

# News from District 7410

December 2020

Joe Loughman  
District Governor



## Rotary Club of Hazleton

“This is the ninth year Hazleton Rotary has undertaken the Holiday Shopping Spree which helps children in our area who might not have a Christmas/Holiday otherwise. As a Rotarian, I am very proud to be a part of this project! For the past nine years, with the help of Boscov’s Department Store, we were able to help 30 children, per year, in our community.” says project chairperson Kathie Oh. “This year things were a little different.” she continues, “Normally, we took the children shopping, but this year the children gave us their “wish list” and Rotary members did the shopping for them, instead of with them. We did miss the children and their enthusiasm. It just made the Holiday Season so much brighter to see the look on their faces when they found the gift they were looking for or when they wanted to buy a gift for their Mom or Dad.”

Ms. Oh comments further, “I would like to say thank you to all the Rotarians and guests who helped this year: Nicole Skatuler, Michele Ustynoski, Donna Barna, Dave and Mary Ann Haupt, Michele Kushmeder, Sharon Mylet, Kim McNulty, Lani and John Drobnock. Lauren and Scott Sacco. Also, Kim from Boscov’s Department Store and all their employees and Pat Ward from United Way of Greater Hazleton, as well as, The Salvation Army, Catholic Social Services, **United Charities** and The Commission on Economic Opportunity.”



Taking part in the Hazleton Rotary Annual Shopping Spree were: L-R Project Chair Kathie Oh; President Donna Barna; Michele Ustynoski; Scott Sacco; Lani, Benjamin, Anna, John III and John Drobnock.



Thank you to members of Hazleton Rotary Neal DeAngelo III., Alan Whitaker, Mary Pat Stroia, George Hayden, Donna Barna, Michele Kushmeder, Ron Avellino, Tim Genetti and Joe & Mike Cammisa who helped deliver Thanksgiving meals to homebound members of the community on November 24th. Another fine example of "Service Above Self"!

# Rotary Club of Hazleton

## Hazleton Continues Kidz Coatz Project

Ever since the Kidz Coatz project took off in 2007, Hazleton Rotary has continued the work and effort put into purchasing and delivering winter coats to area children.

Even though most of the Greater Hazleton Area children are not able to attend school now, Donna Barna, Hazleton Rotary President, was bound and determined that those in need would receive these winter garments.

“The pandemic doesn’t change the fact that we still have area youngsters who need warm coats” says Barna. “So, we had to improvise, but I’m happy to say we were able to complete the project this week.”

Working with local retailers, primarily Boscov’s, brand new coats were purchased for children in need from all elementary/middle schools in the Hazleton Area School District.

Social distancing did not permit the usual grouping of Rotarians to sort and pack the coats, but Donna and her mother, Ethel Dougherty, did that part of the preparation and the following Rotarians, taking Santa’s place, delivered the coats to local schools: Stephen Seach, Kim McNulty, Lani Drob-nock, Mary Malone, Tim Genetti and Dave Haupt & Wife Mary Ann.



Because of the economy, the number of children needing warm coats continues annually. Last year, Hazleton Rotary provided over 400 coats for area children, and this winter season more than 400 coats will be given to keep area children warm.

Coats were delivered to Hazle Township Early Learning Center, Arthur Street, Drums, Heights Terrace, West Hazleton, Freeland, McAdoo Kelayres, Maple Manor, Valley Elementary and The Castle

“Hazleton Rotary is very pleased to be able to provide this service to the community again and we hope to be able to continue to do so yearly. It does truly make you feel good to know we will be helping children keep warm during the upcoming winter.” comments President Elect Jason Brenner.

Rotarians Tim Genetti and Mary Malone get ready to step in and deliver Kidz Coatz to an area school.

## Hazleton Rotary “Mans” the Kettle for Salvation Army

Hazleton Rotarians have been active participants in this annual project emphasizing the Rotary Club motto of “Service Above Self” for a number of years. This year’s project chair was Mike Cammisa. Store entrances were manned on behalf of the Salvation Army from 8AM-2PM. Other participants were Donna Barna, Lew Dryfoos, Alan Whitaker, Joe Cammisa, Stephen Seach, Paul Oswald, Tim Genetti, Terry Jones, Paul Malone, Mary Pat Stroia, George & Karen Hayden, the Drob-nock Family and Ken Trippett



## Rotary Club of Plymouth

The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently provided meals to residents at Dan Flood for the holiday season. Residents were treated to a true Christmas meal with all the fixins delivered to each door socially distant by the members of the Club. Pictured are Rotarian Shelly Karavis, President Tom Hogan and Mary Ann Meeker. All of the culinary delights were sponsored by the Mr and Mrs Patrick Hogan and family. The Hogan family has been a strong supporter of the Club and this project for many years and they were able to pull it off again, despite the pandemic and other factors.



The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently received a donation to the Lighting Fund from the Eugene D Hogan Memorial Fund. The Hogan Memorial Fund was established to help with community projects in the Plymouth Area and in the Wyoming Valley West School District.



Pictured are presenters Keeley and Cory Delaney, Thomas P Hogan, Plymouth Rotary President. Second Row, Rotarians Mary Jo Charney, Eric Cheatley, Brian Vnuk and Janet Franchella

The Rotary Club of Plymouth donated gift cards to both Wegmans and Target during the holiday season to Bear Creek Charter School. The school used the donation to assist economically disadvantaged families during the holiday season. The club usually does a more “hands on” approach, but with the COVID situation we felt better to keep the interaction to a minimum and used the gift cards.



## Jim Thorpe Rotary Club Reinvents Their Holiday Giving Project

For a number of past holidays, the Jim Thorpe Rotary Club organized shopping for clothing for students in need in the Jim Thorpe Area School District. All siblings in a family were also included. This year, however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, their shopping partners, CCTI marketing students, weren't available, nor were their wrapping partners from the Jim Thorpe Area High School National Honor Society. Undaunted though, the members reinvented the project. One member suggested that the club buy gift cards. In order to continue to provide needed clothing, they decided to investigate which store would have the largest selection of styles and sizes. Another member suggested that Old Navy would satisfy those requirements at a price that fit both the club's budget as well as the students.'

Other club members approached their funding partners with this revised idea and they all agreed. Consequently, the money would also be available to fund the project.



Pictured during the presentation of 148 Old Navy gift cards in the vestibule of the L.B. Morris Elementary School are (l to r) Jeff White, L.B. Morris Vice Principal ; Rotarian Bob Stevenson, Project Chairman; Bill Allison, Past President; Jeanette Richards, school counselor contact; and Jodi Damian and Ashley Rully, L.B. Morris counselors.

## Rotary Club of The Abingtons

At the December 10th meeting of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons member Dave Griffin was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow award. Each year the club honors one or more members with this award to those who live by the Rotary ideals and make contributions in the amount of \$1000 to the Rotary International Foundation. The award is named after the founder of Rotary.



Left to right: Rotary Club members Past District Governor Gus Vlassis, Past District Governor Warren Watkins, Past District Governor Roger Mattes and Dave Griffin.



## Rotary Club of The Abingtons

At the Thursday meeting of the Rotary Club of the Abingtons a new member, William ("Billy") Angel, was installed.

Sponsored by member Eileen Christian and installed by Past District Governor Roger Mattes, Bill has been volunteering with fellow Rotarians for several months doing food drives, setting up meetings for lunch and running to the store for lunch items. Soon, you will see Billy sprucing up our Rotary flower containers and helping with the Pasta Drive Thursday, December 17th from 11-1PM at the Bedford Fire House.



## Rotary Club of Tunkhannock

### Tunkhannock's Multiple Paul Harris Fellows

At the Dec 3 lunch meeting, President Terri Detrick presented a Paul Harris +6 pin to Club Foundation Chair Samantha Maruzzelli. Foundation Chair Samantha (right) then presented a Paul Harris +7 pin to Tom Kukuchka.



# Rotary Club of Tunkhannock

## District Designated Grant for PPE for Ambulances

In May 2020 in the spirit of the Rotary motto "Service Above Self", Tunkhannock Rotary applied for a \$5,000 District Grant from the Rotary Foundation to be matched by \$5,000 from the Club to buy personal protection equipment (PPE)/ foggers for the 8 non-profit ambulance associations serving Wyoming County, represented by the Wyoming County EMS Consortium. The Club was notified in July that the grant was funded. The Club's matching \$5,000 was funded from the proceeds of the Oct 2019 Harvest & Wine Festival.



Rotarian Mike Markovitz, President and Chief of Tunkhannock Community Ambulance Association (TCAA) was invited to give a presentation at a Rotary luncheon on the impact of Covid-19 on the protocols and staff of the ambulance organizations.

Rotary Secretary, Carol Ziomek, was so impressed by the needs of the ambulance associations to keep patients and staff safe, that she asked the Wyoming County Community Health Foundation (WCCHF) Board, of which she is also Secretary, to consider a special grant for the bulk purchase of PPE for the EMS Consortium. The WCCHF identifies, selects and invests in programs and organizations that will improve the health and wellness of people in Wyoming County, PA and surrounding communities.

At a Special WCCHF Board Zoom meeting, Mike Markovitz gave his presentation. The Board unanimously approved a grant for \$10,000 for the Wyoming County EMS Consortium to match Rotary's grant.

On Sept 15, Tunkhannock Rotary President Terri Detrick and WCCHF Executive Director Shealynn Shave each presented a check for \$10,000 to the Wyoming County EMS Consortium for the purchase of personal protection equipment (PPE) for the 8 ambulance companies in the Consortium.

The Wyoming County EMS Consortium consists of:  
Tunkhannock Community Ambulance Association - Tunkhannock, PA  
Meshoppen Ambulance – Meshoppen, PA  
Mehoopany Ambulance – Mehoopany, PA  
Factoryville Ambulance – Factoryville, PA  
Lake Winola Ambulance – Lake Winola and Falls, PA  
Noxen Ambulance – Noxen, PA  
Kunkle Ambulance – Kunkle / Monroe Twp, PA  
Franklin Northmoreland Ambulance – Franklin Twp, PA

Although the Consortium ordered their \$20,000 worth of personal protection equipment (PPE) several months ago, the orders took a long time to arrive with supply shortages and shipping delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a long wait, it now appears that Santa's sleigh arrived a little early bring their PPE order before Christmas. It is hoped that these supplies will help keep our emergency services personnel safe and healthy during the holiday COVID-19 surge.



**PPE Supplies Have Finally Arrived!**

# Rotary Club of Tunkhannock

## Candy Cane Day

On Black Friday, Nov. 27, members of the Tunkhannock Rotary, the Rotary-sponsored Tunkhannock High School Interact Club, family and friends collected monetary donations from shoppers at four locations in Tunkhannock (Gay's, Walmart, Weis and Tractor Supply Plazas) from 8 AM to 1 PM to buy toys for kids for Christmas. Shoppers were offered candy canes as a treat for their donations. Volunteers followed CDC/DOH guidelines for face coverings, as well as, ensuring cleanliness/safety with the collection of donations and the dispersal of the individually wrapped candy canes.

A new record of \$4,600 was collected from the very generous public and the Rotary thanks everyone who donated to help buy gifts for Christmas for deserving children in need or in foster care in Wyoming County.

Thanks to Rotarian Matt Pompey and Tunkhannock Automart/Ford, who donated the candy canes. The volunteers were also very grateful for the hot coffee, cocoa and donuts provided by Dunkin Donuts.

At the Dec 10 and Dec 17 Rotary Luncheons, Candy Cane Day chair Mike Markovitz or Pres. Terri Detrick presented checks for \$2,300 each to Mary Foley of Interfaith Friends and Howard Heise of Wyoming County Children and Youth.

Howard Heise, Wyoming County Children and Youth Administrator accepted the gift on behalf of the 40 foster children and other families supported by his agency. Howard thanked the Rotary for collecting this money and was awed by the generosity of the shoppers who donated a record breaking \$4,600 on Candy Cane Day (half went to Interfaith Friends).

Howard remarked that for the first time in his 30 years of service, this is the most need (due to the COVID pandemic) that he has ever seen with people struggling to make ends meet and put food on their tables. Therefore, in addition to ensuring each child will get a gift for Christmas, a portion of the money will be used for food gift cards so that some of the food-insecure families can have a great Christmas dinner this year.

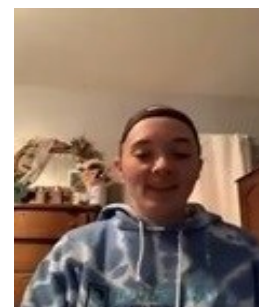
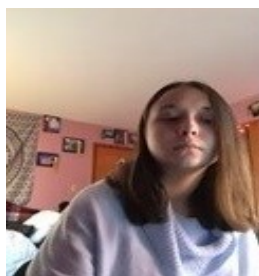


Rotarians Mary Tempest, Samantha Maruzzelli and Robin Rome

## Interact Club Awarded Certificate of Appreciation

At the Nov 12 Tunkhannock Rotary Meeting, Vice President Mike Markovitz formally presented the Tunkhannock Area High School (TAHS) Interact Club with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Rotary Foundation for their donations to Polio Plus over the years that has now exceeded \$1,200. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Kinsley Schmeckenbecher, Interact Club President attended via Zoom along with other Interact Officers [Emily Rickaby \(Secretary\) & Rebecca Fick \(Treasurer\)](#) (pictured below)

Each of the officers expressed their thanks for the recognition and indicated how important it was to them to get this Certificate of Appreciation. They also expressed their pleasure at being a part of Interact during their time in the Club.



# Rotary Club of Tunkhannock

## 2019-2020 Outbound Exchange Student Jenny Huang

Jenny Huang was Tunkhannock's 2019-2020 outbound exchange student to Bolivia. She spoke via Zoom at the Dec 10 Tunkhannock Rotary Meeting about her experiences during her exchange. Jenny's exchange was to Santa Cruz de La Seirra, Bolivia to Rotary District 4690. She went to a private School - Colegio de San Lorenzo Class of 2020. There were about 100 kids in her grade.

Although her time was shortened by the COVID-19 pandemic, she had the opportunity to sample some of the native Bolivian cuisine including sonso de yuca, empanadas, llama meat and some exotic fruits.

Their first orientation was in Santa Cruz on Sept 21. They toured the city, the cathedral and learned to take public transportation. They played games including a sack race and learned to fold empanadas.

Every year each grade at her school has a dance competition with the other grades. Her grade's theme was Baywatch.

Their first Rotary trip (Oct 4-8) was to Fuerto de Samaipata, Laguna Volcan and Amboro National Park with the other exchange students.

Jenny went to her 2nd host family after New Year's. They took her to Camacho Velarde park and Santiago just before the quarantine.

She got the opportunity to go to Lomas de Arena, 35 min outside Santa Cruz, which is a desert area with a lagoon where they could swim.

At the end of Jan, they went to the bigger cities in Bolivia. First stop was in Tarija known for its vineyards, then Sucre where they visited the Plaza and a chocolate factory (small town) and where they saw farms with alpacas and llamas.

Then visited Potosi and the mines there. They also went to the Salar de Uyuni (Salt Flats), the largest in Bolivia. They went to the Salt Hotel where they had dinner, which included llama meat and soup.

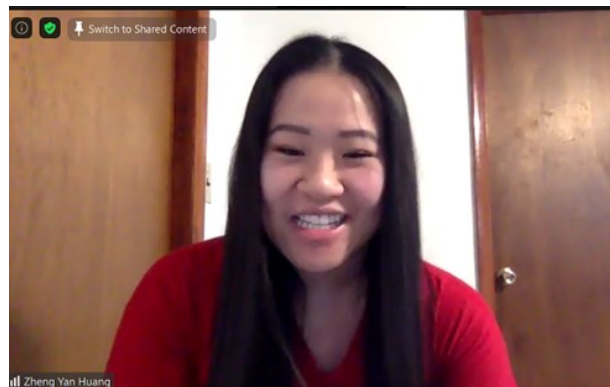
Then onto La Paz to ride the world's highest cable cars in the world.

They also visited Lake Titicaca and did a boat ride on the Lake and hiked a mountain.


Then their last stop was in Cochabamba where they hiked to a viewing area where you could see the entire city below. The exchange students then signed each other's flags and shirts.

She also traveled with her host families and the other exchange students to various historic/scenic sites in Bolivia, but due to the pandemic they were not able to go to Machu Pichu.

Although she was due to return to the US in June, she needed to leave early due to the pandemic. However, she was unable to get an earlier regular flight home, but the US Embassy arranged for her to catch a flight in April. Jenny was the last of our Rotary District's exchange students to return to the US and everyone was very relieved when she returned.







**To: Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Youth Activities Coordinators**

The time frame for the Rotary District 7410 District Essay Contest for 2020-'21 is upon us. The contest is open to students who are in the final two years of high school. The goal of the contest is to get some visibility for Rotary in your community, and to foster creativity and positive outlook.

The District winner will receive \$1,000.00 at the time of the District Conference. There will be a second place prize of \$500.00 and a third place prize of \$250.00. Each club may only submit one essay from each high school in its service area. It will be up to your club to judge your local entries, and to determine if there will be a local prize. Many clubs invite the winner and his or her family to a Rotary meeting to read their essay and be recognized. It is also up to club membership to determine if a local winner should receive a monetary award.

A local (club) deadline of January 29 is suggested. Given the current pandemic, schools are following diverse models for instruction. One constant, is that no outside personnel are allowed in school buildings. If you have made consistent contact with a teacher, school counselor, or administrator, I would recommend contacting that individual as soon as possible to request their participation.

The theme for this year's essay is derived from our Rotary International President, and one of Rotary's main causes: "How can you personally take the opportunity to protect the environment?" All additional information and details for the contest may be found on ClubRunner under Youth/Essay. Please ascertain if the Student Guidelines and poster may be delivered to the school, or if they should be emailed.

**Entries from clubs must be received by the District Chair on or before February 26.**

Please email your club's entry (entries) to [7410essay@gmail.com](mailto:7410essay@gmail.com). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kate Farrell Kurosky, District Essay Chair

439 Chenango St., Montrose, PA 18801

[kfarrellkurosky@gmail.com](mailto:kfarrellkurosky@gmail.com) (570) 309-8087



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**Join in our stay-at-home Online Auction February 1, 2021- March 14, 2021**

Great items available to the public in support of Rotary Projects and ending Polio  
Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Northeast Pennsylvania

[Trellis.org/rotaryauction](https://Trellis.org/rotaryauction)



- The Abingtons
- Athens
- Blakeslee
- Dallas
- Dunmore
- Forest City Area
- Freeland
- Hamlin
- Hawley
- Hazleton
- Honesdale
- Jim Thorpe
- Kingston
- Lehighton
- Milford-Matamoras
- Mountaintop
- Mt. Pocono
- Newfoundland
- New Milford Area
- North Pocono
- North Scranton
- The Passport club
- Pittston
- Plains
- Plymouth
- Pocono Mountains
- Sayre
- Scranton
- The Smithfields
- Slate Belt
- The Stroudsburgs
- Towanda
- Trail (Factoryville)
- Troy
- Tunkhannock
- Weatherly
- Wellsboro
- West End
- Wilkes Barre
- Winola
- Wyalusing
- Wyoming



## DISTRICT 7410 ROTARIANS!

Please support Operation Honduras "OH" 2021 through our "7 White Gifts" <socially distant> Mission.

Many reading this are traveling veterans of OH's 23+ year mission to serve the poorest of the poor of Honduras. Due to COVID, this year we can't bring our usual team of 10-45 construction/medical/administrative/ you name it! volunteers to perform our typical "hands on" work. This work took the form of building: schools, clinics, homes, a chapel and so much more. Our medical footprint includes fitting over 14,000 patients with hearing aids thanks to Starkey! Fourteen thousand (14,000) is not a typo. **District 7410 has been "the backbone" of OH.** Rotarians from our district also lead THE GIFT OF SIGHT program that fit over 6,000 patients with new prescription eye glasses-patients select their own frames out of 16 attractive options. Please add free cataract surgeries, free oral surgery (thank you Solfanellis!), twenty six (26) buildings, a new well (thank you Belons!), and so much more to our resume. Please see [operationhonduras.com](http://operationhonduras.com) for brief history.

We are continuing the OH mission in a socially distanced manner by providing below "7 White Gifts":

OH GIFT #	DESCRIPTION	COST(each)	GOAL amt
1	Reading glasses	\$0.50	2000+
2	Prescription eye glasses	\$25	400+
3	Cataract surgery (1 eye)	\$100	100+
4)	GIFT OF SOUND	\$200 (2 hearing aids)	120+
5)	Tele-medicine/ZOOM KIT	\$1000	10+
6)	El Refugio FOOD BANK	\$1000	1+
7)	Pagoda Uniforms	\$1000 (1 classroom)	1+

You may be thinking "I want more details/assurances before I donate". We at OH say, "Great! Skeptical donors who demand total transparency are often the most generous. See the website or call or email Jim Davenport of Dunmore Rotary (570.814.9570cell/[ophonduras@aol.com](mailto:ophonduras@aol.com)) for more details. Another reader may be thinking: "My club has resources and is looking for a good social distance international project NOW but we prefer 'hands on". Great! You can purchase the tele-medicine "ZOOM KIT", reading glasses or hearing aids directly. An OH volunteer will travel to your club to accept the donation-then you follow the ZOOM meetings and possibly see the look on a boys face when he can hear his mothers voice for the first time in his life. We know this joyous, tear generating, look because we have seen it many times thru OHs GIFT OF SOUND. Rotary gives us this reward!

Another reader might be thinking "how does my club donate to this again?". Many ways:

a) mail a check payable to Operation Honduras (or WVPC); 201 Bear Creek Blvd.-Suite A Plains Twp., PA 18702 (memo your Gift#)

b) Buy the donation! Very easy for Gift#s: 1, 4 & 5. Have it shipped to your club; take pictures. Invite a new member to review and possibly offer new ideas. OH will transport it from your club to Honduras-you can follow its travels in early February.

c) Wire direct to our in-country Honduras volunteers; this could apply to Gift#s: 3, 6 & 7. OH provides wiring instructions and method to follow the path of your generous gift-like a tracking number.

Our in-country OH volunteers are already at work testing patients:

Lets keep being Rotarians during these most difficult times. Any help is most appreciated.

Happy Holidays!  
Jim Davenport  
Dunmore Rotary





## **PETS - President Elect Training Seminar**

I wanted to reach out to each of you congratulating you on being President Elect of your club. I am looking forward to working with each of you and your clubs.

I hope you are aware of PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) which we do with 5 other Districts and it is usually held in New Jersey. Unfortunately we will not be able to have this Seminar in person so it will be held Virtually on every Tuesday night in March from 7PM to 8:30 PM. The DGE's are working on making this fun and interesting this year. You will also be required to do some training in the Learning Center at Rotary.org so more to come on PETS

Our district will have a Pre Pre PETS on January 13th at 7 PM and this will probably last an hour and of course Virtual. We are working on making this a fun night of getting to know each other. In the past this was a get together but again we can not do that this year.

I will be doing Internationally Assembly Virtually also and that will be from Feb. 1st to the 11th so we will then have a Virtual (ya I know Virtual again) on February 24th at 7PM and this virtual meeting will be for me to share PE Shekhar Mehta's message from International Assembly.

Please put these date on your calendar and let me know if you have any issues with these dates. More to come

I did send this email to the club presidents that do not have a President Elect listed on the District Web site.

Looking forward to working with you for the 2021-22 Rotary Year

Mary Ellen

DGE District 7410

(570) 499-8901

