Did you know that 80% of maternal deaths could be prevented with access to reproductive health services and trained health care workers? Did you know that women in sub-Saharan Africa face a 1 in 39 lifetime risk of dying of pregnancy- or childbirth-related complications? Did you know that 222 million women who would prefer to delay or avoid childbearing lack access to safe and effective contraception? Did you know that 6.3 million children under the age of five die each year from diseases, malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation? Startling statistics, but we as Rotarians can do something to change those numbers.

This Focus Area—Maternal and Child Health—may be more challenging than some of the others because most of us do not have expertise in this area. We need to find and include Rotarians who are trained in maternal and newborn health care, such as midwives, obstetricians, and gynecologists. We can also partner with local organizations that have expertise in maternal and child health. Of course, our projects in this area need to be sustainable so empowering the local community to take ownership of health training programs is essential.

What can we do? Suggestions from Rotary are numerous, but here are just a few. Provide birthing kits to health professionals. Provide information about and access to contraceptives. Support accredited training programs. Develop or support programs that provide immunizations and antibiotics. Prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission. Promote good nutrition, and finally, include water, sanitation, and hygiene efforts in your projects.

Should your club be interested in pursuing a project in maternal and child health, a good source of information and ideas is the Rotary Action Group for Maternal and Child Health. You can access their website at www.maternal-health.org or connect with their executive director Mellissa Willis here in the US at mwillis@lpbatlanta.com.
District Conference and RV’s

District Conference Chair Jack Arney has made arrangements with the Senior Events Manager at the Santa Clara Marriott to provide six spaces in the hotel parking lot for those Rotarians who plan to attend the District Conference in their RV on May 5-7. This would be dry camping only, no hook-ups. The charge is $50.00 per night. Those of you considering this option, please contact Lewie Donhost by e-mail rv4play@sbcglobal.net or by phone (916) 203-7181. This is on a first come, first served basis. We also would love for you to consider membership in the RV Fellowship of Rotarians. No meetings; just fellowship and camping.

Newsletter Submission

Power Forward is being produced to highlight some of the great projects and activities put together by the Rotary clubs and committees in District 5180. All clubs and committees are welcome to submit articles to the interim editor Jim Tracy at james.tracy09@comcast.net. The deadline for submission of articles is the 24th of the month preceding publication, and pictures that illustrate the article add interest and are always welcome. A limited number of flyers may be included at the end of each newsletter.
For Judy Foote, it’s all about youth! A retired principal and a charter member of Pocket/Greenhaven Rotary Club, Judy has been a Rotarian for ten years, and since Day 1, her focus has been on Rotary’s youth programs. Early on, she became involved with RYE. Growing up, she was eighteen years older than her youngest sibling and married when her parents served as hosts, but she remembers fondly the eight exchange students that lived in the family home. She’s been a part of the District RYE Committee since she became a Rotarian.

With all their work with RYE students, you might wonder about Judy’s parents’ involvement in Rotary. If you guessed she came from a Rotary family, you would be right because Judy’s father was a Rotarian with over 60 years of perfect attendance. In fact, he served as DG in Norman, Oklahoma and led a GSE team to New Zealand in a day when spouses could accompany the group. Her 95-year-old mother, now a widow, still hears from members of that GSE team who check in regularly. Another fact you may find interesting—Judy’s father introduced RI Past President Ron Burton to Rotary.

Judy was also instrumental in getting an Interact Club started at Kennedy High School. It took two years, but it finally happened when Daniel Lee, a speech winner at their club, went to RYLA and returned determined to start Interact at Kennedy. With a Key Club already in existence, finding an on-campus sponsor might have been a challenge, but Daniel convinced the Key Club advisor to take on both clubs and to help plan collaborative projects. Eventually, the on-campus sponsor opted to take on Interact only because of its international focus.

In addition to youth activities, Judy has held a number of other roles. As a member of a small club, Judy says she has held just about every role—secretary, treasurer, youth director, etc. She was club president for two years (2009-11). With all her club service, it is easy to understand why she was Rotarian of the Year in 2011-12.

She also has been active at the district level, serving as an assistant governor—the role she claims was her favorite because of all the great people she met—from 2013-16. In 2016, she co-chaired the district assembly, and currently, she is serving as district secretary/administrative assistant.

She credits Rotary with connecting her with her work at the local library. It all started with a Rotary mentoring project at the library, but Judy has continued volunteering at the library on her own. She runs their bookstore and once a week spends her day sorting all the books that are donated to the library.

Judy and her husband Jack, who is also a Rotarian, will have been married for 51 years in June. They met in the University of Oklahoma band where Judy’s father was the director at the time. Judy kids that the only “B” Jack ever received was from her father! Judy and Jack have two sons who both are married and live in the Sacramento area. Jason is a FedEx Hub manager; Joel, a history and government teacher at Hiram Johnson High School. While they have no grandchildren at this point, Judy adds that they do have four grand-puppies.

Judy says that she feels blessed that she and Jack have been able to travel all over the world. She adds that the trips at the top of her favorites list were two African safaris: one in Tanzania and one in Kenya. She has also learned a lot; for example, she didn’t know that there were burrowing penguins until they traveled to Antarctica. She also remembers their trip to the Panama Canal where she first tried ziplining, and of course, they walked around Machu Picchu in awe.

Judy is also very active in her church, Westminster Presbyterian. She oversees the ushers for the 11 am service, serves on the education committee, teaches Sunday School off and on, and is part of the bell choir. She also enjoys reading, and when she retired, she was very excited because at last she could join a book club.

She also belongs to a gym and works out regularly. She and Jack enjoy playing bridge with friends, and Judy also dog-sits for friends. She enjoys walking the dogs and says it not only gives her exercise but helps her keep in touch with her neighbors. A lover of musicals, you can also find her at Broadway Sacramento productions.

With all her activities, it’s a wonder that Judy has time to sleep. At the same time, she finds satisfaction and joy in all she does and looks for ways to serve, both in and out of Rotary. Well, Judy, we’re all waiting to see what your next Rotary experience will be. We know you’ll be the best at whatever you choose to do.
Jim’s Zany Photo Contest
Let’s Share the Fun!
Take Pictures at Your Events and Share the Zaniest!

The Very Simple Guidelines

- Each Rotary Club may submit two pictures.
- The pictures must be taken at a Rotary Club meeting, project, or event.
- Something in the pictures should indicate they were taken at a Club event.
- A member of the Club must be in the pictures – though not necessarily identifiable.
- The pictures should depict a fun time in progress.
- The pictures are to be taken and submitted between July 1, 2016 and April 15, 2017. Be sure to indicate the Club’s name and the activity taking place with each picture submitted. Please also provide a name and contact information for someone with knowledge of the picture in case a question arises.
- All pictures submitted to contest guru Jim Tracy – within the discretion of the contest guru – will be displayed at the 2017 District 5180 Conference.
- Pictures may not be altered with Photoshop or any other program.
- The winning photo will be determined by vote of Rotarian attendees at the 2017 District Conference in Santa Clara.
- The photographer of the winning picture and his/her club will be recognized at the 2017 District Conference, and the winning picture will be featured in the District 5180 Newsletter and on the District 5180 website.

That’s all, folks. Submit your entries to Jim Tracy at james.tracy09@comcast.net by April 15, 2017.
What a special afternoon! On March 22, the Interact Club of Luther Burbank High School in South Sacramento was chartered with 38 members, an eager group of officers, and energetic faculty leadership provided by Navy JROTC Commander Tom Jones. Several members of the sponsoring Rotary Club of South Sacramento, including District Governor Barbara Tracy, and D5180 Youth Services Chair Bill Tobin helped to kick things off. Everyone was in a celebratory mood as the new Interactors were presented with their membership certificate, bell, gavel, and Interact t-shirts, and the ceremony concluded with a piece of cake for everyone.

Tom may be retired from active duty as an aviator in the US Navy, but he’s got his hands full as a member of the Burbank High staff and responsibility for the award-winning Titan Battalion (aka The Best in the West), 170+ strong. Now, he’s added Interact advisor to his resume, and soon he will become a member of the South Sacramento Rotary Club, too.
The Interact Club is poised to grow in these last couple months of the school year as word starts to spread about the new source of fun and service opportunities on the Florin Road campus.
Your 2017 D5180 Conference

Go International!

May 5-7, 2017
at the Santa Clara Marriott

Friday Night at the Winchester Mystery House
Great Speakers: RI Director Brad Howard
and daughter Blair,
2013 White House Champion of Change
and CNN Hero Nancy Hughes, and former 49er Bubba
Paris plus excursions to Levi’s Stadium and the
Rosecrucian Egyptian Museum and a Pub Crawl

Register today at
www.rotary5180.org!
Rotary Clubs in Districts 5180 and 5190 have for years offered comprehensive leadership training to high school juniors through Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). To give younger students a similar training and self-awareness experience, the Rotary Clubs in Sparks and Reno began offering one-day training to 15 middle schools in 2010. In 2011 the program expanded to Grass Valley and Auburn as Rotary Eighth Grade Leadership (REGL).

In 2012, Rotary District 5190 created a three-day overnight camp experience at Grizzly Creek Ranch. For several years, District 5180 participated informally in the REGL three-day program as adult mentors and with RYLA graduate Junior Counselors. In 2016, District 5180 was invited to join the program with the Rotary Clubs of Roseville and Roseville Sunrise sponsoring Silverado Middle School of Roseville, and Yuba City Rotary sponsoring Franklin School.

The REGL program: (1) creates a student leadership team for the remainder of their 8th grade school year and (2) provides those students with leadership skills for high school and beyond. The sponsoring Rotary Clubs develop a relationship with the middle school and provide support for the students in their continued growth.
Unlike RYLA, where the Clubs select the participants, in REGL the sponsored school principals choose five student participants to capitalize on the potential for change and engagement in problem solving for their school. Recent RYLA graduates function as junior counselors, small group facilitators and role models for the program. And REGL depends on Rotarians and other adult volunteers as adult mentors and staff support to the camp program.

In 2016, it cost $1,500 to send five students to the three-day REGL camp, which is the equivalent cost of sending just two students to RYLA for a full-week camp. With the success of the 2016 REGL program at Silverado Middle School in Roseville and Franklin School in Yuba City, District 5180 hopes to build on the current partner relationship with the District 5190 REGL program by engaging more District 5180 Rotary Clubs.

Going forward, District 5180 proposes to develop a REGL day program to support a larger number of middle schools districtwide. If sufficient interest among Rotary Club sponsors and middle schools can be developed, day programs might occur at a Greater Sacramento venue and/or a Yuba City/Marysville/Oroville site. For further information on the REGL weekend program with District 5190 or helping to develop the District 5180 day program, please contact David Clemens at (916) 580-9021.

Having a plan and teamwork help everyone reach the goal.

Family members crowd the venue to see their students graduate.
Human trafficking is a violation of human rights that most people overlook and assume they will never encounter – until they do. During my internship at the Western Center on Law and Poverty, a fellow intern and UC Berkeley Law student, shared with me his work on a bill that would modify how California’s legal system handled minors that were lured into prostitution. The lack of advocacy for victims appalled me, and within weeks, I lobbied for support from the West Campus High School administration, the Interact Club, and the Rotary Club of Rancho Cordova/Sunrise to endorse an art show that would benefit an anti-human trafficking organization. When I attended the 2016 Interact Club District Conference, I had the pleasure of hearing Tiffany LaVoie speak about her experience with human trafficking and how the 3 Strands Global Foundation is a strong component in combatting human trafficking.

Art for Justice auctioned off pieces donated by high school students, college students, and professional artists from throughout the northern California region. All proceeds directly benefited the 3 Strands Global Foundation. A special thanks to the much appreciated, generous donations of time and money made by Barrio Café, Surge Electric Services, the West Campus High School staff and band, and the Rotary Club of Rancho Cordova/Sunrise. All participants played a crucial role in the show’s $1,200 earnings that have gone to fight a horrific reality that is faced with bravery and resilience every day.
Join us for ROTARY NIGHT at the RIVER CATS!

Thursday, May 25th @ 7:05 PM
Sacramento River Cats vs. Memphis Redbirds!

Enjoy these exciting benefits!

- $3, $5 or $6 of every ticket sold supports “end polio now”! (Each individual Rotarian or club purchasing tickets will receive the Paul Harris Fellow credit)
- Sponsor deserving kids! (The River Cats will match all “child donation” tickets distributed by the District.
- A great experience for the whole family! (Invite your family, friends, and co-workers – you still get the Paul Harris Fellow credit)
- Seat selection is based on best seats available at time payment is received.

Ticket options

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Can’t make it, but you still want to support “End Polio Now”? Tickets purchased for “Rotary Night” can be exchanged at the Raley Field Box Office for any Sunday – Thursday regular season game, all season long!

Contact information

Name: ____________________________________________
RI Member ID #: ____________________________________
Rotary Club of: ___________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________________
Phone: (______) ____________________________________
E-mail: __________________________________________

To place your order, please return this order form with payment to your Club Organizer or Tom Cicchini. Please make checks payable to “Rotary District 5180”.
For questions contact: Tom Cicchini
2200-B Douglas Blvd., #150
Roseville, CA 95661
(916) 773.1938 or at tom.cicchini@raymondjames.com
As the season heats up, so does the friendly competition in the Rotary District 5180 Blood Drive Challenge. With just weeks left in this year’s challenge, Rotarian blood donors – along with those donating on their club’s behalf – can still move up in the rankings to claim bragging rights!

This April, BloodSource partners with Make-A-Wish® to help grant wishes for children who have been diagnosed with life-threatening medical conditions. With the gift of blood come time, life, and happiness to children like 6-year-old Avelin.

More than two years ago, Avelin’s mom, Ali, knew something was wrong with her little girl. When Avelin was diagnosed with leukemia, chemotherapy started almost immediately and blood transfusions quickly followed.

“It was hard,” Ali shares, “because Avelin was so little. I found out quickly that I have the same blood type as my daughter but you can’t just give it right then and there – it has to have already been collected. When it’s needed, it’s needed. You can’t wait. I’d like to say ‘thank you’ to the people who give their time and blood that help not only my daughter, but others in need.” People like Rotarians.

Avelin who has now completed her medical treatment for leukemia is getting ready to celebrate her healthy future . . . starting with a Make-A-Wish® trip.

The season of lifesaving never ends. Together, we do save lives.

Please remember to give your Rotary Club’s name upon donation.

The results of the Rotary District 5180 Blood Drive Challenge will be announced at the District Conference.
Once again District 5180 Rotarians have been invited to pour wine at the wine bar at this year's California State Fair. Come enjoy serving with your fellow Rotarians from clubs thru out the district. A parking pass and two admission tickets included. Shift length is 4 hours and there are four shifts per day. Serve at one shift and spend the rest of the day at the Fair. All interested in participating please contact your club president-elect or Brian "Chief Grape" Moore at winemoor@unlimited.net for details. There are a limited number of spots so don't delay. This offer is for a Rotarian and their partner/significant other. Need not know anything special about wine. You will learn on the job! Dates are July 16, 23 & 30, 2017.
I remember it clearly. It was 8:00 a.m. on March 8, 2016. I had left my Tuesday Rotary meeting early to volunteer with GRID Alternatives to install solar panels on a home in Rancho Cordova. Now that I was about to get up on the roof, I hesitated. Was I crazy, me, a guy in his late sixties, getting up on a roof with guys almost 40 years younger? Even if I survived this experience, would I be of any help? I’ll get back to my story in a minute.

But first, I want to tell you about an opportunity for Rotarians to share my adventure this coming May. GRID Alternatives will be holding a Solarthon in the Sacramento region. This community installation event is a fundraiser and solar block party that brings together people from all walks of life – local elected officials, individual fundraisers, corporate sponsors, job trainees, community leaders and the homeowners themselves – to install multiple solar PV (Photovoltaic) systems in one community.

Since their founding in 2001, GRID Alternatives has grown to 11 offices serving 11 states, and has installed more than 8,000 solar energy systems, helping low-income families with immediate and long-lasting electricity savings, while integrating workforce development into every project. In 2014, GRID Alternatives North Valley started work in Sacramento County focusing on areas with highest concentrations of pollution and poverty. In 2017, their plan is to expand their services to over 200 families in the Greater Sacramento region.

Now back to my story. When I retired over about a year ago, I started to look around for volunteer opportunities in our community. Having worked in the solar industry for the past decade, I remembered reading GRID Alternatives and decided to attend one of their volunteer orientation meetings to find out more. Granted, the people I met at the orientation were mostly much younger than I, but they were a friendly, welcoming and enthusiastic bunch. Still, getting up on a roof to perform manual labor, I thought those days were well behind me.

When I arrived at the job site that Tuesday morning, I was welcomed by our SIS (Solar Installation Supervisor) who had me sign in and put on my hard hat. There were a couple of other volunteers there as well as several of GRID’s installers. For the next fifteen minutes our SIS went over the plan of work for the day and carefully went through the safety procedures we were to follow. Then we were asked whether we wanted to work on the roof or on the ground. Very important work takes place on the ground (installing the electronic equipment that controls and monitors the electrical output of the panels), but most of the manual work
takes place up on the roof. I chose roof.

So I was issued a safety harness (a set of straps that go over your shoulders and around your waist and thighs), climbed up a very well-secured ladder and was clipped onto one of the lanyards that keep you from falling off the roof. These things are a bit cumbersome but, after all, they are lifesavers. I was grateful to have them, and soon I was very comfortable working 12 feet off the ground.

I think two words best describe what I experienced with GRID Alternatives: teamwork and community. It's much like what Rotary is about. Volunteers and professionals, guys and gals, everyone works to help each other. The GRID staff always went out of their way to explain and demonstrate how things are done. And the pace of work is never frantic. Not only does this make for a safe working environment, it also ensures a high quality of work from everyone, especially from volunteers like me who face a pretty steep learning curve.

The other great thing about GRID is their commitment to building community. They are so respectful of the communities they work in, of the families they install for. When we broke for lunch (in the summer, for volunteers that's when your day is done), we had a wonderful home-cooked meal provided by the homeowner. Sitting down to break bread with the family is a great way to get to know one another.

Well, we got all of the solar panels installed (or more technically correct, photovoltaic panels, PV for short), and I had survived my first day. And I thrived at GRID Alternatives; last year I put in over 60 hours volunteering. I can't recommend them highly enough to Rotarians who want to get involved, directly and concretely serving their communities. It's such a great feeling at the end of a job to power up the solar electric system (prior to actual connection to the electric grid) and see the smiles on the family's faces as the system's digital display begins to read out the energy (and savings) being produced by their new solar electric system.

I invite other clubs to join us for GRID Alternatives May Solarthon. A GRID Alternatives representative and I will be happy to visit your club to talk more about the event, the work GRID is doing and how Rotary can get involved. Please contact me at 916-220-6451 (dwrodes1@gmail.com) or Becca Russell at GRID Alternatives at 916-530-391-2942 (brussell@gridalternatives.org).
Dictionaries, Donations and a Flash Mob – What’s Next for Sacramento Breakfast?

By Charley Rea, President, Rotary Club of Sacramento Breakfast

The Rotary Club of Sacramento Breakfast has had an entertaining first three months of 2017. It started with delivering 150 dictionaries to third graders at Del Paso and John Taylor Elementary Schools. Club Member Dave Jones always leads this event, and it allows us to have a vocational service opportunity with the students.

Then, we had our Annual “Donate $500 to the Charity of Your Choice Raffle.” This year’s winner was president-elect Cass Ferrannini, who chose the Junior Achievement Foundation to be the recipient. They teach children to be smart about money matters.

Then, we were honored to have Adrian Petersen serve as a District 5180 Sergeant-at-Arms for PETS in early March. He was so overcome by the proceedings that he not only became a Paul Harris Fellow, but he was allowed to give a speech to the whole PETS audience on his Rotary passion!

Ah, but, then the truly unexpected happened. We were hit by a flash mob from the Passport Club! Watch it; it may be your turn next! We are looking forward to future service activities to support Get on the Bus, River City Food Bank, the Share Institute, and sending two students to RYLA. Mustard Seed School was established in 1989 to help meet the needs of homeless children. Many school age children do not attend school because of their homelessness; some lack immunizations, birth certificates, or other documents; some are in transit, and almost all lack a support system. In spite of their situations, these children are eager to learn and to be accepted.

From 15 to 35 children attend the school each day and an average stay is just three to four weeks. Some children have been out of school for a long time and need help to go back. A major goal of the program is to prepare and enroll homeless children into public schools (preschool for younger children), when families have found housing stability. Since the school began, over 4,500 individual children have participated in Mustard Seed.
District 5180
Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration Dinner

May 20, 2017
Folsom Community Center
50 Natoma St, Folsom, CA

Tickets available online

5180dinner.eventbrite.com

$50 Reserved Seating Only
Doors open 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30 pm

Guest Speaker- John Germ, Rotary International President 2016-17
How can you involve your local school district, community college, community parks and recreation, community volunteers, Rotoract, Interact clubs and two Rotary Clubs? Sponsor a math competition for middle school students! The Rotary Clubs of Elk Grove and Laguna Sunrise worked together to sponsor this event.

Led by Mark Thomas of the Rotary Club of Elk Grove, eighty middle school students from seven different schools within the Elk Grove Unified School District competed on Saturday, March 11th in the third annual Math Attack Competition. The competition consisted of individual math testing and group projects. Students were challenged with building a device to cushion an egg dropped from 15 feet in the air using materials made of straws, popsicle sticks, tape, cotton, pipe cleaners and a plastic bag. They were also given a similar task of building a “tower” that would hold a golf ball for over a minute.

The winning team came from Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School, and each member walked away with an individual trophy along with the annual team trophy. Parents, students and a volunteer corps of about 40 enjoyed a BBQ lunch provided by the Rotary Club of Elk Grove.

For more information, check out the 5-minute video on the Rotary Club of Elk Grove’s web site www.elkgroverotary.org.
I forgot that wooden shoes with fur on them were not a normal thing to wear. That’s what my Rotary Youth Exchange year did to me. I became so immersed in my new home of Austria, that I had completely forgotten what I ever could have even found foreign about my European home in the first place. Rotary had worked its magic on me again. After attending RYLA and being the President of my Interact Club, I was beginning to make my Rotary connections throughout the world.

Between the incredible opportunities that came my way through Rotary, from the traditional Austria dishes to the spur-of-the-moment helicopter ride over the Alps, I got to meet other RYE students from all over the world. We traveled together through Europe, learning about each other’s cultures and the new places we were visiting. RYE completely fosters the creation of global ties, creating understanding and friendships between people and countries that will last a lifetime. My year almost feels like a dream, as there is no one around me now who was there and can say it was actually real. Nobody at home understands how good the “cheese buttons” or the “pancake noodle soup” were that my host mom would make or how it seemed perfectly normal to walk almost two miles partway up a mountain at midnight to get home.

After I returned, it seemed so strange to be back in my hometown, but soon I was off to college to start my next new adventure -- in life and in Rotary. My exchange left me ready and motivated to get back to hitting the books and exploring my new home of the Bay Area. My desire to get involved again with Rotary led me to UC Berkeley’s Rotaract Club, the biggest campus-based Rotaract club in the world. I was shocked when I saw how dynamic and active the club was. Our goal last semester was 1,500 hours of community service! I jumped right in, getting myself involved by joining two of the committees and participating in as many events as I could, leading to me winning one of our first “Member of the Month” awards for this year and getting a spot on our officer board in my second semester!

Because I live in Berkeley, my proximity to San Francisco allowed me to join my old sponsoring district’s current RYE students on their weekend city trip! I got to help out
as a rebounder, playing a bridging role between the RYE students and the coordinators. The exchange student environment reminded me of my year and all my wonderful friends who are now so far away.

Yet, I am not overly sad about no longer being on exchange. Instead, I am excited for the position it has left me in, with new skills, world contacts and strength. My experience truly pushed me to explore ideas and cultures outside of my own and inspired me to follow my newfound passion for international relations for my future career. Although my dream career will take me all over the world and away from my California family, my Rotary family will be there for me in all corners of the globe. I live my life now, still like an exchange student, going after every opportunity presented to me and really enjoying and experiencing life for all it has to offer!

Liebe Grüße,

Kylee Mebust
When we want water, we just turn on a faucet and out comes clean water -- safe for drinking, bathing, washing our clothes. We take it for granted that when we want it, it's there. But in the small villages in Zambia, Africa, they don't have the luxury that we do when it comes to water.

Safe clean drinking water is a common need in the northeastern part of Zambia. Villages are scattered across thousands of acres down miles of dirt roads, and water is not dependable because of droughts and old wells that no longer produce adequate water.

To help these villages, the Rotary Club of Point West - Sacramento funded the drilling of two bore holes to provide access to clean water. The specific areas where the bore holes were drilled were identified by the Rotary Club of Mfuwe, a relatively new Rotary Club. The Mfuwe Club was started with the assistance of Carol Van Bruggen, a long-time member of Point West Rotary.

After a succession of three years of low rainfall in Mfuwe, the water levels were at such a low level that the water tables dropped dramatically, leaving residents to carve brackish water out of the riverbed by hand to reach it, obtaining barely enough poor-quality water for their basic needs. Fetching water in this area is often assigned to girls and women who still collect water from rivers or shallow wells. Collecting river water is dangerous for health reasons, but also because the women risk injury and death from crocodiles, elephants, and other wild animals.

It is estimated that each well will provide water for about 200 people, giving them clean, safe water that is critical to their daily living. All those who live in a remote village near a new bore hole will benefit from fresh and pure drinking water safe from contaminants and from encounters with dangerous wild animals.

It is exciting to see the children of the village getting to play in the water for the first time in their lives. But more importantly, through the work of Rotary, the people in these villages are able to have clean water daily without having to travel miles to get it or be afraid to drink it.
On February 15, the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks received the Champions of the Community Award from California Parks & Recreation Society, Region 2. This was the final award at their 2017 Awards and Installation Banquet. The Champion of the Community Award is awarded for outstanding public service in the support of the Parks. The recipient is chosen based on the organization’s efforts to improve the quality of life in their community through parks, recreation, and community service.

The Fair Oaks Rotary Club received the award for the many service projects we have completed in Fair Oaks’ parks over the past six or so years. Here’s a partial list of park and park-like projects:

- Installation of lights in Plaza Park
- Completion of the recreation trail in Phoenix Park
- Planting trees and installing irrigation in Plaza Park
- Upgrading the Illinois Ave roadside drainage at Sailor Bar in the American River Parkway
- Renovating the shrubbery beds in Plaza Park
- Miscellaneous work on Village Park
- Participating in “It’s My Park Day” almost every year
- Work on the Veterans’ Amphitheatre in Village Park
- Renovating a Little League field in Phoenix Park
- Maintaining the clock in Fair Oaks Village

There are two projects with the Fair Oaks Library that are not on the list but are certainly relevant. Our club, with considerable support from various community partners, helped renovate the Children’s Area and the Teen Area in the Fair Oaks Library. The old Teen Area, for example, consisted of 25-year old patio furniture with no more than a small round table and four chairs. The new Teen Area has comfortable furniture (with electrical outlets and internet connections), computers and workstations. All of our bigger projects include funding from the District Grant Program and funding, labor and other support from various community partners.
The Rancho Cordova Rotary Community Corps has been working with the Rotary Club for the past four years to develop a community outreach program. The goal was to use the culture and language to help inform new and second language residents about the opportunities in the community.

The City of Rancho Cordova funded the Chamber to establish the new resident program. However, the program had not reached out to this population. An opportunity was identified by the Rotary Community Corps where this could be done by bringing the program on campus at Walnutwood School.

Working together, Charlie Linebarger, principal of the Folsom Cordova Adult School, Bea Lopez of the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Rancho Cordova and the Rotary Community Corps created the successful event on campus on March 9, 2017. Brud Dufficy, Ross Johnson and President Sean Twilla were on site from our Rotary Club.

The participants included Travel and Tourist, Metro Fire, City Services, the water companies, the library, Folsom Lake College, the Folsom Cordova Partnership Jobs Program and other service providers. Charlie Linebarger arranged for each class of students to have the opportunity during the school day to attend the event along with their friends and families.

On-site language skills assistance allowed more information to be shared and questions answered. Since the students are adults, many manage households. They gained much useful information and resources to help integrate better into the community. Many are refugees and are not accustomed to government assistance, openness to questions and access.

It was fun to see adults from many cultures, speaking different languages, walking around in red plastic fire helmets, holding balloon animals and eating pizza while asking questions and getting answers. The goal to help them feel welcome in our community was achieved. Likewise was the offer by the Rotary Community Corps for them to join with Rotary to give back to the community.

The next RCC event will be a Kids Day. RCC will again provide language assistance and cultural interpretation. The members will be placing identification on children to assist in finding their parents in case they are lost. The RCC members become more proficient in English language and in sharing the Rotary spirit of “Service Above Self.”
4th annual Lunacy
Sacramento
Moonlit Bike Ride
AUG 05 2017
7-11PM
Capitol Mall • Sacramento
for more information or to register
lunarlunacyride.org
Point West Rotary Club Foundation