



Rotary International District 7780

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A Word From Governor Trish:

Monday, December 1 was World AIDS day, and on that day, I wondered, as I have done for the past few years, about the children in this photo-



photo by John Dennen

It was four years ago that my Rotary club began the application for our Foundation grant to build an AIDS hospice. At the time, we had no experience with 3H grants, nor, with only 13 members, did we hold out much hope of receiving one.

During those endless months, I kept this photo on my computer desktop. It was the faces of these Zulu children, orphans living at Jabulani in South Africa, that watched over me through the long grant process. Although Rotarians on three continents had the task of writing and planning the grant, it was my job to coordinate, make certain it was perfect, and submit it to the Foundation.

For nine months we waited for the Trustee's decision.

Every day, these little eyes stared at me from my computer screen. I wondered about each child-- what were their names? how old were they? what had happened to their families? were they HIV positive too?

Every time I see this picture, my eyes are drawn to the flower, and I wonder for the thousandth time what kind it is and what they call it in Zulu, and what it meant to the little boy holding it. I look at the cloth diaper wound around a sick child's head and held on with packing tape, the frilly pink dress that should make any five year old feel like a Fairy Princess, the tiny fingers clutching the Big Girl's hand, the forlorn expressions on faces of children who have lost everything, and have no hope of a loving parent, no hope of adoption, and, for the ones with HIV, no hope of life.

On World AIDS day, I celebrated the success of our Hospice, the triumph of small grassroots efforts by a handful of Rotarians working together.

And I wondered, as I have every year since, *are they still alive?*

In my heart, I know that the odds are not good. But I also know that Rotarians all over the world are working to prevent more kids from being born HIV positive, and to care for the children already infected.

When you make out your Christmas checks to the Humane Society, your Hannukah check to the United Way, your Winter Solstice check to the Sierra Club, stop and make out a check to our Rotary Foundation. Although "Tis the Season" to us, our Foundation never stops saving lives--no matter what time of year it is. It never stops making a difference, and as Rotarians, neither should we.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with peace.

-Trish

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Governor Trish signs a children's book presented by Kittery President David Dimmick. The book, a speaker gift from the club, will be donated to a local daycare center.

Administration Login

Champions and Fathers

This holiday season, as we remember our favorite charities and take the time to celebrate life with our families and friends, I am reminded of the events that have transpired to make this time of year truly special. I have included a link to one of my favorite seasonal stories that is untraditional yet somehow speaks volumes about the human spirit: <http://www.nhra.com/2002/news/December/122301.html>

Sadly, my own father passed away 20 years ago, but I remember him telling me about soldiers coming for Holiday dinner in his parent's home during World War II. My Dad was proud that his family helped make the holiday season more bearable for our boys away from home. He liked to hear how other families did the same thing, taking in people who needed a friendly smile and someone to talk to as much as they needed a hot meal or a small gift. What he didn't mention was that he spent those same holidays fighting for his country in a B24 bomber over Europe.

At the end of each year I am reminded of how fortunate I am to have had a Father who took the time to help raise me, put me through school, take an interest in my activities, and share my ups and downs. His greatest gift to me was his enthusiasm for life, his willingness to help others, and his devotion to his family, no matter what the circumstance. These qualities helped create a Dad who accomplished professional and personal success, was loved by many, and who demonstrated the ideal of Service Above Self to me long before I ever heard the word Rotary.

In this special time of year, let's look back on those who have helped make each of us a success, and share that kindness and love with those around us.

As Rotarians, now is the time to reach out and lend a hand to those less privileged. With all that we have been given, it's time to share our good fortune.

Ted Hunter, District Governor's Spouse and AG



Excerpt from a letter to Tom Wilbur, the Youth Exchange Outbound Chair from one of our Youth Exchange kids:

Dear Tom,

I am happy to report that I have already begun speaking Czech and am excited because Czech has been ranked the third hardest language for a native English speaker to learn. I remember thinking my first week there would be no way I could learn this challenging language in three months. To everyone's surprise, I began speaking in my second month and am now able to understand a lot more of what is going on in my classes!

I am managing to keep myself busy in Pilsen, swimming every day with a swim club that has placed second in the Czech Republic.....as the weeks have passed I have grown stronger and faster, with the growing strength in my arms reflecting the strengths of the friendships this new program has created for me.....I now look forward to swimming practices and couldn't ask for a better swimming team and program where I feel like I really belong!..... Realizing today how far that I have come.....my ability to accept difficult challenges and prevail have showed me that without a doubt I will be able to make the most of this exchange year without regrets!

I celebrated my sixteenth birthday in the Czech Republic: the tradition of blowing out candles is the same in the CR, yet the cake is a little different (typically dry without frosting and sugar-tasting like cornbread). When friends and family give you a gift they shake your hand and wish you luck, happiness, love, and success for the year and then give you a polite kiss on the cheek. The first person to do this to me was a boy about a year older than me, and although I don't remember exactly what he said, I thought, "Wow, this whole birthday thing isn't too bad.", only later realizing it was only common tradition....

I am very happy to be in the Czech Republic. A year ago I never would have imagined I would be living here. I realize how lucky I am to be spending a year in Europe... Prague is the most amazing city I have ever been to! I will write you again soon! I hope all is well!!

Caitlin

-Be a Santa at Santa Weekend-

Skiers & riders who play Santa to needy children ski for free!



HO! HO! HO!

This event is part of a Santa Weekend at Sunday River. Skiers and riders are required to register on-line for the event, then show up in full Santa garb and donate \$10 toward the Bethel Rotary Club's annual Christmas for Children drive for needy children in the area.

Whether you're a participant or a witness, Sunday River's Santa Sunday is the perfect festive occasion to kick off the holiday season. Hundreds of Santas are expected to turn out for the 4th annual event Sunday, December 7th.

To qualify, skiers and riders must wear a red Santa hat with white pompom, red Santa jacket, red Santa pants and a Santa belt and beard. Other guidelines and registration information for Santa Sunday can be found by logging on to sundayriver.com.



Congratulations Bethel!

For the wonderful picture last year's 2002 Sunday River Santa Weekend in the latest issue of the Rotarian! Here are a few more pictures from that weekend.

Nominations are Due by January 15, 2004 for:
Finance Committee Member, must be from a club in Oxford or York County.
District Governor, 2006-2007

Forms can be found at: [Forms & Documents](#)

Interested parties contact Nominating Committee Chair,
 PDG Bill Skinner, lskinner@nh.ultranet.com

Join the Global History Fellowship

History buff? Want to know more about Rotary?

Rotary's Global History Fellowship is a group of volunteer Rotarians trying to preserve Rotary's history on the Internet. Recently the RI Board approved the History Project's application to become a Fellowship.

Like all Rotary fellowship, Rotary's Global History Fellowship is open to all Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians and Rotaractors. Members receive the Fellowship newsletter and can participate in a discussion group on history subjects. Additionally, members can participate on committee and in other functions within the Fellowship. Annual membership is just \$10.00, which supports the expenses of maintaining the extensive web site of the Fellowship.

It's simply to join the Fellowship. All that is needed is a visit to the website, the easy payment through PayPal of \$10.00 and a sign-up for the discussion group.

Sign up at:

http://www.historynewsletter.org/clubs/100partners/supporters/index.htm#sponsor_check



BRUNSWICK ROTARY SELLS TOM JONES' PRINTS. Buy one of two lithographs - *Lobsterboat in Fog*, or *War & Peace* (pictured above). Advance orders will be signed by Tom Jones. Contact Julie L'Heureux - 721-9629 or David Millar - 729-3321.

Don't Forget I Give.Com This Holiday Season

I'll bet you didn't know that you can now shop at home, in the office, for the holidays or whatever and get credit for every purchase with the Rotary Foundation. We have established a great new program through igive.com! Just register, identify your cause as "Rotary Foundation District 7780" and every time you make a purchase, the Foundation gets a small percentage! Wow! Great program! I have bought office supplies, gifts, travel tickets and even golf balls! If you have any questions, please give me a call! I'd be happy to come to your club to provide a presentation how it works as well!

Bob Laux, DGN, 207-824-4500, bob@wildriverrealty.com

Get Ready for January 10, 2004 WGME 13 & Rotary Bottle Drive for Mentoring

WGME 13 and District 7780 have teamed up again with Shaw's Supermarkets to hold our second annual Bottle Drive for Mentoring. On January 10, 2004, Shaw's Supermarkets across the District will host Rotarians collecting bottles and cans, with the proceeds benefiting Maine Mentoring.

WGME will be providing heavy on-air promotions and PSA's before the event, highlighting Rotary's commitment to the community.

This is an excellent PR opportunity, and all clubs are urged to participate. If you don't have a Shaw's supermarket in your community, team up with a club who does!

FMI, contact Tom Talbot, PP of the Portland Club, 207-839-8440.

Portsmouth Rotary Polar Bear Swim

The 1st Annual Portsmouth Rotary Polar Bear Swim will be held on January 10, 2004 in New Castle, NH. The event happens at 1:00 pm, rain or shine.

All proceeds benefit local charities and nonprofits, including Crossroads House, Betty's Dream, Operation Blessing, American Red Cross, student scholarships and more.

All swimmers must sign a waiver at registration and raise the minimum \$250.00 contribution. Teams and corporate groups are encouraged. Special prizes for highest individual and team donations.

For more information, contact Peter Billipp, pbillipp@netkane.com or go to <http://www.portsmouthrotary.org/>.

Bob's Thoughts:

Sometimes I think December ought to be designated "Rotary month," in order to give Christmas a new meaning. What do you think when Christmas is mentioned? Probably decorations in the stores and streets made of colored lights, holly and spruce boughs, (probably artificial), frantic shopping for gifts for people, probably some you don't really want to give to but have to because they will send a gift to you, and who will be offended if you don't reciprocate. Maybe you used to think of Santa Clauses - I say it in the plural, because in the old days they were everywhere, and in the past tense because now you don't see them anymore. Not in stores, or even outside ringing a bell for the Salvation Army. I guess some people would be offended by the sight of a Santa, so now they are banned in many towns and stores.

A Christmas blitz starts before Thanksgiving in order to maximize store profits. The radio blares traditional Christmas melodies with the words changed to advertise products, artificial decorations are everywhere, there is a mad rush to buy presents for people, and what do we get out of it? Any of you feel that Christmas, as it is celebrated today, is a really satisfying experience? Frankly, I don't. I find the whole month to be almost offensive, and other than the fun kids get out of it, I really don't get the point of it. As I grew up, a message came through all the hoopla of the Christmas season that the real joy in Christmas was in giving to others. We all know of course, that it is "better to give than receive." But how many of us really practice this in our daily lives?

We know intuitively, that real, intense, sustained happiness comes from giving of ourselves to help others, yet it is so hard to do this. For most of us, throwing a couple of bucks in the Salvation Army pot as we exit the store where we probably just spent a couple of hundred dollars is about as much real joy as we will get out of this season. Doubt this? What do you feel a week or so after Christmas, when the decorations come down in your house, or in town. Things look kind of empty for a few days, don't they?

Now compare this feeling of missing something to how you felt the last time you worked on a Rotary project that made a significant difference in someone's life. After all, this is what Rotary is all about, isn't it? Service above self, giving of oneself to help another person. Giving of yourself by yourself is difficult at best. But, that's where Rotary comes in. Serving others becomes easy when you are part of a group. Rotary even makes it fun, because you are giving of yourself with

other people like yourself, people you like and respect. The spirit of Rotary is like the real meaning of Christmas, isn't it? That's why, as hokey as it sounds, when I think of Christmas, I think of Rotary.

-Bob Jacobson, DGE

Oxford Hills Supports Literacy In Local Schools

The Oxford Hills Club has just completed a marvelous project supporting reading and writing in their local schools and teaching elementary students about Rotary. The 3rd Grade Dictionary Project provided dictionaries to all third grade students in the Oxford School District. With the cooperation and support of the local schools, Rotarians delivered the dictionaries to third grade classrooms, distributed them to the children, and spent some time in the classrooms talking about Rotary. The dictionaries are ordered with name plates inside. Volunteers helped distribute the books to the nine schools and explained the rules in order to accept the dictionaries:

- dictionaries must be kept on/in desks throughout the school year & not be taken home
- kids must put names on plates
- at the end of the school year the books are the students' to keep.

What a super way to support your local schools (elementary school classrooms are often in need of dictionaries) and spread the word of Rotary!

Portside Rotary Awards Educational Grants

In keeping with its commitment to area youth, the Kennebunk Portside Rotary Club has awarded Educational Grants for fourteen projects benefiting local schools. The grant awards, which include \$2,500 contributed by the local club and an additional \$2,200 that the club obtained through the Rotary District's Simplified Grant Program, were announced at the club's weekly meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2003. Local educators were on hand to speak about their projects and thank the club members. Grant recipients included:

- Middle School of the Kennebunks: \$2,200 (funded through District Simplified Grant) for construction of picnic tables and outdoor meeting area to be used for youth/senior picnic, a field trip to Camp Kieve's Leadership Decisions Institute, purchase of two computers;
 - Cousens School: for computer lab and transportation services;
 - Sea Road School: for installation of an infrared sound field amplification system in a classroom and supplies for old computers in the writing lab;
 - Consolidated School: for purchase of books and materials related to the Developmental Reading Assessment;
 - Kennebunk High School: for purchase of Texas Instrument TI-83 graphing calculators for the Core Plus Program, digital camera, paper, ink replacements, digital recording studio, supplies for student activities;
 - M.L. Day School: for computer software;
 - Park Street School Library: for replacement of worn, out-dated books and purchase of new books.
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District 7780 DDF Watch!

Governor Trish started the year with \$63,722.95 in DDF funds for Matching Grants. So far, the following applications have been sent to the Rotary Foundation:

MG 50836 A grant to help establish a Revolving Loan Fund for organizations and groups of people caring for AIDS orphans in Kisumu, Kenya. DDF Committed: \$10,000.00

MG 51389 A grant to provide a mobile x-ray machine for the Radiology/Ultrasound Department of St. Mary's Hospital, in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. DDF Committed: \$4,318.00

That leaves \$49,404.95 remaining in DDF funds.

Please submit your Matching Grant applications to the Grants Coordinator, Tom Stypinski. email: jstypinski@gibbscox.com

Group Study Exchange Team Selected, Preparing for Queensland!

The GSE committee has completed its interviews and has selected the following outstanding individuals for our outbound team to Queensland, Australia:

Leader: Steve Wight - Innkeeper - Lives and works in Newry, ME - Bethel Rotary Member & Past President

Leader Alternate: Billy Hobbs - Travel Industry - Lives and works in Wells Beach, ME - Wells Rotary Member & Past President

Team Members:

Michael Robinson - Photographer - Lives in Bedford, NH, works in Portsmouth, NH

Angela Jean Marzilli - Teacher - Lives in Biddeford, ME, works in Gray, ME

Jennifer Rolfs - Museum Curator Of Exhibitions - Lives and works in Saco, ME

Beth Schmitt - Museum Education Coordinator - Lives and works in Portsmouth, NH

Team Alternates:

Rene Boudreau - Town Recreation Coordinator - Lives and works in Hampton Falls, NH

Jannie Durr - University Student Coordinator - Lives and works in Biddeford, ME

The outbound team travels from 4/26 to 5/29. We had a great group of nine applicants. The decision was not easy. Many thanks to the team interviewers who helped to make this tough decision! The team will be meeting together throughout the winter, getting to know one another, learning about the area of Australia they will visit, and preparing their programs they will offer their Australian hosts. As they prepare for the trip, they will also be learning about Rotary, so may be visiting your club as a guest.

All this through our support of the Rotary Foundation!

Scott Simonds, GSE District Committee Chair

Keep Your Club Up to Date

The RI General Secretary asks that Club Presidents work with their team to update their club membership information. This will ensure that the Semi-Annual Report with the billing for the club will be accurate. In addition, this makes it very efficient for clubs to pay their dues on-line via Rotary's business portal: <https://riweb.rotaryintl.org/>.

RI is working hard to streamline the payment of membership dues. Providing accurate up-to-date information on club membership changes is the single most effective thing that clubs can do to facilitate the payment process.

Clubs can update their membership by a variety of methods: by logging onto the Rotary's website (<https://riweb.rotaryintl.org/>), or by e-mail, fax and mail to RI Data Services (E-mail - data@rotaryintl.org; Fax - +1-847-733-9340; Mail to: Rotary International, Data Services (IS500), 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL., 60201 USA).

Free Legal Services and Speakers

The Maine Bar Foundation is an organization that funds a number of agencies providing free or affordable legal aid to Mainers in need. JAG, the Justice Action Group, headed by Federal District Court Judge Kermit Lipez and Maine Supreme Judicial Court Justice Howard H. Dana, Jr., has charged the MBF with developing and implementing a communications campaign aimed at reaching as many Maine citizens who qualify for those services as possible. The goal, in short, is to provide access to justice for all, regardless of means.

To that end, we have developed for your reference a list of participating agencies and the services and issues they address. We hope that this will assist you in two ways: 1) providing a quick, convenient way to access relevant information or opinions from the appropriate expert on any given issue that may arise from a news event or in the Legislature's deliberations, and 2) providing a handy index of speakers who can address the issues and needs of your specific

audience of readers, listeners, or viewers, particularly if they are unaware of legal help to which they may be entitled.

We welcome your input into this process, and look forward to hearing from you at any time you or your members need information regarding access to justice for any Maine citizen in need.

M. Calien Lewis, Executive Director, Maine Bar Foundation
Bonnie M. Riddle, Media Relations Coordinator, MBF jriddle@maine.rr.com (207) 767-0715; cell 838-8500

Rotary International Theme Ornaments

An annual series of collectible Rotary International theme ornaments. Collectible quality blown glass disc - 3 ¼ diameter - with R.I. theme imprinted. Great personal and corporate gifts, or as honorariums for guest speakers. Priced at \$5.95 each. Stands are available at \$1.00 each. Shipping and handling charges are based on a minimum order of 25 ornaments. Offered by The Rotary Club of Delavan-Darien, Inc. (Wisconsin). These ornaments can be ordered through their email address: info@ddrotary.org. Your order supports Polio Plus.



Upcoming Events & Deadlines!

January 6, 2004 Informational session for Rotarians interested in being District Governor. FMI contact PRID Dan Mooers, 767-7444 or dwm@mooers-law.com

January 10, 2004 WGME 13 & Rotary Bottle Drive for Mentoring, Shaw's Supermarkets, District-wide. Save up your bottles and cans!

January 13, 2004 Presidents & Presidents-Elect Dinner, DiMillo's Restaurant, Portland, ME

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