

ROTARY DISTRICT 5450

Dan Himelspace, District Governor 2013-2014

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VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

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Operation Warm

Denver Cherry Creek teams up to distribute winter coats

By Rosemary Gill, (Denver Cherry Creek), rosemarygill@windowworks.us

To you and me a new coat may be no big deal but to many children, a new coat can mean everything. It can mean not having a hand-me-down from an older sibling or from a thrift store. It can mean something that fits. It can mean being warm on the coldest of days. It can help elevate a child's self-esteem. It can make one 'cool.' And for many children, having a new coat is something that happens to others – never to them.

Operation Warmth is working to bring warm coats to these children. Thanks to generous monetary and volunteer support, employees from WhiteWave Foods of Broomfield and the Rotary Club of Denver Cherry Creek gave the gift of warmth to local children living in need. Both organizations are sponsors of "Operation Warm", a collaboration between the Housing

Authority of the City and County of Denver (DHA) and Operation Warm, a nationally

active charity focused on providing new winter coats to children in need. This program provided new winter coats to 1,800 children living in DHA developments on Saturday, September 28, 2013.

The Denver Cherry Creek Rotary Club has supported local and international service projects for 25 years. "A winter coat is an essential item for Colorado winters," said club President Rogene Howe. "A new coat provides more than just warmth. It provides the added benefit of increasing self-esteem. Who doesn't like getting new things? In addition, the kids will be warm going to school where

they not only receive an education, but also free meals."

About Operation Warm

Operation Warm provides new winter coats to children in need through strategic and community partnerships with a wide variety of donors and community organizations around the country. Their vision is that every child wearing a new winter coat will be healthy, will be able to attend school regularly and will develop strong self-esteem. Since its founding in 1998 as a Rotary Club project in Kennett Square PA, Operation Warm has served 1.2 million children, making them one of the largest donors of new coats in the country. Learn more at www.operationwarm.org



Cherry Creek Rotarian Cindy Belz, President Rogene Howe, Operation Warm's Rich Lalley from Chicago, and Rosie Gill also from Cherry Creek Rotary.

A Message from your Governor

by District Governor
Dan Himelspace

DG13-14@disputemanagementinc.com



We may be this close, but polio is still with us

While it seems Rotary has been fighting Polio forever, we have still not eradicated this dreaded disease. We feel like we are very close but this year there have been increased breakouts in the Horn of Africa. As weary as we may be, we must not give up on the fight. We have made tremendous progress and as a result millions of children who would have died or lived with twisted limbs are living normal lives. It is not unexpected that the final effort to shut this disease down for good will be the hardest. If we slow down or stop now, the virus will quickly sweep back to wreak havoc on children and adults all over the world, perhaps in our own

communities.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has increased its contribution to the battle. They have offered a 2:1 match for every dollar Rotary contributes to Polio eradication up to \$35 million per year for the next 5 years

– a total of \$175 million. This is an excellent time to make a contribution and ensure Rotary receives the match.

Rotarians in our District have always recognized the need and been excellent contributors to the Polio+ Program. To make this as painless as possible, we suggest that each Club change its speaker gift to a contribution to the Polio+ program in the speaker's name. For example the speaker's gift at your weekly meeting can be a certificate that states:

In your name we have contributed sufficient funds to the Rotary Polio+ program to inoculate 50 children for life from the horrible Polio disease.

At 60 cents per inoculation this will cost your Club \$35.00. To save 100 children it will cost \$70.00 per speaker.

Where I have seen this done, without fail the speakers express heartfelt and tremendous gratitude and appreciation. This is much more meaningful than a ceramic cup or book. If every Club will adopt this policy this District alone would contribute more than \$100,000 per year to Polio+. This combined with individual Rotarian contributions would ensure our District is contributing its fair share to the battle against Polio.

Thx, Dan



Operation Warm contd. from page 1

Children who received coats are from families living throughout DHA public housing developments including households living in DHA dispersed properties. The average household income for DHA families is \$11,200 per year.

The program is a joint partnership of the Denver Housing Authority and Operation Warm, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to distributing high quality, new winter coats to children living in need. In just over ten years, Operation Warm has distributed more than 1.2 million new winter coats to children in need throughout the US.



Two brothers who arrived with nothing but a blanket around them and were totally excited to receive new winter coats.

Dear Readers

Did you like something you read in the newsletter?

- ✓ Did it hit home?
- ✓ Did it make you smile?
- ✓ Did you learn something?

Take a moment and let the author know you read their story.

A quick comment, hello or thank you means more than you will ever know.

Area Assemblies are off to a great start!

The overall goal of the Area Assemblies is to provide the opportunity for Rotarians learn more about their neighboring clubs.

As information and best practices are shared, Rotarians are discovering ways to collaborate on grants, community events, and fundraisers. Rotarians are finding the area assemblies to be exciting, worthwhile and fun time.

The next few pages of Area Assemblies SHOW the excitement and energy at each gathering.

Area 5

Rotary Clubs of Castle Pines,
Castle Rock, Castle Rock High Noon,
Highlands Ranch

How best to foster collaboration?

At the Areas 5 & 6 Assembly, the display for the Highlands Ranch Club featured their club's committee chairs.

Just look at the board then look around the room to find the person in charge of membership, programs, fundraising, etc.

A brilliant introduction for effective collaboration and sharing of best practices.

Area 6

Rotary Clubs of Aurora Southlands,
Parker, Parker Cherry Creek Valley



The Blue Bear is really curious about Rotary and wants to attend the District Conference next May in downtown Denver.



You can find information about the upcoming Area Assemblies on the District 5450 website.

www.Rotary5450.org



"Getting to know the other clubs and their projects was very enlightening. We have a much better idea of how to effectively collaborate. We should assemble 3 or 4 times a year!"



DG Dan is appreciating the stories told for Happy Bucks which were contributed to Colorado Rotary Flood Disaster Relief Fund.

Area 8

Rotary Clubs of Clear Creek 2000,
Conifer, Evergreen, Mountain Foothills,
Peak to Peak



As much fun as expressing your heritage was to dress as one of your pet projects!



Innovation and Creativity were the hallmarks of the Area 8 Assembly. With the theme of "international", Rotarians were invited to dress as their heritage. Area 8 Assistant Governor, Bill Downes, signaled his heritage and expressed his leadership as a member of the British Court!

Area 9

Rotary Clubs of Breckenridge
Mountain, eClub One, Summit County



Area 9 tables were dressed with pretty balloons marked in Rotary areas of interest. Rotarians could then save their spot at the table where they could share best practices.

The Summit Club displays 800 banners at their regular club meeting. A true testament to Rotary's reach around the world.



eClub One members Dave Amen and Wayne Markel wanted terra firma clubs to know that they, too, have on-the-ground projects that eClub One wants to share.



Area assemblies are a great opportunity for Rotary Youth Exchange students to expand their knowledge of Rotary.



The Summit County Club is sponsored by many businesses and organizations in their community creating a strong and collaborative relationship.

You can find information about the upcoming Area Assemblies on the District 5450 website.

www.Rotary5450.org



Area 12

Rotary Clubs of Brighton,
Brighton Early, Brush,
Fort Morgan and Wray

You can find information about the upcoming Area Assemblies on the District 5450 website homepage.

www.Rotary5450.org

What a great opportunity to hug the blue bear!



"Area 12 covers the most Colorado geography with 152 driving miles between Brighton and Wray. It is difficult to know one another, so this assembly is a terrific idea. I'm coming away with new ideas for fundraising and for growing our membership."



DG Nominee Kevin O'Connell, DG Dan Himelsbach, and DG Elect Peter Ewing share a moment at the Area 12 Assembly to express their appreciation for the energy and enthusiasm of the club members.



Area 16

Rotary Clubs of Granby, Grand Lake,
Kremmling, Winter Park/Fraser Valley

Meaningful collaboration is frequent as the clubs share projects and best practices.

During the assembly one club secured three volunteers from other clubs to work on their project.



Interact Club Members were honored guests at the Area 16 Assembly.



Area 16 Club Presidents Mark “Digger” Shearon - Granby; Geoff Elliott - Grand Lake; Gary Bumgarner – Kremmling and Brad Smith -Winter Park/Fraser Valley join with DG Dan Himelspach to celebrate a successful Area 16 Assembly.

“Just what we needed to bring us even closer”

You can find information about the upcoming Area Assemblies on the District 5450 website.
www.Rotary5450.org

We are not alone in this world so take advantage of your peers

by Debi Bush, D5450 Membership Chair and Denver Cherry Creek Rotary membership@rotary5450.org



In last month's article I talked about community and all the different communities in which you may be or want to be involved. Well,

since having written that article, I visited the headquarters for Rotary International (www.Rotary.org) in Evanston, Illinois. Talk about entering an international community represented on a few floors of a building!

I was told that the President's boardroom was the inspiration for the U.N. with interpreter booths, oversized monitors and all. Below you see me standing in front of the Rotary wheel and the flags of all the nations that have Rotary clubs from which there are 34,000 clubs and 1.2 million Rotarians. During the eight years that I have been in Rotary I have heard wonderful stories of collaboration between local and international clubs and how they have taken giant strides to improve water and sanitation, literacy and leadership development for youth, and of course, the biggie, almost complete eradication of polio worldwide.

Whether you are in Rotary, another service organization, your own business or religious community, you are not alone in the world which provides you the platform to make a difference and leverage the help and expertise of your peers. Perhaps I am too collaborative and it's just my way and personality to want to reach out to those with whom I have something in common—a common goal or purpose. What's so bad about that? Success has not come my way by sitting in my office with the door closed (okay, it does help with my concentration).

My world of doing business for CMIT Denver and promoting and growing Rotary locally and regionally is that of reaching out to my peers, colleagues, and team to deliver a greater solution or strategy. When I was at Rotary HQ, I met with the Membership Department because that is my



District 5450 Membership Chair Debi Bush at RI headquarters in Evanston, IL

dominant focus. We reaffirmed that the growth and sustainability of Rotary is not solely a top-down nor a ground-up strategy.

We work together and share in order to make it better for all of us. In fact, I have already been back in touch with my new friends at RI to pave the way for more information coming to us and for my team and I to be of assistance to the Membership Department. They let me know that a Young Professionals Campaign is in process as I write this where professionally-led focus groups of non-Rotarians with targeted demographics. I can't wait to get the results and sound bites so we can use this information in growing our base of young professionals.

Reach out to your peers, clients, vendors and service organizations to reach those lofty goals for which you strive to surpass. You may be pleasantly surprised at the outcomes!

Boxes and boxes of books

by Debi Bush, (Denver Cherry Creek), dbush@cmitsolutions.com

The Denver Cherry Creek Rotary Club has partnered with Greenlee Elementary School for more than seven years focusing on literacy and expanding the minds and bodies of Greenlee's students. Our first project was providing a climbing wall for the students that teaches while providing fun and exercise. In addition, the Cherry Creek Rotary Club has donated hundreds of books to their library.

For each of the last two years, DCC Rotary Club has given each Greenlee student a book of their own to read and keep or trade for another. The club's Literacy Committee found books at low cost to be given to schools with low income students. The Club has donated over 1,400 books for this program as well as 80+ books to Smiley Middle School in Denver.

Pictured below are Rotarians Bob Lucero and Cindy Belz surrounded by boxes of books for the school librarian, Meredith Hausauer, who, along with Greenlee teachers, makes the presentation of the books a very special occasion for the youngsters. David Quintana of 9 Health assisted with the delivery.



PolioPlus Updates



District 5450's PolioPlus Challenge

Our goal for this year is \$67,000 or \$1,000 for each club. Sound impossible? Instead of giving pens, mugs, etc., to speakers, how about saying, "In your honor, 50 children will be immunized against the crippling polio virus, thru a club donation to PolioPlus." (50 children x \$.60= \$30, 34 weeks x \$30 = \$1020)

Oct. 24th is World Polio Day!

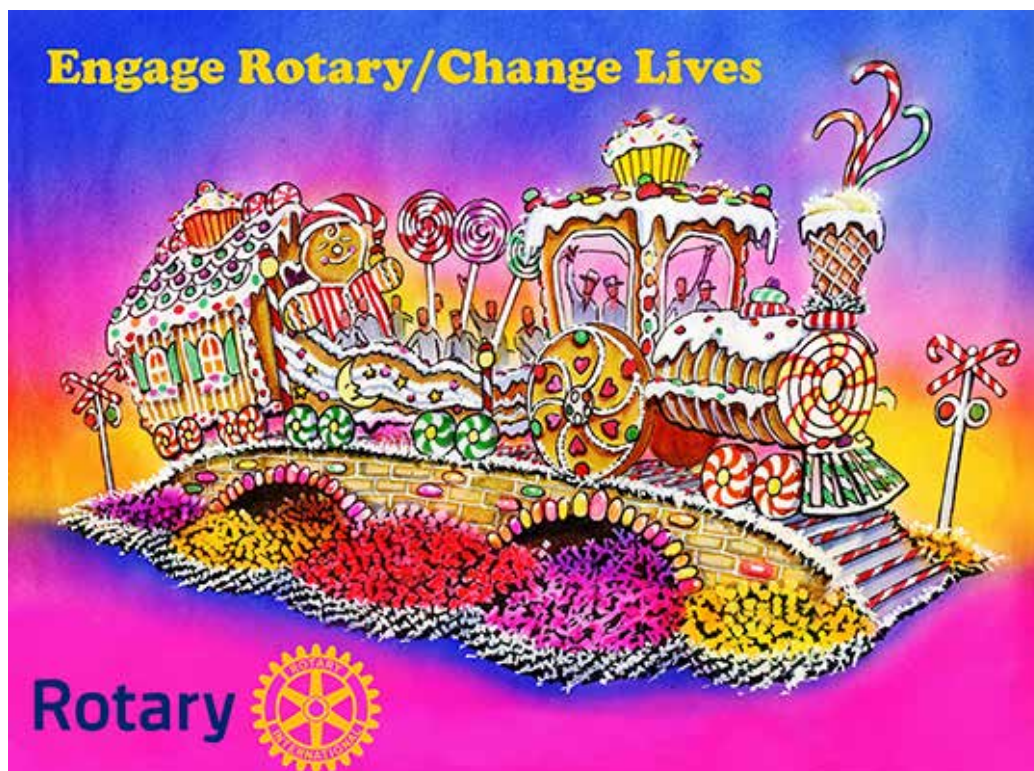
How about asking your members to wear purple that week and to share personal stories about polio in their youth with club members.

Gate's Foundation New Polio Challenge

2018 is the year GPEI expects polio to have been eradicated from our globe. The Gates Foundation has announced that for every dollar contributed by Rotarians up to \$35 million annually, Gates will give \$2 for every \$1, to our Rotary PolioPlus fund. That would total \$105 million every year thru 2018, or \$525,000,000!!!

Global Polio cases in 2013

As of Oct. 2, there have been 287 cases of polio paralysis compared to 154 this time 2012. In endemic countries- Nigeria 49, Pakistan 36 and Afghanistan 6. In non-endemic (declared polio free in past)- Somalia 175, Kenya 14, Ethiopia 4, South Sudan 3, all cases show virus originating in Somalia. Mass immunizations continue. Security remains a problem in Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia.



Rotary International's 2014 Rose Parade float.

2014-2015 Rotary District 5450 Ambassadorial Scholarship Announced

What It Is...

\$30,000 Scholarship Award for Graduate Study outside the USA commencing between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. Scholarship funds must be spent within twelve months of starting studies. Expenses in excess of \$30,000 are the responsibility of the student. Two scholarships will be awarded for the 2014-2015 Rotary year.

Key Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants will have a demonstrated record of high academic achievement and a background, intended graduate studies and future career plans related to at least one of the following focus areas:

- Promoting Peace
- Fighting Disease
- Providing Clean Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Growing Local Economies

Additional requirements are outlined in the prequalification application.

Timelines

Prequalification Applications Deadline for submission **November 7, 2013**

Scholarship Applications - following acceptance of the Prequalification Application, complete applications with ALL accompanying documents are due **December 7, 2013**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

In-person interviews in Denver on **December 14, 2013**. This interview is obligatory. No one will be considered for the scholarship without an appearance before the committee on this date.

Rotarians

Individual Rotarians and clubs may participate hands-on in the scholarship process by:

- Identifying and sponsoring a scholar candidate
- Publicizing the program throughout their professional and academic networks

**For application forms and further information,
please see the District website at www.rotary5450.org.**

Yours in Rotary Service,

Bob Forbes

Rotary District 5450 Ambassadorial Scholarship Task Force Subcommittee Chair

bob@ForbesMA.com

Cell: (303) 882-8868

You'll LOVE this year's District Conference! Celebrate Downtown Denver

Sign Up Now for
Early Bird Pricing
and have a
Chance to Win a
Free Room for One
Night
at the Conference!

There will be 3 LUCKY
winners!

Reserve your spot with a
\$50 deposit by **December 15**,
and be eligible for a drawing
for a free one night stay at
the conference.

Exciting Speakers!
GREAT FUN!
Rotary Fellowship!

Date:
May 2-4, 2014

Location:
Embassy Suites
Downtown Denver



We want to SEE you there!

Sign up today at: www.rotary5450.org

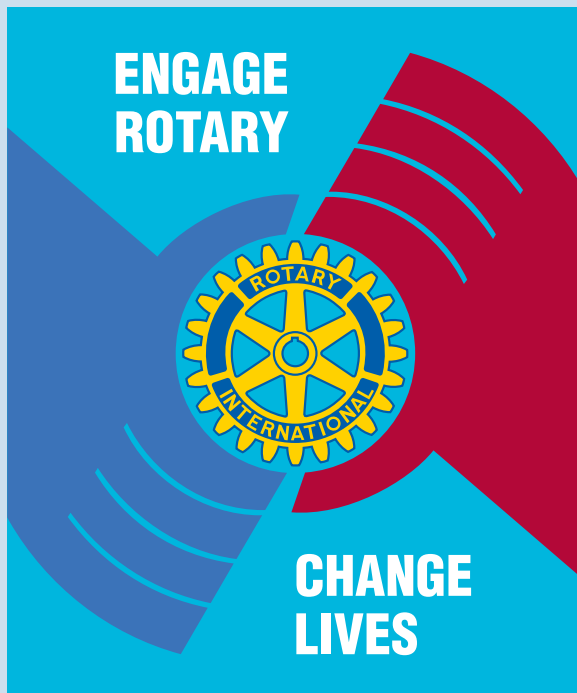
Keep those stories coming!

Get Double Exposure on your stories!

If you have a story about District-related events please send them to Marge Mercurio at rotarymarge@gmail.com by Sunday, November 3

Please send your word document (about 400 words) along with photos and captions to rotarymarge@gmail.com.

Get even more exposure and send news about your events, fundraisers, celebrations, anniversaries, parties, milestones and other successes to Valerie Hopkins at rotarypr5450@gmail.com to be posted on the Bits & Bites Rotary Blog. Send your stories and photos (with captions) Valerie at rotarypr5450@gmail.com.



"If we really want to take Rotary service forward, then we must make sure that every single Rotarian has the same feeling about Rotary that each one of us here has today. We need to make sure that every Rotarian has a meaningful role to play, that they're all making a contribution, and that their contribution is valued." RI President Elect Ron Burton

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Editor: Marge Mercurio (Mead) 303-827-5212 • rotarymarge@gmail.com

Publisher: C. Dale Flowers (Littleton) 303-794-4218 • rotary@cdale.com



ROTARY DISTRICT 5450 OFFICE

5103 Dvorak Circle

Frederick, CO 80504

303-477-0654

office@rotary5450.org

www.rotary5450.org

DISTRICT 5450 LEADERSHIP

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District Governor-Elect

Peter Ewing (Boulder)

District Governor-Nominee

Kevin O'Connell (Brighton Early)

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Dick Castleman (Englewood)

District Secretary

Patricia Fiske (Castle Pines)

Past District Governors

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Jim Halderman (Golden)

Karten Sekich (Longmont Twin Peaks)

District Trainer

Karen Briggs (Denver Southeast)

Rotary Awareness

Valerie Hopkins (Denver)

Membership Chair

Debi Bush (Denver Cherry Creek)

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Heather Amen (eClub One)

The Rotary Foundation Chair

Ann Tull (Denver Mile High)

Rotarian At Large

Laura Smith (Boulder)

District Office Manager

Beverly Mendel (Carbon Valley)

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Rose Chamberlain (Longmont St. Vrain)

Rolo Cuadrado (Summit County)

Bill Downes (Mtn Foothills)

Dan Green (Golden)

Dan Hershberger (Arvada)

LaDonna Jurgensen (Littleton)

Ross King (Denver Southeast)

Jo Kirkenaer (Niwot)

Mark Lund (Winter Park)

Bob Martin (Highlands Ranch)

Steve Mast (Denver)

Doug McLemore (Denver)

Lin Miklas (Castle Rock High Noon)