



Rotary In Action

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Vermont Relief Matching Grant Update

DG Jan submitted the grant application to The Rotary Foundation in early December. TRF staff member, Laura Bradley wrote, "Thank you for submitting your Matching Grant application... to help provide and coordinate the provision of disaster relief and recovery assistance to individuals with critical needs due to loss, damage, disruption and displacement caused by Tropical Storm Irene and the resulting flood in the state of Vermont, USA. As your application is requesting over US\$25,000 from The Rotary Foundation it will be reviewed by the full Board of Trustees. I am very excited that such a worthy

application will be available for their review." She then identified some components of the grant that would require us to supply additional information prior to the Trustee's review.

With the help of our cooperating organization, Southeast Vermont Community Agency (SEVCA), and DG Marilyn Bedell from 7850, DG Jan has responded to Laura's questions and requests for information. In addition, we have been told that we may expect a pre-grant visit by one of the Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisors which is often required to review grants of this size. We will need the help of a number

of the Rotary clubs in Vermont, if we get a visit. And we will also require the involvement of all the clubs in Vermont in promoting the implementation steps of the project, when (think positive—not if) we get the grant. The clubs in northern Vermont (7850) have been very generous in offering their assistance in these efforts as well.

So the current status of the Vermont Recovery grant is that we are still in the process of securing the \$412,450 matching grant (yes, it has increased) from TRF, and we are still feeling confident about our proposal.

SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 21—FOR THE MEMBERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR

- To be held at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. More information will be coming.
- Attendance will be limited. PE and Membership Chairs in particular don't want to miss this!

Give a Hand: Simple Prosthesis can Change a Life

Give Hope. Give a Hand. The Ellen Meadow Prosthetic Hand Foundation puts LN-4 prosthetic hands on anyone who requests one for FREE. Anywhere in the world

If you wish to donate to their efforts, go to the [LN-4 Support page.....](#) They are grateful for all contributions, and

they really want to work with Rotarians to deliver more hands, in more places, to more people. The DGE Marty Helman from district 7780 just returned from installing the simple, inexpensive prosthetics in Mali, West Africa.

To learn more about the prosthetic hand, go to: www.LN-4.org



"I can draw now!"

**LET THERE BE
PEACE ON
EARTH!**





DG Jan Pins Paul Harris Award on Steve Birge of Ludlow



Santa, Barb LeMire, Tesha Buss, and Tom Harris at Ludlow Christmas Party



Bennington-Catamount Member and Friend Ring the Bell for Food and Fuel

Governor's Byline-Jan McElroy



I invited all our clubs to tell me about their special holiday events and last month several of them were featured. In this January issue, I would like to share the others that I received. Some clubs did service projects for the needy, some did holiday related fund raisers that will eventually help those in need and some celebrated the season with their Rotary friends and families.

Bedford rang bells for the Salvation Army. They have done it for over 20 years and usually collect \$15-\$20,000. Concord also supports the Salvation Army's Kettle Drive and serves a holiday dinner at the Friendly Kitchen for the homeless and needy.

New London along with their new Kearsarge Interact Club put together Thank-giving baskets to deliver to families in their community.

Peterborough has a four month internal effort to raise \$25/month per member for the local food pantry. This

purchases about one ton of food.

Derry Village delivered Holiday Baskets to 13 families with food, household items, children's gifts, club provided grocery and store gift cards, and gift cards donated by local salons, restaurants and stores. "It was an uplifting experience for all!," says Jennifer Devlin.

Deerfield Valley partnered with the Lions Club in a Holiday Basket and Cheer-up Program providing 75 baskets to persons in need in Wilmington and Dover area. Through their foundation, they have also provided 33 grants totaling \$193,400 to aid businesses damaged by Irene and are adopting persons or families affected by the storm to assist through their Family Support Initiative.

Meredith hosted a Christmas dinner for all senior citizens in their community and for at-risk girls in the Circle Program. They fed proximately 250. At their club Christmas party, they held an auction, a raffle and a pass-the-hat and donated the proceeds to the local Santa Fund for children.

Fair Haven helped needy persons in their area with holiday shopping and packed baskets. They also adopted a family and provided a financial contribution.

Hopkinton used a District Simplified Grant to provide heating fuel for needy families and they chopped wood for the Wood Bank.

Catamount-Bennington rang the bell and collected funds for the local Bennington Food and Fuel Fund. Over 40 Rotarians, family members and Interactors took part. The Fund is a local 501-c-3 that provides food, fuel, utility expenses, clothing and shelter for needy families and individuals

Ludlow had a club/family Christmas Dinner with entertainment and awards-some funny and some serious.

Chester had a wine-tasting and a silent and live auction. Heidi Ladd, the widow of a former member, was honored with a Paul Harris plus 1 for her work in raising money for a scholarship fund her husband Andrew started.

Rotarians really know how to celebrate and how to show the true spirit of Christmas in their giving to others.

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Mark Whitney New London-Mike Cornelio Derry Village Rotarians of Bedford Wheeling out Boxes of Food Packing Baskets Greets Donor

Meredith Rotarians Serving Christmas Dinner for Seniors

250 Senior and At-Risk Girls Served by Meredith



District Conference Preview-Save the Dates of June 1-3, 2012

This year's District Conference will be held June 1-3, 2012 at the Marriott-Sable Oaks in South Portland, Maine. All rooms in the hotel were renovated two years ago and each room has either a king bed or two double beds.

Great news for all our golfers: the 18 hole golf course and club house are located right on the Marriott property so you will not need to travel off site to get to the golf course. There is an indoor pool with a great outside patio to gather for fellowship, plus an exercise room for those fit and trim people and a nice bar for those who enjoy a glass of wine or other spirits.

This year the Rutland South Rotary Club will be our gracious hosts for the hospitality suite on Friday and Saturday nights. DG Jan and Jim McElroy and I hope you will all join us for great fellowship and the

chance to meet other Rotarians from our district.

You will enjoy seeing what club projects have been done this Rotary year, plus hearing from the GSE team from Germany and possibly our team Skyped in from Germany. We will celebrate accomplishments of clubs and fellow Rotarians and hear from the Rotary International President's Representative. Our special speaker this year is Ambassador Paul Taylor, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College.

The conference theme is "It's a Small World." On Friday evening you will be asked to dress in an outfit representing another country to which you have some connection and wearing a "word clue" to that connection on a name tag.

Bobby Darling and Dr. Divine will entertain us on Friday night with their comedy and versatile talent on nu-

merous instruments.

One of the highlights of every conference is the presentation of our Youth Exchange Students. Come and hear about their experiences in our district and how we touched their lives, as well as how they touched ours.

Shopping is available at the Maine Mall, which is near by, and LL Bean in Freeport, not to mention the seaport areas and wonderful restaurants for everyone to enjoy on your free time on Saturday afternoon.

If you register and pay by February 29, 2012, your name will be entered into a drawing to receive a FREE registration. The drawing will take place on March 10, 2012 at PETS. Go to the district website to register:

www.rotary7870.org

I hope you will join us for a fun filled weekend to celebrate Rotary.

—PDG Alley Boucher
Conference Chair

India will pass one year without a single child being paralyzed by polio, for the first time in history, on 13 January, if no cases are reported and if all pending samples return negative in the coming weeks. Maintaining sensitive surveillance and high childhood immunity will be of prime importance for India to continue protecting its children.

Wild Poliovirus Cases

Total Cases	YTD 2011	YTD 2010
Global	620	920
In Endemic Countries	315	223
In Non-Endemic Countries	305	697
Tajikistan	0	458
Pakistan	189	144
Afghanistan	75	25
Nigeria	51	21
Chad	130	26
Congo	1	441

Joe Pratt to Climb Mt. Everest for Polio: Support Him with Your Contribution

Polio is a devastating disease. It has crippled and killed people across the world for centuries. Rotary launched the PolioPlus program in 1985 with the goal of polio eradication from the world. In October of 2011, Rotarians Joe Pratt and Steve Puderbaugh, along with their wives, took part in Polio National Immunization Days in Pakistan. While participating in multiple polio camps and in a Na-

tional Polio Conference, the Rotarians discussed what else they could do to help end polio in Pakistan and the world.

Joe, a former Rotary district governor, was already training to climb Mount Everest in May of 2012. It was determined that this could be a



great opportunity to continue to raise awareness and support for the polio eradication effort by having Rotarians and individuals

sponsor Joe's climb. The goal was set to raise \$100,000 to support the eradication efforts.

Watch the district Website

for more information about this and how to support Joe with your contributions.

When site is ready you can sign up to contribute at:
www.Rotary7870.org

For more information on Polio:
www.rotary.org/endpolio
www.polioeradication.org

To follow Joe's climb and the fund-raising effort join him at:
www.facebook.com/groups/149844035126162

Club Events– See District and Club Websites for Details

Visit the RI Website:
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
 Secretaries should update
 their membership and club
 officers data.

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-arcouch@comcast.net	Feb. 11
RLI	York Community College-Wells, ME	March 3
PETS	Sheraton, Farmington, MA	March 9-10
District Assembly and Interact Conference	Keene High School	March 31
RLI	Lebanon-DHMC	March 31
District Membership Training Seminar	Lebanon-DHMC	April 21
District 4-Way Speech Finals	Henniker	April 29
District Conference	Sable Oaks-Marriott, Portland, ME	June 1-3
Rotary Rockin' Ribfest	Nashua West	June 15-17
District Gavel Exchange	The Little Red Schoolhouse-Wallingford	June 25

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 – Calendar - and click on event to go to the club's website for event description, time and location information. Contact Dennis McMann for website information: Dennis@McMann.net

"Rotary takes ordinary men and women, and gives them extra-ordinary opportunities to do more with their lives than they had ever dreamed possible."

News in Brief from the District-A Special Moment in Rotary

I [Eric Winkler] have been with the Merrimack Club for the past 25 years. I thought I would share this Rotary experience with you.

I grew up on Rotary as my dad was never home on Wednesday nights for dinner as his club in Easthampton, MA was a dinner club. Our family moved to East Greenwich, RI in 1975 and he has been a member of that club ever since. In October, Charlie celebrated his 96th birthday and his

60th year in Rotary. My son Jonathan has been in the Interact Club at Merrimack High School for the last 4 years. So it is pretty amazing that 25+60+4=89 years of Rotary and 3 generations of service are represented.

I have been contributing \$25. a quarter to the Rotary Foundation. A few years ago I realized that my dad had never been a PHF recipient. On November 16th, I had the distinct pleasure of taking him to his meeting in East Greenwich for his noon meeting and surprising him with his PHF award. He was speechless and it was quite

an emotional moment for me also. Moments like those remind me why Rotary means so much to me. I have included a picture of that day for you.

A special thanks to Ralph Stevens from my Merrimack club and George Cooper from my dad's East Greenwich club for helping to coordinate this with me.

Feel free to share any of the above.

Very best to you in Rotary,

Eric Winkler
 Merrimack, NH

