



Rotary International District 7780

Archive

Jan 11, 2010

[print this page](#)

[Home](#)

District Information

[District Governor](#)
[District Calendar](#)
[DG Official Visits](#)
[Officers & Chairs](#)
[District Secretary](#)
[District Treasurer](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)
[Photo Album \(2007\)](#)
[District Bylaws](#)

Governors Newsletter

[Current](#)
[Archive](#)

District Club Info

[Links to Clubs](#)
[Make Up Opportunities](#)
[Club Fundraisers/Events](#)
[Speakers Bureau](#)
[World Community](#)

District Events/Forums

[District Assembly](#)
[District Changeover](#)
[District Conference](#)
[Foundation Seminar](#)
[Interact Conference](#)
[Intl Convention](#)
[Membership Seminar](#)
[Mid-Term Assembly](#)
[NE Multi-District PETS](#)
[RLI Course Dates](#)
[United Nations Day](#)
[W.U.P.D.](#)

District History

[Historian](#)
[Past Governors](#)

Foundation

[The Chair](#)
[Alumni Directory](#)
[Annual Giving](#)
[Foundation Grants](#)
[Group Study Exchange](#)
[Polio Plus](#)
[Foundation Scholarships](#)

Literacy

[Literacy Chair Message](#)
[Literacy Awards 2009-10](#)
[Literacy PR Release](#)
[4 Way Test Contest](#)
[Read Across America](#)
[Literacy Resources](#)

Membership

[Chair Message](#)
[Committee](#)
[Membership Tools](#)

Due to a heavy commitment load, two months Newsletter submittals are combined in this issue. Therefore the reader may find some of the articles may refer to "Happy New Year", even as we approach the end of winter.~Editor.

DISTRICT 7780 January & February 2010



Annual Giving Program

Happy New Year!

It is the start of a new calendar year and the last half of this Rotary year. There are many things to be done during this half of the Rotary year – club service projects to complete, many club fund raisers take place in the springah, spring and no snow....., the district conference and completing our club's annual giving commitment to Our Rotary Foundation.

Quote from Cliff Dochterman book, "As I Was Saying.....".

"There is so much more to being a Rotarian than meeting, eating, singing, having fun and enjoying the friendship of a great group of friends and then going back to work or playing golf. Being a Rotarian gives us opportunities to touch the lives of people we may never know, or build a better community where we live, or even reach out to those around the world whom we will never meet or ever see.

In this small world, the lives of all of us are woven together. That is why Rotarians reach out to people that they may never know or ever meet, and serve in ways they may never imagine." End of quote.

This is where our donations to Our Rotary Foundation can help us assist those in our community or the communities around the world. Every dollar we give makes a difference in our Community through a District Simplified Grant or helps a community somewhere in the world by providing a well, health care, cataract surgery, food, or the ability to go to school. These are all things we take for granted but many people in the world do not know what it is to go into the kitchen or bathroom and turn on the faucet and have clean drinking water. Many don't have a kitchen or bathroom let alone a faucet to get clean drinking water. We send our children and grandchildren off to school each day to further their education and there are many children in this world that have never been inside a school let alone had a book they can call their own or have the ability to

Resources

Health & Hunger
Public Relations
Water

Youth Programs

Interact
RYLA
Youth Exchange

Service Above Self
Forms & Documents
RI Links/Contacts

Contact Us

read. We can make all this happen with our donations to Our Rotary Foundation. Please join me in making this a better place to live for everyone by giving to Our Rotary Foundation!

Please feel free to contact me about coming to your club to speak about annual giving to our Foundation and how your club and the world benefits from our donations.

Remember ***"The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands!"***

Marie Williams
Annual Giving Chair 2009-10

Author! Author!



Last year Yarmouth's Carolyn Johnson (left) and Boothbay Harbor's Marty Peak Helman collaborated on a Rotary Foundation Volunteer Service Grant which helped fund the new reading curriculum that Carolyn is introducing into primary schools throughout rural Guatemala. The grant also helped underwrite a book that Marty reported and wrote on literacy in Guatemala. The book, entitled *Rewriting the Future*, is made up of interviews with the children, parents and teachers whose lives were changed when they were introduced to reading – and the book is now published! Copies are available for \$27; that money and all profits from the book will go directly to Cooperative for Education, the non-profit organization that manages the Guatemala Literacy Project. Email Marty at martyrotary@gmail.com to order your copies.

Club News

The **Bethel Rotary Club** recently concluded one of its busiest months of the year.

The annual Christmas for Children project raised more than \$14,000 to provide presents for more than 180 children in need in the Bethel area — a record number of children.

In addition to individual donations, the annual Santa Sunday event at Sunday River Ski Resort raised about \$3,500 toward the effort, also a record.

Club members also braved cold temperatures to ring bells outside a local business to collect donations for the fund.

Another annual holiday event, a Christmas Luncheon for Senior Citizens, drew a crowd of more than 100.

Bethel Rotary Students of the Month



Telstar High School's November Students of the Month were junior Kimberly Moore and freshman Savannah Belisle. The recognition is sponsored by the Bethel Rotary Club. The students were also honored at a December Rotary meeting. Moore is shown here with SAD44 Superintendent Dave Murphy, Rotary President Scott Hynek and THS Dean of Students Charlie Raymond. The students are chosen by THS staff members for their community service and academic growth and achievement. *(Photo: A. Aloisio)*

Boothbay Harbor Rotary Teams with Red Cross for Shelter Management

Boothbay Harbor Rotarians spent a snowy Martin Luther King Day preparing to help their neighbors by participating in a practical course on what it takes to set up and run a Red Cross emergency shelter. The project came about through a partnership between the Rotary Club and the Mid Coast Chapter of the Red Cross.



Here, Rotarian Judy deGraw tries out one of the cots set up in the “five star hotel” that is the elementary school gym, and the whole Rotary team pauses for a group photo.

Typically, when the Red Cross sets up a shelter, it calls a list of volunteers trained and qualified to run it. But in what (as far as we can determine) is the first such partnership between the Red Cross and a civic organization, if and when the Red Cross Chapter determines that it will open a shelter in the Boothbay Region in the future, it will turn to the Rotary Club for help. The partnership means that the Red Cross Chapter is not only assured that it has enough local volunteers to do this work, but in addition, because they are all Boothbay Harbor Rotarians, these volunteers know each other well and are comfortable working together.

Boothbay Harbor Rotary Featured on WCSH Telethon



Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club President Vic Taylor is all smiles after presenting a check for \$1616 to WCSH Channel 6 anchor Kathleen Shannon during the NBC affiliate's January 22 telethon to support Haiti relief. By the end of the evening, the Maine-state-wide telethon had raised a total of \$99,250 for the American Red Cross' Haiti relief fund



The Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club participated in the Parade of Lights before Christmas by sponsoring a float themed after "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation". We had a great time and even had snow for the parade through town. We came in 3rd Place for "Most Entertaining".



In November we had a Citrus Sale Fundraiser for the first time; the oranges and grapefruits were delicious. This was a fun project and we're planning on continuing next year.



DG Jeff Pelkey visited our Club to present Gloria Morris with a check towards our project "Purple Period of Crying", which raises awareness of shaken baby syndrome to new parents and caregivers.

BRUNSWICK COASTAL ROTARY CONSOLIDATES UGANDAN PARTNERSHIP

"..This is a narrative of a success story of the people of a rural community of the Jjongoza village that is making a positive attempt to transform their lives and those of their neighbourhood.."

Thus began the article that **Brunswick Coastal Rotary Club** recently received from Fr. Aloysius Bukenya, a member of the Kajjansi Uganda RC and the primary contact for two of the projects that BCR has completed in Uganda. He was reporting on the successful implementation of a coffee growing MG that BCR and the Kajjansi RC initiated last year.

The story began three years ago when Fr. Bukenya's Rotary Club partnered with Brunswick Coastal Rotary on a MG that provided three 10,000 liter water tanks to rural schools, a toilet block one of the school and two protected springs. Water had been seen as a major lack in the area. When the water tanks were commissioned the residents celebrated as the water projects made a remarkable impact on the lives of the residents. Prior to the schools having the tanks and being able to harvest and store water, the students had to walk long distances to the swamps to collect water for drinking and cooking.

The Jjongoza Rotary Community Corp has been a key to the success of the projects. Prior to the MGs being filed Fr. Bukenya had encouraged the village of Jjongoza to form the group and has since mentored the group. The objectives of the Rotary Community Corp are:

- To encourage individuals to take responsibility for the improvement of their communities;
- To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations
- To mobilize self-help activities and collective work to improve the quality of life, and
- To encourage the development of human potential to it's fullest, within the context of local culture and community.

Brunswick Coastal Rotarian Mary Tennant met with the group prior to the formation of the RCC and in April 2009 Margaret Lonsdale (PP-BCR) and Mary met with the newly chartered group and their leader, Mrs. Specioza Namatovu Lusiba.



Celebrating the initiation of the coffee growing MG -Members of the Jjongoza RCC in traditional dress; the Kajjansi Rotarians are in front, in western clothing

The RCC helped formulate the ideas that led to filing the coffee growing MG.
The residents of the village of Jjongoza experience poverty, which has been greatly exacerbated

by the effect of the AIDS epidemic. As a result they often lack basic necessities including fees required for their children to attend school. It was decided that funds to implement coffee growing would raise the living standard of the whole village.

One Jjongoza resident commented, 'It is wonderful to see how Rotary is transforming the lives of the village. For many years Jjongoza was cut off from the rest of the world, with no shops, no Christian Chapel, no Mosque, no health clinic and with no school. Traditionally, Jjongoza was considered a village cursed by a Monsignor, and whose prospects for development were never dreamt of. Thanks to Rotary, we are connected to the world of development.'

Fr. Bukenya concluded his article with....."There are three major changes that Rotary has brought to the residents of Jjongoza village: 1) It has enabled them to gain confidence in their own powers to transform their lives and those of their neighbours, 2) it has enabled them to dream as community and to come up with community projects that can help them to transform their lives, 3) It has enabled them to inspire the neighbouring village communities. It is wonderful to note that the community of Jjongoza village is one key beneficiary of Rotary International."

Clearly this is a story of the power of Rotary!

The entire letter is provided at the end of the District Newsletter



The **Rotary Club of Kittery** finished the calendar year with two of our fun projects. On December 5th we once again served free hot cocoa and cookies at the end of Kittery's Holiday Parade. The refreshments are always a hit, especially when the winter cold is especially biting. Jeff Furbish, a past Rotarian, has always stepped up to donate gallons of hot coca for the event from Noels Cafe.



During the entire last quarter the club has been collecting food, funds, clothing and toys for Kittery Holiday Baskets. Kittery Holiday Baskets provides Thanksgiving and Christmas to over 125 needy local families including approximately 175 children, this year our small club donated over \$1600 in funds, food, and gifts, maintaining a tradition started when the Club was first chartered. Helping to sort and pack a Christmas bundle for each family really gets you into the holiday spirit.

Sebago Lakes and Yarmouth Rotary Clubs Sponsor Textbook Programs in Guatemala

Two D-7780 Clubs -- Sebago Lake and Yarmouth -- this year sponsored textbooks for schools in Guatemala through the Guatemala Literacy Project. The GLP provides texts for schools in the highlands of Guatemala, and does so through a sustainable program which requires the parents of the school kids to "rent" the books for a few pennies to create a fund to replace the texts after a few years.



Rotarians Peter Johnson (Yarmouth) and Frank and Marty Peak Helman (BBH) participated in the inaugural celebrations and here are shown with Directore Mario, principal of one of the schools that received the texts.

Other 7780 clubs are currently initiating a Matching Grant to support this program. For more information about the Guatemala Literacy Project and how your club can participate, email Carolyn Johnson, cfj2@mac.com.

The following is the complete copy of the letter sent by the Ugandan Rotary to Brunswick Coastal Club:

JJONGOZA ROTARY COMMUNITY CORPS, D-9200 No. 61815
By Rtn. Aloysius Lwanga Bukenya (Rev. Fr. Dr.).

This is a narrative of a success story of the people of a rural community of the Jjongoza village (in Rakai District) that is making a positive attempt to transform their lives and those of their neighbourhood without waiting for the intervention of the Uganda Government. The members of the community have learnt that during the time of presidential and local elections they receive many promises from candidates of political posts. Once the elections are done, the residents return to their old states of life which are characterized by poverty, ignorance, disease, hunger and underdevelopment, in a village that does not have an infrastructural formula. In order to survive, the community enveloped itself into cynicism, which is expressed through disbelief and lack of trust of any persons who promise positive contributions to the residents. For example, one old woman, called Namakula (not real name) said, 'I have been in this village for forty-five years, I have never seen a leader who fulfils his promises. This young man, Bukenya, cannot be different from the rest of the people. I will not put my brains into the pack of lies that he is offloading here.' Namakula's comments came as a response to Fr. Bukenya, a Roman Catholic Priest, and a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Kajjansi, who proposed that the residents had the potential to transform their lives if they came together as a Rotary Community Corp. Fr. Bukenya explained that the goals of a Rotary Community Corps include:

- To encourage individuals to take responsibility for the improvement of their communities;
- To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations
- To mobilize self-help activities and collective work to improve the quality of life, and
- To encourage the development of human potential to it's fullest, within the context of local culture and community.

He explained to them the benefits of coming together as community corps which included:

- Planting seeds of community pride, teamwork and shared responsibility;
- For members to gain access to educational and vocational training from projects, to gain skills and knowledge which they can pass on to future generations;
- Of course, because the Rotary Community Corps was to be sponsored by Rotary Club of Kajjansi, it means that members of the Jjongoza RCC have to work with a professional body of men and women who commit themselves to work for fairness, truthfulness and holistic benefit to all the concerned (see the Four Way Test). This would build confidence in a community who had lost hope in the goodness of humanity, because they had quite often been offered empty promises.

The first offer that came to the village was water, and a toilet, thanks to Mary Tennant, a past president of the Rotary Club of Brunswick Coast, D-7780, in the State of Maine, U.S.A. She partnered with the Rotary Club of Kajjansi, D9200, to provide three 10,000 litre plastic water tanks, a toilet block to a school and two protected water wells. At that time, water was seen as a major point in the village. When Rtn Theresa Baganja, commissioned the water tanks and the other facilities, the residents celebrated. The cause for joy

in the village was for a number of reasons including the fact that all that was promised was delivered, and without any strings attached to the offers. Secondly, the water projects made a remarkable impact in the lives of the communities.

The schools are enabled to harvest and save water, so that children are spared the long distances to the swamps to collect water for drinking and cooking. The toilet facility that was provided to St Gerald's Kyango Primary School was much awaited, but the local government had not succeeded to provide the funds. The involvement of the Rotary Clubs of Kajjansi and Brunswick Coastal made the contribution that changed the lives of the community.

In March 2008, two Rotarians from D 7780, namely, Mary Tennant (and) Margret Lonsdale visited the village; this was Mary's second visit. The members of the Rotary Community Corps had gained the confidence to articulate their needs and to contribute to solving them. They identified a need to grow coffee, as a way to eradicate poverty from the village. They proposed the idea to the Rotarians from D 7780, and Mary and Margret readily saw the logic in the request and offered to put their time and energy to fundraise for it.

BACKGROUND OF THE COFFEE GROWING PROJECT

The residents of the village of Jjongoza experience poverty; often they lack funds for basic necessities including school fees for their children. Their poverty is exacerbated by the AIDS epidemic which has had a serious impact on the Rakai District. The residents noted that their history had been characterized by coffee production which was their major source of income in the period from 1960s – 1980s. The income from this crop provided enough income for them to live a modest rural life style. In the late 1980s viruses destroyed the coffee crop, eliminating the village residents' source of income and resulting in the community experiencing severe poverty. They were unsuccessful in developing alternative crops.

Research led to the development of Clonal coffee, a brand of coffee that is resistant to disease and can be successfully grown in the Rakai District of Uganda. Benefit/Cost analysis shows that this crop is one which can greatly benefit the residents of that District. Studies also show that investment in the agricultural sector provides greater economic benefit than investment in other sectors.

Fr. Aloysius Bukunya (RC Kajjansi) and Mary Tennant (Brunswick Coastal, D-7780) designed the Matching Grant. That aimed to provide funding to purchase the necessary items so that the residents could resume growing coffee. The members of the RCC have taken courses on modern methods to manage coffee production and have identified a favorable market to which to sell the coffee. The Jjongoza Rotary Community Corp identified twenty-seven families to participate in this pilot project. The project is to serve as a model for the other families of Jjongoza, with a percentage of the generated income used to add new members to the project.

At the moment of writing this article, the money has already been disbursed to the projects account of the Rotary Club of Kajjansi, it is paying for a number of items including: organic manure (cow dung), wheelbarrows, gumboots, herbicides, Clonal coffee seedlings and tarpaulins. The community is very excited by the prospects of renewing the growing of a brand of coffee that is more resistant to disease and whose yields surpass by far the traditional crop.

OTHER PROJECTS EMBARKED ON BY THE RCC

The members of the RCC undertake regular courses into community organization, sanitation, supervision, monitoring and jointly undertake tasks of constructing structures to improve on cleanliness. Their leader Mrs. Specioza Namatovu Lusiba who is a retired headteacher, brings into her community her professional expertise and advises on major points of improvement.

The member of the Jjongoza RCC take time off to clear village paths, construct pit latrines for the needy neighbours, visit the sickly and needy widows and orphans, and work together to support each others good.

One resident commented, 'It is wonderful to see how Rotary is transforming the lives of the village. For many years Jjongoza was cut off from the rest of the world, with no shops, no Christian Chapel, no Mosque, no health clinic and with no school. Traditionally, Jjongoza was considered a village cursed by a Monsignor, and whose prospects for development were never dreamt of. Thanks to Rotary, thanks to Rotary, we are connected to the world of development. See, how we have friends in America, Mary Tennant and Margret visited our village because they wanted to see our Rotary Community Corps. We shall always support Rotary. Now, Rotary has enabled us to grow Clonal coffee, many residents had given up on any developmental projects. Now, we believe in community action, and believe me this is only a beginning'

This resident, Mrs. Pauline Bbaale is proud to be associated with the International Humanitarian Organization.

There are three major changes that Rotary has brought to the residents of Jjongoza village: 1) It has enabled them to gain confidence in their own powers to transform their lives and those of their neighbours, 2) it has enabled them to dream as community and to come up with community projects that can help them to transform their lives, 3) It has enabled them to inspire the neighbouring village communities. For example, the residents of Kyango village have also come together and have approached the Rotary Club of Kalisizo to support them as a Rotary Community Corps, so that they can be as organized as Jjongoza.

I take this opportunity to thank the Rtn Stephen Mwanje, DGE, who inspired me to start the Rotary Community Corps, the Rotary Club of Kajjansi, the Rotary Club of Brunswick Coastal, the members of the Jjongoza Rotary Community Corps, and the local Jjongoza Village Leadership Team. Rotary is making the desired impact in the communities around the world. It is wonderful to note that the community of Jjongoza village is one key beneficiary of Rotary International.

Editor's Note: The original plan was to issue the January-February combined Newsletter by the end of February. The end of month storm and power outage prevented doing so before I had to leave on a trip. I apologize to District Governor Jeff and those that have provided submittals for the delay. ~DBG

Content Copyright © 2003-2010 Rotary International District 7780 USA.
[Additional Copyright, Trademark and Website Information](#)

Powered by [ClubWizard™](#) Service Club Website and Management Software.
[Click here](#) to find out more about this web site and how it works.