone to the school system to support Interact, promote early through high school literacy, and encourage speech, music and vocational pursuits by students as well as support for mentoring and early childhood development projects, and providing scholarships for post-secondary education.

Community projects include support for the building of a

new privately funded county recreation center, development of an area historical museum, support for handicapped services, Meals on Wheels and the food pantry, refurbishing a fairgrounds building, sound system for gymnasium, lighting for sports complex, equipment for the medical center and numerous others.

The Jefferson Rotary Club has also provided support for the Xicotepec mission, FAMSCO, Iowa M.O.S.T., Tsunami relief, the Special Olympics and the District 6000 Conference in addition to ongoing contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

The recipients of funding from the auction are presented at another nice dinner (sounds like we eat and celebrate a lot, doesn't it?). On this evening in late spring, the recipients are invited to enjoy an evening with the Rotary club members and spouses. During a program following the meal, the checks are presented and photos taken. In addition, this evening serves as a membership recruitment opportunity as the recipients become more aware of Rotary and all it accomplishes in Jefferson. To cap off the evening, the club recognizes members who have achieved milestones in years of service through Rotary membership, presents a "professional of the year" award to a deserving community member and a "Four Avenues of Service" recognition to an outstanding club member.

That leap of faith nearly eight years ago has launched an event which has accomplished so much for Jefferson, the surrounding area and the many projects of Rotary through donations to The Rotary Foundation. It has definitely been worth the trip!!



Representatives of projects receiving funds in 2006 from the Jefferson Rotary Club's charity auction are pictured with then-president Mike Haluska (back, second from left).



## Rotary in the town square:



The historical bandstand at Knoxville.



Rotary clock in downtown West Liberty.

## Knoxville Rotarians dedicate bandstand

**By Steve Woodhouse/Knoxville**

Editor, Knoxville Journal-Express

To mark the 100th anniversary of Rotary International and the 65th anniversary of Knoxville's Rotary Club, members built a bandstand on the courthouse lawn.

At a dedication ceremony held in October 2005, Rotary President Harv Sprafka and Project Chair Will Prather said the project was two years in the making. Prather gave fellow Rotarian, Judge Terry Wilson, credit for coming up with the bandstand idea when the club was deciding on a century project.

Prather, who chaired the bandstand committee, said that it shows that when a group of people want something, they are willing to work for it. Many materials and assistance were provided by Knoxville businesses. In all, the bandstand was built for \$28,400 and 42 Rotarians helped to build it. Permission to build it on county property was given by the Marion County Board of Supervisors earlier in the year.

At the ceremony, Sprafka gave County Auditor Jake Grandia the quitclaim deed to the bandstand, turning over ownership of the structure from the club to the county.

The bandstand is a replica of one that stood on the courthouse lawn in the early 1900s. A plaque will be embedded into a rock near the bandstand reads: "This bandstand, built in 2005 by Knoxville Rotary Club No. 209 is a project commemorating one hundred years of Rotary International. Design by Rodney L. Curtis, AHA, Oskaloosa, Iowa. Construction by members of the Knoxville Rotary Club. Contributing suppliers include Renaissance Roofing of Belvidere, Illinois, Pearson Bros. Lumber, Everly Electric, Five-Star Industries and Creative Landscaping, all of Knoxville, Iowa. Others contributed funds and services. Project Chairperson W.I. Prather. It is a replication of a bandstand that stood in the same area on the Marion County Courthouse square, c. 1900 to c. 1930."

## *Clock 'just in time' for West Liberty*

**By Sara Sedlacek**

Editor, West Liberty Index

Members of the Rotary club flooded City Hall, awaiting the approval. Rotarians spoke with the Parks and Recreation Board and the board approved the donation.

Ruben Galvan, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke to the council about the clock. "My original plan was to fundraise for the clock," Galvan explained. "Then some of the members of Rotary said that they would purchase a clock for the city."

Galvan told the council that he had seen the clock. He took a trip with members of the Rotary Club to the factory in Rock Island, Ill., where the clock would be built.

"You can't really appreciate the detail work of that clock," he explained as he passed around a photo of it. "It's a gorgeous clock."

Galvan said that while they were touring the factory they saw four clocks that other Rotary clubs were donating to other communities.

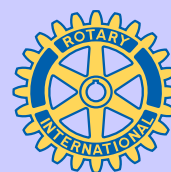
"We need to take advantage of the great organizations that we have in this community," Galvan said. "This is a great gift from a great organization to be given to the city."

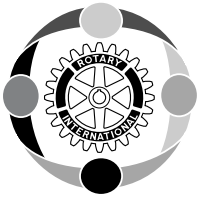
## Breaking bread:

**Meals at Rotary clubs worldwide:**

- Evening meal: 48%
- Lunch: 34%
- Breakfast: 10%
- No meal: 8%

**based on a July 2006 survey of 1,649 clubs worldwide by the RI Membership Development Division**





# Rotary Volunteers: Opportunities abound

**By Merle Anderson/North Scott**

D-6000 Rotary Volunteers chair

Rotary District 6000 has a Rotary Volunteers Committee. The main objective of the committee is to communicate to all potential Rotary Volunteers throughout our district about volunteer opportunities.

There are about 1,000 registered Rotary Volunteers in the world. We have six registered Rotary Volunteers in District 6000 and four of them serve on the district committee. They are Sarah Lande from Muscatine, Kathy Skinner from Nevada and Merle Anderson from North Scott. Larry Nash from Fairfield also serves on the committee.

We are building a data base within District 6000 of Rotarians who are willing to volunteer. Some may choose to volunteer within their community at a club level. They and others may be willing to serve on a district-wide basis for projects larger or more specialized than one club can handle. (Such as the National Special Olympics that took place in Ames in July 2006.) Of course there are some Rotary Volunteers who may wish to serve at the international level.

If you or other members in your club are interested in being

a Rotary Volunteer at the club or district level, contact me or the District 6000 office and we will send you a registration form.

I would encourage you to learn more about Rotary Volunteers by going to the Rotary website at: [www.rotary.org/programs/volunteers/index.htm](http://www.rotary.org/programs/volunteers/index.htm) There are many resources available there. I particularly call your attention to the Rotary Resource List. There, you will find organizations from the United States, as well as all around the world, that are looking for Rotary Volunteers. Here are just a few interesting websites to search: [www.avso.org](http://www.avso.org) - [www.volunteerinternational.org](http://www.volunteerinternational.org) - [www.plantedu.com](http://www.plantedu.com) - [www.cnfa.org](http://www.cnfa.org) - [www.onesmallplanet.com](http://www.onesmallplanet.com) - [www.volunteerabroad.com](http://www.volunteerabroad.com)

If you have further questions about Rotary Volunteers after looking up the information at the Rotary Web site or if you would like someone to come to your club and talk about Rotary Volunteers, please contact one of the Rotary Volunteers Committee members or your assistant district governor or District Governor Del Bluhm.

Rotary Volunteers give structure to the Rotary tradition of "Service Above Self."

*(Merle can be reached at 563-343-1912, or mla@aol.com.)*

## Community service projects to be presented

**By AG Gary Welch/Ankeny**

D-6000 Club Community Service Chair

Hear Ye, Hear Ye. We want to hear all about it.

What are you up to? What projects is your club completing this year? What benefit is it to your community? We, the District Community Service Committee, want to know.

The District Community Service Committee project for this year is to develop a power point presentation to be used at the Iowa State Fair of all the Rotary Projects across District 6000. We are asking all the Rotary Clubs who have completed a project to e-mail a photo of their projects along with a one or two sentence description. If you are doing an international project, that would be

acceptable also. Our deadline for the State Fair is Aug. 1. We will be asking all the assistant governors to help us to gather that information. Notices will also be sent to the presidents, at intervals. We need that photo and description as soon as you can get it to us.

DG Del Bluhm has asked that we have a PowerPoint presentation at the District Conference on May 10-12 in Ames for the ones we have received. Our deadline for the District Conference is May 1. We realize that not everyone will have their project completed by that date so will include the ones received after that for the Iowa State Fair booth.

Please send the e-mail photo and description to Jerri Heid at [jheid@amespubliclibrary.org](mailto:jheid@amespubliclibrary.org) as soon as you can.



The Chariton Rotary Club received this display cabinet with a Four-Way Test banner, the U.S. flag and the Iowa flag as a memorial from the family of the Vernon Scott, a past president who served as district treasurer in 1986-87 for the late PDG Ken Crist. The cabinet, which was made by a local cabinet company, folds up and is also used for storage.





The mayors of Bettendorf, East Moline, Rock Island and Davenport, and representatives of the boards of supervisors of Scott and Rock Island counties presented the "key to the cities" to Rotary International President Bill Boyd (second from left) during a luncheon at the Davenport Radisson on Feb. 13 in celebration of Bettendorf Rotary's 50th anniversary.

## President Bill Boyd visit • Feb. 13, 2007

**By PDG Bill Tubbs**

*From The North Scott Press*

As "Impressions" ended last week, Linda and I were headed to the airport to greet the Rotary International president, Bill Boyd and his wife, Lorna. The winter storm that blanketed us Monday night and Tuesday (Feb. 12-13) made our 24 hours with the Boyds an almost surreal experience. We were snug and secure with the Boyds at the Radisson Quad-City Plaza hotel in downtown Davenport and could only watch and listen as the storm that would close most area schools and shut down travel gained energy.

Tuesday morning, with no place to be until noon, I enjoyed an early morning workout and swim before a leisurely breakfast in the beautiful Radisson atrium with the Boyds, District Governor Del Bluhm and



Bill Tubbs

his wife, Georgia, of Ames, and organizer extraordinaire Carolyn Leutwyler, who is the president of Bettendorf Rotary, whose 50th anniversary we were celebrating.

We had time to talk about many things with the Boyds, including the publishing business (he is a magazine distributor), their home country of New Zealand, their travels around the world for Rotary, their evacuation from New Orleans a day before Katrina, and the plans to relocate this year's international convention from New Orleans to Salt Lake City.

I gave President Boyd the letter from CCI director Sharon Tennison thanking Rotary for its support of the soon-to-end Productivity Enhancement Program for vocational training of Russians, and helped him send a fax to the Rotary International office in Evanston, Ill., about the strategic plan that

is underway in District 6000. The international organization is also doing a strategic plan, and this would be helpful, he said.

The Boyds, whose "down home" manners reminded us of the late Roy Keppy and his wife, Myrtle, made our job as personal aides easy. Because the RI president is a guest in several of the 168 countries in the Rotary world, we were expected to observe protocol that was in a 12-page document to make his travels hassle free, but most of it was common sense and we had little to worry about.

Despite winds that were gusting outside and roads that were icing over, Carolyn had 100 percent attendance for a noon luncheon that included the mayors of Davenport, Bettendorf, Rock Island, Moline and East Moline, and the representatives of the chairs of the boards of supervisors from Scott and Rock Island counties. Formal greetings

**BOYD/continued on next page**



Bettendorf Rotary Club president Carolyn Leutwyler (r) greets Lorna and Bill Boyd at the Quad Cities Airport . . .



. . . and is full of pride as she joins District Governor Del Bluhm (l) in introducing the president of Rotary International to the two-district, inner-city meeting on Tuesday evening, Feb. 13 at the Davenport RiverCenter.





President and Mrs. Boyd congratulated Pleasant Valley High School Interactors and students on their community service.

## President Boyd

### BOYD/continued

were exchanged and the Boyds received the ceremonial "keys to the city."

A stringed ensemble of students from Pleasant Valley set the mood. A highlight of the luncheon was the introduction of Pleasant Valley High School students by Supt. Dr. James Spelhaug, with the students telling about their community service projects that are required for their graduation. (Feb.13 was the day Pleasant Valley voters went to the polls to vote on the renewal of their Physical Plant and Equipment Levy. Dr. Spelhaug was concerned about the turnout because of the weather, but the levy passed with only 20 "no" votes.)

Principal Debbie Menke said PVHS students gave 60,000 hours of service to the community last year. The 10 students who spoke, and the projects they described, would make anyone proud. It was moving just to see them speak with confidence about them: mentoring younger students; delivering gift baskets during the holidays; raising money for hunger relief; assisting at local libraries and supporting a library in Bulgaria; working with Amnesty International; and raising funds for latrines in Nicaragua. (It occurred to us that every school should have such a requirement!)

President Boyd affirmed the good work of the students. "Never underestimate your potential," he said. "Your attitude of service



Longtime Bettendorf Rotary song leader Tom Howard leads a roaring rendition of R-O-T-A-R-Y.



District Governor Del and Georgia Bluhm with President Boyd thank the stringed ensemble for its music.



Charles Mooney (l) and Bill Harvey, charter members of Bettendorf Rotary, were honored for 50 years of service.





DG Del and Georgia Bluhm, PDG Bill and Linda Tubbs, Carolyn Leutwyler, Boyds.



PDG Doyle McCully and Gladys

## 'Leads the Way'

will make a difference. You've blessed us with your presence here. I encourage you to keep doing what you're doing."

Afternoon activities included hosting a press conference, and a tour of Bettendorf Rotary projects led by Bettendorf city administrator and Rotary club past president Decker Ploehn, including welcome signs, a handicapped-accessible park and a gazebo in another park. These only scratch the surface of the club's service work, but that was all we had time to see. In a lighter moment, we sat in the NorthPark Mall parking lot for 10 minutes waiting for the Northwest Bank marquee to recycle so we could read the sign, "Welcome Rotary International President Bill Boyd and Lorna Boyd!"

Then it was back to the Radisson to rest and get ready for the evening event at the RiverCenter. Thanks to the work of road crews, nearly all of the 255 who registered were present, representing 32 clubs from three states (Iowa, Illinois, California) and four countries (U.S., New Zealand, Kosovo, Indonesia). The president allowed time for pictures with several local Rotarians.

Bettendorf Rotary charter members Chuck Mooney and Bill Harvey were honored for 50 years of service, S.K. Nanda received special recognition for his work with The Rotary Foundation, and Paul Hellwege of Boone received Rotary's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, from President Boyd. Hellwege, 95, is

**BOYD/continued on next page**



Members of Bettendorf Rotary with RI President Bill and Lorna Boyd, DG Del and Georgia Bluhm, and presidential aides PDG Bill and Linda Tubbs.



President Bill Boyd and Lorna with recent immigrants from Russia, Olga and Sergey Pasheyev of North Scott Rotary.

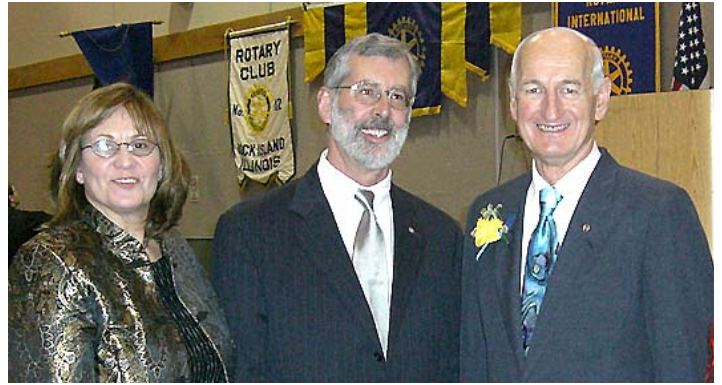


President Bill Boyd recognizes Bettendorf Rotarian S.K. Nanda for his work for The Rotary Foundation.





Lorna Boyd sees club banners from New Zealand that were collected by Bettendorf Rotarian Carter Lebeau.



Carol Earnhardt of North Scott Rotary and Brock Earnhardt of Davenport Rotary with President Boyd.

## Strong moral base leads polio campaign

**BOYD/continued**

a retired judge and served as district governor in 1954-55. He has been a mentor, role model and source of strength to generations of Rotarians for more than half a century!

President Boyd described himself and Lorna as "ordinary people who have been given an extraordinary opportunity." He said he was delighted to be here because presidents often visit only the largest cities and some of the greatest contributions are from people who do not live in the big cities.

Quoting a memorial in Caen, France, Boyd said, "You cannot fight a long war unless you do so from a strong moral base." He was not talking about Iraq or politics, but rather Rotary's humanitarian goals, No. 1 of which is the eradication of polio. There are just four remaining polio-endemic countries: Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India. "We won the major battles and will finish in Nigeria relatively quickly," he predicted. The Afghan-Pakistan border area will be toughest. "But the war against polio will ultimately be won in India, where it will take up to 10 doses of vaccine per



President Boyd addressed Rotarians at the Tuesday evening banquet.

child." That's because of diarrhea. The oral vaccine doesn't have a chance to take hold.

Polio eradication is one of many battles in which Rotary is engaged. Among them

are overcoming illiteracy, unsafe water and poor sanitation. Rotary clubs were involved in 8,000 projects for clean water last year, and nearly all clubs are working on literacy. The president mentioned the Dictionary Project, in which youngsters receive free dictionaries, as an example.

But none of these wars can be won without a strong moral base, which Boyd said Rotary provides. When UNICEF and the World Health Organization were wavering in the polio campaign, Rotary was the one strong force that kept it on track. The U.S. government gives \$132 million a year to polio eradication. Rotary, which raised \$600 million since 1987 and provided millions of volunteer hours, is second.

"Our message is simple and profound but not always easy," Boyd said. He concluded by quoting Mother Theresa, who said success is not found in doing great things, but rather doing small things with great love.

Twenty-four hours after arriving in Davenport, the president was on the road to Cedar Rapids for festivities the next day. And we returned home with fond memories, and motivated to serve.



Josh Lipman of Iowa City West Interact with President Bill and Lorna Boyd at Cedar Rapids.



DGE Diana Reed, Lorna Boyd, DGN Cal Litwiller, Linda Tubbs, Rachel Litwiller.



# Rotary Foundation Annual Program Fund giving

## District 6000 Clubs • July 1, 2006 - Feb. 28, 2007\*

CLUB (Members/6-06)	(1) '06-'07 Goal	(2) Thru 2-28-07	(3) % of Goal	(4) Per capita
Adel (29)	\$ 2,900	135.00	5	\$ 4.66
Albia (37)	2,500	900	36	24.32
Ames Morning (66)	6,800	7,725	114	117.05
Ames (263)	36,270	21,879	60	83.19
Ankeny (77)	7,600	4,525	60	58.77
Atlantic (61)	3,000	2,800	93	45.90
Bettendorf (92)	9,000	7,305	81	79.40
Bloomfield (14)	1,300	0	0	0
Boone (65)	6,600	3,825	58	58.85
Burlington (108)	8,000	9,195	115	85.14
Carroll (60)	6,000	1,425	24	23.75
Centerville (48)	2,236	455	20	9.48
Chariton (49)	5,300	325	6	6.63
Clinton (120)	10,890	8,081	74	67.34
Coon Rapids (25)	2,500	0	0	0
Coralville-North Corridor (43)	8,761	0	0	0
Corning (56)	2,160	1,700	79	30.36
Corydon (17)	400	0	0	0
Creston (19)	550	0	0	0
Dallas Center (25)	2,000	2,502	125	100.09
Davenport (173)	12,000	6,014	50	34.76
Decatur County (14)	2,500	0	0	0
Des Moines AM (139)	15,000	4,825	32	34.71
Des Moines (366)	24,675	100	0	0.27
East Polk County (46)	4,800	1,875	39	40.76
Fairfield (69)	7,000	1,525	22	22.10
Fort Madison (49)	2,650	3,055	115	62.36
Grinnell (31)	3,200	1,800	56	58.06
Indianola (49)	5,300	750	14	15.31
Iowa City A.M. (58)	9,240	10,391	112	179.16
Iowa City Downtown (27)	2,400	1,400	58	51.85
Iowa City (309)	31,000	20,475	66	66.26
Iowa Quad-Cities (51)	1,590	1,425	90	27.94
Jefferson (54)	5,400	1,410	26	26.11
Johnston (37)	3,700	3,149	85	85.11
Kalona (42)	2,150	2,640	123	62.86
Keokuk (87)	4,000	3,425	86	39.37
Keosauqua (29)	2,100	1,496	71	51.60
Knoxville (65)	6,500	3,025	47	46.54
Lenox (32)	2,475	975	39	30.47
Manning (16)	1,500	1,125	75	70.31
Marengo (12)	1,000	700	70	58.33
Marshalltown (186)	10,000	2,150	22	11.56
Mount Pleasant Noon (36)	2,625	870	33	24.17
Mt. Pleasant (30)	2,250	625	28	20.83
Muscatine (139)	16,800	15,243	91	109.67
Nevada (61)	6,400	350	5	5.74
Newton (91)	10,440	9,255	89	101.70
North Scott (102)	10,600	10,285	97	100.83
Northwest Des Moines (69)	12,070	9,695	80	140.51
Odyssey of Ottumwa (19)	400	500	125	26.32
Osceola (38)	3,600	0	0	0
Oskaloosa (58)	3,600	3,023	84	52.13
Ottumwa (110)	11,445	12,650	111	115
Pella (41)	4,200	0	0	0
Perry (33)	2,475	0	0	0
Tipton (34)	2,550	1,450	57	42.65
Washington (68)	7,000	2,265	32	33.31
Waukeke (65)	5,670	2,250	40	34.62
Wellman (31)	3,200	2,670	83	86.13
West Des Moines (80)	10,800	4,062	38	50.78
West Liberty (36)	3,600	6,700	186	186.11
Winterset (28)	1,000	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 411,768</b>	<b>\$ 228,615</b>	<b>55.52</b>	<b>\$52.15</b>

D-6000 Rotary Foundation Chair PDG Don Goering of the Rotary Club of Ames urges clubs to check their progress toward their goals to the Annual Programs Fund (left), and to make plans now to achieve or surpass the goal. He shares this helpful information:

**Lockboxes:** Here are the new lockboxes where contributions to The Rotary Foundation should be sent. In the USA: The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693

Payments sent to the former lockbox addresses will be automatically forwarded to the new lockbox through 31 March 2007.

**Check Your History:** Go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and click on Member Access on the upper right-hand corner. This will connect you to Rotary Business Online. Enter your user name and password if you are registered. To become registered, enter your membership number (which appears on the mailing label of The Rotarian magazine in some countries), club number, and district number. If you don't know your club number, check with your club secretary. When signing up, Member Access will prompt you to enter your e-mail address as your user name and send your password to that e-mail address. After successfully logging in with your initial user name and default password, you can change both in Member Access.

**Trust:** The Rotary Foundation ranks among the top 400 nonprofit organizations in the United States, according to The Chronicle of Philanthropy, a biweekly newspaper that covers the nonprofit world. Based in Washington, D.C., the publication is considered the top news source for charity leaders, foundation executives, fundraisers, and others involved in philanthropy. The Rotary Foundation ranks 132nd in The Chronicle's Philanthropy 400 survey for 2006, up from 140th in 2005. The Foundation's 2006 ranking is based on amounts raised in the 2004-05 Rotary year and money spent on programming in relation to administrative costs.

(\*) Source: Rotary Foundation MCR. (A delay between the receipt of payments and their posting is possible.)

# URBAN AGRICULTURE:

## Ambassadorial Scholar sees hope in Bolivia



Omar Tesdell

*Omar Tesdell is an Iowa State University graduate who is on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru and a researcher at Urban Harvest, a partner of the International Potato Center. District 6000 has sponsored three outbound Ambassadorial Scholars annually for several years. The awards are valued at up to \$27,000 and are funded through our gifts to The Rotary Foundation.*

*Omar has been instrumental in working for peace and justice issues wherever he has been located, whether it has been in Bethlehem where he worked with Palestinian and Israeli youth to engage in dialogue, or as a participant in the Harvard University Civil Rights Summer Program, or as a journalist intern in Amman, Jordan. He also has worked with the World Food Prize in Des Moines.*

*This article is so consistent with Omar's work to recognize the value and sustainability of those in the second and third world. Ames Rotary Club president Dick Horton suggested that this article should be shared with Rotarians so we can see what Ambassadorial Scholars do.*

*Omar's younger brother, Ramsey, has left this fall for Amman, where he will be studying sociology. Originally, Ramsey was headed to Hebrew University to study Hebrew, but events in the area caused The Rotary Foundation to change the assignment.*



Ambassadorial Scholar Omar Tesdell says urban agriculture is the fastest growing method of food production in Latin America.

### By Omar Tesdell

#### Ambassadorial Scholar

The sun was shining and I found myself among well-kept beds of beautiful red lettuce, green peppers, radishes, spinach and carrots. It seemed I had been lifted out of the frantic clamor of Lima to a land of green and quiet far, far away. In reality, I stood in a small vegetable plot at the edge of Lima in a place that serves as a taste of the further changes to come.

Even the casual observer knows that the district of Huachipa, like much of Lima and in fact Latin America, is urbanizing at an astounding pace. According to recent estimates, Latin America is the most urbanized region in the developing world and its cities will include 85 percent of the continent's poor by 2020. Worldwide, statistics tell a similar tale. By the same year, nearly half of the poor in Africa and Asia will be urban dwellers.

Huachipa is in the eastern cone of Lima, which makes up the part of the city in the Rimac River watershed. The area is known to most Limans as a source of sunlight and recreational restaurants serving delectable Peruvian classics like barbecued cuy and pachamanca. The district, however, is part of the rapid urbanization trend across the metropolitan area as farmland is developed for housing, industry and recreation.

The pilot farm in Huachipa is part of a project called "Farmers



Tesdell gives a tour of a pilot farm to a group from the states.

**SCHOLAR**

continued on next page



# ‘Poverty, malnutrition and pollution are the ghosts that stalk those people who come to the city seeking a better life’

## SCHOLAR

continued from previous page

in the City,” an association of local small-scale farmers, which is organized by Urban Harvest, a research organization partnered with the International Potato Center. Urban Harvest researches ways that urban agriculture can contribute to families’ nutritional and financial needs, and overall environmental health. It is part of the system-wide initiative on urban and peri-urban agriculture of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Urban? Agriculture? Agriculture and urban are two words that at first glance seem contradictory, but many organizations and governments are realizing that urban agriculture can be a powerful tool to confront poverty in an urbanized world. Poverty, malnutrition and pollution are the ghosts that stalk those people who come to the city seeking a better life.

Sustainable urban agriculture can generate significant income for the producer and family and/or improve nutrition, as well as contribute to a healthier urban environment. Products from projects in other parts of the world range from chicken and trees to tomatoes and fish. Similar efforts are underway across Global South cities as diverse as Manila, Kampala and Havana.

The pilot farm in Huachipa (and similar associations in three other districts of the eastern cone) brings together producers of the area in supportive groups. The site acts as a test-plot for further research in farming methods and producer workshops, as well as a living example of the potential of agriculture in a city setting. Maintaining agriculture in urban or peri-urban areas like Huachipa preserves green space and can also be a learning experience for city kids who have never seen beets peeking out of the ground.

The vegetables are grown with innovative methods, without chemical pesticides and using clean water.

Interdependence is the key word. The system works together as cuy and hens produce manure, which is mixed with organic plant waste and special worms for rich compost. The manure is also used to create a potent all-natural fertilizer. Part of the plot is dedicated to producing feed for the guinea pigs and laying hens. In the end, taking up only a very small space, the producer is left with many options, because they are able to sell or consume vegetables, cuy, compost, fertilizer, eggs or chicken.

Furthermore, a small water reservoir allows material found in polluted river water to settle to the bottom as sunlight kills bacteria at the surface. This leaves the water used for irrigation and washing considerably



Greetings and a banner exchange with the host club.

safer. The reservoir can also be home to fish to sell and/or eat.

Because many people in the eastern cone come from rural areas in the sierra, participating producers in our farmer field school combine their existing skills growing vegetables and raising animals with cutting-edge methods, and adapt them to an urban setting.

Farmers in Huachipa contribute their time and energy to attend workshops and have now begun implementing some of the methods such as composting, integrated pest management techniques and organic agriculture on their own farms. The hope is that the farmers could then take advantage of their proximity to major population centers like Lima and its niche markets for healthy food.

Also, farmers intend to provide their products locally to restaurants, stores and neighbors and in turn strengthen the local food system.

These small farms not only have numerous financial, nutritional and environmental advantages for Lima’s poor, but they also make for a welcome respite for this Midwesterner making the Peruvian capital his home.



Meeting with members of the host Rotary club in Bolivia.

# LEADING THE WAY:

## Iowa model acclaimed at Disaster Relief workshop; Katrina projects visited

By Keith Mattke/North Scott

D-6000 Disaster Relief Co-Chair

It was indeed an honor and pleasure to represent Rotary District 6000 at the North American Rotary Disaster Workshop, Jan. 11-13 in New Orleans. District 6000 should be very proud of its commitment to disaster relief. I was pleasantly surprised to find that Iowa seems to be on track and somewhat ahead in state and area planning for disasters.

This being a workshop and not a conference, there was ample opportunity for input of the 200-plus participants. Comments made by the panel members in the opening session included, "Failure to plan is a plan to fail," develop a plan to "Rescue, Recover and Rebuild," and "Be prepared and not one of the problems."

Rotary needs to be part of a disaster plan but should not attempt to be a first responder. That was pretty much the consensus of the group. Other issues expressed were the need for a sound communication network, which would include Rotary International providing a clearing house phone system for clubs, districts and zones to learn of the needs for services, including equipment and supplies in time of a disaster.

The real need is for Rotary to become involved with other groups and services in developing Disaster Services and to keep those contacts current and active. District 6000 has already done that with our involvement in the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council. Workshop participants were amazed at our involvement in Iowa. The program committee ran copies of three promotional/inventory forms we have been using so that everyone got copies.

Partnering is the big issue in organizing a plan. Any plan should separate the national from the international efforts that Rotary makes. Consideration might be given to the establishment of a separate Disaster Fund through per member assessment or free will donations.

I also had the opportunity to have a guided tour of four projects undertaken by the Slidell Rotary Club, including our \$88,000 contribution to the Senior Center roof project. We should all be proud



Rotarians Ray Kennedy, Jay Rose and Don O'Bryan at the Slidell Senior Citizen Center in Louisiana that is being rebuilt with \$88,000 from District 6000 Rotarians.

of the detailed financial records set up by the Slidell Rotary Club. They have taken on eleven community projects and have a member assigned to oversee and approve all work and expenses. This has been a full-time job for many of these members.

In all, about 1.7 million dollars has been given through Rotary for projects related to Katrina and Rita. They have completely renovated a Boys and Girls club including the swimming pool, a Day Care Center for 90 children and the beginning of a Soup Kitchen to serve about 1,000 meals a week. All funds have been used to complete community projects and are not used for individual restoration.

We in District 6000 need to show our appreciation to PDG Corliss Klaassen for seeking out such a great club as the Slidell Rotary Club. We can be rest assured that we are getting the most bang for the buck. It appears that there will be another workshop or committee to sort out all of the information collected. The workshop program chairs will be sending out a summary report to all workshop participants. We should learn from that report what the next step will be.

I hope that the Rotary District 6000 clubs will continue to support Rotary International in its efforts to "Lead the Way" in meeting the needs of disaster relief nationally and internationally.



Keith Mattke (r) talks about disaster relief with Rotary International President-Elect Wilf Wilkinson of Canada.



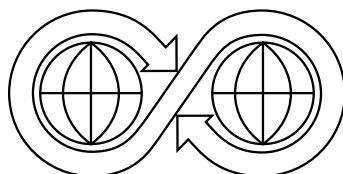
The Rainbow Child Care Center is one of several projects completed by Rotarians. Note the Rotary wheel.



# Seventy represent D-6000 in Xicotepec

Seventy Rotarians, Rotary partners, Interactors, Rotaractors and friends are members of the 2007 District 6000 project teams to Xicotepec, Mexico.

**Team members March 10-18:** Daniel Baur-McGuire and Lore Baur-McGuire (Iowa City Rotaract), Kay and Ted Carpenter (Rotary Club of Coralville-North Corridor), Christine Catney (University of Iowa Pharmacy), Matt Craig (University of North Carolina Rotaract), Shelby DeNeice (Iowa City High Interact), Laura Duffey (University of Iowa Service Learning, Pharmacy), Erin Gallo (University of Iowa Service Learning, Journalism), Jessie Gordon (Iowa City West Interact), Kierstan Hanson (University of Iowa Service Learning, Pharmacy), Susy Hemphill (University of Iowa Service Learning, Women's Studies), Jessica Heth (University of Iowa Service Learning, Engineering), Keith and Brenda Hobson (Rotary Club of Nevada), Leah and Rebecca Hobson (Rotary Club of Nevada, Junior Rotarian), Craig Just (University of Iowa Faculty, Engineering), Jack Kampf (University of Iowa Service Learning, Pharmacy), Robert Kruse (University of Iowa Service Learning, Engineering), G. Dean Lange (Rotary Club of Ankeny), Michael Lipman (Iowa City West Interact), Matt Lozier (University of Iowa Service Learning, Engineering), Spencer Lundquist (Iowa City Rotaract), Marlene and Robert Main (Rotary Club of Newton), Eishita Manjrekar (University of Iowa Service Learning, Psychology), Carrie Marsh (University of Iowa Service Learning, Urban Planning), John McNeer (Rotary Club of Newton), Irene Morcuende (Iowa City West Interact), Holly Moriarty (University of Iowa Service Learning, Engineering), Susan Murty (Rotary Club of Iowa City AM), Tomomi Naka (University of Iowa Service Learning, Center for Teaching), Kelli Parsons (University of Indiana West Lafayette, Service Learning, Engineering), Daniel Peterson (Iowa City Rotaract), Jim Peterson (Rotary Club of Iowa City AM), Kathryn Peterson (Iowa City Rotaract), Stuart Pitman (University of Iowa Service Learning, Pharmacy), Nelly Provencal-Dayle (Iowa City Interact), Anita Rao (Iowa City West Interact), Priyanka Rao (University of North Carolina Rotaract), Sheila Rao (Iowa City West Rotaract, mother), Ahrif Sahrumi (University of Iowa Service Learning, Journalism), Michael Schaefer (University of Iowa Service Learning, Engineering), Angela Schmelzer (University of Iowa Service Learning, Pharmacy), Ann Schwemm (University of Iowa Service Learning, Pharmacy), Hazel Seaba (University of Iowa Faculty, Pharmacy), Erika Vjih (Iowa City West Interact), Rajni Vjih (Iowa City West Interact, mother), AG Gary Welch (Rotary Club of Ankeny), Jonathan and Mary Yagla (Iowa City Rotaract), Sarah Zieghenhorn (Iowa City High Interact).



World Community Service

**Team members March 17-25:** Walter Bredbeck (Rotary Club of North Scott), Adam Craig (sponsored by Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids Sunrise), PDG Don Goering (Rotary Club of Ames), Carly Graber (Mt. Pleasant Interact), Stephanie Grau (Ankeny Interact), Alexandra Houseman (Muscatine Interact), Deverie Kiedaisch (Rotary Club of Keokuk), Edward Kiedaisch (Rotary Club of Keokuk), Elizabeth Loeb (Rotary Club of Iowa City AM), Stephanie Nagy (Muscatine Interact), Tom and Carol Narak (Rotary Club of West Des Moines), Renee Rich (Mt. Pleasant Interact), Heather Sinclair (Mt. Pleasant Interact), Anita Wubbena (Rotary Club of North Scott).



This is the ambulance that the Rotary Clubs of Chariton, Decatur County, Osceola and Corydon purchased for Xicotepec, Mexico, using District Designated Funds which were matched by a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. Xicotepec Rotarians said it is beautiful. They are very happy.

## D-6000 clubs focus on the 'Family of Rotary'

**By Dianne Downing-Nelson/Northwest Des Moines**  
D-6000 Family of Rotary Chair

Michael Mullins, Rotary Club of St. Cloud, said the following at Zone Institute this past September, "A healthy club is a club that seeks to grow and get better with the quality and quantity of its members. Tapping into the Family of Rotary will help each club to be a better club – if by no other way by simply helping to look outside itself."

Clubs in District 6000 have embraced the Family of Rotary idea and have included family and extended family members in a number of ways. Many clubs have family picnics, outings, winter suppers, visits to the zoo and the science center, tree plantings and flower bed clean ups, dinners and dances.

The Muscatine Rotary Club even entertained spouses with a Frank Sinatra impersonator.

The West Liberty Rotary Club has a Cub Scout Auction where families of Scouts and Rotarians decorate cakes together and then auction them off. The Cedar Rapids Rotary Club has fireside chats where family members learn the A, B, C's of Rotary.

Ames Morning Rotary gets their family and the ISU Rotaract involved in Stash the Trash and Mortensen Road Clean up. The Newton Rotary Club "Adopts-A-Highway" for clean up too.

These are just a small sample of how District 6000 has embraced the Family of Rotary. But the Ames Morning Club probably gets the gold star. This year they had a special treat . . . one of their members gave birth to the first child who is destined to become a fourth generation Rotarian!

### *Share activities of your club*

What are your club's "Family of Rotary" activities? Share them with Dianne Downing-Nelson: 4704 67th St., Urbandale, IA 50322, (515) 964-6233, dmdowning-nelson@dmacc.edu.



Invited guests and Keosauqua Rotarians enjoyed a holiday meal. Photos by Rotarian Bill Shewmaker

## Rotarians bring holiday cheer in Keosauqua

The Keosauqua Rotary Club's 37th annual Christmas dinner for local senior citizens was held on Dec. 21 at the Roberts Memorial Center with 94 present.

The VFW ladies served a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings, Bill Shewmaker provided dinner music and PA, and a select choral group from the school entertained after the meal, with the Rotary chorus joining the group for the singing of selected Christmas carols.



Santa's helper Cooper Polonsky is held by Rotarian Grandpa Sam during the annual Christmas Dinner as he passes out candy canes.



Donita Woodruff presents a Paul Harris Fellow medallion to husband Mark Woodruff.



Past president Bob Pedrick welcomes Ann Aboldt as the newest Rotarian.

## How is your club supporting Rotaract?

By Jane Martino/Boone

D-6000 Rotaract Chair

Across District 6000 are Rotary members who take pride in their colleges and universities. We cheer for our college teams and wear our college garb. In our Rotary clubs across the district we also have the opportunity to support our college's students through Rotaract. These clubs are quietly and consistently providing service. Whether it is buying Christmas gifts for needy children within the community, hosting drives for nonprofit organizations, participating in international projects such as school supplies for remote villages in Belize, or providing resources for local elementary schools, Rotaract is there.



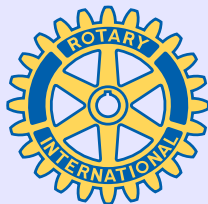
You can support your college and Rotary through active participation with Rotaract. Perhaps you are willing to serve as a business mentor to your college's Rotaractors, send a club or scholarship donation, or offering to host a couple Rotaract students for a Sunday night dinner. When we show these students we care, and that we support their future, it is also the most powerful way to encourage these young leaders to continue in a program of lifelong service in Rotary.

*Here are some contacts:*

Iowa State's Rotaract group is under the leadership of Jenna L. Dolbeare: jennalou@iastate.edu. The club's advisor is Lynette M. Seymour: lmseymo@iastate.edu.

Drake's Rotaract is under the leadership of Nicole Cammarata: nec002@drake.edu.

DMACC-Boone's advisor is Jane Martino: jhmartino@dmacc.edu.



## Tell Your Stories!

**Clubs in District 6000 are invited and encouraged to submit news of past and upcoming activities for District 6000 News.**

**Send Word documents and free-standing high resolution .jpg photos to:**

**btubbs@northscottpress.com. Thank you to Nancy Pacha for assisting with the collection of articles for this issue. Kathy Skinner will be assisting for the next issue. The deadline will be May 28.**



# Clubs asked to give \$1/member to aid push against polio

By PDG Don Goering/Ames

D-6000 PolioPlus Chair

As you know, Rotary's No. 1 goal since 1987 has been the elimination of the poliovirus in the world. We have gone from 125 endemic countries in 1987 to four countries right now.

I have been asked to share with you, and am asking that you share with the members of your club, through a "Rotary Minute" or reproducing this material in your club newsletter.

Rotary has partnered with the U.S. Center for Disease Control, UNICEF and the World Health Organization in the fight to eradicate the poliovirus. The following shows the appreciation of Rotary's involvement.

Retiring U.N. General Secretary Kofi Annan's final speech contained one paragraph in part which reads, "In the worldwide fight against polio, which I hope is now in its final chapter, thanks to a wonderful partnership between the U.N. family, the U.S.A. Centers for Disease Control and crucially – Rotary International."

In addition, the new director of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan, wrote in a letter dated Jan. 4, 2007, "As you know polio eradication has been a top priority for WHO since 1988. I want to assure you today that this will continue to be the case until we finish the job. ... I will be working with the remaining polio-infected countries, the regional directors and our partners to ensure an unprecedented effort on polio eradication over the next 24 months."

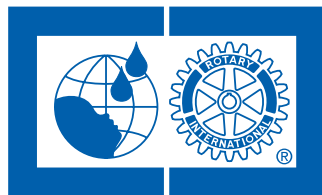
End of Rotary Minute. The following is for your action.

Immunization continues in the polio-infected countries. Rotary's role in National Immunization Days (NID) is termed Social Mobilization – i.e. making everyone aware that immunization will be taking place. There continues to be a critical need for funds to support the many future NIDs.

I am sincerely asking that clubs ask each member for a \$1.00 donation to be used in an upcoming National Immunization Day. You can send your contribution with your check payable to The Rotary Foundation, along with a completed Recognition/Contribution form, available for download in the Quick Download section on RI web site, to: The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago IL 60693. Or you can send your club's check to me, made out to The Rotary Foundation and I will submit it for your club.

DGN Susan Herrick, Rotary Club of Boone, recently returned from participating in a NID in Niger. She has a tremendous program on her experiences and would be willing to share her experiences of her trip. If you have any questions please contact me. I am also available to present a club program on our efforts to eradicate polio. In service to others through Rotary as we "Lead the Way,"

**PolioPlus**



**Rotary International**



Congratulations to Cecil Bolsinger (c) of the Rotary Club of Des Moines, who celebrated his 100th birthday on Rotary's 102nd birthday – Feb. 23. Cecil has been a Rotarian for 42 of his 100 years. This photo with then-DG Bill and Linda Tubbs is from February 2005.

## Making a difference: Permanent Fund and Paul Harris Society

By Jeff Gibbons and David Suntken/Ames

D-6000 Permanent Fund Co-Chairs

The Rotary Foundation's Permanent Fund enables individuals to combine their gifts into a significant force to address the world's greatest needs for generations to come. These gifts can come by outright gifts of cash, securities or real estate. They can also be designated to help future generations by leaving a gift to Rotary in your will through a bequest.

The focus, however, for this Rotary year is to complement the Annual Programs Fund by increasing the number of Paul Harris Society members. PHS members are those Rotarians pledging to donate \$1000/year to the Annual Programs Fund. Currently there are 35 PHS members in District 6000 from its launch of the program during Rotary's Centennial year of 2004-05.

The Permanent Fund Committee is also focusing on creating awareness of issues surrounding the worldwide water shortage. By educating clubs on what they can do to sponsor a water project, we can together help the Foundation to address the growing crisis of the lack of clean, drinking water.



### Announcement

**Rotary Club of Iowa City Downtown**  
**4th Annual Wine Reception Fund-raiser**  
**Hotel Vetro**  
**201 South Linn Street Iowa City**

**NEW DATE!**  
**FRIDAY, March 23, 2007**  
**6 - 9 PM**

**Sponsored by:**

*The Cottage Bakery & Cafe*  
*Randy Miller - NAI Iowa Realty Commercial*  
*Hotel Vetro*  
*Iowa City Heart Center P.C. - John P. Mehegan M.D.*  
*Iowa State Bank & Trust Company*  
*McDonald's*  
*Rohrbach Associates P.C.*

*Featuring some of Iowa's Greatest Wines.*

*\$35 in advance/ \$40 at the door*



# TWO WORLDS

## National Immunization Day takes Rotarian to Niger, the poorest country on earth

*District Governor 2008-09 Susan Herrick of Boone wrote this compelling article in December 2006 upon her return from a National Immunization Day in Niger.*

**By DGN Susan Herrick/Boone**

Niger has been declared the poorest country on earth. The average wage earned by a resident of Niger is \$178 per year American. Their currency is an African Franc and 100 CEFAS are equal to 20 cents American. The life expectancy is 42 years and one out of every four children dies before they are 5 years old. There are currently 3.4 million children under the age of 5. Women average 6-8 births. The mean age is 17.5. All birthdays are counted from Jan. 1 – no one can tell you their birth date. Literacy is 17 percent – and most of that 17 percent is male. One of the health care workers who went with me was a 24-year-old female who is a medical student in epidemiology.

We saw so many things. We visited a leper colony that had 110 families living outside of Niamey. They had no well and had to walk 3K to get water. And they had no millet grinder to grind grain down to be able to work with it as their staple for eating (although millet has very few nutrients in it). The chief of the colony said to us, "It is very difficult to bring water to the colony if you have no feet and it is also very difficult to grind the millet if you have no fingers or hands." All of us wanted to cry but you couldn't cry in front of these brave people, so we cried when we got back into our cars.

Once a person lives in this colony they will never leave it. These families have many small children who are not infected with leprosy but will never know any other life. The land they live on is granted to them by the government, and the Inner Wheel (spouses of Rotarians) and other agencies try to give them financial support but they have very little. We were told that the colony will need a 150-foot well. The cost would be only \$2,000 American but the company couldn't afford to drill the well. A millet grinder would cost even less than that – it also wasn't affordable to anyone who had explored it. As a group we collected \$500 among ourselves and left it with the chief and vowed to return and find the funds for the well and the grinder.

Many of our clubs already have monies set aside for world service, so we believe we can accelerate this process for these people. Many of them did not come out to greet us – the chief said the only way many will come out is if someone has soap to give them.



DGN Susan Herrick; National Immunization Day in Niger.

From the leper colony we went to The Sisters of St. Joseph Orphanage and Hospital, which is run by six nuns and many local volunteers. They feed 300 families a day and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays dispense food items. They keep 12 beds for badly malnourished children who stay with their mothers and are fed through nasal gastric tubes for 10 days to two weeks and then after they have built them up they are released. However, Sister Yvette, the Mother Superior of the group, said there is much recidivism.

Last year during the famine they fed 3,000 to 4,000 children without mothers. They provide free medications to all of the women and children who come through the hospital and also free consultation with doctors who come every two weeks. They also have a 57-bed hospital for men and women who have AIDS or TB. They also have a school for girls ages 10-15 who have two years of training and then take sewing classes. They currently have 73 girls in the initial classes and 53 girls in sewing class. People come 10K on foot to get food and some who have transportation come up to 1,000K.

Most have worms and other parasites. When we asked Sister Yvette how they support their work, she said they do not advertise or solicit funding but they depend on Divine Providence. They are doing incredible work in a clean environment that is brightened by foliage and flowers.

We visited the National Hospital and learned that besides the normal hospital activities they also build braces, shoes, and prostheses for patients. We watched a polio victim working on a leg brace that would cost up to 61,000F. I delivered 50 pounds of medical supplies from the Boone County Hospital to this hospital and the nun in charge was so grateful for the supplies.

As a side comment – these people of Niger are for the most part very clean and their clothing is brightly colored and is kept clean. Even in the villages out in the bush you see people washing their children and clothes hanging over trees or bushes. There are few trees and only scrub bushes in the bush – lots of dust and millet stalks. I learned that millet is perennial, so it doesn't have to be replanted every year. But for as clean as the people are, there is trash everywhere – lots of plastic bags and bottles. We found ourselves cursing the plastic manufacturers. The engineers with us say that it would be very easy to manufacture biodegradable plastics but that

**NIGER/continued on next page**



the U.S. didn't like it and doesn't fund it.

The local Rotarians have obtained matching grants with several countries – U.S., Germany, and Japan – and have built trade schools for students who have not made it through school or have been involved in the criminal justice system. They teach 237 students in electricity, plumbing, woodworking, welding and sewing and for the advanced students, they work with battique and do beautiful work. I bought one that is a village scene like so many I saw in my nine days there – it cost \$4 American.

We visited the National Immunization Office that keeps the polio vaccine in cold storage. They then distribute the vaccine in refrigerated trucks to Regional Health Centers. The vaccine is good for three years if it is kept cold. It is supplied by UNICEF. We used the trivalent vaccine, since the strains of polio in Niger that have come out of Nigeria are two types. Niger was declared polio-free in 2005 but keeps being re-infected by those who cross the border from Nigeria, where they have 80 percent of all polio cases in the world. Niger will never be free of polio until Nigeria is free. With such a high birth rate in Niger they have to keep immunizing – there had been four NIDs so far in 2006 and there would be a fifth in December. They integrate the NIDs with Vitamin A drops to prevent River Blindness and in some cases they also distribute mosquito nets. Our NID only did the polio vaccine and Vitamin A drops, although two of the four days we were accompanied by a midwife who gave DPT shots to the very young babies. When I asked her how many babies she had delivered she indicated it had been in the thousands.

A National Immunization Day uses 15,000 volunteers and the average cost of immunization is 100F-150F/ child in the city but can cost up to 600F/child in the bush. Those of us who worked the NID were thanked over and over again – in many villages we were the first white people that the children had seen. Some were afraid of us – that is why we took so many little toys to coax them



Despite living in a country where one in five children die before age 5, youngsters in Niger appear happy and dress in brightly colored clothes.



Walks of 3K to 10K or longer to get food and water are common in Niger.

out. I took suckers, kazoos (you should have heard some of the kazoo bands I organized!), bracelets, stickers – for children who have nothing, these were very valuable gifts. Often a child would just run a finger along my arm – probably wanted to see what that white skin felt like.

In one village a woman brought her baby for vaccination and placed him in my arms. He couldn't have been more than one or two months old. I gave him the drops and when I went to hand him back to her she said, "No, you keep him. I have six others. He will be much better with you." That was one of many times during the nine days I was in Niger that I wondered how these poor women were managing to raise these beautiful children. All of the children appeared to be happy – they had such beautiful smiles. And they were living without IPODS, videos, movies, three meals a day and all of the other things that our children take for granted. As we head into this season of massive consumption (Christmas), I can't help but wonder what we are doing – NONE of us should ever want for another "thing." When I talk about being in sensory overload, this is a part of it.

Thanksgiving day I walked up to 10 miles through the red sand which is really the consistency of powder and it was over 100 degrees that day. I had three bottles of water with me to which I had added electrolytes. At noon that day I sat under a lean-to with my two health workers and a woman of the village brought us one enamel bowl and three tablespoons and a bowl of water for lunch. I had a bag of dried apricots with me and that was our meal. I didn't drink the water from the bowl, so the water could go to my two co-workers. The people of the village left us alone to eat and we pretty much ate in silence. I tried to get my mind around what you were all doing on that day – huge amounts of food and football games on the television. Trying to explain to my co-workers what was happening in my country under the guise of giving thanks would have been incomprehensible to them. And I was more thankful than I have ever been at a Thanksgiving dinner in all of my life.



Julia Torstenson (r) and Des Moines AM Rotarians with students at Des Moines' inner city Capitol View School.

## 'Capitol' commitment!

### *Des Moines AM and Capitol View School*

**By Julia Torstenson/Des Moines AM**

Members of the Des Moines AM Rotary Club demonstrate "Service Above Self" through their continued commitment with Capitol View Elementary School (CVES).

Our club adopted this Eastside School in 2002. Capitol View has an enrollment of 611 students, Pre-K–5<sup>th</sup> grades. One hundred percent of the students receive free or reduced price lunches. Nearly half of the student population is minorities: 14 percent African American, 5 percent Asian and 35 percent are Hispanic.

Due to this high level of ethnic mix, the percent of students enrolled in English as a Second Language is nearly 27 percent, twice the percentage in the district. Nineteen percent of the students are in special education classes, nearly 7 percent more than the district percentage.

Our commitment this year has included:

- "White Card Program" through which students are recognized for their behavior or scholastic achievement with free pizza lunch, donated by our members through Des Moines Area Community College. Once a month a DMAM member attends the luncheon to honor those students and talk with them about "Achievement."

- "Family First Nights" is a new program launched by Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, designed to introduce families who would not otherwise have the financial means to attend theater and Broadway shows. DMAM member Todd Fogdall facilitated and administered this program which awarded three families from Capitol View discounted tickets. To assist with the financial support of the program, the DMAM Community Service Committee made a contribution to The Civic Center.

- Secured \$5,500 for the school: \$1,000 from Wal-Mart, \$3,500 from Weyerhaeuser, Machele Henderson-DMAM member, \$500 from State Savings Bank, Tim Wolf-DMAM member, and \$500 from Mid-American Energy, Kathryn Kunert-DMAM member for new computers, study carrels and chairs.

- Several of our members serve as mentors every week in the classrooms assisting teachers.

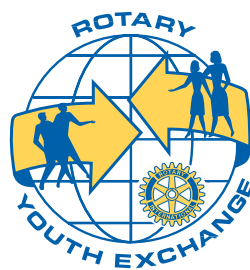
The activities of the DMAM members at Capitol View are varied. Some are long term and ongoing projects; some are one-time-only experiences. Whether tutoring students every week or helping with a pancake supper, whichever projects in which the member chooses to participate, the experience is one of fulfillment of Rotary goals as well as members' personal satisfaction.

# Rotary Youth Exchange: Making a better world: One student at a time

**By Chris Knapp/Iowa City AM**

D-6000 Rotary Youth Exchange Chair

Rotary Youth Exchange is a process. The current inbound students have been in our district since August 2006. However, their journey most likely began in June of 2005. It was at that time they made their decision to apply for participation in their district's Youth Exchange program. The application is extensive. It asks for family information, a recommendation from the student's school, medical information and most importantly short answer essays to a series of questions as to the reason for applying.



The students are then interviewed at the club level. If they pass the club interview they are then interviewed by the district Youth Exchange Committee. If they pass at the district level they then must participate in at least three training sessions within their district lasting one to two days for each session. The training sessions are usually in the fall, winter and spring quarters of the year.

The current inbound students left their families in August of 2006. In September they had their first Inbound student training session in Knoxville. This event is hosted by the Knoxville Rotary Club. In January they joined the newly selected 2007-2008 Outbound students for a two day training session/winter retreat at Camp Wesley Woods near Indianola. On March 9-10 the Inbound students enjoyed a weekend together at the Steeplegate Inn in Davenport, sponsored in part by North Scott Rotary.

The newly selected Outbound students will have a day of training in Pella at Simpson College in March. This event requires both the students and their parents to attend. Then in May both the Inbound and Outbound students come together at the District Conference for additional training, working and celebrating with Rotarians.

Between May and August the 2006-07 Inbound students leave our district and return to their homes. In July, the 2007-2008 Outbound students have one last training session in Newton. This event is hosted by the Newton Rotary Club. At this meeting, recently returning District 6000 Outbound students participate. They work with the Outbound students and parents by discussing how their exchange worked.

Throughout the entire process, your District 6000 Youth Exchange Committee is working. Training and communication are our constant activities with the students, their host families and counselors. There is also outreach to you, the Rotarians of District 6000. Without your support, Rotary Youth Exchange would not be possible.

We, all Rotarians and those who work with Youth Exchange, are all working to make the world a better place to live in. We are doing it one young student at a time.



**The Iowa Miles of Smiles Team is supported with financial contributions of Rotary clubs in District 6000.**

**2007 team members:**

**Surgeons**

John Cannady  
Drew Dillman

**Nurses**

Jody Meyer  
Helen Rittenmeyer  
Mary Yoder  
Deborah Strike  
Barbara Wagner  
Paula Francis  
Emily Berglund  
Dee Grems  
Ruben Zuniga

**Anesthesiologists**

Judith Dillman  
Robert Forbes  
Karen Boland

**Biomedical Engineer**

Dennis Wilson

**Pediatricians**

Oscar Gomez  
John Widness

**Dentists**

Steven Aquilino  
William LaVelle

**Pediatric Otolaryngologist**  
James Brookes

**Medical Students**

Ryan Murray  
Sally Simons

**Non-Medical**  
PDG Gary Pacha  
Nancy Pacha  
Susan Huff  
Catherina Weltha  
Nancy Harms  
Kaitlyn Weltha  
John Gross

**Thanks to Jon Olin of DHL for shipping supplies free of charge to Guatemala**



Amelia Galacia – before surgery



Amelia Galacia – one week later

# JOURNEY of the HEART

## *Iowa Miles of Smiles Team performs 72 life-giving procedures in Guatemala*

*Note: This is the first of a four-part series about the Iowa MOST team and their 2007 trip to Guatemala. The next article will feature the personal story of one of the children who received services of the MOST team and underwent this life changing operation.*

**By Sue Huff/Ottumwa**

This year's journey of kindness began in February of 2007, when the "Miles of Smiles Team" sponsored by Iowa Rotary headed south to Huehuetenango, Guatemala to spend 10 days on a medical mission repairing the faces of children with cleft lips and palates. The Iowa MOST medical team and other volunteer support personnel worked together to serve some of the poorest families in the Guatemalan highlands and in the process become ambassadors of goodwill to the entire area.

Every parent knows how painful it can be to watch their child suffer physically or emotionally, and feel helpless to remedy the problem. It is especially true in many areas of the third world, where children or people with facial deformities are often shunned and ostracized.

Team leaders PDG Gary Pacha and Dr. John Cannady coordinated the operations and volunteer personnel who made this "journey of the heart" to be of service to others. The teamwork of these dedi-

cated medical professionals and support personnel gave many children the opportunity to have a more normal life by having their cleft palates and lips repaired. Under the supervision of team leaders Gary and John, the hardworking medical professionals of the Iowa Rotary "Miles of Smiles Team" worked 12- to 14-hour days in order to provide the specialized medical services that would not otherwise have been available to the children and their families.

This year's team performed 72 separate procedures that made a positive impact in the lives of the children that who served. Anyone on the MOST team will tell you that one of the greatest rewards of their work was seeing the happiness and gratitude of the parents after they saw their children's faces restored by the surgical repair. Their broad smiles said it all as they held their children and spoke words of gratitude for the opportunity to have this specialized treatment because they would not have had the resources to afford it without the generous donations of Iowa Rotarians.

For those who would like to share and be a part of this wonderful and rewarding experience, contact Gary and Nancy Pacha for more information about how your financial donations or volunteer support can be used to make a child smile for the rest of their life. Call (319) 351-6251.

# Honoring George Washington Carver:

## *Rotarians lead the way at annual Hoover-Wallace Dinner*

**Dear D-6000 Rotarians,**

We are writing to urge your personal support, and that of your entire club, for a Rotary-initiated event that honors Iowa's humanitarian heritage and supports "one of the most unique programs in America which inspires the study of science by Iowa high school students."

On the evening of April 16, the Fourth Annual Hoover-Wallace Dinner will take place at the Hy-Vee Conference Center in West Des Moines. This event has deep roots in Rotary, which reach into both Districts 5970 and 6000. In 2004, the leaders of the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Rotary clubs joined with the World Food Prize Foundation in organizing the first Hoover-Wallace Dinner which was held in Cedar Rapids with an overflow audience of almost 600 people. That dinner honored one of Rotary's greatest heroes, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, on his 90th birthday.

Just a year earlier, Dr. Borlaug had been in Barcellona, where he received Rotary International's highest honor, the Award for World Understanding and Peace. Dr. Borlaug had been nominated for that highest Rotary honor by the Des Moines and Des Moines AM Rotary clubs. Part of the \$100,000 Rotary prize that Dr. Borlaug received went to fund World Food Prize internships to send Iowa high school students on eight-week, life-changing experiences at renowned international research centers in Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, and Taiwan.

Following Dr. Borlaug's receiving that cash award from the president of Rotary International at a ceremony in Barcellona, Spain, senior Rotary officials in Iowa pledged their efforts to help sustain and expand the funding for these internships each year as a special tribute to Dr. Borlaug.

All proceeds from the Hoover-Wallace Dinner go to supporting this unique program which has now benefited close to 100 Iowa students. In its first year, the Dinner raised a little over \$15,000. In 2005, at the Dinner in Des Moines which honored Rotarian and former Governor Robert D. Ray, that figure almost doubled. At

the Third Annual Dinner held in Cedar Falls in 2006, over \$60,000 was raised. It is our hope that with the support and involvement of every Rotary Club in District 6000 that the 2007 Dinner honoring the legacy of George Washington Carver will be the best event yet.

Having been to previous Hoover-Wallace Dinners, we can assure you that it will be a memorable and moving evening at which you will come away with a greater understanding of Iowa's extraordinary humanitarian heritage. Herbert Hoover and Henry Wallace have a rich history of helping feed the world, saving hundreds of millions of lives. When their accomplishments are added to those of George Washington Carver and Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, there is no other group in all history who can match the number of people they have saved from hunger, starvation and death.

All of Iowa's federal and statewide elected officials serve as co-sponsors of this Dinner, which is already becoming a rich tradition. Tickets are \$125 per person, and tables of 10 are available for \$1,250. The major of the proceeds fund scholarships.

To ensure that this night is a resounding success which carries on this exceptional Rotary tradition, we very much hope that there can be participation from every club in District 6000. To that end, we would ask you to do these things:

1. If at all possible, we urge you and/or other club officers to attend the dinner.
2. Please read or summarize this letter at one of your forthcoming meetings and personally urge members of your club to attend.
3. If your club is of sufficient size we ask that you personally encourage enough members to attend so that your club can purchase a table (10 tickets);
4. If your club is not able to support a table, that you ensure that there are at least members who purchase tickets and come to the Dinner.

Thank you so much for your support and all the effort we know you will make to have the Hoover-Wallace Dinner on April 16 be a great night for Rotary.

-s- DG Del Bluhm and DGE Diana Reed

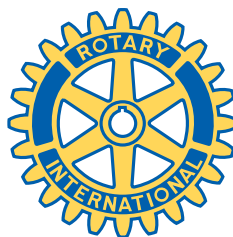
# Membership: Focus on retention

**By Bill Koellner/West Liberty**

D-6000 Membership Development Co-Chair

When we have identified prospective members, how can we, as clubs, get the message of what Rotary does across to them? We need to have fireside discussions for new members as well as old members.

Encourage clubs to look at themselves, and to ask the question: Most Rotarians can come up with a number of reasons why they believe that their club is a good one. Less comfortable, though equally important, is the question: what is it about my club that might stop people from joining it? This is a different question from asking what stops people from becoming Rotarians, regardless of the particular club. The answers to the latter question are clear: the commitment to a weekly meeting, unsuitable meeting time, business commitments, family commitments and cost are all frequently given as reasons.



Answering the former question requires a hard look at the culture of the particular club. Is the venue appropriate, comfortable? Are visitors welcomed warmly and included in the fellowship, or is the welcome perfunctory? Are the meetings efficiently run, on time, orderly? Are club projects discussed as part of the meeting, so that

the visitor gets an understanding of what happens? Does everyone seem to be having a good time?

We all get comfortable in our own clubs. Maybe we all need to ask how we appear to the outsider.

It's also important to give your new members materials about Rotary. In addition to any club brochures you have developed, some helpful orientation publications include:

- Rotary Basics (595-EN)
- The ABCs of Rotary (363-EN)
- RI Theme Brochure (900-05EN)
- Rotary Foundation Facts (159-EN)



# News Briefs



Sabino "Benny" Santos

**Obituary:** Past RI Director Sabino "Eenny" Santos, a member of the Rotary Club of Malolos, Philippines, who was the official representative of RI President Glenn Estess to District 6000 Conference in June 2005, died at home on Jan. 17. An ophthalmologist and a man of enormous spiritual dimensions, he contributed immensely to our Conference. He was a past RI director and trustee of The Rotary Foundation who played a pivotal role in the polio eradication campaign in the western Pacific.

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**Obituary:** With sadness we note the death of Catharine I. Wegner, 93, spouse of PDG 1983-84 Waldo Wegner of Ames, on Dec. 14. She married Waldo Wegner on May 19, 1979, in Bettendorf. He preceded her in death in 2001. A native of St. Charles, she was a graduate of the University of Iowa and was a school teacher in Kellogg and Winterset. She previously lived in Des Moines, Davenport and Cedar Rapids.

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**Large Clubs:** Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Des Moines, which hosted a meeting of large club representatives on Feb. 1-2. Rotarians from Atlanta, Birmingham, Cleveland, Duluth, Huntsville, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Columbus, Grand Rapids, Indianapolis, Louisville, Madison, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Rochester, Sacramento, St. Louis, St. Paul, Toledo and Toronto were guests in our capital city.

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**Meeting Place:** With the closing of the Hotel Pattee, the meeting place of the Rotary Club of Perry is Highland Elk Coffee House, 1211 Second St., Perry.

## 2006-07 CLUB ATTENDANCE PERCENT AND RANK November, 2006 - January, 2007

CLUB	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Adel	66.00%	28	74.33%	18	76.20%	13
Albia	63.00%	34	50.00%	52	52.00%	54
Ames	57.90%	40	51.87%	51	55.24%	48
Ames Morning			53.53%	49	55.04%	49
Ankeny	67.00%	26	73.00%	22	69.00%	25
Atlantic	83.93%	4	70.54%	28	79.17%	9
Bettendorf	79.22%	10	73.94%	20	86.99%	4
Bloomfield	66.00%	29	64.00%	36	64.00%	33
Boone	67.00%	27	73.90%	21	64.80%	31
Burlington	83.15%	5	85.55%	5	84.43%	7
Carroll	57.08%	41	61.00%	39	61.06%	39
Centerville	50.00%	44	52.00%	50	56.00%	47
Chariton	69.00%	20	63.00%	38	72.00%	18
Clinton	53.01%	43	56.96%	47	55.03%	50
Coon Rapids					77.00%	12
Coralville-North Corrido	94.00%	1	98.00%	2	95.00%	2
Corning			75.76%	14	68.63%	26
Corydon						
Creston			54.00%	48	64.00%	34
Dallas Center			71.00%	25	67.00%	28
Davenport	63.51%	33	67.79%	31	52.60%	53
Decatur County	73.00%	15	71.00%	26	64.00%	35
Des Moines	69.63%	19	70.70%	27	71.60%	20
Des Moines A.M.			79.00%	10	65.00%	30
East Polk County	64.00%	32	64.00%	37	58.00%	42
Fairfield	68.85%	22	59.34%	42	64.26%	32
Fort Madison	64.97%	31			54.30%	52
Grinnell			50.00%	53		
Indianola	67.05%	25	68.78%	29	71.12%	22
Iowa City			59.00%	43	59.00%	41
Iowa City A.M.	68.00%	24	68.00%	30	67.00%	29
Iowa City Downtowr						
Iowa Quad-Cities	72.12%	16	75.95%	13	62.50%	38
Jefferson	80.00%	9	73.00%	23		
Johnston	76.32%	13	82.05%	7	69.23%	24
Kalona	81.13%	8	74.00%	19	77.04%	11
Keokuk	49.57%	45			59.48%	40
Keosauqua	56.30%	42	58.30%	44	57.40%	43
Knoxville	72.00%	17	67.00%	32	70.00%	23
Lenox	69.00%	21	44.00%	56		
Manning	83.00%	6	75.00%	15	75.00%	16
Marengo	74.50%	14	80.25%	9	76.00%	14
Marshalltown	58.60%	39	59.82%	41	56.23%	45
Mount Pleasant Noor			49.50%	54		
Mt. Pleasant			79.00%	11	76.00%	15
Muscatine			47.81%	55		
Nevada	77.95%	12	74.51%	17	81.82%	8
Newton			67.00%	33		
North Scott	82.20%	7	78.10%	12	86.00%	5
Northwest Des Moines	84.30%	3	85.20%	6	85.30%	6
Odyssey Rotary Ottumwa	63.00%	35	100.00%	1	55.00%	51
Osceola	68.75%	23	58.07%	45	78.35%	10
Oskaloosa					57.00%	44
Ottumwa	66.00%	30	65.00%	35	63.00%	36
Pella	78.00%	11	81.00%	8	74.00%	17
Perry	63.00%	36	61.00%	40	63.00%	37
Tipton	69.98%	18	72.27%	24	71.95%	19
Washington	61.78%	37	57.31%	46	56.05%	46
Waukee						
Wellman			95.56%	3	97.71%	1
West Des Moines			74.65%	16	71.38%	21
West Liberty	60.00%	38	66.00%	34	68.00%	27
Winterset	86.29%	2	94.17%	4	87.14%	3

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

One Rotary Center  
1560 Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
Phone: (847) 866-3000  
Fax: (847) 328-8554



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

William B. Boyd, Auckland, New Zealand

## DISTRICT 6000 • Iowa USA

[www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org)

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District 6000 News is published four times a year, in August, November, February and May, as a supplement to monthly electronic communications. District 6000 News is mailed to District 6000 club presidents, assistant governors, past and future district governors and committee chairs. It is posted in PDF format with the pictures in color at our district website, [www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org). We encourage and urge you to share your copies with club leaders and Rotarians in your clubs and to use it as a resource for club newsletters and in any way possible for the advancement of Rotary. Clubs are invited and encouraged to submit news to editor Bill Tubbs at the above address.

# Club leaders' checklist



## From DG Del Bluhm . . .

- Register to attend March 24 Leader Training and April 13-14 PETS and District Assembly (p. 3).
- Presidents-Elect bring your club's 2007-08 Rotary Foundation goal for EREY to the President-Elect Training Seminar to be collected by DGE Diana Reed.
- Register to attend the April 16 Hoover-Wallace Dinner (p. 30).
- Register to attend District Conference, May 10-12 at Ames (p. 4 and insert).
- Pre-register for the Rotary International Convention, June 17-20 at Salt Lake City, UT: [www.rotary.org/events/conventions/2007/index.html](http://www.rotary.org/events/conventions/2007/index.html)
- Submit criteria for Presidential Citation to DG Del Bluhm by April 1 (p. 2).
- Submit criteria for District Governor's Club Recognition Award to DG Del Bluhm by April 1 (p. 2).
- Schedule a literacy speaker and determine what your club's and members' support will be for 'Reach Out and Read' and submit to district treasurer (p. 11).
- Determine what your club's support will be for Polio-Plus and submit to The Rotary Foundation, or to District Rotary Foundation chair, PDG Don Goering (p. 25).
- Give thoughtful consideration to Manning Rotary's challenge to support Shelter Boxes (p. 6).
- Send information about your best community service projects to AG Gary Welch (p. 14).
- Send information about your 'Family of Rotary' activities to Dianne Downing-Nelson (p. 23).
- Nominate candidates for Ambassadorial Scholars by the April 1 deadline. Jeff Bremer, (515) 440-7064.
- Place one or more Rotary billboards in your community (p. 6).
- Check your club's progress toward your 2006-07 Rotary Foundation EREY Goal and implement plans to meet and/or exceed your goal (p. 19). Submit payments quarterly if possible to the new TRF address. Please make the last quarterly payment by June 15th.
- Seek new Paul Harris Sustaining Members and new Paul Harris Society Members. (The District Leadership Team developed materials that were sent to club Foundation chairs or secretaries for distribution to their Rotarians as a special 2006-07 district promotional effort)
- Submit criteria for RI Awards & Recognition to DG Del Bluhm by these deadlines: Cooperative Projects (April 1); Membership Development & Extension (May 15); Public Relations (May 15). Information: [www.rotary.org/programs/awards/index.html](http://www.rotary.org/programs/awards/index.html).
- Secretaries confirm that 2007-08 officers' information has been sent to RI and to District, and update membership list for accurate semiannual reports by May 30th.
- Submit news of your club's successes or upcoming events by May 28, 2007 for the next issue of District 6000 News to PDG Bill Tubbs (p. 32).





## Registration

(each Rotarian should complete a separate form)

Thursday, May 10 - Saturday, May 12, 2007

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center – Ames, IA

### Part One – Your Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Time Attendee \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First First

Non-Rotarian Guest/Spouse Attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First (Badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Part Two – Registration

#### Number Attending

Cost  
(through April 18<sup>th</sup>)

Cost  
(after April 18<sup>th</sup>)

#### Total

All Meetings and Meals \_\_\_\_\_ \$120.00 each \$140.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes all meetings and meals on Friday and Saturday)  
(does not include home hospitality – see Part Three below)

Friday Meetings (Breakfast and Luncheon Included) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 40.00 each \$ 50.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Luncheon Only \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20.00 each \$ 20.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Meetings (Breakfast and Luncheon Included) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 40.00 each \$ 50.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Dinner Only \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 40.00 each \$ 50.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Part Three – Home Hospitality

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I/we would like to participate in a home hospitality Friday evening

Name of spouse/guest if also a Rotarian and registering separately \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

### Part Four – Thursday Golf Tournament and Dinner

Join us for golf, dinner or both on Thursday evening. Separate registration is required. Registration form is available on the District 6000 homepage at [www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org).

### Part Five – Payment Information

Make check payable to and mail with registration to: Iowa State University Conference Services  
Suite 102, Scheman, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. 50011

Payment by Credit Card: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(No Refunds After April 18th)

### Part Six – Hotel Room Reservation

For overnight accommodations contact Gateway Hotel & Conference Center directly. Be sure to mention that you are with Rotary District 6000 to receive the conference rate of \$92.00 (plus 13% tax) and your free conference gift bag.

Phone 515.292.8600 or Toll Free 800.FOR.AMES (800.367.2631)

Register and pay by credit card on-line at [www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/district6000/moreinfo.html](http://www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/district6000/moreinfo.html)

For registration assistance contact: Jerri Uitermarkt, 877.976.8279, [dis6000admin@lisco.com](mailto:dis6000admin@lisco.com)



# 2007 DISTRICT CONFERENCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Thursday, May 10**

**Coldwater Golf Links**

**Ames, Iowa**

**Registration - 12:00**

**Shot Gun Start - 1:00**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ROTARY CLUB** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

(please print clearly)

(If you wish to be play with certain individuals, please send in all reservations together)

**Reservation Deadline: Friday, April 27th**

Golf Only (includes cart rental) \_\_\_\_\_ \$39.00

Golf & Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00

Dinner Only \_\_\_\_\_ \$21.00  
(ribs and chicken)

**Total Amount Paid** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservation form and payment to:

**2007 District Conference Golf Tournament**

**Ames Noon Rotary Club**

**P.O. Box 327**

**Ames, IA 50010**

(Please make check payable to Rotary District 6000-golf)

**Directions to Coldwater Golf Links:** From I-35 take Highway 30 exit (west). Turn north on South Duff Street. Turn west on S. 16<sup>th</sup> to Coldwater Golf Links at 615 S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Entrance on the north side of the road.

**Tournament Directors**

Cliff Smith & Bob Vohs: 515-232-4294