



# District Dispatch

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Water and Sanitation Corner 2

Alma/St. Louis Club Purple Pinkie Project 3

Around the District 4

Club Foundation Goal 5

Your Rotary Legacy 5

Message from District Governor 6

## Nelson Mandela Remembered as an Ally for Peace, Polio Eradication

In 1996, routine polio immunizations in Nigeria and other African countries were anything but routine. Competing health priorities and lack of funding hampered many governments from putting polio eradication high on their agenda. The drive for polio-free Africa needed a playmaker. Enter Nelson Mandela.

Herb Brown, Rotary's president in 1995-96, recalls seeking the South African leader's support. "President Mandela was so gracious and listened as we described the problem," Brown says. "I told him only he had the influence to persuade the countries to resume immunization." Mandela agreed to help.



Nelson Mandela immunizes a child at a Kick Polio Out of Africa event in 1996.

"I'm well aware of Rotary and all the work you've done, and all the work you did while I was in jail," he told Brown. At a press conference, with Brown at his side, Mandela asked all the heads of state in Africa to open their doors to polio National Immunization Days.

Mandela helped launch the Kick Polio Out of Africa campaign later that year with 1996-97 Rotary President Luis Giay and Rotary Foundation Chair Rajendra Saboo. Almost immediately, Africa's polio eradication effort was back on track. Using soccer matches and celebrity endorsements, the campaign raised public awareness of polio and helped spur more than 30 African countries to hold their first National Immunization Days.

(continued on Page 6)

# Water and Sanitation Corner

by Randy Ettema

In early November, eight District 6310 Rotarians had a very productive visit to interior villages in the Dominican Republic. They were hosted by Rotarians from Clubs in Santiago, Moca, Villa Trina, and Cayetano Germosen. Our traveling Rotarians are from Birch Run, Frankenmuth Morning, Oscoda, Owosso, and Saginaw Rotary Clubs.

Aside from visiting the projects currently underway, our water champions came back with plans for International Grants for this Rotary year of 2013 - 2014. They decided on seeking Rotary Fund Global Grant approval for two very worthwhile Water and Sanitation projects. Much time has been spent on the development of these projects with Rotary friends in the Dominican Republic.



DSC01978 Ricardo Verdoni and Dave Morgan talking to Santiago Gurobito Rotary Club

These two initiatives are the first New Vision Global Grants for our Rotary District. One grant focuses on water filters, improved water facilities, and new latrines in three communities. The second grant will continue our efforts to take the model hand washing project nationwide. These initiatives will need broad support from every club in our district to attain the needed funding. We are hoping that every club in the district will support one or the other of these two grants. Look for more details in next month's Dispatch.



Students hand washing demonstration



Finished latrine — Oscoda grant



New latrine with Dr. Alex Rodriguez Adams

# Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club



Alma/St. Louis Rotarians at Pine Avenue Elementary School, raising money for the Purple Pinkie Project. Pictures left to right: Front Row: Art McClintic, Grace Lafoon (Junior Rotarian), Marita Harkness. Back Row: Marge Roslund, Indira Saxena, Jennifer Hornus, Wes Wickes, John Pavlik, Harmony Nowlin and Sonia Lark.

The **Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club's** Purple Pinkie Project was a huge success! During lunch, Rotarians along with Junior Rotarians, visited Pine Avenue Elementary School, Donald L. Pavlik Middle School and Alma High School to raise money to help eradicate polio. Students who donated a dollar, which is the equivalent cost of one polio vaccine, got their pinkie dipped in Gentian Violet. Throughout the world, each time a Rotary volunteer administers a polio vaccine, a child's pinkie is colored purple with the topical solution Gentian Violet, temporarily marking them to prevent double dosage.



A student at Pine Avenue Elementary School shows off his purple pinkie after he donated \$1 to help immunize a child in another country.

A total of \$1,206.26 was raised and will be given to Rotary International for their mission to eradicate polio world-wide. Poliomyelitis (polio) is a crippling and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in parts of the world. The poliovirus invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis in a matter of hours. It can strike at any age but mainly affects children under five.

"Not only was this a great community service project with an international flare" stated Harmony Nowlin, Alma/St. Louis Rotary President-Elect, "but it also was a great partnership between Rotary and the schools and brought awareness to this terrible disease!"

Today, there are only three countries that have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Fewer than 250 polio cases were reported worldwide in 2012. Until polio is eradicated, all countries remain at risk of outbreaks.

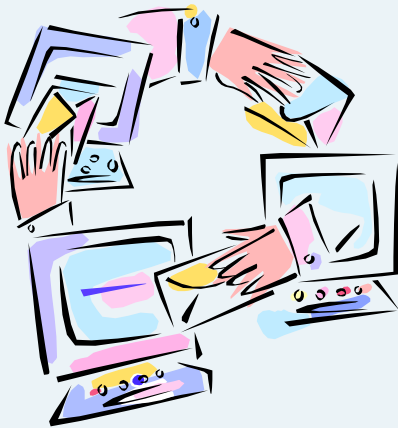
## Around the District



The **Frankenmuth Morning Rotary** Club is sponsoring a Winter Wine Affair on February 13, 2014.

The \$30 cost per person includes 5 wine tastes, food, entry into raffle, entertainment and fun!

Hope to see you there!



It's time to remind all of us about the District 6310 E-Club, which meets online on Tuesday at 8PM ET. Often the club meets "in person" on line. If that is not convenient, members can attend by going to <http://www.district6310e.org> to hear and see what the members did on Tuesday evening. Some weeks, there is no "in person" meeting, but everyone can log into a program at their convenience.

Please consider making up at one of these meetings of the E-club. You will be very welcome and you can see what's happening with our district's E-Club.

An e-club is designed for Rotarians or prospective members who can't attend a physical meeting because of scheduling conflicts, driving distances, child care arrangements, or they live in an area that can't support a physical club and they want to be a part of important causes and network with others who share the ideals of Rotary.

If you have asked someone to join your Rotary club and he/she cannot attend your club meetings, suggest our E-club to them. The club is looking for more members, especially from outside the Thumb area.

For more information, contact Jim Smith at [JJSmith@avci.net](mailto:JJSmith@avci.net).

## Has your club set its Foundation goal?

Every year, every Rotary club is asked to set a goal for its Annual Fund and Polio Plus fundraising. Usually in our district almost 100% of our clubs set a goal before the Rotary year begins.

This year, nineteen (19) clubs have set giving goals totaling \$103,481. Congratulations to those clubs! But this means that thirteen (13) clubs have not yet set goals. Where does your club stand? It is not too late to set a Foundation giving goal for the current year. Go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and then go to Club Central. Any officer of your club should be able to enter a goal there. If you have problems, contact District Governor Duane Ryehl [duane.ryehl@gmail.com](mailto:duane.ryehl@gmail.com), Connie Deford ([connie.rotary6310@gmail.com](mailto:connie.rotary6310@gmail.com)), or Eileen Jennings ([eileen.jennings811@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.jennings811@gmail.com)).

We know clubs that set goals give more to the Foundation than clubs that do not set goals. Let's have 100% of our clubs set a giving goal by January 1!

## Doing Good in the World Beyond Your Lifetime

At this time of year, many of us are reviewing our estate plans. Please think about leaving some amount of money to The Rotary Foundation.

You might make The Rotary Foundation the beneficiary of some portion of a life insurance policy. Or you might designate the Foundation to receive a portion of the balance left in your retirement fund when you die. Gifts from other resources upon death are welcome also, but there may be some tax advantages to giving from your retirement or life insurance. Consult your attorney, investment advisor, or tax advisor to see what works best for you.

A gift of only \$1,000 makes you a Rotary Benefactor. A gift of \$10,000 or more makes you a member of the Bequest Society. With a gift of \$25,000 or more, you can establish a fund named for you or your family or a loved one.

Will the rest of your beneficiaries really miss \$1,000 if given to The Rotary Foundation Endowment Fund? If every current Rotarian in our district designated \$1,000 to the Endowment Fund upon death, we would have a total fund of 1.3 MILLION DOLLARS.

The Endowment Fund will invest your gift and the earnings will be spent each year on Rotary humanitarian projects. We urge you to designate the earnings to be applied "Through SHARE" so that half the earnings will be spent according to this district's wishes. This year our district received \$144 from the earnings of one deceased Rotarian's gift. Think what we could do with the earnings on \$1.3 million.

For more information about estate planning possibilities, contact Eileen at [eileen.jennings811@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.jennings811@gmail.com).



As was noted in last month's Dispatch, our district members are incredibly generous in their support for individuals and communities no matter where they are located in the world. Please be proud of what you do. And thank you for your contributions to The Rotary Foundation. It takes stamina and determination to do what we do year in and year out. But it's necessary to continue. Need never takes a day off, so we must not either. That's not to say that it's easy. Sometimes we can't always give as much as we would like, but every dollar helps. As the holiday seasons approach and we share our private moments of thanks, please share a little bit more with those less able to help themselves. A contribution to The Rotary Foundation is such a wonderful way to do that. Thanks for all you have given, and thank you in advance for your commitment to continue to give. The world is smiling on you!



**2013-2014 District 6310  
Governor Duane Reyhl**

## Mandela (continued)

In recognition of his vital work, Rotary presented the Rotary Award for World Understanding to Mandela in 1997, then Rotary's highest honor. "We chose President Mandela because of his significant contributions to world peace, human rights, and freedom," said Giay, adding that Rotary members appreciated "his strong support of the eradication of polio throughout Africa."

Mandela called the award "a tribute to the people of South Africa's rainbow nation." Rotary's work toward eradicating polio "has shown the power of a global network of people who are ready to roll up their sleeves and put their heart and soul into saving children from disability."

Mandela donated the award's \$100,000 prize to the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

Following his death, Rotary members in South Africa lauded Mandela as "one of the 20th century's iconic symbols of freedom and equality," "the father of the nation," and "a leader of service."

"Mandela was a man who overcame unimaginable hardships to emerge as one of the greatest leaders of our time — and one of our greatest humanitarians.... [His] legacy of courage, determination, and commitment will forever inspire us to move forward in our effort to achieve a better, more peaceful world," said Rotary President Ron Burton.

By Dan Nixon  
Rotary News

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The District 6310 Newsletter is published monthly. Articles originate from various Rotary International publications as well as from events and activities within the District. Thank you to all contributors.

We encourage the submission of articles. Please provide information and pictures for a future District Dispatch to:

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