

# Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

October 29, 2013

## Lac Megantic Calendar

- Nov 1: Pledge Commitment due
- Nov. 11: Receive wish lists
- Nov. 25: Bring gifts to distribution center
- Dec 13: Road trip to Lac Megantic

## Helping our Neighbors in Lac Megantic

This District’s response to provide assistance to our neighbors in Lac Megantic is nothing short of amazing! Clubs and individuals readily stepped forward to get involved. It certainly looks like we will make a significant difference in making sure food pantry shelves are filled and people will know that they are remembered.

**Anyone intending to sponsor a child for Christmas gifts must respond by this Friday, November 1.** A sponsorship is a commitment to purchase basic clothing items and toys for a child (\$100). Once the number of sponsored children is known, the community and parish officials in Lac Megantic will distribute Wish Lists to the parents to complete. The Wish Lists will be returned to clubs/individuals so the gifts can be purchased locally. It’s a quick turnaround -- made a bit more complicated as everything must be translated from English to French and back to English!



In addition to sponsoring a child, there are opportunities to contribute to the food pantry or to helping provide a teddy bear for the children in the elementary school. Any contribution is welcome and appreciated. For more information, check the district website or contact Paul Deschambault, project coordinator [PHD@maine.rr.com](mailto:PHD@maine.rr.com)

Engaged Rotarians - you bet! Changed Lives - we can never know exactly how our actions will make a difference for a child or a family or a community.

*--Carolyn Johnson*

## Portsmouth Delivers in Polio Effort

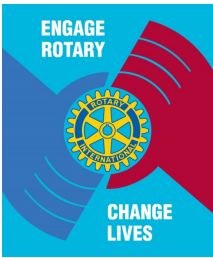


What a way to celebrate Polio Day! Ellen Labrie of the Portsmouth club delivers a check for \$10,000 to PDG Ann Lee Hussey to help in the eradication of polio!

## Municipal Award is all in Bath’s Rotary Family

Will Neilson, current president of Bath Rotary Club, has won the City of Bath Al Smith Community Spirit Award for his remarkable community outreach. Neilson was lauded for his devotion to Bath and his committed involvement with Bath Rotary, the Main Street Bath Economic Restructuring Committee, the Bath Freight Shed and his service as chairman of the Greater Bath Elder Outreach. Bernie Wyman, chair of the city council which selected the award, is also immediate past president of Bath, and the presentation was made by Erika Benson, current president of Bath Sunrise! Shown here, left to right: Bernie, Will and Erika.





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## District Cultural Exchange with Uganda — Apply Now!

District 7780 Rotarians are invited to apply to take part in the cultural exchange to Uganda. The team will travel to Uganda for two weeks during the spring of 2014 and will include six Rotarians with a music background or talent - singers, instrumentalists, and/or dancers. Spouses and friends of Rotarians may also apply. While in Uganda, the team will be immersed in the local culture and music. Of greatest importance is a willingness to learn - through first-hand and hands-on experiences - about the rich culture of Ugandan music, to play or sing Ugandan music, and return to District 7780 to share their experiences. They will be involved with local Rotarians to explore opportunities for future service projects and partnerships. The team will meet and work with the inbound team of youth musicians who will visit our district later in the spring to participate in a Friends Forever leadership program. It is expected that the outbound team will share their experiences and learnings after their return by participating in several programs for Rotarians and the public.

A \$1,500 travel allocation is provided for each participant to cover airfare and some costs while in Uganda (meals, accommodations). Team members will be expected to pay for incidentals, some accommodation expenses, and any immunizations required for travel. Funding for the exchange is provided by our Rotary Foundation District Grant. This exchange is an expanded version of Group Study Exchange, providing greater opportunity for Rotarian involvement. Our purpose is to promote understanding between cultures through the universal language of music.

Interested in more? Check out the video [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X20\\_WPob1M&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X20_WPob1M&feature=youtu.be) and the application on the District website. Completed [applications](#), signed by your club president, must be received by Nov. 15. Interviews will be scheduled later in November. Take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime Rotary opportunity to learn and share music, culture and life in Uganda., and send it to [barbarajsutcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajsutcliffe@gmail.com).

## Tools for Guatemala Students: A Small Project Means a Lot

Guatemala is spectacularly beautiful and the people are incredibly friendly, but it is also the second poorest country in Latin America. Last April, a group of District 7780 Rotarians visited several Rotary projects there helping the indigenous population. One was Amigos de Santa Cruz, founded and led by a remarkably dedicated woman named Pat Torpie. You may remember her as a featured speaker at PDG Brad Jett’s District Conference in 2009. Pat has started an elementary school and also a multi-faceted vocational training program which includes sewing, computers, culinary arts, and woodworking.

While touring the facility, we were shown the woodworking shop, which had excellent power tools and we saw examples of some fine looking furniture the students were making. As part of their learning, each student builds a tool box. When asked if they were given any tools for their boxes, Pat said no, she hadn’t thought of it and there was no money in the budget for such an expenditure. Our group decided that we could do better! We determined that if the 7780 Rotary Clubs represented on the trip each contributed \$330, we would have enough to purchase a startup set of woodworking tools for each of the graduates. The Rotary Clubs of Boothbay Harbor, Dover, Kittery, Sanford-Springvale, South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Wells, and York all came through, and we have sent a check for \$2,310 to Amigos so that the 17 students graduating from the woodworking program this fall will all be proud owners of basic tools of their trade. While large Global Grants that involve lots of money are exciting, we should remember that little projects like this one are incredibly meaningful to the individuals they assist.

