

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor December 22, 2013

The Remarkable Family of Rotary

*The more we work together, together, together,
The more we work together, the happier we are.
When your friend is my friend
And my friend is your friend
The more we work together the happier we are.*

After announcing two donations to bring Kajjansi Rotarians to their goal to build classrooms on a school, they all burst into song — and that song keeps playing in my head. In December we celebrate the Family of Rotary, acknowledging the circle of friends made through Rotary and the people whose lives have changed because of Rotary.



Earlier this month, Barbara Sutcliffe and I traveled to Uganda to plan for the District's cultural exchange taking place later this spring. It was my first time in Africa, an amazing experience. We learned so much from our hosts and came away with a greater appreciation and respect for the difference Rotary can make. It struck me that Rotarians in Uganda attend their weekly *fellowship*, not meeting, but fellowship. The format was very similar to most meetings each of us attends each week, but think of the difference in expectations when attending, or asking a friend to join you at a fellowship. Perhaps we would all benefit from more *fellowships* and fewer *meetings*.

We visited a Rotary Community Corp, an organization, this one rural, working on specific projects with a parent Rotary club. Several of this RCC's projects were co-sponsored by **Brunswick Coastal** — coffee farming, a piggery, and water catchments. Though the projects have made a significant impact on this community, the thing that impressed me the most was the pride the RCC members take in working together to help themselves. The RCC is large, with 50+ members. They hold meetings, fellowships, do their planning, and follow an organizational process. But somewhere along the way, they have learned that they make the difference. "We look after each other now," they told me. "Not just the members of the RCC, but as a group we look after our neighbors better now. We check in on the old people in the town and we help our neighbors." Because this is Rotary.

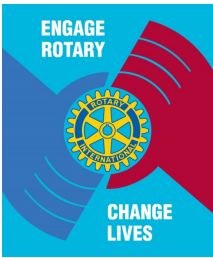
—District Governor Carolyn Johnson

District Clubs Remember Elders This Christmas

Are you ready for Christmas? Twenty-five elders in Windham have received bags stuffed with hand cream, treats, little gifts, all courtesy of **Sebago Lake**. The club brought the bags to the food pantry, which will see that they are delivered to seniors who otherwise might have a very empty stocking. **Yarmouth** has wrapped gifts and delivered them to homebound elders in the community. And **Boothbay Harbor** has remembered its own family by purchasing wreaths from **Bath Sunrise** and delivered them to the widows and widowers of former club members.

Mary Bastoni, a member of the **Fryeburg Area** Rotary, is putting her vocational skills to work for a good cause this holiday season. She has completed a Christmas CD, and all the proceeds will go to help a local Fryeburg man who has lost all mobility due to ALS. "I thought this would make the season a little brighter for his family," says Mary, who is a voice teacher at University of Southern Maine. She will be going on the District cultural exchange to Uganda in March.





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Has Your Club Donated to Philippines Relief?

A ShelterBox contains a tent, cook stove, kitchen gear, water purifier — everything a family needs to survive after their home has been destroyed. Each ShelterBox costs \$1000, and ShelterBox USA is committed to ensure that as many Boxes are in Tacloban as are needed after the typhoon. Has your club purchased one? If so, and it's not listed here, please let Gov. Carolyn know so that both your club and this District receive proper recognition for our generosity. Clubs that have donated include:

- ◆ Boothbay Harbor: \$6000
- ◆ Bridgton-Lake Region: \$1000
- ◆ Midcoast clubs (Bath, Brunswick, Brunswick Coastal, Topsham): \$1000
- ◆ Portland: \$2000
- ◆ Portsmouth: \$3000
- ◆ South Portland-Cape Elizabeth: \$1000
- ◆ Wells: \$2000
- ◆ Yarmouth: \$500
- ◆ York: \$3000



In a number of clubs, the giving really got going when a Rotarian stepped up to pledge \$500 to \$1000 and in some cases, challenge fellow club members to match the gift. Special recognition for their generosity goes to: Mike & Penny Pollard, Ann & Steve Demeranville, and PDG Bob Jacobson of **Boothbay Harbor**; Jan Chapman & Bruce Moore of **Portland**; Skip & Cathy Sullivan of **Bridgton-Lake Region**, and Gov. Carolyn & PDG Peter of **Yarmouth**. If you want to join in, make a check for any amount out to Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club Foundation and mail to Marty Helman, 88 Appalachee Road, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538.



Local Rotarian Delivers Crutches to Kenya

As a District, we've collected, filled and shipped three 40-ft containers to Africa, sending crutches, wheelchairs and walkers to people who desperately need them. Now, **Portland Sunrise** Rotarian Jim Schmidt and his wife Jan have just returned from 12 days in Kenya, where they assisted Crutches 4 Africa founder Dave Talbot in giving thousands of mobility devices into the hands of those that truly need them.

If you would like to hear an interesting story of how the Crutches 4 Africa distribution process works and how it has changed the life of thousands — including Jim — please ask him to speak to your club. FMI: Jim Schmidt, jim@alexanderschmidt.com [207-831-3345](tel:207-831-3345)

Remember the Rotary Foundation in Your End-of-Year Giving

'Tis the season to finalize charitable giving for the calendar year. To be sure that your gift to The Rotary Foundation counts in this tax year, be sure that the check is dated on or before Dec. 31, and that it is postmarked on or before Dec. 31 as well. Of course, it's faster to give online via Member Access — which also must be done on or before Dec. 31 to count in this tax year.

The Rotary Foundation is committed to using all our gifts wisely: 90 cents of every dollar goes directly to programming on the ground. Perhaps that is why Rotarians in the United States give so generously. Last year, U.S. Rotarians inked \$73.5 million or \$111 per capita in Foundation giving (not including the \$10-million gift from the Gates Foundation). Our District was right behind that number with donations of \$107 per capita. Have you pledged your fair share? For more, check out: <https://www.rotary.org/en/financials>

