

District 7780



World Understanding & Peace Dinner

Friday, 23 February 2007

The Rotary Clubs in District 7780 over the years have been increasingly involved in International Service Projects. Rotary has been reluctant to toot its own horn about all the good they have doing around the world. This being Rotary International's 102nd anniversary and World Understanding Month, I felt that it was a good time to recognize all the efforts by the Rotarians and the Clubs in District 7780 – time to “toot our own horn”.

This District is working very hard to promote World Understanding and Peace around the world. As a result of the efforts of our Rotarians and Clubs, the recipients of these projects have had their quality of life improved beyond their wildest dreams. There are hundreds and more likely thousands of people that are alive today because of their efforts – clean water, health care, food, learning a trade to support their family, literacy and PolioPlus.

District 7780 should be proud of their efforts and all that they have done and continue to do. You should all be congratulated for your efforts.

The following pages list just one project from the forty-one clubs in our District with the country they are currently working with. It gives a very brief description of a project that they are pursuing, have in the works or have just completed this year. This is just a sampling of the many projects being done by the clubs. There are so many that it was not possible to list them all. As you will read, many clubs are working in conjunction with other Clubs and organizations around the world.

Don't be afraid to vocalize your idea, as you will see tonight, one person can and does make a difference.

Please congratulate yourselves and each other for the wonderful work you are doing as you are truly ***Leading the Way*** with your efforts in *Service Above Self*.

I am very proud to be your District Governor.

Marie A. Williams

Bath – Guatemala - Safe Passage

We donated towards the van purchased by the Boothbay Harbor Club to transport children to school.

Bath Sunrise – Zihuateneho, Mexico – Netzahualcoyotl Multilingual Primary School and Kokoyoizin Kindergarten for indigenous children

Largely through Rotary support, Netza serves 340 children from 3 to 12 years old, in permanent buildings, with 12 full-time and 3 part-time teachers. About 40% of the enrollment is still indigenous, drawn mostly from 4 tribes of Aztec descent in the region.

The other 60% of the students are from impoverished Spanish speaking families. The school is free, with equal access. The school offers a hot lunch program and even has a 40-bed dormitory for at-risk children. Several Club members and spouses worked on the physical structure last year and this year a Rotarian will be taking a supply of books in Spanish to begin their library.

Bethel - Vietnam - Library Project

Our club in cooperation with the Rotary Clubs of Boothbay Harbor, South Berwick, Casco Bay Sunrise and Falmouth, along with individuals from District 7780 worked with The "Library of Vietnam Project" to construct, furnish and outfit a library in Hai Lang District, Quang Tri Province of Vietnam. This project demonstrates the spirit of cooperation between countries, once bitter conflict rivals. Vietnam Veterans and Rotarians worked together to construct a much needed library in this rural community, which was dedicated on December 4, 2006.

Biddeford-Saco – Armenia – Hospital Equipment

Using our contacts from previous projects, our club is coordinating shipping a large quantity of nursing home beds and other furniture donated to our club by a local facility (the Administrator is a member of our club). Funding for the shipping is through the United Armenian Fund and the Portland Armenian Society.

Boothbay Harbor - Guatemala - Safe Passage

Our club joined by Biddeford-Saco and Bath successfully led a TRF grant that purchased a 15-passenger van for Safe Passage/Camino Seguro, the educational support program in Guatemala. We did this in conjunction with a consortium of 7780 clubs plus clubs from 7790, 7950 and 7870 who in the past two years have purchased two vans, two pickup trucks, and one year's worth of food bags, school uniforms and shoes, and school fees, textbooks and other supplies. Combined monetary value of these TRF grants surpasses \$145,000. District 7780 Rotarians and Interactors have also given countless Rotarian and Interact volunteer days at the site. Four Rotarians from our club just returned from volunteering at the site this month.

Breakwater Daybreak – Multi-National – Eye Glasses

We have collected and donated reading glasses to be used by the foreign students at the Portland Adult Education classes. Most of these students are recent immigrants and refugees to our community that are trying to learn English as a second language. Most of them do not have the resources to buy reading glasses. They have the use of the glasses during the class and return them when they leave.

Bridgton-Lake Region – Poland – Children's Hospice

We are working with our sister club in Lodz, Poland, The Rotary Club of Lodz to provide specialized portable medical equipment. It is used to support terminally ill children receiving palliative care in the transition between hospital and home. It also allows for many children to participate in school and educational programs. The goal is to provide assistance which will improve the end of life quality to terminally ill children from mostly poor neighborhoods. The portable equipment enables the children to spend their last days at home with family and friends and not at the hospice building.

Brunswick – Sri Lanka – Helping Tsunami Victims

We have been involved with the Rotary Club of Colombo Central since shortly after the tsunami hit that country in December 2004. The project began in November 2005 and will be completed in March 2007. With monetary contributions totaling \$46,000, from two non-profits, Emerging, Inc in this country and Ideas in Sri Lanka, both Rotary Clubs, plus a grant from TRF, 55 families in Duwe Modera in Sri Lanka have been helped. The monies raised have been spent on an ornamental fish-rearing project, wholesale and retail fish selling, a tourist restaurant, funding a community center pre-school and equipping a vocational center.

Brunswick Coastal - Uganda - Displaced People's Camp

We drilled two new wells and repaired three others in a Displaced People's Camp in North Uganda. The people in the camps had been there for up to 20 years, due to violence on the part of the Lord's Resistance Army. Jan Egeland, the former director of Humanitarian Affairs for the UN, had deemed this the 2nd worst unreported humanitarian crisis in the world. The wells were completed during this rotary year – prior to having the wells, death rate due to contaminated water was 20% for children under the age of five. The wells can supply water to a population of up to 50,000 people. We are currently working on a project to drill a well at the Mbabaali School for AIDS Orphans in Kampala, Uganda.

Casco Bay Sunrise - REVERSE GRANT with Poland – Literacy Project in Portland, ME

East End Community School replaces two elementary schools, Adams and Jack, on Munjoy Hill. In recent years, Munjoy Hill has become home to a large number of Immigrant and refugee families from Asia, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Somalia and Sudan. The goal of EECS is for all of the children to achieve high levels of literacy and to achieve that goal they need to read many, many books. This Rotary project can help EECS establish a book collection they need for teaching reading in the new school.

Damariscotta-Newcastle - Northern Ireland - Friends Forever

This diverse group of Irish teenagers ranging in age from 15 – 17 is part of a 20-year-old program. These teens are brought together from both sides of the sectarian divide in Northern Ireland to explore the cultures, emblems and symbols of the opposing religious Communities that have been in deadly conflict for so long. These teens travel together, study and bond while they explore how the melting pot culture of the United States manages to live and coexist without the tension that still present in their country.

Dover – Rotaplast

Our club is a strong supporter of Rotaplast. This year's GSE Team Leader to District 1980 in Switzerland is our own Kate Kokko who has also been on a Rotaplast trip.

Durham-Great Bay - Pacaembu - Hospital Equipment

About three years ago Julie Silva was a Youth Exchange student with us from a small town near Pacaembu in Brazil. Her doctor mother visited our club near the end of Julie's year with us and talked about her work at her hospital. Our club sent two members to Pacaembu to map out a project. We are partnering with the local Rotary club there and hopefully with PDG Bill Skinner's club in Florida. We hope to raise a total of \$31,000 to buy a new washing machine for the hospital, install a well and septic system for the hospital, and a water treatment system. We're also in discussions with our Interact and Rotaract clubs and hope to involve them as well. We are currently raising money and hope to submit grant requests this spring.

Exeter - Uganda – Pacemaker Project

We are working with the Kampala North Rotary Club in Uganda. We have a matching grant approved to fund a Three-year pacemaker project to the Heart Institute in Uganda. We are working jointly on this project with Kampala North Rotary Club, Exeter and Hampton Rotary Clubs.

Falmouth - Afghanistan – Establish & Support a Girls School

Three years ago, Anne Payson was an invited guest to our club having just returned from a visit to Afghanistan where her father was a teacher. She suggested to her host that it would be great if Rotary would be able to help build a school in the village that she had just left. Anne joined our club and has been leading this fundraising project, as TRF will not fund the building of buildings. We have raised over \$40,000 towards our goal of \$80,000 to establish and support a girl's school in the Qarabargh District of Afghanistan. This school will educate more than 250 girls currently unable to attend school in their villages, just 50 miles north of Kabal. Anne speaks to many area groups and is actively pursuing grants. Local students sell Afghan jewelry and clothing to help fundraise.

Freeport - Santa Barbara, Honduras - Water Project

We partnered with Pure Water for the World, plus with District 7780 Rotary Clubs of Portland, South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Rumford, Sanford-Springvale and Topsham Expresso along with 13 other clubs from other districts and matching funds from TRF for a total project of \$163,000. This will provide clean water to nearly 1900 families or 12,000 people! It consists of a simple \$75 household filter unit, made with local labor and materials, which provides a lifetime of pure water for an entire family with minimal maintenance. This two year project, led by Freeport and Portland, will provide the material and labor resources necessary to build and distribute 1875 household filters to as many families in the mountain villages surrounding the City of Santa Barbara. It is expected to start in March 2007 with many work trips there planned during the next two years.

Fryeburg Area - Malawi, Africa – Literacy Project

We assist our Interact Club that is involved in the Ryan Keller Malawi Project. This project supplies school needs for 8-10 year old girls in Malawi, Africa. Items include paper, art supplies, books, games, etc. These donations will be taken to Malawi by the family of Ryan Keller who died tragically at the age of 22. Ryan was a past member of Interact and had been active with his family in helping those in need in other countries. The project was renamed for him after his death.

to Charles Adams who can assist us in coordinating/facilitating such a project for the nearby villages.

Hampton - Poland - Disabled Children in Boarding School

We are working with District 3006 in Texas and District 2230 in Poland to purchase lifts and computers for mentally and physically disabled children in a boarding school in Lodz, Poland. We are working with the district in Texas on this project. The paper-work has been signed and submitted to RI for matching funds.

Kennebunk - Zihatanejo, Mexico – The Netza School Project

We are working in connection with our Interact Club on their one-week trip to Zihatanejo, Mexico this April with the intention of helping build the next phase of The Netza School Project. The group of Interactors that are going specifically want to engage with the students and really focus their efforts on activities that will make a difference.

Kennebunk Portside – Philippines – Shoes Project

When our member, Berri Kramer, was in the Philippines a few years ago on a Rotaplast Mission, she met Lucy Longden, a missionary from Australia, who runs the CEBU Missionary Foundation. Lucy introduced Berri to the children who live in the local dumps in Cebu City, under terrible conditions, scavenging whatever they can to eat, use, or sell from the dump. They lack shoes and proper clothing. Many parents do not want their children to go to school because they help "pick the dump". Lucy helps provide schooling, medical care, food and clothing, and even skills training for the children of the dump and many of the adults. The Foundation has constructed a school on the site, and coordinates the efforts of college-student volunteers from around the world and other humanitarian aid programs. Our cub has organized a drive to purchase shoes for the children, and has "adopted" several of the children to provide for their basic needs through Lucy and the CEBU Missionary Foundation.

Kittery – Honduras - A.M.I.G.O.S. Buckets

Every year, for the last several years our club has taken part in the AMIGOS Bucket project. We purchase a 5 gallon orange bucket with lid for \$5 and fill it with food items from a provided list. They are then taken to a meal coordinator who then ships them to Honduras where they are distributed through local churches. Each bucket is filled with non-perishable food items and provides one child with a nutritious lunch for 60 days. This project encourages the children to come to school, as they know they will get lunch at the local church afterwards. The buckets of food assigned to a specific child are kept at the church to ensure the child will come back to school the next day.

Newburyport – Uganda – Pacemaker Project

We are working with the Kampala North Rotary Club in Uganda. We have a matching grant approved to fund a Three-year pacemaker project to the Heart Institute in Uganda. We are working jointly on this project with Kampala North Rotary Club, Exeter and Hampton Rotary Clubs.

Ogunquit - La Romana, Dominican Republic - Water Project

The Rotary Clubs of South Berwick, Calais, ME and Grand Falls, New Brunswick joined us in this effort. Our grant request is pending approval by TRF. This project will enable us to educate the local people about safe water and help build bio-sand filters to provide safe water to individual families in La Romana.

Oxford Hills - Kenya - AIDS Orphanage Well Project

In October, our speaker Dolphine Gumba Dawa Oliech, the founder of Korando Faith Widows and Orphans Group in rural Kenya, moved our hearts. She and her husband provide a home for 25 AIDS orphans. The closest Rotary Club to the orphanage is in Kisumu. Mama Dolphine also conducts multiple income generating projects that provide training, work and income for AIDS widows and orphans (when not in school). The compound currently has only a shallow dug well that often is drained dry. We are presently collaborating with Grace K Von Tobel, currently on staff at Colby College, who has been sharing and working with Rotarians throughout New England with hopes of providing a deep well and other necessities for the compound.

Portland - Dominican Republic - Listen Up

Roger Fagan, Portland audiologist and wife, Liz, both Rotarians, started the Listen Up project to supply donated hearing aids to the children of the Dominican Republic. Their 10th trip will be this spring; each time joined by fellow Rotarians and audiology students.

There has been some assistance from clubs in the Dominican Republic with transportation and getting through customs. The Santo Domingo Club has assisted in the sale of battery chargers and delivery of repaired hearing aids to the patients. To date, they have not encountered any Dominican audiologists or speech pathologists that can provide the kind of direct high level professional diagnostic and rehabilitative services we provide.

Portsmouth - Oaxaca, Mexico - Cisterns to Collect Water

We are continuing our work in Oaxaca, Mexico where our original project began in February 2005. We provided the materials to families to build a 3500-gallon cistern. The building of the cisterns is a cooperative effort. As one cistern is built by several different families, those families in turn assist in the building of other families' cisterns.

Twenty families of the indigenous campesino farmers within a 60-mile radius of the town of Nochixtlan, in the south central region of Mexico known as the Mixteca Alta, were provided with the materials to build their cisterns. These cisterns provide water for their daily needs and uses as well as for irrigation of their small crops, which provides food and market produce.

Portsmouth Sunrise - Colombia - Rotaritos

We joined the Rotary Club of Bogotá -Suba, Columbia in District 4290 with their community service project "Rotaritos". The two clubs have joined in a 3-year partnership that combines financial and physical support to three day care centers (Jardines Infantiles) in three neighborhoods in Suba, a suburb of Bogotá. By financing the project, we are able to help them with projects to maintain health and safety standards in the centers. This is our second year working with them.

Rochester – Nicaragua – Rivas Nicaragua Hospital

We continue to work with Frisbie Memorial Hospital and other health care providers in collecting medical equipment. This equipment will be shipped to IMEC (International Medical Equipment Collaborative) and in turn, some will be distributed to the Rivas Nicaragua Hospital as well as other third world countries. Present equipment in storage includes furniture, beds, four anesthesia machines, four dental chairs and an operating room sterilizer. We have also secured through Sherwin Williams Co., over 130 gallons of masonry paint, which will be shipped to Rivas Nicaragua Hospital. The club is hoping to coordinate a mission in the fall to Rivas Nicaragua to assist with the painting project.

Rumford - Santa Barbara, Honduras - Water Project

Participation in the water project led by the Freeport and Portland Rotary clubs via a \$500 cash contribution.

Saco Bay – Quito, Ecuador - School for the Disabled

For the last year, we worked with the Rotary Club of Quito-Equinoccio located in Quito, Ecuador on a project to assist the disabled in learning a job. It is a school that will assist about 20 people with mental disabilities. Our grant provided the equipment to train the students. The equipment consisted of gardening implements such as pruning shears, rakes and shovels. In January, the school had their "grand opening".

Sanford-Springvale – Santa Barbara, Honduras - Water Project

We participated in the water project led by the Rotary Clubs of Freeport and Portland Rotary clubs. We sold 50 cases of bottled water with our Rotary Club label on them to support this project.

Scarborough – Tanzania - Medical Center

We have contributed to the Mother and Child Medical Center located at the Ipuli Village. The project includes the development of a Maternity Ward, a Regional Medical Center and Laboratory facility. The company of one of our members has joined with Pop Tech Institute and Architecture for Humanity to raise funds to build the facility. To date \$10,000 has been contributed to subsidize the construction of the facility and \$45,000 has been raised to provide medical supplies and equipment. A solar power system will be installed to provide electricity and rainwater will be collected and stored to provide potable water for the facility. Our contribution was matched by our member's firm – doubling our efforts. The medical center is under construction and expected to open this summer. National Geographic Society is preparing a documentary highlighting the project that will be featured on their television channel.

Sebago Lake - Dominican Republic - Community Health Services

Dr. Jeff Martin, Rotarian, in association with the USM nursing program goes twice a year to spend two weeks in distant mountain villages providing nursing, medical and community health services. The mission groups stay at the Centro Fusimana, a Catholic retreat center in the tow of Yaroa as their guests and the guests of Caritas, the Catholic charity their. We have supplied a laptop computer to a local school and a solar paneled source of electricity to run the laptop. This summer our Interact Club is going with a Rotarian to help build smokestack cook stoves in some of the houses. This will help eliminate second-hand smoke and to utilize the fuel more efficiently.

Somersworth - Kenya - Amani Child Development Program

This is an orphanage that has had great difficulty, because of the lack of land to build, and supplies to help educate, feed, and provide medical attention. Rev. Kenneth Wachanga has given some land and part of his family's house to start the orphanage. Rev. Tom Barrington came to our club and presented his work in Africa at this orphanage. We are in the process of contacting a club near the orphanage so we can transfer the funds to the Amani orphanage. We are looking to give \$1000 toward tuition, which is \$15,000 per year.

South Berwick - Cozumel, Mexico - Waste Management

They need to learn how to separate and take care of all kinds of trash so that it doesn't eventually leech through the coral reef and poison the water supply of the island.

This project, which is the start, will benefit 67,000 residents of this coral reef island, which has no known natural soil. The project is in the initial phase that involves education of school age children to "reuse, reduce, recycle and separate waste". It is a self-sustaining program with education from the schools to the children and finally to the parents. This will include highway pickup to encourage pride in the natural environment of the island. Glass, which cannot be recycled or reused, will be given to art school students who will melt it down to use in their sculptures. Plastic bottles will be crushed and sent to the main land for recycling. Hotels and restaurants will have separating bins to encourage recycling.

South Portland-Cape Elizabeth - Honduras - Sustainable Harvest

Our club donated \$3,000 to Sustainable Harvest and in March we will be working in Honduras near Santa Barbara. We will be working in the villages helping to teach them farming, the need to rotate crops, planting family gardens and why they should not clear-cut the land.

Topsham Expresso - Dominican Republic - Clean Water

We are working with one of our members, Pastor Ron McLaughlin, who is part of a Maine contingent of churches that has been working on building a hospital (which is currently functioning) in La Romana, Dominican Republic for the past 15 years. The Contingent of volunteers went for their annual working session in January for a week of construction on the second floor of the hospital. Our project entails working on getting clean water to the villages surrounding the hospital to stop the flow of diseases in that area. We recently donated \$200 for project planning. We anticipate applying for a grant next year to fund this larger project. Pure Water for the World has directed us to Charles Adams who can assist us in coordinating/facilitating such a project for the nearby villages.

Wells - Cumana, Venezuela - Dental Clinic

We have Matching Grant #61752 in process with Cumanagato Rotary Club of Cumana Venezuela to establish a Treatment and Prevention Center, at Campeche Community Health Center, for cleft lip and cleft palates in the amount of \$13,775 to buy equipment.

The clinic will provide diagnostic, follow-up services as well as counseling, testing and genetic research. Providing these services will clearly assist in the prevention of cleft lip and palates and a better understanding of the genetic component(s). It will help expand the current health services provided at the clinic.

Westbrook-Gorham - Former Soviet Union State, Baku Azerbaijan - Dental Clinic

Rotarian Wayne Lopez, a local dentist and Rotarian Dan Gornell went to Baku Azerbaijan to evaluate the dental care needs of the people in the area. Our club received its first international grant for \$2,500. Our goal is to outfit a dental clinic to serve the district near Baku. Our contact there is the Baku Rotary Club and a new club in Baku has stepped in to help. The money was raised from Rotary clubs in six different districts for this project. Though a building has been secured, local politics and corruption has slowed progress. Hard work and dedicated Rotarians have their sites and hopes set on a fall opening of the clinic.

Yarmouth – Caño Azul, Nicaragua – Water Project in conjunction with Sustainable Harvest International

There are no well water sources in Caño Azul or potable water, and most water is drawn from small streams nearby, which are also used by cattle and other roaming animals. These water sources are the cause of most health issues faced by this community. This water project will benefit roughly 20 families, nearly half the community. Not all families will have direct access to the water line, but there will be public water taps, the school and all the children who attend will benefit as well as two small churches in the community. The water source is located on the property of a local farmer, who is also a SHI agriculture program participant. He has agreed to sell 1.7 acres and the 5 acres surrounding the water source so that it can be managed for protection of the water source. Water lines will be built with the help of our donation and SHI. Once it is complete the management and upkeep will be the responsibility of the Caño Azul Water Board.

York – Ghana – Water project

We are currently in contact with the Rotary Club of Accra East in Ghana to work on a water project. We're working with them in nailing down the particulars and it is likely that this project will be partially funded during this Rotary year and continue into the next year. The plan is to build several wells to provide fresh water to a village there. We made our initial contact with them when a member of the Ghana club visited our club last year.

Programs of the Rotary Foundation

Doing Good in the World



PolioPlus

Rotary's priority program supports global efforts to eradicate polio

Humanitarian Programs

Grants to fund club and district service projects



Educational Programs

Funding for students, faculty, and young professionals to serve abroad

I want to thank the following people for helping to make this evening possible:

My Assistant Governors - Todd Doolan, John Hebert, Jonathan Hiltz, Brad Jett, Carolyn Lambert, John Rainone, Patty Rice, and Tom Talbott for helping me obtain the information and pictures.

Past District Governor George Rice for doing registration.

Assistant Governor John Rainone for printing the program books.

Assistant Governors Tom Talbott and Brad Jett who came up with the idea then "volunteered" to work on this presentation. There were many emails and phone calls between these two gentlemen. Brad spent considerable time putting the end product together – the pictures and music.

The Rotarians and Clubs in District 7780 who provided the project information.

Without all these individuals and you there would not have been an event this evening!

*Thank you all for coming and **Leading the Way!***

