



Rotary International District 7780

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

February is World Understanding Month

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I would like to personally thank all of the current and future club presidents, assistant governors and district support team for trekking out on the snowy roads on February 3rd to the annual mid-year dinner in Portland for an opportunity to spend time with their respective governor. We had a packed house and some great fellowship together. DGE Jeff, DGN Ann Lee and myself are truly honored to be the leaders of such a distinguished group of committed Rotarians throughout our district.

I would also like to share with you an experience that I had a few weeks ago. Like many of you, there are days that we tend to get frustrated over the day-to-day issues and problems that Rotary sometimes brings into our lives – yes, it is not always smooth sailing, not at the club level or surprisingly enough to some of you, not even at the district level. But, then something happens that reaffirms why Rotary means so much to us – why Rotary is so important in our lives and those issues that seemed so important yesterday are simply not that important.

On Thursday morning, I packed up my video gear and drove to Portland to spend the day capturing video testimonials from fellow members. One by one, Rotarians arrived throughout the day to a makeshift studio (thanks to Rich Emerson – Casco Bay Sunrise for the use of the Cumberland Club) and shared their unique story, they shared the passion and dedication that they and their club have for projects throughout the international world. They described the profound effect that their involvement has had on their own lives and how rewarding it is to literally be changing and saving the lives of people from all over the world. They expressed the importance of giving to The Rotary Foundation so that these projects will continue to grow in size and in numbers – and how they and their fellow club members have gained better world understanding through their projects.

As I packed up my gear, almost fourteen hours later, I realized that we must never for one minute lose focus on all the great work that Rotarians do, day in and day out. So, join me at the World Understanding & Peace dinner on Saturday, February 28th as we celebrate with your fellow Rotarians, international service.

DG Brad Jett

MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT DONG KURN LEE

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I grew up in a small village, the same village where my family had lived for many generations. I lived close to many members of my extended family, and our family traditions were very strong. In those days, few Koreans

Public Relations
Water

ever traveled abroad, and there was very little Western influence. My home, my language, and my culture were all I knew.

Youth Programs

Interact
RYLA
Youth Exchange

When I was in my 20s, I made a decision that would shape the rest of my life. With my father's encouragement, I traveled to the United States to work and to study. I chose San Francisco as my destination and spent nearly two years there, taking classes and learning English. I made my way working at several entry-level jobs.

Service Above Self
Forms & Documents
RI Links/Contacts

It is difficult even today to describe what an impact that experience had on me. Everything, and everyone, was different. I was used to seeing only Korean faces; in San Francisco, I saw people from all over the world. I worked hard on my English and in my job. I learned what it was like to be the person who did not understand, who cleaned up after others, who took orders but never gave them. I learned how large the world outside my village really was. And those experiences sent me back to Korea changed.

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Administration Login

When I returned to join my father's business in Seoul, I knew what it was like to be a worker at the bottom of an organizational hierarchy – and that affected how I treated my employees. I knew what it was like to do physical labor all day – and that gave me increased respect for those who worked in every kind of job. Perhaps most important, I knew how much of the world lay beyond my own experience. I knew that there were so many different countries and cultures, so many different people in the world. I knew that as much as we are all different, we are all essentially the same. And I knew that everyone, everywhere, sometimes needs help from others.

In Rotary, February is World Understanding Month – a time to focus on the importance of goodwill and understanding for peace. It is a time for all of us to pause and consider how we are pursuing Rotary's fourth Avenue of Service – International Service – because it is our international service, and our international fellowship, that will do the most to help us all build a more peaceful tomorrow.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Rotary Leadership Institute

Saturday, March 7, 2009
YCCC, Wells, ME

<http://www.rlinea.com/Registration.htm>

Presidential Membership Conference

March 27-28, 2009
Baltimore, MD

<http://rotary7780.clubwizard.com/IMUpload/MembeshipBaltimore%20Reg.doc>

District Assembly

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
YCCC, Wells, ME

District Conference

June 5th – 7th, 2009
Samoset Resort
Rockport, ME

<http://rotary7780.clubwizard.com/IMUpload/ACF6635.doc>

International Convention

June 21st – 24th, 2009
Birmingham, England

<http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Events/Convention/Pages/ridefault.aspx?housead>

District Changeover Dinner

June 30th, 2009
Holiday Inn By the Bay
Portland, ME

Gary Speers to be District Governor 2011-2012

It is with great pleasure that I announce to all of the members of District 7780 that past president Gary Speers, a member of the Rotary Club of Damariscotta-Newcastle, has been nominated to serve as District Governor in the Rotary year of 2011-2012.

Congratulations, Gary, Judy and to all the members of the Damariscotta – Newcastle Rotary Club!!

District Governor Brad Jett

District 7780, Rotary Club of Yarmouth's, Carolyn Johnson featured on www.rotary.org

Carolyn Johnson, a member of the Rotary Club of Yarmouth, Maine, USA, and a retired teacher, recently returned from her eighth trip to Guatemala, where illiteracy rates are as high as 70 percent in rural areas. Her club's commitment to literacy began when she visited the Guatemala Literacy Project booth at the RI Convention in 2005.

"What I found neat about the program is that it is self-sustaining," says Johnson. "We donate textbooks for their schools, but the parents pay a small amount for each book. That builds up a fund to buy new books when they are needed, and we can extend our resources to other communities."

Carolyn Johnson delivered books for the first time shortly after the 2005 convention. She brought back lots of photos that convinced her club that funds invested in this initiative would be well spent. "My personal involvement was key," she says. In addition to books, the club also buys and donates school supplies, basketballs, and soccer balls.

Several other clubs in District 7780 have supported the project, which, with the help of six other districts, became a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant Project that turned an initial investment of \$1,000 into \$59,000. "That's truly magic money," she says.

Carolyn Johnson offers these tips for creating a successful literacy project:

1. **Develop a relationship with the community or facility where your project will be.** Resist the temptation to rush ahead with implementing the initiative, especially when the need is great. Take a couple of giant steps back, and make sure that all club members understand and are enthusiastic about it.
2. **Apply for grant money from The Rotary Foundation.** The multiplication factor reinforces the power of your program in the minds of recipients and allows you to accomplish more.
3. **Tap into your club and community resources, including teachers and those with a passion for literacy.** You don't have to have education credentials, but it helps to have experts involved in your project, even if they aren't Rotarians. It's a good membership recruiting tool, too.



District 7780 Rotarians Take Part in Text Book Delivery in Guatemala

Carolyn Johnson (**Yarmouth**), Ilse Yanis and Jim Price (**Breakwater Daybreak**) and Marty Helman (Boothbay Harbor) take time out from their participation on the Guatemala Literacy Project tour to deliver textbooks and pencils to schools in Guatemala's rural and indigenous areas. Yarmouth, Bridgton-Lakes, Newburyport, Hampton and Fryeburg are among the D-7780 clubs that have raised money for this ongoing program.

Mid-Year President's Dinner February 3rd at the Holiday Inn by the Bay

The District Governor, the District Governor Elect, and the District Governor Nominee met with their team of club presidents. For DG Brad it was an opportunity to review the first half of the 2008-2009 year and look ahead to making a strong finish in the months to come. For DGE Jeff and DGN Ann Lee it was a chance to meet face to face and discuss goals and plans for the next two years with the Club President-Elects and the Vice-presidents.



District Governor Brad emphasized the challenge of increasing membership



District Governor-Elect Jeff introduced the Theme and his team of Assistant Governor's, preparing his President-Elects for their PETS experience



Looking ahead, District Governor Nominee Ann Lee shares her thoughts on 2010-2011 with Club Vice Presidents

District Governor Elect Message:

I continue to be amazed at how far reaching our awesome organization is, yet each time I attend training, Zone Institute, International Assembly, a district event or a club event, I always feel that I among close friends!

It was an awesome experience to be chosen to serve our District as a future Governor and to represent some of the most outstanding Rotarians in the world at the recent International Assembly in San Diego California. Upon entering I was met by over five hundred and thirty other like minded Rotarians from around the globe. For the next seven days I was in awe each day with something new.

Meeting old friends making many new ones and enjoying training from some of the best discussion leaders made for a very valuable experience. I think that sitting just yards from Bill Gates as he announced his challenge toward the eradication of Polio to the group of incoming governors was certainly one of the high points.

At dinner on Thursday evening I was fortunate to share the meal with Rotary International President Elect John and June Kenny. This certainly offered me a new perspective on just how important the next period of time will be for our organization. Hosting President Elect John next month at NE P.E.Ts in Nashua, NH, will undoubtedly be a great experience for all our incoming club presidents!

Globally the future is sure to remain unsettled, however one thing we can all be certain of is that now and in the future, the mission of Rotary International will be more important than ever before and the only one who can truly make a difference in this organization and the world is you! As Governor Brad's year continues, please find ways you and your clubs can continue to "Make Dreams Real" and look ahead as "The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands".

Please call on me to help you and your clubs meet the challenges of the future, your district is full of willing Rotarians ready to assist at any time.

Jeffrey S. Pelkey
District Governor 2009-2010

Club News:

PDG Joe Hahn, **Rotary Club of Bath**, is the District 7780 historian and we're trying to encourage clubs to send him info about the history of their clubs.

"Having a ball on Waikiki - and slowly but surely working on history -- read that SLOWLY and SURELY!!"



PDG Joe Hahn, working feverishly on the district history, is shown conducting research and exchanging club flags at the Rotary Club of Waikiki on a recent visit there. Way to go, Joe!!

Clubs are reminded to send Joe a copy of any and all historical information.



The **Rotary Club of Bethel** helped member Jim Monahan celebrate his 91st birthday at a recent meeting.



Taking a cue from the Oxford Hills Rotary Club, the **Rotary Club of Bethel** recently instituted a Student of the Month recognition for two students at Telstar High School. President Mike Steven (left) is shown here with two recent recipients and Telstar Principal (and former Rotarian) Dan Hart.

Two Rotary Club of **Breakwater Daybreak** Members go on the Guatemala Literacy Project Delivery Tour



Ilse Yanis and Jim Price visited seven primary schools delivering textbooks and inaugurating computer classrooms from 2 to 6 February 2009 as part of a team representing 25 Rotary Clubs from the United States, Canada and the Cayman Islands. The Guatemala Literacy Project Delivery Tour was organized by the nonprofit Cooperative for Education which has offices in Cincinnati, Ohio and Guatemala City. The goal of this project is to ensure that no child in Guatemala grows up without the gifts of both traditional and technological literacy. (See www.guatemalaliteracy.com for more information).). The GLP matches Rotary Clubs in North America with needy schools in Guatemala. These Clubs raise funds to purchase textbooks, library materials and computers. One hundred percent of the GLP donations goes directly to supporting the project. Zero percent goes to administration or fundraising. The students pay an annual fee (about \$2) to rent the textbooks. This revenue provides the source of funds for the school to purchase new textbooks after five years. Thus, the project is self sustaining.

Guatemala has one of the lowest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere. Over ninety percent of the schools in Guatemala do not have textbooks. In some regions two out of three adults cannot read or write.

Ilse and Jim said that the students, parents, and teachers were most appreciative of this opportunity. Even simple gifts of pencils, soccer balls, and Frisbees were appreciated.



Ilse Yanis with mothers of the students

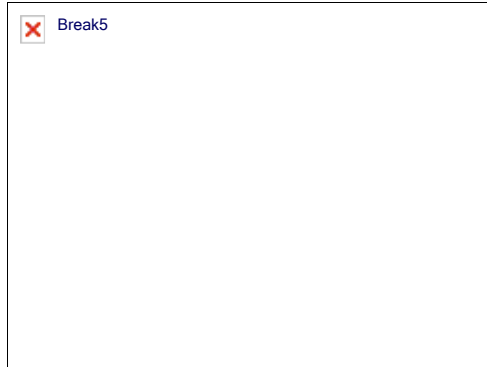


Jim Price passing out pencils

The Rotary Clubs of **South Portland/Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough, and the South Portland High School and Cape Elizabeth High School Interact Clubs** took the Hampton Club's idea, which they took from the Portsmouth Sunrise Club, and on January 25 over 150 local residents joined us for our First Annual Pizza Bowl. Eight local pizza vendors participated, and the proceeds will go to the PolioPlus matching challenge



Our pizza boxes provided Polio-Plus information



The winner of the People's Choice Award was the relatively new restaurant, 3 Brothers Eatery, of South Portland. Other participants were Rudy's of the Cape - awarded best specialty pizza, Willow's - awarded best cheese, Papa John's - awarded best sauce, Thorntons - awarded best crust, Ocean House Pizza, Unos Chicago Grill, and Ricetta's of South Portland.



Local teen leaders Laura and Anna Lee receive a Rotary Local Grant Check from **Damariscotta-Newcastle** Rotary Club President Phil Congdon

The Rotary Club of **Damariscotta-Newcastle** is sponsoring local teen leaders Anna and Laura Lee of Newcastle on their upcoming humanitarian mission to the Dominican Republic in June.

This trip will be a follow-up to previous mission trips in which local Maine teens have raised funds to build a bakery in the small town of Jalonga.

For this year's trip the group is raising funds to work on a fresh water project and expand the local fresh produce gardens started during their previous visits.



To help celebrate “Read Across America” day, during their assembly of students and staff, the **Rotary club of Durham-Great Bay** presented a stack of new books to the library of Mast Way Elementary School in Lee, NH. These books will be used to support classroom curricula, student research and just reading for fun. Shown (L-R) are Adelle Pulitzer, Library Media Specialist, David Michaud, Principal, John Belcher, DGB President, Henry Brackett and Ric Erickson, DGB Members.

Exeter Rotarian, David Yanofsky presents Club President, Mae Bradshaw with a check for \$1,000.00. This was money that would have been spent on Holiday Festivities for the employees of David’s business, Exeter Subaru. Instead, the employees chose to donate the funds to a worthy cause and Exeter Rotary was the lucky recipient



New Exeter Rotarian - Maggie Burke, Executive Director of the Seacoast Visiting Nurses Association was recently inducted into the **Exeter Rotary Club**. Shown are Burke, PRIDArt Richardson (Membership) and Club President Mae Bradshaw



From the **Rotary Club of Falmouth**. We donated the proceeds from our Christmas Calendar to the Falmouth Food Pantry. We have made the Food Pantry our focus for this year. We want to note Jim Svorack who won twice and then donated the winnings to the the Falmouth Food Pantry.



Dorothy Blanchett of the Falmouth Food Pantry receiving the check for \$2000 from Club President Karen Wright



Carlo Giraulo won twice and won the big prize of \$500

Fryeburg Area Rotary.

Our big event over the next 3 months is taking over the weekly community dinner to give the normal volunteers a little break. Club members do everything from cooking the meal for 100-150 people, serving and cleaning-up with the help of our Interact Club. A fun time is had by all! We continue with our middle school Citizen of the Month each month. We have also been busy with plans for upcoming fund raisers, including Red Sox ticket raffle, golf tournament and an Electronics Recycling Day.



Our chef, new club member Erlon Jones and president Sarah MacGillivray.



A group shot of Carol Pierce spouse of club member Alan, and club members Judy Raymond, Prudy Westerberg, and Marlee Turner.



Up to 12 **Hampton** Rotarians assist the Red Cross in collecting blood 3 times per year by manning the check in tables, the hot dog and snack stand, and assisting the nurses.



"Get your pizza here!" A wildly successful Sunday afternoon "Pizza Bowl" had **Hampton** Rotarians busy and having fun, with vendors, patrons, and fellow Rotarians.

January was another great month for the **Rotary Club of Hampton**. We started the month helping the Red Cross collect blood at one of the three regularly scheduled blood drives that we assist on each year. In January, 47 "good pints" of blood were collected.

We continued with our community work at the local soup kitchen. Up to 12 Hampton Rotarian volunteers help to make the soup kitchen a continued success by assisting there every other week.

Lastly, we finished the month with the fourth of our five annual fund-raisers, our 3rd Annual Pizza Bowl. The Pizza Bowl is held on the Sunday between the NFL playoffs and the NFL Super Bowl. 11 Pizza vendors from around the Hampton area donate up to 50 pizzas each and promote pieces of their "pie's" to up to 490 attendees. The patrons pay an \$8 fee to get in and can eat all the pizza they want from each vendor. Prizes are given to the vendors with the best crust, best sauce, best cheese, best specialty, people's choice, and kid's choice. The Pizza Bowl has become a real popular local event. This year, attendees lined up early to get in first! Everybody loves pizza and the club raised approximately \$3500.

Kennebunk Portside Rotary – Community Connections - Founded 12 years ago, Community Connections' aim is to mentor students in grades 6 and 7 in local schools. Members of the **Kennebunk** and **Kennebunk Portside** Rotary Clubs and students from University of New England accompany 11 students (5 boys and 6 girls) in a large group as in this trip to SMMC in Biddeford. They had a behind-the-scenes guided tour through the new Dorothy Walker Bush pavilion where they saw the equipment used in colonoscopy equipment, the incredible three-dimensional X-rays, had their blood pressure monitored and generally know what's expected when they're there 'on business'.



Another meeting was at Kennebunk Free Library where they learned about its resources. The most recent meeting was playing BINGO with residents of Atria. Additionally mentors and mentees pair up for small group activities such as bowling, attending a school basketball game and the Animal Welfare Society. The program operates in conjunction with the Northern York County YMCA and its Childcare Director Sarah Bazano. The two Rotary Clubs furnish the necessary financial support for the program. Both **Kennebunk** and **Kennebunk**

Portside Portside Rotary Clubs are pleased with the overwhelming success of this program and its continued benefit to the students in our communities.



Mentors and Mentees
Group Project



Bingo at Atria

December 23rd was a very poignant meeting for the **Rotary Club of Kittery**. Due to his end of year retirement and recent move to Freedom NH, Charter Member Dave Avery was leaving the club. In celebration of his long service Past Presidents and fellow Charter members gathered to share the memories. With Dave's departure, PDG Marie Williams is the Club's one remaining Charter member. The Club was chartered in October 1987, the year RI opened its membership to women.



Back Row PP Bill St.Laurent, President (and 2X PP) Sue Czarnionka, Charter President Russ McMullin, Charter member John Robbins, PP Frank Clark, PPX2 & DGE Jeff Pelkey.

Front Row PP & PDGX2 Marie Williams, PP Lezlye Shea, Charter member Rev Dave Avery, and PP Thane Pearson.

Our last meeting in January was a special meeting for the **Kittery Rotary**. We recognize a Student of the Month from both the Shapleigh Middle School and Traip Academy High School. The students are chosen by a different school department each month, so for each department it is really their "Student of the Year". In this case we had a November Student of the Month from Shapleigh, who had been unable to make the November meeting' and students from both December and January.

A teacher introduces the student and the attributes that caused the student to be chosen. Students may be selected based upon academic ability, work effort, attitude, leadership, and/or commitment. Each student receives a Paul Harris Coin, signs a book donated in their name to the school library, gets their name added to the plaque in school, and is featured in both the school newspaper and the Kittery Rotary website. With students, family, teachers, and friends *twenty four* guests swelled our ranks for the meeting.



Kittery Rotarian Russ French hands out Paul Harris Rotary Coins.
Students of the Month Leigh Fraser, Sunny Pinkham, Nick Foye,
Jacob Wirth, and Parker Johnson

The **Rotary Club of Kittery** is changing our meeting site! On and after March 3rd we will be meeting at [Kittery Estates](#) just about 200 yards north of the Kittery Traffic Circle on Route 1. Check out our web site for information <http://www.kitteryrotary.org/>.



Pictured from left to right: Pete Kelly, Firehouse Center; Usha Chatterjee, United Way; Mary Williamson, Essex National Heritage Commission; John Feehan, YWCA; Christine Lambert, Red Cross; Lorraine Leary, Community Services; Meo Young, Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center; Zack Longley, NECB. Second row: Captain James Purvis, The Salvation Army and Chuck Withee, President of **The Rotary Club of Newburyport**.

The **Rotary Club of Newburyport** provided over \$6,000 to several very important community organizations in a time when the need is great. President Chuck Withee told the crowd of over 50 members and guests that it was gratifying to be able to support such worthy organizations. "It certainly makes all of the hard work, from every member of this Rotary club, worth the effort". The **Rotary Club of Newburyport** was Chartered in May of 1923 and its members are comprised of business and community leaders that want to make a relevant difference in the lives of others.

The **Portsmouth Sunrise Rotary Club** announces its new Child Safety Seat Program. For a limited time, the **Portsmouth Sunrise Rotary Club** will be providing free Child Safety Seats to clients of the Families First Health and Support Center. The program will be initiated through Families First and will work in partnership with the Portsmouth Police Department.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, "Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 2 – 14, due in part to the non use or improper use of child seats".

Clients of Families First can request a child safety seat by contacting Eliza Seavey at 422-8208. Once the request is approved, clients will schedule an appointment with a certified car safety seat installer to receive their new car seat and learn the proper installation.

Families First is a nonprofit agency offering a wide variety of affordable health care and family support services to individuals and families, regardless of ability to pay. For more information, call 603-422-8208 or visit www.FamiliesFirstSeacoast.org.

To support this program with a financial donation or to obtain additional information on how to become a member of the Portsmouth Sunrise Club, contact Pat Lyons at 603-767-0009



(Pictured from left to right Tom Grella, Eliza Seavey, Midge Nelson, Pat Lyons, and Cindy Boyd)

EYES FOR THE NEEDY ; In September of 1991, Pris and Andy Baillargeon and Kitty Chadbourne started a **Saco Bay Rotary** project to help out Eyes for the Needy, a non-profit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to help provide better vision for the poor the world over. Predominately funded by contributions of glasses, jewelry and silver; and supported by the **Rotary Club of Saco Bay**. The organization later expanded to take in contact lenses, hearing aids, sunglasses and soft cases for glasses. The metal frame glasses received are sent to a refiner and the income received is used to pay for new prescription glasses for indigent Americans. Prescription glasses from this program are also shipped to Third World countries around the world. Costume jewelry and silverware are sold in the salesroom and the proceeds are again used to provide glasses to the needy.

At the beginning of this year, club co-chairs, Pris and Andy Baillargeon picked up, packaged, and mailed 1,725 pairs of glasses and 11 hearing aids. To date the project has donated 36,599 pairs of glasses, 70 contact lenses, and 69 hearing aids, along with batteries, watches, and costume jewelry to provide need for those in need.



Pictured (l to r) Rotary Club Members supporting the Eyes For The Needy Program: Dale Huot, Kitty Chadbourne, Andy Baillargeon, Pris Baillargeon and club President, Dan Colby.

BON APPETIT SOUP KITCHEN: Bon Appetit is an on-going service project that the **Rotary Club of Saco Bay** and other local organizations have support throughout most of the club's 20-year existence. Presently hosted at the Second Congregational Church in Biddeford, Maine. The program provides those less fortunate with a hot meal Monday through Friday. Bob Boucher, a club member since 2002, often cooks the majority of the weekly meals. Other club members take on serving (and cleaning-up) every second Friday of each month. Increasingly club members often bring Interact students, UNE Rotaract students and family members to "serve the needs of others". Not only does the club provide service but they also provide an annual donation from their charitable giving fund that insures that over 250 meals are fresh, nutritious and served to those who need them.



Bon Boucher, Chef.



Ma-Lu, Exchange Student from Germany. Cathy Leblanc, Leo Menard and Brenda Chapman, Rotarians.

ANNUAL ROTARY TELEVISION AUCTION

In conclusion, the **Rotary Club of Saco Bay** and the **Biddeford-Saco Rotary Club** are proud to announce they are once again preparing for their Annual Television Auction scheduled for Sunday, March 29 from 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM. Solicited donations from local business make this a full day of fellowship, entertainment and value. Last year's proceeds exceeded over \$45,000 which the clubs split to use toward community projects, charitable donations and scholarship programs.



Phone Bank at the Annual Rotary Auction

The **South Berwick - Eliot Rotary Club** hosted a Community Quiz Night at the Marshwood Great Works School on Friday January 30th. 12 teams comprised of 2 students and 2 adults each competed in a Geography quiz. The club successfully raised \$4,250 which will be used to buy books to equip a library at the Eben Ezer School in Milot, Haiti (International Literacy Project).



The school founder Lucia Anglade attended the event, and spoke to the students and audience about the challenges faced by students in Haiti, and what a difference this effort will make in their lives.



Lucia Anglade founder of the Eben Ezer School in Haiti

Students at the Great Works School have "adopted" the Eben Ezer School, and shipped over 2,000 lbs of school supplies and 200 uniforms to the Haitian students.

The **South Berwick - Eliot Rotary Club** have also been distributing dictionaries to every third grade student in the Marshwood school system and the Seacoast Christian School, thanks to a District Simplified Grant, making sure that Rotary is meeting the literacy needs of children in our own community as well.

Several members of the **Rotary Club of Topsham Expresso** recently returned from La Romana, Dominican Republic, after spending up to two weeks working on a water project. Pastors Bob Beaumont and Ron McLaughlin have been a part of a project building a hospital for several years. Each year they go back and the with the help of other volunteers build a little more to what has become a up to date, modern hospital providing medical services to hundreds of children and families. Over the past few years these Rotarians have set up and installed water filters to provide the village bayetes with fresh, clean water.

A line of freshly painted water filters wait to be installed.



And last of the club news but not at all the least, Terry Hopkins writes:

I want to share some information about one of **Wells Rotary** Projects- "Wrap-A-Smile"I know you are aware of Rotaplast and the important part these quilts are now playing.



I finally got the chance to sit and sharpen my pencil for some Wrap-A-Smile 2008 information. From the records I have in my log Wrap-A-Smile received a total of 1,939 quilts this year. Family Circle contributors still coming in donated 289 quilts. Sunshine Internet Quilt Group contributed 1027. Quilts from other sources 623. Quilters spent \$1,155.38 in shipping costs. We finished the year with a total of 12,331 quilts being distributed to Rotaplast and Alliance for Smiles since the project started in 2001. This number does include the 75+ ready to be labeled and shipped.

To put this number of 12,331 into perspective and into a visual - after a friend of mine did the math, seems we have collected enough quilts to completely cover 3.9 professional football fields. And, the interesting fact is - I have made one quilt.



Wrap-A-Smile has received quilts from all 50 United States, Canada, Australia, and England.

Thought you might be interested.

Yours in Rotary,
Terry Hodskins

Some more background on "Wrap-A-Smile"

If you have been on a Rotaplast mission, or even just seen photos, you are familiar with the image of a child, fresh out of surgery and wrapped in a beautiful handmade quilt. After surgery, this is the first moment the mother has seen her child since she anxiously watched them leave for surgery. Tears of joy fill the mother's eyes seeing first-hand the life changing surgery her child has just received. The thoughts of new beginnings brighten the mother's soul just as the cheerfully colored quilts brighten an otherwise mundane

This vivid image that sets a Rotaplast mission apart from other surgical projects like it would not be possible without the quilters of Wrap-A-Smile. Since 2001, Wrap-A-Smile has hand crafted stunning children's quilts for Rotaplast to send on missions. Each child that is treated on a Rotaplast mission takes home a beautiful quilt of his or her own. These quilts provide not just warmth, but also allow children and their families to take home a token of love to remember the day they were given a new smile

District Membership Committee - Thoughts from the Chair

"There are no new ideas!"

How many times have you heard that line? Yet each time you go to a District event you come away with a gem of an idea or an inspiration. Our Club Membership Chair recently rolled out a new idea built on thoughts garnered from the Membership Seminar; ~ an approach that makes it easier to get business people to get to a Rotary meeting without a feeling of obligation. **"Briefly Business"** is an offer that is hard to refuse and opens the door for people to know more about Rotary. The attractiveness of this concept is the offer to come and introduce their business for a few minutes, without feeling like they are being fast tracked for membership; but that visit can expose the individual to what the Club and Rotary International is all about. Obviously the next step is to determine if they are energized by Rotary's commitment to Service. The **"Briefly Business"** flyer is loaded onto the **Membership Tools** area of the web Site. As always, feel free to borrow, change, improve, and otherwise make use of a concept. And definitely, - if you have a similar idea, please share it with the District.

A recent guest at our club worked locally but lived in the adjacent town and was excited about what he saw going on in our club. However when he saw all the things we were doing with our local schools, he wanted to work with the club located in the area where his children were going to school so he would be able to work with their schools. Getting people in the door and getting them to know about Rotary can have great benefits, even if it does not end up in your local club!

Dave Gooch, District Membership Chair 2008-2009

The last word ~ You could not have gotten this far in the newsletter without noticing the change in format. Our District Governor is very busy with the District Governor responsibilities and had to turn the job of editing over to a much less talented editor. I emphasize very strongly the need to have a separate word document and jpg photo submittals, I appreciate your help with this.
Thank you - Dave G

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