



Rotary District 7780

January 13, 2014

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor, cfj2@mac.com

The Family of Rotary

Families take care of one another. As Rotarians, we support our extended family of Rotarians when someone needs help. Patty Biggs' husband was recently diagnosed with leukemia and will undergo a stem cell transplant in Boston at the end of this month. When asked how we could help, Patty, a **Brunswick** Rotarian, responded "Give blood -- it really does save lives." Would each of you make a point to donate blood in the next weeks -- and ask a friend to do the same? There are others within our Rotary family that are dealing with serious medical concerns at this time. Reach out to them, just remind them that we care about them. Give blood. How better to demonstrate what the "Family of Rotary" is all about?

And Rotary Awareness...

Saturday, February 22 will be our 2nd Annual District Stuff the Bus. Each club is encouraged to get involved by contacting your local supermarket to get their support and your local food pantry to let them know Rotarians are involved. Last year we collected a tremendous amount of food and cash to help our local communities -- and had a lot of fun doing it! With the extremely cold weather of the last weeks, our food pantry shelves will be needing an extra bit of help. Raise the awareness in your own community of how Rotarians are engaged - and that through our engagement we do change lives!

And at the end of the day, plan to join us at our Frugal Feast.

The feast, again catered by our Governor-nominee Sheila Rollins, will be held at the Woodfords Church, Portland (5:00 social time, 5:30 dinner and program). Cost: \$25 which will include a donation to The Rotary Foundation. (Registration is on the district website) Come for fellowship; come to celebrate the good Rotarians do in our local communities and internationally.

--Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

PLEASE



GIVE LIFE
DonateBloodNow.org



District Uganda Team Plans for Exchange

The District team that will be traveling in March to experience the musical culture of Uganda through music met last week at the home of DG-elect Lawrence Furbish and Barbara Sutcliffe, Cultural Exchange Coordinator, to begin planning. Left to right, the team comprises: Curt Combar (sponsored by **Freeport**); Marty Helman (**Boothbay Harbor**); Ken Brunswold (**Brunswick Coastal**); Mary Bastoni (**Fryeburg Area**); Jennifer Davis (**Kennebunk**); and John Dennen (**Brunswick Coastal**). In exchange, a group of Ugandan youth from different tribes will visit our District in May to participate in the peace-building Friends Forever program, and the youth will perform at the District Conference during their visit. The outgoing team is supported by our District Foundation grant and the youth will be traveling via a Rotary Foundation Global Grant.





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Singing Rotarians of District 7780

As a choral director for 40 years, I have found no more exciting experience than the joy and wonder of singing together. It is to make this experience happen that I propose we organize "the Singing Rotarians of D-7780."

My personal strength is drawing out great music from such a group. I have no doubt that, together, we could build a quality choral group made up of Rotarians, their family members, and friends of Rotary. Initially we would perform at Rotary functions, but I foresee other performance venues down the road.

Rehearsal time and venue is difficult with the busy lives we lead. I propose we organize as follows: First, singers should already be experienced, by which I mean: they should have sung in a group at some time in their life, and they should be willing and capable of learning musical part on their own. If you wish to join and meet these criteria, you're in! NO auditions!

Second, you would have to be ready to trust and take directions, laugh as we rehearse, and be an attentive singer. Third, you would receive your music in advance and would be expected to take the necessary time and effort to learn your part on your own. For some, this would be only a little time, while others might need to find someone to help them learn their part.

Please email me at singingrotarians@hotmail.com. Tell me your voice part and about your experience. If you MIGHT be willing to assist with organization – or be an accompanist -- we will need that as well. You might know a place that could serve as rehearsal space. I welcome any suggestions, as I definitely see this as a group effort.

--Dan Allen, Rotary Club of Oxford Hills



Delivering Crutches in Kenya

My wife and I recently returned from pending three weeks traveling in Kenya on a Crutches4Africa distribution trip. Dave Talbot, the organization's founder, is a polio survivor and tireless and committed advocate for providing mobility aids to disabled adults and children.

We distributed 2,300 pairs of crutches, walkers, wheelchairs and canes at over 25 locations, mostly in Kenya's remote southwest region. The trip required endless hours of travel on extremely rough, dusty dirt roads to reach the schools, churches, clinics, hospitals, and community centers where the distributions took place. We were rewarded by the life-changing improvements that happened when we provided disabled people with the gift of mobility. In some cases the disabled had to crawl or be carried to the distribution center. It was a joy to watch them walk or wheel themselves away after receiving their devices.

We met a beautiful 16-year-old girl who came to the distribution in a Nairobi shantytown to personally thank Dave for the walker she received on a previous trip. She is now able to attend school. Dave's consistent message that the disabled will not be forgotten is powerful and comforting to those who are usually shut away.

We attended a meeting of the brand-new Rotary Club of Suma Migori. Some of them joined us the following Saturday when we distributed at a health clinic.

If any Rotary club would like to learn more about how to help support Crutches4Africa or hear more about this distribution trip, please contact me:

james_schmidt@alexanderschmidt.com.

--Jim Schmidt, Portland Sunrise Rotary