

## The Bridge Volume 6. No. 04 December 2013 Christmas Edition Paul Harris Society Doubles Its Membership

The Paul Harris Society in District 6330 had a record 100% growth in membership last year.

Rotary members worldwide who commit to an annual donation of \$1,000 USD to Rotary International are awarded membership in the Paul Harris Society. This commitment carries forward as long as they are able to continue and it often leads to those members reaching "Major Donor" status.

Our District Paul Harris Society membership chair, Jamie Poole, points out that it has never been easier to become a PHS member. By completing the commitment form and setting up a monthly donation to RI, you become a member of the PHS.

Our district is extremely proud of our present

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32 members and looks forward to passing the 50 mark in this current Rotary year. For more information about becoming a member, and to get a copy of the forms, please contact Jamie Poole. You can phone him at 519-344-8118 or email him at jamiepoole@hotmail.com.

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## A Message from Governor Don

The holiday season is upon us and Marie and I would like to wish all of you the very best for this Holiday Season. Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! And of course a very Happy New Year to all of you and your families.



December is Family of Rotary month and this is when we can really make people aware of what we do in Rotary. Rotarians around the world have come to the aid of the victims in the Philippines which was ravaged by Typhoon Haiyen. Many clubs have offered not only financial support, but they have provided ShelterBoxes, food, water, medicines and clothing. Be proud that you are a Rotarian!

The idea of the family of Rotary is a simple one, and one that we celebrate every December during Family Month. Every Rotarian is part of the Rotary family, but our family is much larger than just our 1.2 million members. The family of Rotary includes every one of

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#### January is Rotary Awareness Month



In a couple of weeks we will be welcoming in the New Year. This is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of our Rotary clubs during the past year and to renew our commitment to the goals we have established for 2014.

To accomplish those goals we need to continue to attract new members—people who will come onboard to work alongside those of us who are engaged in Rotary activities. We need their passion, their experience and their new ideas. At the same time we also need to be able to retain the members we have.

We also need to make sure our message is getting out to the public. We need their support for our various projects and fundraisers and it is important that they know who we are and what we are trying to accomplish.

Some ideas for January might include holding an open house for members of the public, putting out a new release about a project or initiative, revising our club's brochures or sponsoring an interesting program for the community...perhaps a speaker on a topic of interest in your community.

Another idea might be to approach your local school about the possibility of getting an Interact club going if you don't already have one. That would help to get the word out and build awareness with the next generation of Rotarians.

It might be a good time to take a look at all the Rotary signage you have put up in your community and renew, replace or refresh as needed.

Fortunately there is a lot of good Rotary news to share. Both the Rotary International and District 6330 websites have a lot of interesting resources you can use for your awareness campaign. With so much help at our fingertips, it makes the job a little easier.

#### Rotary Foundation Receives Guatemala's



#### **Highest Honour**

The government of Guatemala awarded the Order of the Quetzal, the country's highest honour, to the Rotary Foundation this fall, in recognition of Rotary's humanitarian work in Guatemala and its contributions to the campaign to eradicate polio.

During a ceremony on 2 September held in Guatemala, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Fernando Carrera Castro presented the award to Rotary International President-elect Gary C. K. Huang.

The Order of the Quetzal, established in 1936, recognizes officials and organizations from Guatemala and elsewhere for their work in the arts, sciences, politics, and humanitarian service.

"On behalf of all Rotarians and Rotary, we are honored by this award from the Guatemalan government, "Huang says. "We want to share this with all Rotarians."

While in Guatemala, Huang visited several projects funded by The Rotary Foundation. During the past three years, Rotary clubs in District 4250, which includes Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras, carried out projects with funding from 43 global grants. One project, in partnership with clubs in Illinois, USA, provided schools in the rural region of Sumpango with washing stations and latrines, as well as kitchen equipment and furniture. Another grant brought computers and a mechanical cow, a stainless steel machine for producing soy milk, to an all-girls elementary school in Santa Maria de Jesus.

# Paul Harris Society Members in District 6330





Chesley ON Terry A. Lawson

Clio MI Dennis R. Dinsmore

Flint MI Albert J. Koegel Woodrow W. Skaff

Genesee Valley MI John H. MacGready

Goderich ON Malcolm E. Campbell J. Michael Henry Kenneth E. McGee Scott Tousaw

Grand Bend ON Albert Raith George A. Shaw

Hepworth-Shallow Lake ON George Ottewell Nancy E. Ottewell

> Imlay City MI James Sillers

Listowel ON Gary Nickel

London East ON Werner Humann London-Lambeth ON Sheila Anne Wilkes

London ON Heather T. Broadhead Kirk Patterson Susan J. Sharpe Don Norman Stevens

> Petrolia ON Mark Braet Douglas C. Clark Roger Mailloux

> > Sarnia ON Jamie Poole M. C. Wolff

St. Clair MI Franklin H. Moore, Jr.

Stratford ON Howard G. Murray Rick Orr

St. Thomas ON Paul James Nicli

Walkerton ON **Donald J. Moore** 

Watford ON Keith J. Moffatt

# **On a Mission of Mercy to Guinea**

Earlier this year, I had the pleasure of leading a team of four eye surgeons to Conakry, Guinea, West Africa to work with our strategic partner, Mercy Ships, on training eye surgeons in West Africa and performing cataract surgeries.

Our trip was coordinated by Mark Wright from Mercy Ships, and made possible through the work of many Rotary members in Mumbai, India, including our district governor, Dr Balakrishna Inamdar, a wellknow gynecologist.

The need was evident to us from the minute we arrived. Guinea has a huge backlog of people with cataracts awaiting surgery, and a severe shortage of qualified eye surgeons. Medical professionals there are eager to receive training in quick and safe surgical techniques and learn the latest methods of treatment for cataracts and other eye diseases.

Our vocational training team was able to treat hundreds of patients and perform 65 surgeries at the medical college in Conakry and at a nearby clinic for two weeks in late April and early May. We also trained 17 medical graduates in treatment and surgery of eye diseases. We were able to donate 16 ophthalmoscopes to the clinics through a service project of Rotary District 3140.

We also had a chance to visit with the Rotary clubs of Conakry and Camarene, exchanging ideas with them about vocational training teams, the need for local eye hospitals, and ways Rotary can help. As a result of our trip, one of the local eye surgeons became interested in joining Rotary.

The senior doctors at the clinic were grateful for our visit. My fellow team member K.V. Ravishankar, a member of the Rotary Cub of Mysore West, noted how Rotary's partnership with Mercy Ships is a perfect fit, bringing much needed medical services to people who need it along the West Coast of Africa.

Serving as a volunteer was a truly rewarding and exciting experience. I have been to many camps and training programs in the past, but working in Conakry gave me a true sense of service. I am very thankful to Rotary for providing me with such a rich platform to serve humanity beyond caste, creed, religion, and borders.

## By Arun Chaudhari, past President of the Rotary Club of Mumbai West Coast, India.

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This story was referred to us by Rachel Greenhoe. She sent a letter to the District and Zone Teams saying, "I was recently moved by a Rotary story that I wanted to share with you. What moves me about this story is all that it accomplished. A Vocational Training Team of eye surgeons traveled to Guinea, West Africa to perform much needed cataract surgeries on a trip that was coordinated with our strategic partner, Mercy Ships...The trip had a lasting impact on those involved. The team leader remarked how serving as a volunteer is a truly rewarding and exciting experience and one of the local eye surgeons was so moved that he is now interested in becoming a Rotarian.

She goes on to say, "This is a very powerful story about how your support of the Rotary Foundation can work in so many ways. I am thankful and grateful to be able to help you do this day in and day out." Thanks to Rachel for sending this along.



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the men, women, and children who are involved in our work: the spouses and children of our members, our Rotary Foundation program participants and alumni, and all of those who are part of our programs, in the tens of thousands of Rotary communities around the world. The youngest generation of the Rotary family is composed of our Rotaract clubs and Interact clubs, the participants in our Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program, our Global Scholars, and our more than 8,000 Rotary Youth Exchange students every year. As in any family, our youth are our brightest promise for the future. Of course, it is my sincere wish that many of these young people go on to become Rotarians in good time. But Rotary is a part of them even today, and they are a part of us. Remember to Engage Rotary/Change Lives!

#### Membership Snapshot

Who: Rotary brings together the kind of people who step forward to take on important issues for local communities worldwide. Rotary members hail from a range of professional backgrounds: doctors, artists, small business owner and stay-athome parents all call themselves Rotarians. Rotary connects these unique perspectives, and helps leverage its members' expertise to improve lives everywhere.

Where: From Haiti and Greenland to Nigeria and Singapore, Rotary unites a truly diverse set of leaders from across the world. Currently, the largest number of clubs comes from the Unites States, India, Japan and Brazil. The fastest growing Rotary regions include Southeast Asia and Africa.

What: Rotarians contribute their time, energy and passion to sustainable long-term projects in local communities across the globe. Projects focus on important issues like peace and conflict resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy and economic and community development.

**Polio Eradication**: Rotary is close to eliminating the second human disease in history after smallpox, with a 99 percent reduction in polio cases worldwide since 1985, when Rotary launched its Polio-Plus program. In 1988, Rotary spearheaded the creation of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with its partners the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Polio eradication remains Rotary's top priority. To date, Rotary has contributed more than US \$ 1.2 billion and countless volunteer hours to help immunize more than two billion children against polio in 122 countries. Currently, Rotary is working to raise \$35 million per year through 2018 for polio eradication, which will be matched 2 to 1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Have you made your donation yet?

Happy New Year everyone! May 2014 bring you good health, happiness and prosperity!



#### From the Marysville Astonisher...

Mrs. Sullivan and her little daughter Patty were outside the church, watching all the comings and goings of a wedding. After the photographs had been taken, everyone had driven off to the reception, and all the excitement was over, Patty asked her mother, "Why did the bride change her mind, Mommy?"

How do you mean, change her mind?" asked Mrs. Sullivan.

"Well, said the child, she went into the church with one man and came out with another!"





The Wiarton Rotary Club will be hosting their annual Trivia Night on Saturday, January 18th, 2014 and they are hoping that Rotary Clubs in the area will enter teams. They mention on their Facebook page that this event has become a "sought after evening out for the Trivia buffs or for those just wanting to share in the fun with their friends and neighbours."

When?	<b>January 18, 2014</b> at 7 pm
Where?	The Meeting Place, 575 Edward Street,
	Wiarton, Ontario
Cost?	\$120 per team (maximum of 8 members)

There are prizes for the top three teams and the cost of the evening includes a light lunch.

Like them on Facebook. \*\*\*\*\*\*

#### WELCOME TO ROTARY

The Rotary Club of St. Clair MI inducted two new members on October 23rd. Josh Bowman and Adreanne MacIntosh received their pins and were ushered into the club by President Gerry Mason and AG Alice Jehle. The event was recorded by Secretary Katherine Huffmaster and pictures can be found on the club's Facebook page. Welcome to Rotary Josh and Andreanne! (www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfStClair)

#### **Ist ANNUAL ROTARY TOILET BOWL Beat the February Blahs!**

On February 8th, the Chesley Rotary Club is introducing a new fundraiser. It involves a plunger



toss event...think Curling without ice, toilet plungers instead of rocks and toilets for the house! Teams of four will compete to get their name on the new trophy! By the way there's also prize for the best team name and costume.

The day will kick off with a pancake breakfast at 9 am and will include

a chili lunch. Presentation of the trophy and prizes will take place around 5 pm.

The club is hoping other Rotary clubs in the area will enter a team for this pre-Olympic event. The cost is only \$40 per team. Details about the event and registration forms can be downloaded from the club's website. http://chesleyrotary.ca/toilet\_bowl\_1.html.

## for Families in Need



The Clio Rotary Club reports on their Facebook page that they have teamed up with Walmart to raise over \$600 to help families in need this holiday season.

#### **Grand Bend Rotary Autumn Indulgence Event Raises \$72,000**

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President Bruce Shaw of the Grand Bend **Rotary Club** is an enthusiastic supporter of Rotary and an excellent spokesperson for the club. He reports that the Autumn Indulgence event this year made \$72,000 which will be spent on a combination of International and local projects.

The event which includes a steak and lobster dinner as well as silent and live auctions has been going for 10 years. Beneficiaries of the proceeds include Polio Plus, an impressive International Literacy project that sends containers of school supplies to African countries (30 containers so far!) and local projects. They have donated money to upgrade the Huron County Play House and for beach enhancement. They also donate money to Big Brothers and Big Sisters and give a number of awards to youth in local schools. So far this 47 member club has spent over \$1 million dollars in the community. 

#### Rotary Club of Goderich Wraps up Car Fundraiser

During the past year, Rotary members in Goderich spent a significant amount of time and energy selling tickets on a new 2013 Cadillac. The four door five passenger compact luxury sedan went to Dennis Deschamps of Bayfield who purchased the lucky ticket.

Tickets were sold for \$5 apiece or 5 for \$20. The club reports that they realized a profit of \$18,000 for this



fundraiser from which they were able to donate \$10,000 towards the campaign to raise funds for a new Anaesthetic Machine for the Operating Room at the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital.

# Happening in the District...

#### Now is the Time to Prepare Your Club's District Grant Application

Clubs are encouraged to take full advantage of the grant funds allocated to their earlier proposal by submitting the full application to DGSC Ken Wilmott before December 30, 2013.



Application forms are available on the District Website by clicking on TRF Grants or by contacting DGSC Ken Wilmott directly at kwilmott@uniserve.com. Your

community is relying upon your club to implement your project.

The District and Global Grant Report (July 2, 2013 to November 23, 2013) is now available and will be sent to all members as an addendum to this newsletter.

DGSC Ken Wilmott

#### **Need Help with Fundraising Ideas?**

District 6330 has a number of clubs that have very successful fundraising events. Not only do they have great ideas but they are good at translating their ideas into action. But there are some clubs that will be looking for new ideas or could use a hand refreshing an older event. Help is available.

Clubs may be able to help each other. Perhaps your club has a great idea that they are willing to share or they may have some advice about fundraising pitfalls.

In November, Martin Ward posted the following on the District website. "We're introducing a new section on the District website to help with the exchange of information regarding fundraising - what works, what doesn't, and where can you learn more."

Visit the <u>Fundraising Corner</u> on the District website. The page is currently under construction but will be a valuable resource for clubs as they move forward with their fundraising plans for this year.

### Just for the Fun of It....



#### A Message from the Editor

This will be my last Bridge. For personal and health reasons I find that I must make some decisions and some changes and so, although I plan to continue as a Rotarian in my local club, I am sadly giving up my role as the newsletter editor for the District.

I have particularly enjoyed the contact with individual clubs; it is always interesting hearing from those with "boots on the ground"; the ones who are out there working hard to make the Rotary dream a reality. We have so many friendly, creative and dedicated people and chatting with them as I prepared the newsletter was always the best part of the job.

There is a new editor who has agreed to take on the job starting in January. I want to wish them and all of you all the best in 2014.

Brenda J. Scott

# **Rotary International News**



# ShelterBox Response Team in the Philippines

In November District Governor Don received a letter of appeal from ShelterBox. The letter was written the day after Super Typhoon Haiyan made landfall and although the full impact was not clear at the time, it was clear that a major disaster had once again befallen the people of this country.

We now know that this storm killed thousands and displaced even more. It has left millions struggling with the aftermath and the destruction.

At the time of landfall a Shelter-Box team was already there! They had arrived earlier in response to a magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck the island of Bohol on October 15th. ShelterBox Response Team Member Mark Dyer reported in a CNN interview with Anderson Cooper that their volunteers were engaged in providing temporary shelter and clean water to families dis-

placed as a result of the earthquake when Super Typhoon Haiyan made landfall on the island of Leyte on November 8th.

At the time of the initial report data was still being evaluated but it now appears that Haiyan was the biggest storm to ever make landfall anywhere. To put it in some kind of context, it was a super storm that would dwarf both Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. The Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Satellite Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has a dramatic geographical comparison of Haiyan and Katrina that illustrates the sheer size of this storm (http://tripic.ssec.wisc.edu/).

And then on November 12th, nature struck another blow: a 4.8 magnitude earthquake struck this already devastated area.

ShelterBox currently has a response team based in the Philippines assessing needs and committing aid for 4,000 families displaced by the storm. According to their website, they are working closely with the Plan, "a charity that specializes in promoting and protecting the rights of children to bring shelter to vulnerable families in Leyte.

According to research carried out by ShelterBox Response Teams on the island of Bohol, 68% of the vulnerable people helped by ShelterBox after the typhoon hit were children at risk, and 20% were women at risk. Children at risk include separated or unaccompanied children and women at risk include single mothers, pregnant women, or breast-feeding mothers."

As we know. ShelterBox is a Rotary International Project Partner. Chair Ron Noseworthy is the chair of ShelterBox Canada and is also Past President of the Rotary Club of Kenora. He reminds us that ShelterBox "responds instantly to disasters around the world by providing emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies that families need to survive in the immediate aftermath of a

> disaster." He appealed to Rotarians to donate to help them "to provide shelter, warmth and dignity to those who have lost everything."

Many clubs in our area came forward with donations. Thanks to generous donations from Rotary clubs world-wide, displaced persons are now able to move from their cramped makeshift shelters into the tents pro-

vided by ShelterBox. Plan's Program Manager for the area said, "From our interviews with beneficiaries they love the item, the tent, and they feel good in it. It seems to be that they feel safe inside the tent. Plan looks to ensure the children, the elderly, are in safe sleeping quarters even in the midst of disaster, while they are rebuilding their homes. So in that sense, ShelterBox complements our vision in providing decent sleeping quarters during times of disaster."

Thank you to the clubs in our area that came forward to help.

Rotary International sends a reminder that, "When organizing disaster relief efforts – at home or internationally – we encourage you to work with experienced emergency relief organizations to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the disaster."



