

District 7780 News

"From the Mountains to the Sea"

Ann Lee Hussey, District Governor

www.district7780.org

February 8, 2011

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
—Eleanor Roosevelt

Inside this issue:

District Calendar	2
President Ray Comes to 7780	4
Polio Plus in Pakistan	5
Public Image Opportunities	7
District Conference 2011	8
Rotary Foundation Grants	10
2012 Theme Unveiled	11

There is No Price for Love

It's February, Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring, snow continues to fall and children in our communities enjoy winter activities. And the first polio-paralyzed child in the world has been reported for 2011.

This new polio case is a reminder that we have almost reached our goal but we still have much to do. We must all do our part to create a world free from polio.

Why all the fuss about our polio program this year? Because polio eradication remains Rotary's main corporate program, because we have worked tirelessly for 26 years and are fast approaching our goal and because we are making history in the world of health initiatives.

There is a more personal reason. If you have ever traveled to a developing country and seen the polio crawlers left begging in the streets, shared their agony as you watch them meander through the crowds, you would understand why we must stop this dreadedcrippler.

Perhaps you will better understand my passion through this story.

A young boy spotted a farmer nailing up a sign, **"Puppies for Sale"**, on his fencepost. The boy stopped to ask the farmer how much did the puppies cost. The Farmer replied, **"Son, these puppies are special and they cost a lot of money; you could not afford my puppies."** Digging deep into his pocket, the young boy pulled out 39 cents

and asked, **"How much to take a look?"** Laughing the farmer whistled and from a doghouse at the top of the hill came the **puppies' mother followed by four balls of fur. Excitement filled the child's face as the puppies jumped around him, when suddenly he glanced back up the hill to see yet a fifth ball of fur coming towards him. The pup was obviously having difficulty and could not catch up. "I want that one,"** cried the boy. **"You don't want this puppy"**, the Farmer replied. **"He has a crippled leg and will never be able to run and play with you, as a puppy should."**

At that moment the boy bent over and pulled up his pants leg to reveal a heavy metal brace attached to his shoe. **"You see sir, I don't run too well myself. This pup will need someone who understands."** With tears in his eyes, the Farmer scooped up the lame pup and **placed him in the boy's arms. "How much, Sir?" "Nothing" replied the Farmer. "There is no price for love."**

Thank you for the love you share with others. Thank you for creating opportunities through your Foundation giving. Billions will be saved when we eradicate polio. We have a moral obligation to not let the poliovirus win. Celebrate the safety our children enjoy as we reach out to help children everywhere. We are making history, faster than you think, creating a legacy for future generations.

Ride for the brand, tell our story. **Be proud to be a Rotarian!**

—District Governor Ann Lee Hussey



Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date!

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 1 — District Simplified Grant progress reports (available on the District website) are due to Todd Doolan, todd.h.doolan@mssb.com

Friday, February 4 — District mid-year Leadership Dinner for all current club presidents, president-elects and vice presidents, Fireside Inn & Suites (formerly Holiday Inn West), Portland. \$30 per person.

February 20-26 — Rotary's Polio Awareness Week. District 7780 will spread the word via a Rotary PR grant. See page 7 for more.

Tuesday, February 22 — World Peace and Understanding Dinner with extra-special guest RI President Ray Klinginsmith will be held at the Portland Airport Wyndham Hotel, 500 Maine Mall Road, South Portland, ME. See page 7 for more.



Feb. 25 to March 26 — Outbound Group Study Exchange team spends a month in Hong Kong and Macao.

Sunday, February 27 — Rotary and Red Claws Basketball. Enjoy District fellowship and raise money for polio eradication at the Portland Expo. Tickets start at \$7 and are available from District Secretary Christine Byrne. See page 14.



MARCH

Wednesday, March 2 — Read Across America Day. FMI: Contact

Penny Jett, District literacy coordinator, pennyjett@comcast.net



Saturday, March 5 — District-wide Interact Conference at York High School. All Interact club members, plus past and future RYLarians and Youth Exchange students invited. The fun starts at 8:00 a.m. FMI: George Bartlett, District Interact advisor: gbartle2@maine.rr.com

Saturday, March 5 — Rotary Leadership Institute at York County Community College in Wells, ME.



March 10 – 12 — Multi-district President-Elect Training Seminar, Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, Framingham, MA (please note new location). Training designed for all president-elects and assistant governor-elects.

Saturday, March 26 — Rotary Leadership Institute in Lincoln, RI.

Thursday, March 31 — Deadline for Clubs to get their Presidential Citation questionnaires to Governor Ann Lee.

APRIL

Saturday, April 2 — Rotary Leadership Institute in Lebanon, NH.



Saturday, April 2 — Deadline for Clubs to get their 2010-11 Governor's Citation questionnaires to their Assistant Governors.

Wednesday, April 6 — Finance Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., Cumberland Club.

Saturday, April 9 — District Assembly at Westbrook Middle School, 471 Stroud-



Double Points Offer

Paul Harris Recognition Points will be awarded by the District on a matching dollar basis for donations to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) through the end of February or until available recognition points are exhausted.

The District will match donations of \$100 or more to the Annual Programs Fund. Checks should be made to The Rotary Foundation and sent as usual to TRF which, in turn, will notify the District who has contributed and how much.

Anyone who contributes \$100 or more per year to the Annual Programs Fund is recognized as a Rotary Foundation Sustaining member. Every club is encouraged to become a 100 percent Sustaining Member Club.

If every Rotarian contributed \$100 every year, the Foundation could nearly double its efforts to help meet humanitarian needs worldwide.

And remember: 99 cents of every dollar contributed to the Foundation goes directly to fund humanitarian work — not to fundraising or administration. As a result, each year the Rotary Foundation brings home Charity Navigator's top ranking. A gift to the Foundation is truly a gift to humanity and a way to participate in positive change in our world.



Youth Leadership Nominations

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference (RYLA) will be held June 26-29 at Camp Hinds in Raymond, Maine.

Clubs who are interested in sponsoring high school sophomores to attend this event should begin the recruiting process now. This program will enhance leadership skills in young people and usually attracts a high caliber student with demonstrated commitment to community service. We have many students who are involved with the Interact program attend the RYLA conference.

Contact local guidance departments, provide applications, set a date and schedule your interviews. For additional information and sample application forms check out the district website under the RYLA page. As soon as your club knows how many slots you wish to reserve please let us know.

The cost for a club to sponsor a youth to this event is \$300 and must be sent with the applications. Once clubs have determined who they wish to send, their application must be sent by May 31, 2011 to RYLA District 7780, PO Box 4632, Portsmouth, NH 03801 for further processing.

If your club is interested in having someone come to speak on the RYLA program, or if you have any questions email us at RYLA7780@Yahoo.com.

Save the Date! Save the Date! (continued)

water Street, Westbrook, ME. All incoming club officers urged to participate.

April 18-May 17 — Inbound Group Study Exchange team arrives from Hong Kong for four-week stay in our District.



Thursday, April 28 — World Community Service Committee meeting. Contact Roland Gagne: serviceabovese@roadrunner.com

MAY

May 1-16 — Inbound Friendship exchange team here from India. Contact Peggy Belanger, ms3.mab@smmc.org if you are interested in hosting Rotarians from India's District 3060 in your home and at your club. See page 12.



May 13-14 — 7780 District Conference, Portland Marriott Sa-



ble Oaks. See page 8 for speakers and more.

May 21-25 — Rotary International Convention in New Orleans. "Laisser les bon temps rouler ... encore!"



May 31—Deadline for RYLA applications to be received by the District. See article, this page.

JUNE

Wednesday, June 1 — Final district simplified grant reports due to Todd Doolan, todd.h.doolan@mssb.com

Wednesday, June 15 — District Finance Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., Cumberland Club, Portland.

Thursday, June 23 — District Changeover dinner, Harraseeket Inn, Freeport.

June 26—June 29 — RYLA program for high school sophomores (rising juniors) at Camp Hinds, Maine. See article, this page.



Sebago Lakes Finds a New Home

Sebago Lakes Rotary is changing its meeting place to the Alumni Room of the Alford Building at St. Joseph's College in Standish, ME. The club continues to meet Thursdays at 12:15. Come join members for a hot buffet luncheon with soup and salad for \$15. Some things remain constant: The club continues to be best known for its Sebago Lakes ice fishing derby, planned this year for February 25-27. Think cold!



DISTRICT 7780

WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING DAY DINNER



Portland Airport Wyndham Hotel
500 Maine Mall Road, South Portland, Maine
Tuesday, February 22, 2011
Fellowship - 5:30 PM Dinner - 6:30 PM



***RI President Ray Klinginsmith to
Keynote District World Peace Dinner***

“Rotary is the best in the world at linking people of goodwill around the globe and then gaining their cooperation and support to make the world a much better place to live and work.”

Ray Klinginsmith, a retired attorney from Kirksville, Missouri, USA, served as general counsel and professor of business administration for Truman State University for more than 20 years. From 2001 to 2004, he served as a county commissioner for Adair County.

A member of the Rotary Club of Kirksville and a Rotarian since 1961, Ray has served Rotary as district governor, chair of the 1998 Council on Legislation in New Delhi, and chair of the 2008 Los Angeles Convention Committee. He was a member of the RI Board of Directors from 1985 to 1987 and chaired its executive committee in 1986-87. Ray joined The Rotary Foundation Trustees in 2002, serving as vice chair in 2005-06, and was a member of the Future Vision Committee from 2005 to 2008. Ray is a Major Donor and a recipient of the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.



District
Governor Ann
Lee Hussey
invites you to
a celebration
of the
anniversary
of Rotary

The Anniversary of Rotary -

designated as 'World Peace and Understanding Day', provides the ideal opportunity to both celebrate the founding of Rotary and to renew our belief in the objective of world peace. This year we are privileged to have the rare honor of hosting the President of Rotary International at our World Peace and Understanding Day Dinner. RI President Ray Klinginsmith will be with us for the dinner, and for other events being planned in conjunction with the dinner.

Tickets for the dinner are only \$43.00 per person and they will be going fast. Register early because tickets are on a 'first come - first serve' basis and Rotarians and guests must pre-register in order to attend. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Wyndham at a very favorable group rate, if registration is made before January 23, 2011. Rotarians making reservations must identify their affiliation with the *ROTARY DISTRICT 7780* group. Call the hotel direct at 207-775-6161.

REGISTRATION FORMS FOR THIS OUTSTANDING EVENT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM THE DISTRICT 7780 WEB SITE

Whither Pakistan?

Ted Trainer, District PolioPlus Chair

The polio related international news and blogs are full of news these days about Pakistan. My family and I lived in Lahore, Pakistan, for five years, where I served as UNICEF representative. I learned to love the country and its people and I also learned how to operate there. The most important lessons were to understand and respect the Pakistanis' strong sense of pride and family and to not necessarily believe what you see and hear, as generally it is not what you get.

Just a few weeks ago, on January 18, 2011, the President and Prime Minister launched a new Polio Eradication Emergency Plan, developed in collaboration with the international polio eradication community. The PM set up a special monitoring cell to ensure its success. So far, the governors in two of the four provinces, those controlled by the national party now in power, have boldly proclaimed that 2011 will be the year of polio eradication. The religious leaders, known as Ulema, have issued an important fatwa arguing that polio drops are legal and in accordance with Islam, and many local imams are supporting that message in the Friday prayers. That is huge.

The boo-birds, however, are hard at it: the Plan is completely unrealistic and like similar plans in the past is doomed to failure. (They are not completely off base: government officials tend to behave as if the problem is solved once the Plan has been approved.) In an interesting twist, the Pakistan Medical Association is threatening to challenge the Plan in a court of law. They say the Plan is "yet another gimmick engineered by health officials to buy more time and exploit the opportunity to garner additional funding from donor-fatigued international agencies that have been supporting the country's Polio Eradication Initiative since 1994." Finally, there is a report that the vaccination workers in the biggest city, Karachi, are not receiving the pay that has been sent to the City administration for them.

What may happen? First, a little context. Pakistan is ruled by a collection of traditional agriculture-based feudal fiefdoms, but now including the industrial oligarchs. The only well-organized national institution is the Army. The political and legal systems are flawed and weak despite the trappings of democracy and British law. The press is now relatively free and exhibits a national characteristic that if you ask ten people one question you will get ten radically different answers. The country depends on international assistance and has a very successful record of obtaining the funds and then doing whatever it wants. Fundamental Islam is a growing movement, and not as unpopular as the foreign press would have us believe. Americans are now very unpopular throughout the country, partly as a result of our own flawed diplomacy for the past 30 years. Finally, the Pakistan record for successful social/health programs is spotty at best.

The launching of the new Polio Eradication Plan and the negative views and news are *deja-vu* to me. I went through several of these events. However, I also learned that things can get done if the power structure genuinely wants to do it and can do it in their own way. Meeting the 2011 goal might be tricky, but Pakistanis have a great deal of pride and if they become the only remaining endemic country I am certain that they will dig deep and finish the job.

What is Polio?

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. It invades the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis in a matter of hours.



Who is at risk?

Polio can strike at any age, but it mainly affects children under five years old.

Transmission

Polio is spread through person-to-person contact. When a child is infected with wild poliovirus, the virus enters the body through the mouth and multiplies in the intestine. It is then shed into the environment through the feces where it can spread rapidly, especially in situations of poor hygiene and sanitation. If a sufficient number of children are fully immunized, the virus is unable to find susceptible children to infect, and dies out.

Young children who are not yet toilet-trained are a ready source of transmission, regardless of their environment. Polio can be spread when food or drink is contaminated by feces. There is also evidence that flies can passively transfer poliovirus from feces to food.

END POLIO NOW



How
Close
are
We?

Rotary International has pledged that Rotarians worldwide will raise \$200 million to meet the \$355 million Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Challenge.

Since the Challenge began in early 2007, Rotarians globally have raised \$162 million. Of that, the District has raised \$41,967. We have lots of room to go to reach our goal!

You can help! The goal is reachable if we all pitch in. Plan a fundraiser or awareness raiser in your community. Join the Polio Plus Society and commit to give \$100 per annum until polio is eradicated from the worldwide. Find out more on the District website.

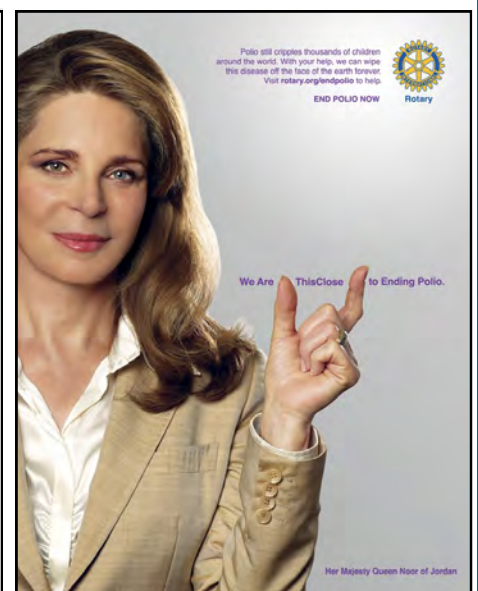
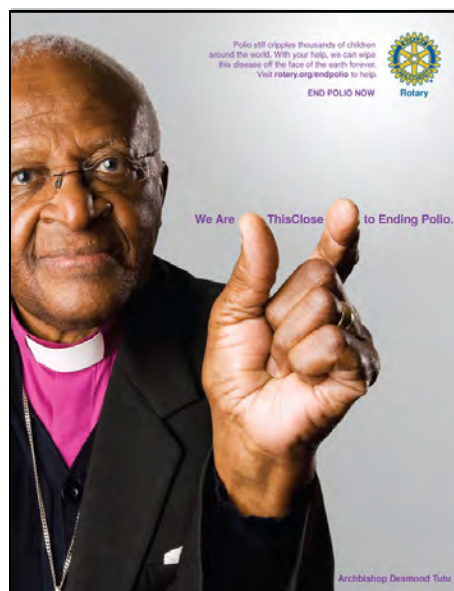
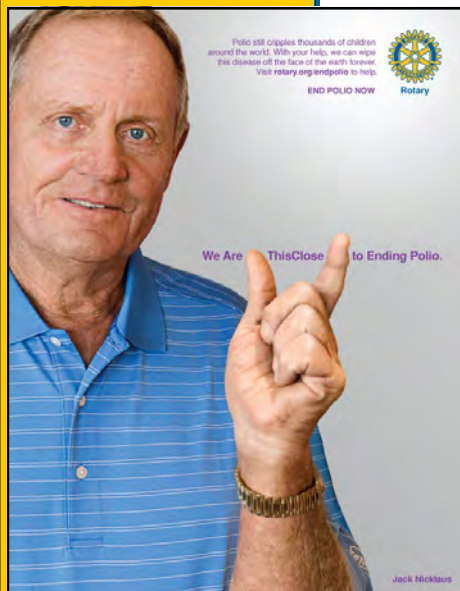
We Are This Close!

What do Bethel Rotaractor Erin Murphy and Rotarian Michele Parejda have in common with Jack Nicklaus, Desmond Tutu and Queen Noor? All have been featured in Rotary's "We're this close" ad series designed to raise awareness about polio eradication!

The world leaders have posed for The Rotary Foundation, and their images are available as Public Service Announcements to promote polio eradication. You can check out these PSAs and more — just go to www.rotary.org, click on "media and news", then "multimedia" and then "PSAs" to download graphics for all visual media.

Or create polio eradication posters of your own! Michele and Erin represented the Bethel Club on the recent District NID to Nigeria, and they each later posed for the ads as part of the follow-up awareness and fundraising that the club is doing for Polio Plus. Check out the posters on the Bethel Club's Facebook page, and if you would like to highlight local polio eradication celebrities in your area — either survivors or Rotarians — get help from a local photographer and create your own posters!

Michele Parejda (top right) and Erin Murphy (right) join golf legend Jack Nicklaus, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Queen Noor of Jordan (left to right in posters below) in the fight to raise awareness and end polio.



District 7780 PR Campaign To “End Polio Now” Unveiled

Our District won a Rotary International grant specifically to promote “End Polio Now” during World Peace and Understanding Week, February 20 through 26. The campaign will include print advertising, TV and radio coverage, bus signage, and we will even light the Portland Museum of Art with the “End Polio Now” logo, just as Rotary has previously lit the Rome Coliseum; British Parliament building in London, and Sydney Opera House! Then there’s the Red Claws basketball game on Sunday, February 27, a fun-raiser and fundraiser for Polio Plus. In addition, Governor Ann Lee and President Ray Klingensmith, who will be visiting the District during that week to keynote our World Peace and Understanding Dinner on Tuesday, February 22, will take part in a media interview blitz!

Clubs are urged to take advantage of this publicity with their own, more local coverage. This is the week to let our communities know of the work Rotary is doing in polio eradication, community service, and so much more!

Plans are still under development, but at this point, we know that the following will be part of the special campaign:

Ads (based on the Rotary International ad shown here) will run in Maine-biz. Dates of the ad placement: February 7, February 21, and March 21 (a Business Leaders of the Year special issue, always a popular issue!)

Governor Ann Lee will be interviewed by the following media outlets:

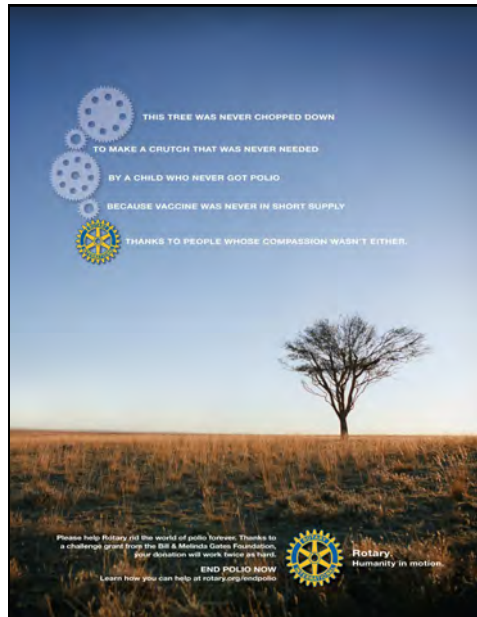
Citadel Broadcasting NH;
Citadel NH Stations: WOKQ /
WPKQ 97.5;
Citadel Broadcasting ME;
Citadel ME Stations: WCYY 94.3;
WHOM 94.9; WJBQ 97.9; WBLM 102.9

“End Polio Now” signs will run on buses in our two biggest cities during the month of February

Portland Area – 7 signs
Portsmouth Area – 7 signs

Newspaper Inserts will promote the work of Rotary and Polio Plus throughout our District:

Portland Press Herald and Seacoast Media



Get
the
Word
Out!



February is a great month to capitalize on all the publicity led by the District!

Your club can:

1. Send press releases to local newspapers
2. Promote campaign and related activities on their websites and Facebook fan pages
3. Purchase advertising if your budget allows
4. Participate in newspapers inserts
5. Attend World Peace & Understanding Dinner

Resources for Clubs

RI Website: <http://www.rotary.org/en/EndPolio/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

End Polio Now Fact Sheet: <http://www.rotary.org/en/EndPolio/Pages/learn.aspx>

Polio Factsheet: http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/pr_polio_factsheet_en.pdf

Humanity in Motion Campaign: <http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/RunningAClub/InformingTheCommunity/Pages/HumanityinMotion.aspx>



*Come to the
District Conference!*

Rotarians in our District are changing lives in Haiti, Nigeria, Uganda, Guatemala, and countless other communities including right here at home!

And our keynote speakers this year are humanitarians who have changed and saved lives around the world. Both Professor Roger Cram and Dr. Khassan Baiev have truly made the world a better place through their integrity and personal efforts.

They will be joined at the podium by Jim Moulson, the President



of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, and President Ray Klingensmith's rep at the conference.

So save the date! The District Conference will be held at the Portland Marriot Sable Oaks in Portland, Maine, May 13-14. Come to celebrate our successes, and to learn how much more we can do.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



The Sun Never Sets on Rotary

District 7780 – May 13-14, 2011

Humanitarians Join Roster At District Conference

Roger F. Cram and Khassan Baiev will be keynote speakers at our upcoming District Conference.

Dr. Khassan Baiev (top right) is a Chechen-born trauma surgeon who treated thousands of civilians and combatants on both sides of the First and Second Chechen Wars, including Russian soldiers and Chechen fighters.

At one point during the conflict he performed 67 amputations and eight brain operations in a 48-hour period. Both sides saw Baiev's action of treating the other side as treason and multiple death threats were made against him. The human rights organization Physicians for Human Rights sponsored Baiev for political asylum in the United States during the Second Chechen War.

Baiev and his family now live in Needham, MA. He has been honored by Human Rights Watch, Physicians for Human Rights, and Amnesty International for his work. He has authored two memoirs, *The Oath: A Surgeon Under Fire* and *Grief of My Heart: Memoirs of a Chechen Surgeon*.

Professor Roger Cram (below right), a faculty member of Hiram College in Ohio, has spent his life researching the problem-solving abilities of peacemakers the world over. His research has taken him into the townships of South Africa and the rural villages of Nicaragua researching grass-roots heroes and their peaceful crisis-management skills.

Roger Cram has been profiled in "People" magazine, and he has appeared on major media outlets. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Aurora, Ohio, and serves at the District level as both D-6630's Rotaract and Foundation chairs.

On New Year's Day, 2011, Roger married his wife Mel, who will accompany him on their belated "honeymoon" to Portland to participate in our District Conference. The newlyweds plan to dedicate the rest of the lives to fighting human trafficking.



District Rotaplast Mission Scheduled to Go to Vietnam

Our next District-wide Rotaplast mission, to repair cleft lip/cleft palates will be to DaNang, Vietnam. The trip will take place from October 30 to November 12, 2011!

District clubs have supported Rotaplast for many years, and many volunteers from our District have gone on these medical missions, both as medical staff and non-medical volunteers. **“It’s the most immediately rewarding trip of all,”** says **George Crockett of the Portland club**, **“because in just a few days you see the results of the surgeries and realize the good that has already come from your work.”**

This year, our District plans to sponsor one-half the cost of a Rotaplast mission, during which a team of Rotary medical and non-medical volunteers will repair cleft palate/cleft lip anomalies in children who live in the DaNang area.

This is a big undertaking — we will have to raise \$20,000 between now and November to pay for the mission. However, the District Rotaplast committee firmly believes that the opportunity to give back in Vietnam is too good to be missed.

Here’s how you and your club can help:

1. Donate money to help support the trip.
2. Purchase raffle tickets for the Wrap-a-Smile charity raffle that is helping to raise money for the trip. (See flyer, page 14.)
3. Invite a Rotaplast speaker at your club to help raise awareness.
4. Come to DaNang as a non-medical volunteer.

To learn more about each of these opportunities, contact Bill Dunn, Yarmouth Rotarian and Rotaplast medical volunteer, at wdunn@sunset-point.biz.



A Super Bowl of Quilts

Wells Rotarian Terry Hodskin is determined that Rotaplast’s smallest patients will go home from their surgeries wrapped in something warm, beautiful, and clean.

In the past decade quilters from across North America and beyond have shared Terry’s passion; they have sewn and donated almost 16,000 beautiful Wrap-a-Smile quilts to Rotaplast and other Rotary medical missions.

How many quilts? From goalpost to goalpost, a football field encompasses 57,600 sq. feet. The average Wrap-a-Smile quilt measures 40 by 48 inches. **The 15,898 quilts sewn by Wrap-a-Smile quilters, laid side by side, would cover 3.67 football fields.**

Now that’s Super!

To share your quilting skills, contact Terry at vaga-bond04@adelphia.net.



District-wide Commitment Aids Haitian Migrants in Dominican Republic

La Romana is the Dominican Republic's third largest city, and is well-known for its pristine beaches and tourist attractions. But behind the high-end gloss survives a poor local population, mostly Haitian migrants, who came to work the sugar cane fields but lack proper identification papers. This prevents them from attending school, owning property or working outside the fields. Fortunately, at least three Rotary Foundation Matching Grants led by clubs in District 7780 are **currently underway to support La Romana's** Good Samaritan Hospital and the quarter-million migrant workers of La Romana.



Portland Rotary member and audiologist Roger Fagan has donated time and expertise and just returned from his 13th trip to La Romana. Through a series of Rotary Foundation grants, he and his wife, honorary Rotarian Liz Fagan (shown above) have tested and installed solar-rechargeable hearing aids in children in the community.

In 2009, Ogunquit, joined by Topsham, Wells and Dover, initiated a grant to bring sanitation and clean water to neighborhoods in La Romana that lack sanitation. Club members have travelled to the Dominican Republic and supplied "hands on" help to install and maintain water filtering equipment so that thousands of local people may drink clean, safe water.

And most recently, Freeport, Portland and South Berwick-Eliot are partnering on a grant to **provide family planning education through La Romana's Good Samaritan Hospital.**

Multi-Club Rotary Grant Brings Clean Water to Haitian Hospital

Back in 2007, Portsmouth — joined by 14 other District clubs — worked with Portland-based charity Konbit Sante and initiated a Rotary Foundation grant to bring sanitation and clean water to the Justinian Hospital in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Because Cap Haitien is in the northern section of the country, the hospital was the only major hospital in all of Haiti to escape destruction when the earthquake hit one year ago. The sanitation project is not yet completed, but much has been accomplished, and District 7780 Rotarians can be proud that their dollars and hard work helped save lives after the earthquake, and continue to bring health to the thousands of people in the community that the hospital serves. Here (above right), Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotarian John Atwood and local Rotarians from Haiti admire the pump house, purchased through the grant. At right, the women's clinic at the hospital is shown.



Water for Life

When the District team traveled to Nigeria last November, one of the places it immunized was in a small village outside Kaduna.

The villagers of this village work in the fields, and traditionally they have been migrants, following agricultural work. Now they have settled down in one area, but the government has yet to provide basic services.

A school has been built for the community only recently, and only through the hard work of Nigerian Rotarians and Governor Ann Lee. "My people were in darkness and they have now been brought to light through knowledge," the local chief said of the new school.



But the village still has no source of clean water, and no sanitation facilities. As a result, disease continues to haunt the village. Gov. Ann Lee is leading the way with a Matching Grant to provide wells and latrines for the village.

You can get involved! If your club would like to assist with this project, please get in touch with Ann Lee.

2011-12 Theme: Reach Within to Embrace Humanity



Rotary International President-elect Kalyan Banerjee will ask Rotarians to *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity* during the 2011-12 Rotary year.

Each year, Rotary International presidents unveiled an annual theme during the opening plenary session of the International Assembly, a training event for incoming district governors. *Reach Within ...* follows *Building Communities, Bridging Continents*, this year's theme. Each annual theme is essentially a way to work toward *Service Above Self*, Rotary's overarching theme.

Banerjee urged participants to harness their inner resolve and strength to achieve success in Rotary. "In order to achieve anything in this world, a person has to use all the resources he can draw on. And the only place to start is with ourselves and within ourselves," Banerjee said.

Once Rotarians find their inner strength, he continued, they can accomplish great things in their communities and around the world. "Discover yourself, develop the strengths within you, and then unhesitatingly, unflinchingly, go forth and encircle the world, to embrace humanity," he said.



Rotary International President elect Kalyan Banerjee announces the 2011-12 theme as his wife Binota looks on.

Banerjee emphasized the family as a starting point in serving others. "The communities we live in are not built of individual people but of families — families living in homes together, sharing their lives and their resources and their common destinies. Good families lead to good neighborhoods, and good neighborhoods build good communities."

Rotarians can focus on projects that support families, such as those that provide safe housing or improve maternal and child health, he said.

Continuity in Rotary's work, including polio eradication, is also important, Banerjee said. "There are so many things we are indeed good at: working for clean, safe water; spreading literacy; working in so many ways with the New Generations, our youth, in our newest Avenue of Service and assisting them to become the leaders of tomorrow."

Citing Mahatma Gandhi's call to "be the change you wish to see in the world,"

Banerjee said Rotarians should also focus on change. "If we wish for peace, we start by living in peace ourselves, in our homes and in our communities," he explained. "If we wish environmental degradation to stop, if we wish to reduce child mortality or to prevent hunger, we must be the instrument of that change — and recognize that it must start *within* us, with each of us."



New Members

Congratulations to the following Rotarians, who have joined 7780 clubs in the past several months:

Bethel: Ian Blair; Paige Crockett

Bridgton-Lake Region: Rosalie Weiser

Brunswick: Michelle Passmore

Casco Bay-Sunrise: Dianne Procida

Damariscotta-Newcastle: Edwin Gosnell

Dover: Cate Rafferty; Scott Smith

Exeter: Shaun McEachern; Ann Schieber

Hampton: Mary Ellen Dunham

Kennebunk: Richard Evans; Hillary Massey; Kim Vieira

Kittery: Allyn Hutton

Ogunquit: Karen Arel; Thomas Fortier; Ray Hamlin; Anthony Maurno

Oxford Hills: Ronald Morse; Joel Speakman

Portsmouth: Stephen Kniaz; Priscilla MacLnnis; Waheed Mansur; Nancy Philbrick; David Splaine; Magdalena Soutcheva

Rochester: Brian Bundza; Donna DeCiccio; Gary James; Kim Letendre; John Waitner

Saco Bay: Timothy Grant; Eileen McNally; Donald Raymond; Brad Watts

Seacoast Portsmouth: Erin Proulx

South Portland-Cape Elizabeth: Nancy Irving; Meghan O'Brian; William Phillips

York: Heather Brontas; Brad Countryman; Laurie Ottley; Dena White; Tina Wilson



Rotary Friendship Exchange

Rotary Team to Visit From India

Think of it as Group Study Exchange — for Rotarians!

While Group Study Exchange is designed to give young professionals an in-depth exchange opportunity, Rotary Friendship Exchange offers Rotarians themselves the chance to travel to another corner of the world on a cultural exchange and enjoy Rotarian home-stays and hospitality.



A Friendship Exchange team of six Rotary couples will arrive from Rotary District 3060 in Gujarat, north of Mumbai in northwestern India, and the home district of Rotary International President-elect Kalyan Banerjee. Rotary hosts in our District will provide meals and lodging and arrange sightseeing. The visit is designed to be more casual and less intense than is a Group Study Exchange.

If you would like to be a host for our Indian Rotarian guests, please contact Peggy Belanger, inbound Friendship Exchange Chair, at ms3.mb@smmc.org or 207-423-6762.

PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE

GSE Teams Prepare for Professional Exchange One-Half a World Away

Our Group Study Exchange (GSE) team of young medical professionals has been meeting since their selection in October to prepare for their trip to Hong Kong, Macao and Mongolia. The trip commences on February 25.

In exchange, a team from District 3450 in Hong Kong has been selected and is preparing for their trip here. They will be in our District beginning April 18.

This will be the first time that District 7780 has been involved in a single-profession Group Study Exchange. The outbound team is led by Burt Dibble, Exeter Rotarian and retired family practice practitioner, and the team includes two RNs, a physical therapist, a social worker and a physician.

The inbound team includes an ophthalmologist, a surgeon, RN, health services administrator and a registered Chinese medical practitioner.

Both teams will take part in all the cultural exchanges of a typical, multi-professional team. But because they are all in healthcare professions, their vocational visits will be much more focused.

This is also the first year that our outbound GSE team has taken part in Northeast LINK, a day of training open to all Rotary exchange scholars and GSEers from throughout New England. The training took place in Massachusetts in late January.



All dressed up and someplace to go: While the 7780 Outbound GSE team for their professional exchange to Hong Kong, Macao and Mongolia, their counterparts from the Hong Kong district (center photo) are equally excited about visiting us. Our team (top photo) back row, from left: Karen Abendroth, Tracey Merrill, Erin Regan. Front row, from left, Darren Guy, Maria D'Andea and team leader Burt Dibble. Below, members of the outbound team participate in North East LINK training.





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The Sun Never Sets on Rotary

District 7780 – May 13-14, 2011





ROTAPLAST QUILT RAFFLE

Take home this Quilt
 created and donated by 16 Wrap-a-Smile quilters.
 Quilt is 70 by 96 inches — perfect for a Queen or Full-Sized Bed

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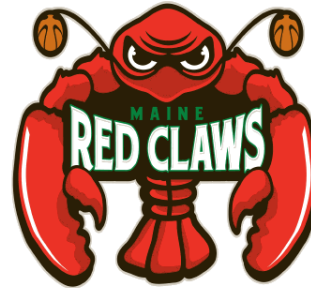
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 Send order and check payment to District 7780 to:
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An Evening With Friends

FIVE-COURSE DINNER WITH PAIRED WINES

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

6:00 - 9:00 PM

at Southern Maine Community College
 Culinary Arts Dining Room,
 2 Fort Road, South Portland

TICKET COST: \$100 PP



Menu prepared by
 Chef William Benner
 Chef Will Beniau, CEC, CCE, AAC,
 National Chef Educator of the Year
 and SMCC Culinary Students

Wines selected by
 Sommelier Jennifer Flock, CS



Proceeds benefit SMCC scholarships
 and other Rotary Club charities

Sponsored by the Rotary Club
 of Breakwater Daybreak,
 South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

For more information or to purchase tickets
 visit www.breakwater-rotary.org

or contact Alison Schneller at 207-767-6404, alison.schneller@peoples.com

