



Rotary District 7780 October 14, 2013

Youth Exchange Offers International Experience for Teens



Close Encounters of a Maine Kind

Twenty Rotary Exchange Students - from our district, the greater Boston district, and northern Maine - were hosted by Saco Bay Rotarians last weekend for a lobster bake. Twenty teens - and a sudden realization that eating a lobster is not something they know how to do! All turned out well, and at the end, not so much as a lobster claw remained!

Introducing... Our District's Exchange Students

Axelle (Belgium) hosted by Yarmouth; Yuho (Japan) hosted by Portsmouth; Dru Laduke (Saco Bay and D7780 Youth Exchange Chair); Vallerie (Peru) hosted by York; and Tiago (Brazil) hosted by Freeport.

Each host club also sponsors a local student to live and study in another country, broadening their experiences by living immersed in a different culture. Outbound students include Max (Yarmouth) who is in Brazil, Sophie (Freeport) living in France, Joshua (Biddeford-Saco) spending the year in Taiwan, and Lily (Portsmouth) whose home this year is in Indonesia. Two "rebound" students are in our midst, students who returned from their year abroad and are home completing their senior year. Jake (Yarmouth) spent last year in Finland and Cordelia (Falmouth) spent last year in Brazil. Consider inviting any of these outstanding young people to your club so you can get to know them and they can share their experiences!



District Foundation Grants Awarded

The District Foundation Committee is pleased to announce the projects supported through District Foundation Funds. As a result of District 7780 Rotarians' past support of The Rotary Foundation, this year's District Grant totaled more than \$36,000. Recommendations of how to allocate these funds came from your input at our District Foundation Seminar in October, 2012. Nine Club Foundation Chairs met in June, and again in September, to review applications and recommend which projects to fund. Nearly \$52,000 was requested by 15 clubs (20 applications) for the available \$18,000 Community Grants. Congratulations to: Brunswick Coastal, Oxford Hills, Sanford Springvale, SouthBerwick Eliot, Rochester, Saco Bay, Kennebunk, and Bath. These grants will be used to begin new community projects.

Six clubs applied for the \$9000 available in Springboard Grants (total requests of more than \$18,000). Funding will support projects by Brunswick, Portland Sunrise, Saco Bay, and Sanford Springvale. These projects are opportunities to begin or explore an international project in anticipation of launching a much larger Global Grant in the future.

The remaining \$9000 in our District Grant will support our Cultural Exchange with Uganda. This team of six Rotarians, sharing musical talents, will travel to Uganda for two weeks in March to experience the culture and musical traditions. More information and an application for the exchange will be on the District website.

Thank you to John Atwood, District Grant Coordinator, for his leadership in promoting and coordinating the review of these grants. These funds are available only because of our support for the Rotary Foundation. The district grant process will open again in the spring, with applications due by June, 1, 2014. Information and applications are on our district website.



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Rotary in the News!

A story highlighting Rotary's work to end polio in Pakistan, as well as the challenges we continue to face in eradicating this disease, aired last week on PBS! The story includes the voices of health workers, religious leaders, and National PolioPlus Chair Aziz Memon. Many of the polio workers are shown wearing hats and carrying gear clearly bearing Rotary's End Polio Now logo. The story first aired on the network's Religion & Ethics Newsweekly and was rebroadcast on the PBS NewsHour. You can view the segment here: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2013/10/04/october-4-2013-pakistan-polio-campaign/20506/>



Crutches for Africa: 7780 Rotarians help Ghana polio survivors

Over 30 Rotarians gathered in Saco on Saturday, October 13, to fill a container with mobility devices collected by clubs all across the district. This is the third container our district has shipped to support Crutches 4 Africa, a project that provides mobility devices to people who need them, often polio survivors. This container was filled with 240 canes, 475 walkers, 1122 pairs of crutches, 122 wheelchairs, and 4 orthopedic boots and will go to help people in Ghana. Check out more photos at this link: <https://www.icloud.com/photostream/#A15n8hH41aTS4> If you would like to be involved in future Crutches4Africa projects, contact Dennis Robillard risc@maine.rr.com



Help Kids Hit the Reset Button Through Positive Community Service

Bob MacKenzie, Kennebunk Rotarian and Chief of Police, has an idea: involve Rotarians to help young people, who have had a scrape with the law, reset their life on a positive course. Bob is proposing a partnership with Rotarians, law enforcement, and the DA's office to provide positive alternatives for first-time, non-violent youth offenders by offering community service opportunities. This model would offer young people great role models while providing Rotarians extra hands for service projects *and* the opportunity to reach out to help at-risk youth. A model program is being developed with York County Rotary Clubs. If you would like to learn more, get involved, or organize a similar program in your area, contact Bob: rmackenzie@kennebunkmaine.us

Friends Forever

Students from Northern Ireland will be in our district next week. Friends Forever partners with Rotarians to create trust, empathy and friendship among youth from cultures in conflict. Take the opportunity to attend one of these clubs - and bring a friend! - to meet these amazing young people and learn more about this locally grown peace-building effort.

- Tuesday, Oct 22 Damariscotta-Newcastle (7:15 AM)
- Bath (12:00)
- Thursday, Oct 24 Boothbay Harbor (6:00 PM)
- Friday, Oct 25 Portland (12:00)
- Monday, Oct 28 Brunswick (12:00)

Like this new format?
It's designed to be easier to read, with shorter articles and no "jumps." Let Gov. Carolyn know what you think.

Send content for future newsletters to Marty Helman:
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