

the newsletter of



**Rotary
International**

*District
5840*



February 2016

Rotary District 5840 Leaders

District Governor	Lou Miller
DGE	Judy Hutcherson
DGN	Carol Holmes
District Secretary	Anthony Hargrove
District Treasurer	Bobbe Barnes

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Happy New Year, fellow Rotarians! I believe that as a District, we have truly embraced Rotary International President Ravindran's message to "Be a Gift to the World". As we enter the second half of our Rotary term, I'd like to pause and reflect on what we've accomplished and where we're going in the next six months. Your District leadership team has set some ambitious goals for the District, and we have made solid progress toward achieving them. So, let's talk.



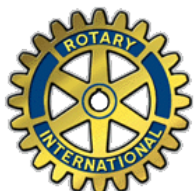
1. In my last message to you, I talked about getting back to basics and building strong, growth-oriented Clubs. Well, congratulations, all! We are well on our way to building a strong membership base by drawing from the industries of business, education, healthcare, government, media, faith and services. We are attracting new members of all ages and backgrounds, from professionals to entrepreneurs. Our District net growth so far this year is 42 new members, bringing us up to 2,616 lifelong Rotarians!

We are working on building two satellite Clubs. One designed to serve the science & technology sector (hosted by the Dominion Club), and another in the Blanco area (hosted by the Fair Oaks Ranch Club).

Why is membership important? In my almost 24 years as a Rotarian, I've found that the more hands we have "on deck," the more profound our local and global impact can be.

Continued on page 2

Rotary



Here's a look at our impact so far this year:

- At our District 5840 Foundation Recognition Dinner in November, we gave \$25,000 to Polio Plus, for a combined total of \$178, 500. That means 297,000 kids will be immunized against polio, just from our donation!
- So far this year, the clubs in our district have:
 - Built playgrounds and skate parks
 - Collected money, textbooks, food, stuffed animals, and even socks and Safe Sleep Baby Boxes to support local and global needs
 - Rallied to help areas affected by natural disasters, like the Wimberley area floods, and the more recent tornadoes affecting District 5810 in north Texas
 - Golfed and bought pints to raise money for Polio Plus
 - Given money for scholarships and long-standing community projects

We still have work to do in building up our membership. Look through your rolodex, look at your business associates and networks, look at your suppliers and vendors – who has the potential to become a trusted Rotarian? Who would value the premise of “Service above self” and the tenets of the Four-Way Test? Who would you like to introduce to your Rotary friends? Who has a strong desire to “give back”? Let's keep our Clubs growing so we can increase our impact!

2. I also talked about engaging our members and taking the time to discover what is important to them. We've found that keeping connected is important.

- Most of our Clubs are using Club Runner and now our District website and District newsletter are easy for everyone to visit.
- Several of our District 5840 Rotarians are making up meetings by accessing the Rotary e-Club of San Antonio meetings at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings (just call 712-775-7031 and enter access code 133581 when prompted.)
- Our District Facebook page is growing in “likes” – if you haven't done so, I encourage you to stop by and see the good our District is doing for our community and the world.
- Does your Club have a Facebook page? If so, visit it and “like” it so you can stay “in the know”! If not, encourage your Club Public Image Chair to start one. If you need help with that, just contact our District Communication team, and we'll get right on it!
- Definitely visit and “like” the Rotary International Facebook page to see how we as Rotarians are affecting the global landscape. You'll be surprised to see the “extraordinary tales of ordinary Rotarians”! (Check out the January 2016 issue of The Rotarian Magazine.)

We've found that meaningful contribution is important.

- In addition to the aforementioned activities our Clubs are supporting, we have some ongoing projects that Clubs are making their own mark on:
- Feeding the hungry. We are still focused on supporting community organizations that feed the hungry. We look forward to hearing more about what your Clubs are doing in your area and several examples are in this issue of the District 5840 newsletter.
- Building up support for Rotary Foundation. We had a great turnout for our Pints for Polio events in October as well as our District Foundation Recognition Dinner in November.
- Increasing the visibility of Rotary. We want people to know the good things Rotarians are doing in our communities.
- The Texas Adopt-a-Highway initiative is keeping Texas highways clean while raising awareness of Rotary.
- Be sure to share your Rotary stories with traditional media outlets as well as online – let's provide good news to our local radio, television, newspapers, magazines, and newsletters.

3. Another idea I talked about is discovering and training our “Emerging Leaders”. Club leaders throughout the District have been reaching out to Rotarians who have shown an interest in “stepping out and stepping up” into Rotary leadership, which resulted in a great turnout for our Zone Institute held in San Antonio in September. The leadership training was world-class and attendees shared that what they learned will be invaluable, both personally and professionally. I encourage all Rotarians to get to know other Rotarians within and outside their clubs. Remember, there's a bigger Rotary world out there, and WE are a part of it!

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Looking forward, we have some important events coming up this spring, and I'd be thrilled for each and every Rotarian in the District to consider attending:

- Lonestar PETS, February 24-28
- District Assembly, April 16
- District Conference, April 29-May 1
- Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea – May 28 – June 1, 2016

Jackie Gorman is heading up our District Rotary International Convention team and in March we will have more info on each of these events!

4. A few final words. We – meaning your District leadership team -- look forward to staying in touch. Please feel free to write me about any concerns at loumins@aol.com and we'll be happy to address them. For the betterment of Rotary, and our District, we look for constructive solutions in your recommendations. In the meantime, I remain yours in Rotary,
Lou Miller

P.S. We have a very passionate Rotarian, Alice White, who has a beautiful message regarding "lifelong Rotarians" that I'd like to share it with you:

"2.5+M Rotarians! Doing even more good in the world during Rotary's 2nd century of Service!" is my irresistible vision & why Engaging lifelong Rotarians & growing Rotary's membership is my joyful, inspiring Life calling. Why does lifelong Rotary membership matter to me? Why might lifelong Rotary membership matter to YOU?! My answer about the importance of lifelong Rotary membership is answered within the compelling, slightly paraphrased message of the late John Denver's song It's about Time (www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzPpOYYDR-k):

There's a full moon over India and Gandhi lives again, Who's to say you have to lose for someone else to win? In the eyes of all the people the look is much the same, For the first is just the last one when you play a deadly game. It's about time we realize it we're all in this together, It's about time we find out it's all of us or none, It's about time we start to face it we can't make it here all alone. There's a man who is my brother, I just don't know his name. But I know his home and family because I know we feel the same, And it hurts me when he's hungry and when his children cry, I too am a father and that little one is mine. It's about time we begin to turn the world around, It's about time we start to make it the dream we've always known. It's about time, it's about changes and it's about time. It's about peace and it's about plenty and it's about time.

It's about you, Rotary and me together, and it's about time!

San Antonio North Central Rotary Club holds annual Turkey Run

Submitted by Sherri Jaeger



On November 21, 2015, the San Antonio North Central Rotarians, Rotaract and Interact students from The Winston School gathered at Eisenhower Middle School to assemble bags with frozen turkeys, boxes of stuffing, mashed potatoes, canned green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, and cookies. This was made possible by a grant from District 5840 and the NC Rotary Club Charity Fund. There were 100 bags assembled and then delivered to needy families from the following schools: Larkspur, Harmony Hills, and Jackson-Keller Elementary schools, Nimitz and Eisenhower Middle Schools. The San Antonio North Central Rotary Club has been doing this project annually for approximately 20 years.

San Antonio North Central Rotary Club establishes Safe Sleep Baby Box for University Hospital

Submitted by Sherri Jaeger

The San Antonio North Central Rotary Club has given Safe Sleep Baby Boxes to University Hospital to new moms in need. Included in the Safe Sleep Baby Box are a mattress, blanket, baby wipes, diapers, lotion, shampoo, diaper rash cream and clothing.



Photo of a baby box



From left to right: John Chance; NC Rotary Club, Rachel Rivas; Ex. Director NICU PR, and Ariel de Robles; Management Analyst ADR, both from University Hospital.



Diapers were donated by The Diaper Bank in San Antonio. This was also made possible by a grant from the NC Rotary Club Charity fund. John Chance has been instrumental in establishing this program for University Hospital. The Safe Sleep Baby Box was created in Finland 75 years ago to help reduce the number of deaths from SIDS. It is believed that these Baby Boxes have helped Finland achieve one of the world's lowest infant mortality rates. The Baby Box is credited with helping to decrease Finland's infant mortality rate from 65 deaths for each 1,000 children born in 1938 to 3 deaths per 1,000 births in 2013. It is the hope of the San Antonio North Central Rotary Club that the number of SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) in Bexar County, TX become nonexistent. This program is a reality due to John's passion and tireless work on the project. The funding for this project was made possible by The Charity Board and District funds.



San Antonio North Central Rotarian John Chance

Oak Hills Rotary club donation to Elf Louise Program

Submitted by Bruce Richter

Members of the Oak Hills Rotary Club present a \$1,116 check to the Elf Louise program as part of a help day on December 23, 2015 at the Elf Louise warehouse. The Rotarians were loading the Santa sacks with presents for delivery on December 23rd. Pictured, from left to right are Rotarians Bill Trodler, Rick Tarbell, Elf Louise Manager Tom, Oak Hills Rotary Club President Gloria Duke-Richter, Elf Louise Manager Clarence and Rotarian Bruce Richter.



Hill Country Auto Club gifts \$5,000 to Kerrville Morning Rotary Club

Submitted by Ray Buck

Mr. Robert Kluting and several members of the Hill Country Automobile Club (HCAC) made a surprise visit to Kerrville Morning Rotary. Mr. Kluting explained that as the HCAC is ceasing operations, they have additional cash on hand they desire to gift to Kerrville Morning Rotary and a trailer with supplies to the Dietert Center.

In 2015, Kerrville Morning Rotary and the Dietert Center partnered to assume the sponsorship of the annual Hill Country Automobile Club July 4th Car Show. Together they successfully hosted the 17th annual Hill Country Automobile Club car show with the net proceeds split between the two organizations. Kerrville Morning Rotary raised \$5,000 to be used toward scholarships. On behalf of the HCAC, Mr. Kluting presented another \$5,000 check to Kerrville Morning Rotary.

"We are thrilled to be able to continue to provide scholarships and educational resources for those in our community with the help of the Hill Country Automobile Club," said Mike Hunter, Kerrville Morning President. Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit www.kerrvillemorningrotary.org



San Antonio South Rotary Club works with Athlos Academy Interact Club

Submitted by Rosie Ramirez

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Rotary Club South and the Interact Club members at Athlos Academy. The students put on a successful "Teddy Bear Drive" for kids with Cancer. They were able to donate over 20 'NEW' teddy bears to Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Cancer Center. They also took approximately 50 gently used teddy bears to the San Antonio Children's Center for neglected and abused children. The patients at Santa Rosa could only accept new teddy bears due to their weakened immune system. So, for that reason, the club members sought the children's center to bring a little joy to as many young hearts as possible.

Marco Sierra
Advisor - Athlos Academy



Kerrville Rotary Club active during the holidays

Article submitted by Joseph Benham; Photos submitted by David Martin

The Rotary Club of Kerrville is involved again this year in a wide range of Christmas-season events in downtown Kerrville, including taking key roles in the music and lighting program at the Kerr County Courthouse, decorating commercial and government buildings, entering a tree in the annual Christmas Forest competition, helping acquire and deliver food and toys to needy families, and staffing Red Kettle sites as bell-ringers for the Salvation Army.

Rotarian Mike Huff served as master of ceremonies for festivities on the courthouse steps that included caroling, dancing, music by community groups and an ensemble from Schreiner University, topped off by the arrival of a Santa Claus who bore a striking resemblance to the Rotary Club's president-elect, Kerrville financial advisor Jeff Talarico...



Stephanie Miller, club president on the left and Lois Schlieter on the right

The service club has entered another nine-foot tree in the annual Christmas Forest competition on the courthouse grounds. This year's entry, decorated in the blue and gold colors of Rotary International, has "Be a Gift to the World" as its theme.

Club members, led by Past President George Eychner, were among the most active residents in the campaign that resulted in acquisition of the elaborately decorated tree near the corner of Main and Sidney Baker. The 45-foot arbor is said to be the tallest decorated tree in the Hill Country.

Volunteers from the parent Rotary Club of Kerrville and its Satélite Club are once again joining law enforcement personnel in the Blue Santa program, under which toys and non-perishable food are gathered each year for distribution to scores of low-income families in this area.

Club members with Santa hats and red sweaters -- even white hair and a full

beard in at least one case -- are familiar sights as they put in full days staffing the Red-Kettle location outside of Gibson's hardware and sporting goods store, ringing bells for the Salvation Army. The Rotary Club of Kerrville is routinely among the charity's top fund-raising groups in the Hill Country.



Interact Vice President and junior Gibby Badillo, Will Guerrero, Lucy Wilke, and another Interact Club participant



Sister duo freshman Colbi Edmonds and senior Siera Edmonds

The club inducted three members at its most recent meeting, welcoming Camp Flaming Arrow Director Wendy Miekse and attorney Clinton Morse as new members and reinstating former member Mark Haufler, an executive of Centennial Bank.

The Rotary Club of Kerrville meets for programs and lunch at 11:45 a.m. most Wednesdays at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center. In addition to their Christmas-season commitments, members of the parent organization and its satellite club are active in such service areas as mentoring in the schools, fund-raising for the Kerr County United Way and the Hill Country College Fund, roadway litter

pickup, construction of Habitat for Humanity low-cost housing, and serving as officers and directors on a wide variety of boards and commissions.



Joe Benham

Kerrville Morning Rotary donates dictionaries

Submitted by Ray Buck

Fourteen years ago, Kerrville Morning Rotary initiated a program to annually distribute dictionaries to Ingram ISD students. Since then, the list of recipient schools and organizations has grown. Three years ago the club added the students at Covenant Academy in Kerrville and Harper ISD as recipients. This year, the club included Families & Literacy, Inc. The dictionaries are provided to the students at no cost for their personal use in order to assist them in their studies and to help prepare them for future careers.

Enthusiastic volunteers from Morning Rotary distributed 80 dictionaries to Ingram ISD 3rd graders, 40 dictionaries to Harper ISD 6th graders, 17 dictionaries to Covenant Academy 3rd graders; and 45 dictionaries to the Families & Literacy, Inc., English as a Second Language (ESL) program.



Kerrville Morning Rotary President, Mike Hunter (dictionary in hand), assisted by Morning Rotarians (L-R) Arthur Clough, Ray Buck and Candy Cormier shared the importance of literacy to Ingram 3rd graders.



Displaying the dictionaries for Families & Literacy, Inc. ESL students are Morning Rotarians Laura Bechtel (L) and Jon Tilley (R) with Annette Kurz of Families & Literacy, Inc.

"Morning Rotary, as part of our club's commitment to improving literacy, is proud to be able to present dictionaries to area elementary students and adult ESL students to improve their educational process," said Morning Rotary President, Mike Hunter. "Thank you all so very, very much for the gift of knowledge!" said Susie Upton, Ingram Elementary Assistant Principal and Mentoring Coordinator, summing up the positive comments received from students and school officials.

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit www.kerrvill morningrotary.org



Morning Rotarian, Ron Hackett distributing dictionaries to enthusiastic Harper 6th graders.



L-R: Kerrville Morning Rotarians, Kenneth O'Neal and Lew McCoy; Sarah Leonard of Covenant Academy, Kerrville Morning Rotarian Jeannette Wells and Denise Enloe of Covenant Academy assisted with the distribution of dictionaries to Covenant Academy 3rd graders.

Alamo Heights Rotary Club news

Submitted by Rick Berchin

The annual Alamo Heights Night event raises funds used by the Alamo Heights Rotary Club to support many local community service activities and charities. At our meetings in early December 2015, we were pleased to make a total of over \$15,000 in donations to five non-profit organizations. Our President, Andrew Traeger, made the awards to organization representatives. Organizations represented in the pictures from the left are Gridiron Heroes, San Antonio Food Bank, Angel Flight, Boysville, and the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.



Parish Photography



Parish Photography



Parish Photography



Parish Photography



Parish Photography

The Alamo Heights Rotary Club meets
on Tuesday at 12:00 noon at:
The Petroleum Club, 7th floor,
8620 N. New Braunfels Ave.
For more information, please go to
www.ahrotary.org

More news from Alamo Heights

Submitted by Rick Berchin



Micah Leonard is a Rotary Global Scholar in Argentina sponsored by the Alamo Heights Rotary Club . She forwarded us two photographs, one taken in Buenos Aires on Thanksgiving of her and her host Rotary Club (Micah is third from left on next to last row) and the other at the American Club there. She also provided us a link (bottom of her message) to a festive, two-minute video of Thanksgiving dinner with her host Club.



Thanksgiving at the American Club with the ambassador in the middle behind Micah

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Kerrville Morning Rotary Continues to Support Christian Women's Job Corps, Kerr County

Submitted by Ray Buck

The Kerrville Morning Rotary recently presented the Christian Women's Job Corps, Kerr County (CWJC) with a check for \$550 as well as provided lunch for the interns. "This is a down-payment on our commitment to CWJC this year. The luncheon was fabulous. Good food shared with an amazing group of young ladies eager to learn and grow. This is a must for anyone wanting to experience what happens at the center. It's an honor to help CWJC as they seek to provide life and job skills to area women," said Waverly Jones, Morning Rotary President-Elect.

CWJC Executive Director, Ann Buck, said "The CWJC Fall Interns appreciated the delicious meal, and the financial support helps us continue to make a difference in Kerrville's women and their families. We want to thank Morning Rotary for their continued support. The Morning Rotary has caught the vision of giving a hand up to the CWJC Interns that will positively affect their families and our community."



Front Row (L-R): CWJC Assistant Director, Edna Vandiver; intern Liliana Marquina; Morning Rotary President-Elect, Waverly Jones; CWJC Board member and teacher, Deana Blackburn; Back Row: Interns Samantha Ortiz; Bronwyn Beaver; Victoria Brown; and, Michelle Bagby; CWJC Board members Virginia Graham and Candace Cormier; and, intern Arianna Ashley.

Kerrville Morning Rotary announces 2015 Hunting and Rifle Raffle Winner

Submitted by Ray Buck

Local businessman and pastor, Chuck Burgin was the lucky winner in the Kerrville Morning Rotary 2015 hunting and rifle raffle. Burgin won a complete hunting package including a .308 Howa Hogue GameKing rifle/scope combo featuring all-weather stock topped with a Nikko Stirling 3.5-10x44 GameKing Scope; \$50 for ammo; and two guided turkey hunts for Spring 2016. The value of the hunting and rifle package exceeded \$2,000.

"Apart from the minimal raffle expenses, all the money we raised through this raffle will be donated to local non-profits. I want to thank Bob and Diane Green for the generous donation that paid for the rifle and allowed us to invest nearly all of the proceeds back into our community. I also want to thank Gibson's management and staff who exceeded exceptional customer service in helping us with this raffle," said Mike Hunter, Morning Rotary President.



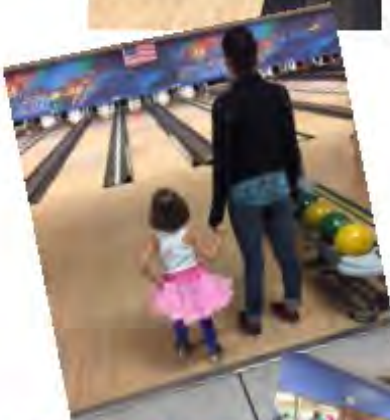
Gibson's Sporting Goods Clerk, Sam Liesman, Jr. (L) joins Morning Rotary President-Elect, Waverly Jones and President, Mike Hunter (R) in presenting the hunting and rifle raffle winnings to Chuck Burgin who is sporting the winning ticket.

The hunting and rifle raffle is one of several fundraisers conducted by Kerrville Morning Rotary. Proceeds from fundraisers are used by Morning Rotary in providing area scholarships, assisting local non-profits such as the Christian Women's Job Corps, Rafael Clinic, and Families & Literacy, Inc. as well as the dictionary distribution to local schools.



THANKS TO ALL THAT CAME OUT AND HELPED MAKE THE SAN ANTONIO NORTHEAST ROTARY CLUB'S 6TH ANNUAL BOWLING / SILENT FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS ON OCTOBER 24, 2015 AT BRUNSWICK THOUSAND OAKS BOWL. THE FUNDRAISER RAISED APPROXIMATELY \$1,500!

ROTARY DISTRICT 5840 GOVERNOR LOU MILLER CAME OUT TO OUR EVENT ALONG WITH HIS DAUGHTER WENDELYN. AS YOU CAN SEE BY THE PHOTOS, MANY FOLKS CAME OUT IN THEIR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES. WE WILL AWARD A SCHOLARSHIP TO A GRADUATING SAMUEL CLEMENS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AT A LATER DATE TOWARDS THE END OF THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE OUT AGAIN NEXT YEAR WHEN WE WILL HOLD OUR 7TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER.



Rotary Club of Kerrville raises cash, food for "Blessings in a Backpack" helping Hunt and Ingram students

Submitted by Joseph Benham

Members of the Rotary Club of Kerrville have donated more than seventy bags of non-perishable groceries and \$170 in cash to help ensure that students in Hunt and Ingram schools have needed food during the Christmas-New Year break. The donations will help support the "Blessings in a Backpack" program, which provides food for underprivileged students and their families in the two Kerr County school districts.

During the school year, students who qualify for free breakfasts and lunches in school cafeterias fill their backpacks from campus pantries each Friday with donated food for the weekend. The Rotary Club of Kerrville donations were aimed at helping students and their families during the longer holiday. Members brought their donations to Superintendents Crystal Dockery from Hunt and Bobby Templeton from Ingram at the club's annual Christmas party, held at the Buckhorn RV Resort.

The celebration organized by Dockery and Kristy Vandenberg and featuring music by Dr. Dan Bacon and his Band Aids ensemble, followed election of 2016-17 officers at the club's final luncheon meeting of the year. Those nominated by Immediate Past President Kim Clarkson on behalf of the nominating committee and elected unanimously are President-Elect Jeff Talarico, Vice President Kristy Vandenberg, Secretary Robin Miears, Treasurer Lt. Col. David Rittenhouse and Directors Charlie McIlvain, Jimmy Hutto, David Jones, Wendy Mendele, Traci Tenery and Tomas Valdez. Talarico is President of Talarico and Associates Financial Consultants, Vandenberg is Executive Director of the Gift of Life organ donors program, Miears is manager of the local offices of Nationwide Insurance and Rittenhouse is a retired Army officer and business consultant

McIlvain is head of the local Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hutto is an oilfield equipment specialist, Jones is a realtor, Mendele is Executive Director of Families in Literacy, Tenery manages the Liberty Tax Service and Valdez owns and operates the 1011 Bistro restaurant.



Crystal Dockery and Bobby Templeton



They will be joined on the board of directors by current President Stephanie Miller, owner of Perfect Surroundings in Old Ingram. Prior to the election, the club honored the 40 members of its Interact student affiliate at Peterson Middle School. Outstanding Interact Member awards went to Araceli Perez and Abigail Olivares.

Shanna Vecchio, sponsor of Interact at Peterson, outlined the group's service projects for this school year, including helping with the parade and other Veterans Day events in Kerrville and the Fall Festival at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, wrapping gifts at Belk's Department Store and

joining members of the Rotary Club of Kerrville in bell-ringing at Gibson's Discount Center for the Salvation Army. More than a dozen members of the parent Rotary Club were involved again this year in collecting and distributing food and toys as part of the Police Department's Blue Santa program. By the end of the Christmas season, well over half of the 190 members of the parent club and its satellite club, plus the student affiliates at Tivy and Peterson, will have volunteered in at least one "Service Above Self" activity.

Holiday Decorations

Submitted by Rick Berchin

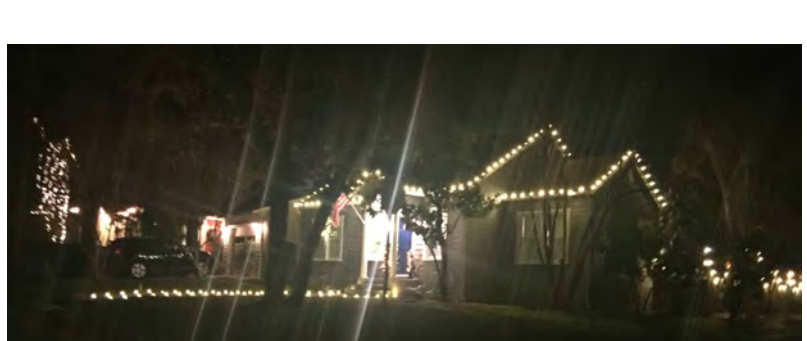
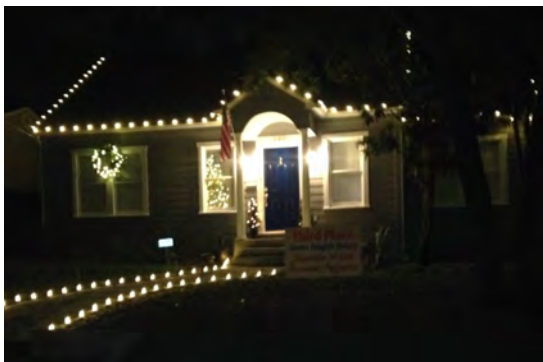
For the past 12 years, the Alamo Heights Rotary Club has been conducting an annual contest for the residents of Alamo Heights to recognize the best decorated residences in the city. Known as the "Sparkle of the Season" Awards this year's 2015 winners were:

First Place - 324 Argo

Second Place - 161 Argyle

Third Place - 140 Inslee

Winners were provided yard signs, a recognition trophy (for inside display), and gift certificates to local businesses.



San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club holds Merry Sockmas project

To help those less fortunate during the holiday season, the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club created the Merry Sockmas project. Thought of by club president-elect Ester Miranda, the club collected socks to be distributed to the homeless in the community. The club kicked off the project on December 1, 2015 by asking all club members to wear Christmas or colorful socks.



The club worked with Ken Mamot, Executive Director of Agape Ministry, to distribute the socks. On December 21, 2015, 532 pairs of socks were delivered to Agape Ministry. Ken Mamot was very appreciative of the club's generous program that brought some comfort to those less fortunate in our community. He said that with the generous "gift", in addition to

keeping 532 people a bit more comfortable during the holiday months, the ministry should be able to spend approximately \$550 more of its charitable income on food during 2016.



Ester, along with her daughter Bela, wrapped each pair of socks with a wrapper indicating the size of the socks, and if they were for men, women or children. The wrapper also showed that the socks were donated as a project of the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club.

