



# Rotary In Action

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## LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH!



## The Amazing Generosity of Rotarians!

In a short ten weeks, Rotarians around the world have pledged enough funds for the Vermont Recovery project to put us 60% over our grant goal of a quarter of a million dollars! With what is pledged, we can ask for a \$400,000 grant from the Rotary Foundation (TRF). The generosity of Rotarians is truly amazing!

Twelve districts have pledged \$105,999.50 which can be matched \$1:\$1 by TRF. These funds have come from districts in Taiwan, South Af-

rica, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. One hundred and eight clubs from Quebec, Ontario, New Jersey, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maine, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Shropshire, England have pledged \$125,333. This amount can be matched \$0.50:\$1 by TRF.

Thank you to the 33 clubs in

our District 7870 who pledged \$50,141 and all the other clubs and districts who responded to our appeal.

Our request for funds went to the districts in our Zone 32 and partner Zone 34. DGs in these districts passed it on to their clubs and Rotarian friends in different parts of the world, especially GSE partners. This response shows the heart and value of the national and international connections we have built through Rotary.

## Ambassadorial Scholar Samuel Weeks Reports from Portugal

As elsewhere, the fall was quite politicized in Portugal. There was a large protest in Lisbon in mid-October that was 100,000 strong. The protestors' demands are similar to those of Occupy Wall Street and "The Indignant Ones" movement: reductions in university tuition, root out corruption and reduce corporate influence in politics, a tax on luxury consumption, an increase in the minimum wage, and reinstate funds recently cut from the education and health budgets.

During the protest, things got interesting when a protestor climbed up on one of the stone lions on the side of the stairs leading to the Parliament Build-

ing. He started burning pictures of Portuguese politicians. The police tried to take him off the lion but he was surrounded by some 20,000 increasingly excited people. At this point, 30 riot police (w/ helmets, face shields, flak jackets, tear-gas bazookas, etc.) came out and stood in front of the Parliament Building. This was an anxious moment, but there was luckily no physical confrontation.

Portugal's two main trade unions held a general strike to coincide with the passing of next fiscal year's budget, one larded with unconstitutional IMF-mandated austerity measures: cuts to education and the national health service factor prominently. The institute where I take classes will have

to operate with a breathtaking 20% cut in funding. They are trying to not let anyone go, which means that there is little money for colloquia, conferences, books, research funding, etc. This has made the mood in town especially somber. The dreary winter weather isn't helping the situation. After 7 months of sun and warm weather, everyday is 55° and overcast, with never-ending rain.

In September, I spoke about my year in Portugal to Rotary Clubs in Henniker, Keene, and Elm City. I am planning to speak at the Rotary Club of Concord sometime in January. Sam —ssweeks1@gmail.com



One million two hundred thousand women and men of Rotary have accomplished extraordinary things. They've taught millions of people to read, worked toward world peace, and have nearly eradicated a crippling childhood disease from the face of the planet. But each of those one million two hundred thousand women and men know they could accomplish so much more, if only they were one million, two hundred thousand...and one. Find out what an impact one person can make. Learn about Rotary by calling **603-724-6540** leave your contact information and we'll put you in touch with a Rotarian who will help you complete the puzzle.

## Governor's Byline-Jan McElroy



As we enter this holiday season from Diwali to Thanksgiving, to Hanukkah to Christmas to Kwanzaa, we see the pace of activity around us pick up. During my club visits I heard of many wonderful events that clubs were planning for this time of year. In order to share this joyful spirit of remembrance, giving and service with you, I have asked club presidents to provide me a description of some of these humanitarian service projects to include in this and the next newsletter.

Chester has for many years arranged for Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus to visit the children at Kurn Hatten, a home/school for children who don't have a home or functional family for whatever reason. Each Chester Rotarian sponsors a "home" with between 12-16 kids and each child receives a gift that meets that

child's personal wants or needs.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus and the Grinch hand out the gifts to over one hundred kids, which is capped off that evening with a pizza party in each of the 11 "homes" courtesy of the Rotarians—no Rotary Club funds used

Jane Kirk in the Keene Club is responsible for a program known as "Jane's Kids." It isn't specifically a "holiday" project since it operates all year providing a personal shopping service for needy children. Since August 15th their shoppers, who are Rotarians and friends of Rotary, have taken 226 children shopping for winter coats, 54 more than all of last year. By looking for sales and discounts, they have

saved over \$38,000 while spending over \$29,000 on their purchases. Even though they have now officially finished shopping, they will still "take homeless kids from the homeless coordinator whenever they appear" or kids from the Violence Protection Center at any time. This is truly spreading the holiday spirit of giving over the year—not a bad model to follow.

The Raymond Area Rotary Club is also responding to the need of children for winter coats. They accepted donations of new or lightly used/laundered winter coats for school-aged children and distributed them at the Ellis School in Fremont.

The Wantastiquet-Londonderry Club receives 18-20 names of "shut-ins" from the Vermont Visiting Nurse Program. They pack and wrap various holiday foods and treats to deliver to the homes along with plantings and tins of cookies donate by the Green Mountain Gardeners and the Weston Women's Club.

**Season's Greetings to All!**

## District Awarded a PR Grant by RI

Rotary International has approved a Public Relations grant to the district for a five feet display about Rotary at the Manchester/Boston Airport. We will use the "You are the missing piece" seen on the left hand side of this page and focus the message on Membership in Rotary. This graphic is avail-

able on the District website under Membership and on the "Humanity in Motion" DVD given to each club public relations chair or club president by Governor Jan when she visited the clubs.

District Public Relations Chair Gayle Kimball was responsible for writing the

grant proposal and will be implementing the displays at the Airport in January. Watch for it!

Clubs are urged to enhance their own PR efforts to increase the visibility of Rotary. A survey about this will be send out to clubs in the near future.

## Speakers at the Foundation Dinners

The Foundation Dinners were festive and informative. Chris Parkinson and his team members took us with them to the ancient, modernized land of Turkey. Chris closed their presentation with a song about Rotary in Turkish.



Julie Phelps, Foundation Chair from District 7930 informed us about the Six Areas of Focus that our grants programs and Vocational Training Teams will operate within under the Future Vision plan.



In Nashua, Gukdo Byun, an Ambassadorial

Scholar studying at Southern New Hampshire, introduced us to the culture of his home country, Korea. Major Byun is working on his Masters in Management. His Host Counselor is Jean Esslinger, who is a member of the Queen City-Manchester Rotary Club.



This year a number of the host clubs invited their Youth Exchange students to attend the Foundation Dinner. Ambassadorial Scholar Gukdo Byun joined them for this photo.

## Club Awards Given at the Foundation Dinners

November is Foundation month and the time at which The Rotary Foundation (TRF) notifies the district about the clubs that have achieved special recognition status. These awards are presented to the clubs at the Foundation Dinner.

The club receiving the banner for the highest per capita giving in 2010-11 was Hollis-Brookline at \$449.22 per member. Second was

Nashua West with \$281.40 per member, and third was Nashua at \$192.02 per member. Nashua also received a banner for being an Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) Club. All of their members contributed some amount to the Foundation.

This year we had three clubs that were recognized for being both EREY Clubs and 100% Sustaining Member Clubs. All members contributed something to the Annual Program Fund of TRF and the average

club giving was \$100 or more per member.

The clubs receiving banners recognizing these two achievements were the Rotary Clubs of Manchester, Vermont, Monadnock, New Hampshire, and White River Junction, Vermont.

All these clubs are to be commended for their exceptional generosity in supporting the humanitarian work of TRF.



Nine clubs were awarded certificates for their Financial Support of the \$200 Million Challenge at the Foundation Dinners. They are: Bedford, Bennington, Bow, Concord, Henniker, Hollis-Brookline, Nashua-West, Newport and Springfield.

## RYLA Was a Rousing Success

RYLA 2011 was held at the Nature's Classroom at Sargent Center in Han-

cock, NH. This one-day event provided opportunities for the students to meet and develop friendships with others around the district while focusing on aspects of leadership such as communication, leadership styles, and public speaking. The challenges of the rope course and the trust building

exercises all contributed to a growth enhancing experience. The group activities and public speaking opportunities reinforced these physical activities in building the self confidence needed for undertaking other challenges.

Cassie Clev-erly and Swift Corwin from

the Monadnock RC are the coordinators of this enrichment program for high school juniors and seniors. Congratulations on a job well done!





## Club Events- See District and Club Websites for Details

Visit the RI Website:

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

Register for Member

Access to contribute online  
to the Foundation or check  
out your contributions.

Visit the District Website:

[www.Rotary7870.org](http://www.Rotary7870.org)

Secretaries should update  
their membership and club  
officers data.

Youth Exchange Snow Event	Manchester, VT	Dec. 3
Amigos de Honduras Information Meeting	RSVP <a href="mailto:arcouch@comcast.net">arcouch@comcast.net</a>	Dec. 4
Polar Express	White River Junction	Dec 10-11
Holiday Auction	Henniker	Dec. 15
30th Birthday	Goffstown	Dec. 15
40th Birthday	Hudson-Litchfield	Dec. 20
Pre-PETS	Wallingford	Jan. 25
Pre-PETS	Bellows Falls	Jan. 26
Pre-PETS	Bow	Feb. 1
Pre-PETS	Merrimack	Feb. 2
Amigos de Honduras Trip	Bo b Couch- <a href="mailto:arcouch@comcast.net">arcouch@comcast.net</a>	Feb. 11
RLI	York Community College-Wells, ME	March 3
PETS	Sheraton, Farmington, MA	March 9-10
District Conference	Sable Oaks-Marriott, Portland, ME	June 1-3

Please get your dates in for the next 6 months.

If you want your events listed, you need to submit the information early and include what it is, where it is, when it is and others details important to your event. For additional details, see [www.Rotary7870.org](http://www.Rotary7870.org) — Calendar - and click on event to go to the club's website for event description, time and location information.

### New Hampshire Bar Association Brings Civics in Action to Rotary

There are staggering statistics about the limited knowledge Americans have about our government, the Constitution and Bill of Rights, and our justice system. To address this, the NH Bar Association is offering an engaging interactive program based on the questions from the U.S. Citizenship Test. Could you pass the citizenship test? The Concord and Franklin clubs have participated in the program and strongly recommend it. For more information about Civics in Action, go to: [www.nhbar.org](http://www.nhbar.org)

### Group Study Exchange Team to Germany Selected

An excellent team has been selected to represent our district in Germany. The Rotarian Team Leader is Karen Testerman from the Franklin Club; George Wenz from White River Junction is the alternate. The team consists of: Gretyl Macalaster, journalist, sponsored by Raymond; Ellen Kryger, Attorney, sponsored by Brattleboro; Jonathan Saccoccio, Architect, sponsored by Deerfield Valley; and Christine Rivers, Communications

Representative for Vermont Public Service, sponsored by Brandon and alternate Jodi Harper, Coordinator for the After School Program-B.R.I.N.G.I.T, sponsored by Manchester, NH.



Windmill in Bremen, Germany  
District 1850

### Rotarians at the Monarchs Game



Russ Lunt (Gilford) & Kids



Meredith Fans and Gov. Jan