What a wonderful conference! Not only were the speakers and breakouts informative and inspiring, but much happened that opened new doors for service for Rotarians. Because of Nancy Hughes’ presentation, some Rotarians want to become involved with Stove Team International (check out the flyer attached to this newsletter for more information). Some presidents want to go back to their boards and ask them to set aside funds to help send more people to next year’s conference. Thanks to Brad and Blair Howard’s talk, some Rotarians have a new perspective on how Rotary service can impact the entire family. Our RYE kids were very involved in this year’s conference so many Rotarians walked away with a new understanding of the RYE program and the impact it can make on students’ as well as host families’ lives. A session on international projects opened the door to new partnerships among clubs and the sharing of information. Bubba Paris challenged all of us to find our truth and purpose and follow it. Finally, we all relaxed as we listened to the acapella creativity of Side Note: “They were good!” was frequently heard the rest of the evening.

May is Youth Service Month, and 5180 has a lot to be proud of in this area. Not only did our RYE kids play a major role in the district conference, but each month they have been featured in some way in this newsletter. Outgoing youth have shared; incoming youth have shared. This month you will read about the second annual international culinary tasting, a very successful event that has the committee looking for a bigger venue next year. This summer we will send 114 students to RYLA. That’s nearly twice the number we sent my first year as chair. This program truly does change lives. We also can be proud of the 47 Interact Clubs that are supported by our clubs. That’s more Interact Clubs than Rotary Clubs in District 5180!

Congratulations, Rotary District 5180 clubs! Let’s continue to open doors for our youth!
Meet One Passionate Rotarian – Bob Deering

Bob Deering lives and breathes Rotary, but it hasn’t always been that way. In fact, Bob, who has been in Rotary over 30 years, really wasn’t that involved for the first half of his Rotary career. His sponsor moved out of the area three months after Bob became a member, and Bob says that he himself didn’t really reach out to other club members at the time. He was about to leave when Chick Alexander talked him into staying. It was his involvement in Group Study Exchange (GSE) that opened the Rotary door for Bob. Chris Alexander—now Chris Deering—challenged him to get more involved, and when he went to the district conference, longtime Rotarian and GSE chair Ruth Burgess talked with him about the GSE program. He became involved with the activities of the inbound team. Shortly thereafter, he went the RI Convention in Copenhagen where he fell in love with the area and decided that he wanted to bring a team to that region. He began learning as much as he could about GSE, eventually interviewing and being selected as the GSE team leader to Sweden.

In the middle of 2007-08, he took on the role of GSE chair, a position he held for three years…and that was the beginning. Bob went on to serve as District Assembly Chair in 2009, Assistant Governor in 2010-11, and District Governor in 2012-13. Today he holds so many positions that it is a wonder that he can fit them all into his schedule: District 5180 Foundation chair, East Sacramento Rotary Foundation chair, PETS instructor, Advisory/Finance Committee Chair, GETS chair, and Zone 25 chief financial officer, and he kids that he serves ex officio as the co-chair of the “Let’s Get Your Club Out of Trouble Team”!

Bob claims that his DG year was really the highlight of his Rotary experience, adding that it was the people that made it so. That year also was one of growth. Bob says that he had to come out of his comfort zone to become Ranger Bob and adds that people still come to him and ask about Buddy, the Raccoon. Buddy became so famous that at the district conference there was another video, one which ended with someone enjoying a raccoon meal! Of course, this was part of Bob’s demotion and Buddy is still around in retirement.

He also remembers fondly the trip he and Chris took to deliver wheelchairs in 2009 and the young man who thanked him for providing the wheelchair. Those instances really tug at his heartstrings. Another Rotary moment occurred just recently at the 2017 District Conference when Bob became part of the District 5180 Hall of Fame. He says that he was totally shocked to hear his name called, but honored at the same time. He added that while Rotarians do not do things to be recognized, it gave him a good feeling to be recognized by his peers.

On a personal note, Bob and Chris have been married for seven years but together for 15. Between them, they have five children and two grandchildren. According to Bob, they are living all over the country—Idaho, Montana, Arizona, Southern California, and Colorado—which makes holding a family reunion something that will probably never happen.

Bob and Chris don’t have a lot of spare time. While he loves to read, he says that most of his reading is done on airplanes. Travel in the past has occurred on either end of the RI Convention as it moves from country to country. While Bob’s passion is Rotary, Chris is very involved with her church so the two of them really enjoy just having some time together at home.

Bob says that when his term as District Foundation Chair is over, he wants to slow down and probably get more involved in international projects. Well, Bob, we know that you will continue to serve Rotary however you can, and we wish you the best as you look to your next Rotary passion. We know that whatever you do, it will be done well!
Join us for ROTARY NIGHT at the RIVER CATS!

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

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<td>$15</td>
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<td>Assembly ______ = $ ____ (3 to END POLIO NOW)</td>
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<td>Senate Seats ______ = $ ____ (6 to END POLIO NOW)</td>
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TOTAL DUE = _____________

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. For questions contact: Tom Cicchini
2200-B Douglas Blvd., #150
Roseville, CA 95661
(916) 773.1938 or at tom.cicchini@raymondjames.com

Please make checks payable to “Rotary District 5180”
Remembering PDG Dom Vessigault

PDG Dominic (Dom) Vessigault died suddenly at the age of 75 after suffering a fatal stroke on April 27, 2017. We extend our condolences to his wife Christianne, their family and the Laguna Sunrise Rotary community for this tremendous loss.

A dedicated Rotarian for 33 years, Dom was a Past District Governor of Rotary District 3450 in Hong Kong, serving as one of RI President Cliff Dochterman’s “Red Coats” in 1992-93. The RI theme that year was “Real Happiness is Helping Others,” very apropos for Dom, who received the RI Citation for Meritorious Service in 1995-96, the RI Avenues of Service Citation in 2000-01 and the RI Service Above Self Award in 2003-04. Her was a Major Donor, a Paul Harris Fellow + 8 and Bequest Society member.

Dom was inducted in the Rotary Club of Laguna/Elk Grove, now Laguna Sunrise, in July 2001 by then D5180 Governor Sam Anderson and spoke after the induction ceremony on the topic, “Why Should I Become a Rotarian?” He subsequently held many leadership positions in the club and frequently attended District training assemblies, Foundation dinners and District Conferences. He spoke to many clubs and educated others about the Foundation and membership retention. Dom also used his vocation as an estate planner to assist fellow Rotarians and the community.

Ever the gentleman with a profound sense of kindness, a friendly smile and engaging laugh, Dom gave everyone he met his complete attention and embodied an Old World courtliness in all his relationships. Dominic Vessigault will be deeply missed.

(Thank you, Angela Spease of the Laguna Sunrise Rotary Club, for providing the information for this article. We will all miss Dom, a good Rotarian and great friend.)
By Rita Gordon, Rotary Club of Point West and District Vocational Service Chair

As a 30-year Colorado resident who had recently relocated to Northern California, one of my first actions was to join a Rotary Club. I had not been a Rotarian before, but I knew it would help me plug into my new community quickly. Shortly after joining the Roseville Club, our speaker one day was a Rotarian from Nevada City. Dr. Scott Kellermann told us of the medical clinic he established in Uganda, with the help of Rotary. Another Rotarian doing good in the world!

After the meeting, I approached Dr. Kellermann to introduce myself and tell him how much I enjoyed hearing his story, and how similar it sounded to the work of my late husband, also a doctor with whom I had travelled internationally on medical missions. I told Scott that my husband had twice been to Uganda, bringing his favorite scrub nurse Wilma, who fell in love with the culture there, returning frequently and she was eventually named a tribal princess. Both my husband and his scrub nurse had since passed away.

Scott expressed his condolences and asked what took my husband’s life. Glioblastoma multiform, an aggressive form of brain cancer, was Stage 4 at diagnosis, as advanced as it could be. I saw Scott glance at my name badge, then ask, “You’ve lived in California a long time?” No, I told him, I had recently relocated from Colorado. His next question caused me to catch my breath. “Your husband didn’t happen to be Lee Gordon, did he?” No one in California knew my husband, and to hear his name spoken out loud nearly brought me to tears.

“Yes,” I told him, “I am Lee’s widow. Did you know my husband?” Scott’s response was stunning: “Your husband didn’t happen to be Lee Gordon, did he?” No one in California knew my husband, and to hear his name spoken out loud nearly brought me to tears.

I learned that after completing their undergraduate degrees at the University of Virginia (then an all-male school), they both headed back to their home states to attend medical school – Lee to Tennessee and Scott to Kentucky. These two old friends lost track of each other over the years, but Scott had heard through mutual friends, a few years prior, that Lee was also doing international medical mission work. He wanted to track him down to compare notes, then got the news that Lee had passed suddenly from brain cancer.

He still wanted to find out where he had been and what he had done, so he was trying to find Lee’s widow (me!) but learned I had relocated out of state somewhere. He thought it would now be impossible to ever find out about Lee’s missions. As we compared notes, it turns out these two men had lived virtually parallel lives, unbeknownst to each other. They had been in many of the same countries, at nearly the same time, over their many years of volunteer medical service, yet neither of them ever knew it.

Lee was not a Rotarian but had the heart of one: generous, devoted, and truly lived our Rotarian “Service Above Self” motto. It was both heartwarming and heartbreaking to discover that they had chosen to lead such similar lives. Lee would have SO loved having a colleague to travel with, while doing his good work in Third World countries. It can be very isolating, not knowing the culture or language, being relied upon so heavily and having little equipment and no backup, when on these medical missions. I thank Rotary for being the catalyst which brought Scott and me together. Now, I know Lee’s generous work is being carried on by his old friend, Scott Kellermann. To both of these remarkable doctors, quoting Scripture seems appropriate: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
All photos entered in Jim’s Zany Photo Contest were displayed at the District Conference, and the winner was determined by a count of the ballots submitted by the attendees. The winner, shown below, was submitted by the Rotary Club of Midtown – Sacramento by Past President Greg VanAcker. A snazzy, old fashioned trophy was accepted by President Bob Daby on behalf of the Midtown Club.

Pictured in the front row (from left) are Steve Bruce, Past President of Citrus Heights; Molly Evangelisti, President-elect of North Sacramento; Bob Daby, President of Midtown; and Abbey Hawthorne, member of the Rotaract Club of Arizona State University. In the second row are Greg VanAcker, Past President of Midtown; and Ellie Kuechler-VanAcker, President-elect of Midtown.

The picture was taken at the Sacramento Food Bank, where the group was bagging produce as part of the Connecting for Good Tour, the biggest Rotary road trip on the West Coast in 2016. Abbey was part of the touring group.
By Russ Rheams, President, Rotary Club of Orangevale

One of our newest (and youngest) members, Aaron Cochran, took on the responsibility of our social media a few months ago. And, boy, did he take it on! I must admit that we really have not been very good at promoting our club in the past, so, when Aaron volunteered, I figured it was worth a shot.

I, like many in our age group, figured that using social media to promote the club meant posting our events on Facebook, in advance if we remembered, and adding an occasional picture after the fact. I found out recently just how wrong I was!

Aaron had hosted a Christmas party at his house, and his Facebook postings were amazing. I hoped he could do half that well in promoting our club. A few weeks later, he told me to bring my A-game the following Friday, as I ran our weekly meeting. Again, I figured he might do something special such as posting a short video. I could not have been more wrong. He actually broadcast our entire meeting LIVE on Facebook. Positive move? I’d say so because the Cameron Park Club and a club in New York City copied the idea within the week. Bill Tobin of the El Dorado Hills Club joked that he was able to make up that week while in bed on Friday morning. Of course, I was a little insulted when he said how nice it was to have the opportunity to mute me out whenever he wanted.

I was truly proud—for a week. Eight nights later, he broadcast our crab feed live. Unbelievable! One of our members, Dennis Metzler, was unable to attend, but he called me the next morning to tell me how much he enjoyed it. The most amazing thing was that, until that call, I really didn’t realize it had been streamed live in its entirety. That’s the best kind of publicity we could ask for. It was totally unobtrusive, but it promoted our club as fun-loving and promoted our crab feed, which will hopefully help us sell more tickets next year.

The message is simple. This isn’t your grandfather’s Rotary, and we can’t hope to attract members the way Grandpa did. Use Facebook, Twitter, all of it. Find the young member in your club. Give that person a job—one that he/she already does well. You might also receive the benefit of a truly happy and committed Rotarian.
The second annual Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) International Culinary Tasting was held on Sunday, April 2. It was hosted by Maggie Hoy, Sherie Tobin, John Carr and Jeannine Sparks. It was a huge success!

The Culinary Tasting is a fundraiser for the District’s RYE program. The inbound students are asked to attend the District Conference. In past years, the District budget was tight and would not cover their entire expense without additional funding. Money raised by the Culinary Tasting allows the RYE students to eat and stay at the conference hotel.

The Culinary Tasting started five years ago as a get-together potluck for the District’s RYE students and their families. Last year, Maggie and Sherie decided it was so much fun that it needed to be shared. So, they turned it into a fundraiser and invited everyone to enjoy food from around the world. This year, ten RYE students prepared and served food from their native countries. Rotarians and restaurants also contributed food.
The Tasting was held at the Fair Oaks Veterans Hall, which was provided at a very nice discount by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. By 1:30 p.m., every seat was taken, and the food line was almost out the door. Maggie says next year’s venue will be much larger.

About 20 RYE students (ten inbound and around ten outbound) attended the Culinary Tasting. They are typically affable, mature for their ages and very talented. They served food they prepared themselves and did a fine job of hosting their part of the event. They represented their countries very well.

The food was excellent and abundant. For example, the borsht was the best I’ve ever eaten. Admittedly, it was only the second time I’ve eaten borsht, but the first time was at an ethnic Russian restaurant in San Francisco, so this must have been extra good.

The inbound RYE students introduced themselves and then performed “Hakuna Matata,” which means “No Worries,” in their own languages. Then they answered questions from the audience. The questions included: What was your favorite thing about the United States, and what do you still want to see here? (Answers: Hawaii, Las Vegas, Hawaii, Los Angeles, Yosemite, Hawaii…)

For entertainment, there was hula dancing and belly dancing. Both were very good.

The District 5180 inbound RYE students are: Gaston from Argentina, Arnold from Belgium, Rodrigo from Bolivia, Joao from Brazil, Allison from Denmark, Flavie from France, Eli from Germany, Riko from Japan, Helena from Spain, and Johanna from Sweden.

WHAT IS ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE?

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is a Rotary International student exchange program for students in high school. Currently, about 9,000 students are sponsored by Rotary Clubs every year. Typically, students are sent to another country for a year-long stay, generally living with multiple host families during the year and being expected to perform daily tasks within the household as well as attend school in the host country.
Seven of our club members and two of their spouses traveled to Colima, Mexico to make improvements to an orphanage that serves approximately 60 children. Bill Hutto, Bobby and Becky Blackwell, Joe and Maureen Gagliardi, Vicki Warner, Chuck Thurman, John Messner, and Rosario Rodriquez, our newest member, participated and completed a walkway between the boy’s and girl’s dormitories, constructed and painted a steel structure over the walkway that will support a roof to protect the children during the rainy season.

Additionally, Maureen and Rosario spent time in a classroom setting, teaching English to the children. The orphanage Board positioned a plaque stating, “El Caminito, Rotary Club Folsom, CA,” in honor of the work completed by our team. This was such a strong demonstration of how the Rotary spirit is displayed internationally to help those in need.
What were ten Fair Oaks Rotarians doing for a few days in Baja recently? A little sport fishing? Getting a head start on this year’s tan? Sampling the local margaritas? Truth be told, a little bit of each, but the main purpose of their trip was a three-fold service project in partnership with a couple of other Rotary clubs, including Nevada City and Quincy in northern California and the Rotary Club of Cabo del Este in Los Barriles, which is between La Paz and Cabo San Lucas.

In the mountains surrounding the historic silver-mining town of San Antonio are scattered settlements called ranchos, each of which might house three or four families. The Los Barriles club had identified two projects that many of these ranchos shared, the need
for 1) clean water and 2) better living conditions for the 24 children of the ranchos who attended school in San Antonio, living in dormitories during the school week.

The first will be addressed by an ~$80,000 project to procure and distribute water filtration systems to the ranchos; approximately two-thirds of the funding will come from a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation which the Fair Oaks and Los Barriles clubs are applying for. Club members visited several of the ranchos to do some fact-finding in preparation for writing the grant.

The children’s living conditions were spiffed up by a cleaning and painting project over a day and a half; the dorm rooms, kitchen, dining areas and bathrooms certainly looked a lot brighter after all those Rotarians were done with them.

Finally, all the students, who ranged in age from 10 to 18, were presented with fleece blankets with edges hand-crocheted by Fair Oaks Inner Wheel members; even the older boys looked really grateful to receive them. (Of course, their blankets were all sports-themed.)

About one year ago, the inaugural group of three from the Fair Oak club travelled to Los Barriles for a similar project, and plans are already being made for future trips in what looks to be a long-term partnership. The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks is one of about 35,000 Rotary clubs worldwide; its 79 members ascribe to the Rotary traditions of friendship, service and fun. They meet every Monday at 6:45 at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse and ask that you check their calendar at www.rotaryfairoaks.org and join them for dinner some Monday.
The Rotary Club of Granite Bay has conducted an annual Holiday Basket Program for many years. Club member Jim Lane and his wife Dawna lead the program every year, and it has grown under their stewardship into a remarkable regional program. Jim and Dawna were recognized recently by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) with a plaque honoring their ongoing service: the ACSA Region 2 Partners in Education Excellence Award. Congratulations to Jim and Dawna!

The basket recipients are needy families who have been identified in the Eureka School District. The Club’s deliveries primarily include the communities of Granite Bay, Rocklin, Roseville, Citrus Heights and Loomis. Most of the Granite Bay Rotarians participate in various aspects of the program, including:

- Collection of non-perishable food items
- Purchase of perishable food items
- Donation and collection of gifts for children
- Purchase of gift cards
- A big day where all of these items are sorted and designated for specific families, and
- Delivery day where the items are personally delivered to the families.
Dear Nomination Committee,

It is with great pleasure and pride I submit my support for Jim Lane for the ACSA Partners in Education Excellence Award. As the former superintendent of 22 years in the Eureka Union School District (EUSD), I had the opportunity to work with Jim and his family on many projects which supported the School District and the Community. Jim is a longtime community member and Granite Bay Rotarian. The Rotary Club with leadership from Jim help raise money each year, for about a 10-year period, for the three middle schools in EUSD through a wood raffle. Each school received about $5,000 per year from the Rotary Club. This money went to the libraries and adding technology to the schools. Which impacted very positively the children in grades 4-6.

For the past, approximately 25 years, Jim Lane, his wife and children have coordinated for the community a Christmas season food and gift basket program for the needy children in the EUSD and Granite Bay High school. This is a very large project with support from the Rotary Club, Granite Bay Kiwanis Club and members of the community. It takes Jim dozens of hours to work with the schools to identify the 130 or so needy families, coordinate the pick-up of food at the schools, and arrange for the delivery of hundreds of boxes and gifts. Jim leads the effort to raise $6,000 to purchase the gifts for the children from 5 to 18 years old. He also works with local grocery stores to provide additional food items for the families. All eight schools in the community support Jim and his strong desire to provide Christmas gifts to the children. This project supports about 400 needy children per year and directly helps these children have a better holiday season and their desire to stay in school.

The commitment of Jim Lane to EUSD and his community is unbelievable. To work so hard for so many years to support children is amazing. The Kiwanis Club of Granite Bay, which I am a member, think the world of Jim Lane. They believe his organizational skills and dedication to children is second to none. For 30 years, I lived and worked with Jim in the Community. As a Kiwanian and past recipient of the ACSA State Robert E. Kelly Award for Community Service (2013), I know a little about community service and commitment to children and education. It is my view, they do not come any better than Jim Lane. He needs all the consideration you can give for this Award, because he has spent a life time in helping children.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Feist, EdD

Retired EUSD Superintendent
January 2017

Dear ACSA Region 2 Awards Committee:

It is my distinct privilege to provide this letter of support recognizing Jim and Dawna Lane's charity work with the Holiday Gift Basket program that supports the Eureka Union School District's students and families. I have worked in the Eureka Union School District for 15 years and Jim and Dawna Lane were coordinating the program long before I began to work in the district!

The Lanes work to coordinate the donation of canned food by all schools, spirit wear donations from all schools, several giving trees, donations from local businesses, as well as the purchase of presents with funds raised by the two junior highs for the targeted teenagers in the families. Jim Lane has been recognized in the past by both Rotary and the County Board of Supervisors for his ongoing community service efforts. Although he is the public face of this project, Dawna Lane has also worked tirelessly behind the scenes alongside Jim to ensure that communication with the district and the other organizations involved is seamless.

As you can see from the pictures below, their efforts annually impact over 100 families and several hundred individuals in our district and community. As an administrator in the Eureka Union School District, I can't say enough about the positive impact Jim and Dawna Lane's efforts have had on our students, families and on our community as a whole. Our district administrative team would be thrilled to see their dedication honored with an ACSA Partners in Educational Excellence Award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gratefully,

Jeanifer Platt
Jennifer Platt
Principal

[Images of people working on a holiday gift basket project]
“Every 50 seconds, somewhere around the world, Habitat for Humanity is dedicating a home for a family in need,” said Habitat for Humanity-Greater Sacramento’s Laine Himmelmann. At Rotary Club of West Sacramento’s April 7 meeting, members listened intently as Himmelmann said the organization, active in 70 countries, tithes ten percent of the local organizations’ unrestricted donations in support of Habitat’s International program. The Greater Sacramento chapter, for example, helps build houses in Nicaragua, she said.

The greater part of its mission, however, is helping area families who work hard but can’t afford to provide adequate shelter for their children in Sacramento and Yolo Counties. And right now, a new home repair program, made possible thanks to Habitat volunteers and donors, is making disabled veterans more comfortable. Himmelmann told of a local Vietnam veteran, exposed to Agent Orange during that conflict, who developed diabetes. She said the veteran will lose his legs. His Elk Grove home, she said, had dry rot, termites, a leaking roof and black mold. Habitat volunteers “took his house down to the studs,” she said, “and rebuilt it to make it safe and accessible.” Now, the disabled vet can age comfortably within his own home.

“Seeking to put God’s love into action” is Habitat’s Mission Statement. The organization’s goal is to bring people together – building homes, communities and hope.
There’s a lot to do. In Yolo County in 2009, research found that one out of every four low- to very low-income families currently live in overcrowded conditions, said Himmelmann. (Yolo Habitat merged with Habitat – Greater Sacramento in 2014.)

In Sacramento County, recent statistics found that 36,000 families currently live in substandard housing. That statistic does not reflect the total number of people living under one roof, such as the single mom who lived for three years in an unfinished garage with her three children. No heat, no A/C, no bathroom. Even working full-time, she couldn’t afford a safe rental. Today, thanks to Habitat, each child has his or her own bedroom.

Habitat receives no state funding, is funded less than five percent by the federal government, and relies entirely on local private donations for the balance. The cost of building one Habitat house in Sacramento County is roughly $200,000 ($40,000 of that is city permit fees in Sacramento). The costs of construction, borrowed from Habitat, are paid back to Habitat by the new homeowner via a no interest 30-year mortgage.

Himmelmann said, “Our last project in West Sacramento was for a woman named Virgina Valenti, who is an elderly preschool teacher who lived in her home for nearly 30 years. Virgina desperately needed a new roof and windows for her home. She was freezing during the winter and had leaks coming in from the ceiling.

“Due to her age and income, Virgina was unable to do the repairs herself or afford them. Through the help of some generous community sponsors and hundreds of volunteers, we were able to get Virgina a new garage, windows, exterior paint, new planter beds, roof, and her dream white picket fence. More than 100 people gathered to watch us nail new numbers on her home and celebrate the completed repairs.”

“The families we serve are working families,” said Himmelmann. “They are families who make between 30-60 percent of the Area Median Income.” For a family of four in Yolo County, she said, that equates to roughly $24,000- $45,000 gross annual income. “Our program is not an entitlement program,” said Himmelmann. “It is a program for families who are willing to work for their dreams.

We offer a hand up, not a hand-out.” Habitat – Greater Sacramento board member Mark Krausse (also a member of Rotary Club of West Sacramento) said, “We (Habitat) are both the lender and the bank,” Himmelmann added, to date, “There have been zero foreclosures.”

More information

• Bequests, cash and other donations: Contact Development Director Leah Miller, at (916) 440-1215 ext. 1131, email LMiller@HabitatGreaterSac.org, or visit www.HabitatGreaterSac.org/DONATE.

• Volunteer: Go to www.HabitatGreaterSac.org.
For group volunteer opportunities, email Laine Himmelmann at LHimmelmann@HabitatGreaterSac.org or call (916) 440-1215 Ext. 1108.
To qualify for a Habitat home (which the prospective homeowner agrees to help build by investing 500 hours of what Habitat calls “sweat equity”), families must demonstrate a need for adequate shelter. That means they must be living in substandard or overcrowded conditions or paying more than 50 percent of their income on their rent.

Himmelmann said Habitat “brings people together to not only build homes, but change lives, revitalize neighborhoods, and break the cycle of poverty for families.” For example, she said, “We were very excited to hear about the West Sacramento’s First Time Homebuyer program, but were disappointed to find the program wasn’t operational at the moment due to lack of funding.” (In the past, the program was funded through a federal Community Development Block Grant.)

Noting that the need for affordable housing is great, Himmelmann said, “We are hopeful (West Sacramento’s) program will become operational again and we will be able to partner with the city. ... The number of homes we can build and families we can serve are directly related to the number of people and partners we can bring into the Habitat family to be a part of what we do.”

As community involvement grows, she said Habitat – Greater Sacramento is eager to become a strong community partner in West Sac, Clarksburg, and throughout Yolo County.

Rotary Club of West Sacramento at a glance

April 2017:

- Bagged rice during a “Rotary Work Day” at the Yolo Food Bank;
- Honored West Sacramento and Yolo County law enforcement (sheriff’s deputies, West Sac police officers); Clarksburg’s entire volunteer fire department; individual West Sac firefighters; several teachers and school counselors (West Sacramento and Clarksburg);
- Awarded Rotary scholarships to multiple deserving college-bound students in West Sac and Clarksburg;
- Helped plant trees in West Sac and cleaned up a park in Clarksburg;
- 30+ members delivered Meals on Wheels. “Seeking to put God’s love into action” is Habitat’s Mission Statement The organization’s goal is to bring people together – building homes, communities and hope.
Photos from the District Conference
Elk Grove Rotary proudly presents our Annual Walt Davis Memorial Golf Tournament

Date: June 12, 2017

Place: Valley Hi Country Club
9595 Franklin Blvd, Elk Grove, CA 95758

Time: Registration & Lunch @ 11:00 a.m.
Putting Contest 11:30 a.m.—12 noon
Shotgun start @ 12:30 p.m.
Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.

Don’t miss the Awards & Fabulous Raffle!

♦ $125 per player (includes lunch & dinner)
♦ $100 for a Hole Sign
♦ Major Sponsorships Available

For more information visit our website at elkgroverotary.org

Or contact: Jean Hawkins: egmaytaglady@yahoo.com
Mark Madison: mmadison@egwd.org
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