

# Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

June 28, 2014

[www.rotary7780.org](http://www.rotary7780.org) ... or friend us on Facebook!

It was a great honor - and a huge surprise - to learn that clubs and individual Rotarians named me the sponsor of El Calvario School in Guatemala. Most of you know that since 2007 I've worked to develop and implement a program to bring books and basic school supplies to rural schools in Guatemala. Most importantly, this program provided training in the process of literacy instruction for elementary teachers. These children and their teachers are near and dear to my heart. Being the *patrocinadora* is a very special honor for which I am so appreciative.

Many of you have asked about the school. El Calvario is one of two public primary schools in the small town of Xenejoc. It is about 90 minutes from Guatemala City - an agricultural area with the most magnificent views of several volcanos. Most of the families grow corn and beans, their primary food and income source. It is a large school: 550 children (grades 1-6) and 16 teachers. Children start first grade, but many drop out each year because they have not been successful, their parents can't afford to send them to school, or just don't see the value. This is changing. When I started at the school there were about 90 children in grades 5 and 6. This year, there are 140 students in those grades!



I've worked at El Calvario for three years and it is definitely a success story. The principal is active, involved, and enthusiastically supports the program and his teachers. Though there is little in the classrooms except old desks and a chalkboard, they are clean and neat. They plant flowers all around the school grounds and keep them watered and weeded. After each of our seminars, the principal calls a meeting so the teachers can explain what they've learned to the others. They try everything we ask them to do - and the results show. The kids love to read and every time we arrive at the school, they run out and ask "did you bring more books?"

Not all our schools (currently 46) have been this successful, but each are making gains: kids are learning to read and they want to read. And if they learn to read, they have access to all kinds of information so they can make their own, informed decisions. Long term, children will grow up to be able to make a living and care for their family.

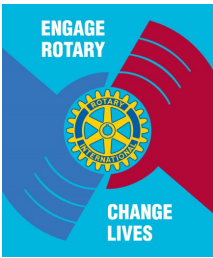
I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this honor - and for what your support will mean for these children, their education, and their future. Rotarians do change lives - through your generosity you will change the lives of these teachers, children and their community. And for that, I am grateful.

— Carolyn Johnson

## Two Days Left to Make Your Donation to The Rotary Foundation!



This year, 13 clubs from our District used Rotary Foundation grants to support projects important to their local communities or an international community where they have a special interest. Six Rotarians traveled to Uganda on a cultural exchange — all supported by our previous support of the Foundation. Every Global Grant includes a bit of our individual contributions — dams to provide clean water in India, hearing aids and prosthetic hands in the Dominican, books and teacher training in Guatemala, medical equipment in Mongolia -- and so much more. It is important that we each support our Foundation on a continuing basis because it is our contributions today that determine the resources available for the projects *we choose to support* in the future. So go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and contribute today! While you are there, check to make sure that your club secretary has properly reported any membership changes to Rotary International so that your club receives the recognition it deserves.



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## RYLA Provides Leadership Training to Teens



A record 132 high school youth learned leadership skills and teamwork at the District’s RYLA program this week at Boy Scout Camp Hynes. Congratulations to RYLA executive director Jared Avery (**Scarborough**) and his team of facilitators, who are all young RYLA graduates themselves. One key to RYLA’s ongoing success is that it is a rare opportunity for youth to be mentored by youth with just a few more years experience. The week started off with a barbecue for all the facilitators, hosted by the **Saco Bay** club. Then the campers arrived! RYLA staff was augmented by Dru Laduke (**Saco Bay**) who led a session on public speaking, and by Governor-nominee Sheila Rollins (**Bridgton-Lake Region**) and PDG Marty Helman (**Boothbay Harbor**) who wrote and presented a session on bullying and its effects. At camp’s end, the **Scarborough Club** and Governor Carolyn presented Jared with a well-deserved Paul Harris Fellow for all he has done over the past few years to help mold these young lives.

## Durham-Great Bay Loses Long-time Rotarian

Rotarian John Wheeler was a member of the **Durham-Great Bay** club for many years. He and his wife retired to Florida but returned each summer to New Hampshire. John loved Rotary and would often visit other clubs in our District just for the camaraderie. He claimed an attendance record “of about 175%.” John unexpectedly died this week; his obituary can be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fosters/obituary.aspx?n=john-r->

## Saco Bay Fishing Derby

Come on out and participate in the fishing derby to remember Rotarian Alec Cyr to be held the weekend of July 12-13. All proceeds will support the **Saco Bay** club’s backpack program and other local charities. Check out all the details —and the prizes — at [www.sacobayfishing.org](http://www.sacobayfishing.org).

## 2014-15 Presidents Inducted

Rotary International Director-elect Julia Phelps was on hand to induct the 2014-15 club presidents during a beautiful Changeover event last week. Earlier that evening, Rotarians gathered at the Portland Ferry Terminal for the boat ride to Peaks Island, where we indulged in delicious appetizers and fine fellowship. Soon it was time for Governor Carolyn to present Membership awards to well-deserving clubs, and to speak a few final words. Governor Lawrence was roasted and toasted by PDG Elias Thomas, also of the **Sanford-Springvale** club; the 2013-14 presidents took one final class photo, and then it was time to return to the mainland and to **Light Up Rotary!**

