



# District Dispatch

FEBRUARY, 2014

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## Reserve May 2-3 for the 2014 District Conference

Don't miss this year's 2014 District Conference with a focus on fun, friendship, and inspiration!

**Breakout sessions** will cover all of Rotary International's "Six Areas of Focus" plus plenty of sessions to help your club stay vibrant. Idea exchange sessions will give you lots of ideas for speakers, programs, and club promotion. You will also have the chance to attend sessions devoted to youth services, grant writing, membership, and more.

**Rotary International President Ron Burton** has selected Thomas Bennett as his president's representative. Mr. Bennett is a past district governor from District 7010 (Ontario, Canada), and we look forward to visiting with him during the conference.

**A special treat Friday evening.** Our keynote speaker will be Marilyn Fitzgerald. She is the author of the book, *If Only I had a Water Buffalo.* Marilyn is a very delightful, engaging individual, and her topic is especially relevant with today's focus on sustainable projects.

**Other conference highlights** include entertainment from our talented youth exchange students, activities for spouses and kids, a tour of the historic Castle Museum, and lots more. While it sounds like an event-packed weekend, we'll also schedule "down time" so you can catch your breath!

Registration specifics will be available soon, so stay tuned. In the meantime, mark your calendars for May 2-3!

**Rotary**  
6310 District Conference



*In Saginaw*

May 2 & 3, 2014  
Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Saginaw

# Water and Sanitation Corner

By Melissa Franklin, Birch Run Rotary Club

November 7, 2013 I boarded a plane heading from Flint MI to Santiago in the Dominican Republic with fellow Rotarians to set out on our mission of helping with a Global Grant for clean water and sanitation. Our goal was to visit some local communities and see the need for wells, latrines, water filters, and teaching hand washing to the teachers so they can teach the community. Our goal is to help in improving the quality of life for the Dominican Republic people. I thought I was prepared for anything, I quickly discovered I was not.

We landed and were immediately greeted with not only the warmth of the Dominican Republic air, but with hospitality have never seen before. We were treated like royalty. We arrived at one of the host families homes and were served a wonderful meal, live music, laughter and lots of smiles.

The language barrier I was worried about really wasn't an issue. There was always someone around who spoke at least some English and it's amazing how far a smile and hug will get you.

Our first day there we jumped feet first into visiting local communities with projects that were in progress along with the new projects our grant would help. Our first stop was a school. I remembered Randy telling me before our trip not to cry, just smile and remember these are a very proud group of people. I had to remember his words.

The school was open on one whole side, it consisted of five rooms and it was in no way secure. I remember thinking rain would wash away the whole inside. Most chairs and desks were broken, supplies were nonexistent. The teachers were working with nearly nothing and yet they along with all the children were happy and smiling. The outhouse was right next to the school and the ground around it was wet. The smell was so strong.



School



Latrine



Hand washing demonstration

The children did a hand washing demonstration for us, and we spoke to one of the teachers who explained how the students have participated in the hand washing training and that attendance was improved along with skin conditions since the training began. Our day continued onto villages and homes. I have never experienced the level of poverty we saw, yet every person I saw was smiling that glorious Dominican Republic smile.

Every day was filled with a combination of shock, beauty, sadness, and again those amazing smiles. I couldn't believe what I was seeing or smelling. I was taking tons of pictures to bring home and show my club, but every night as I looked at what I had taken, the pictures were beautiful to me...I wish I could have captured the emotion and smell.

(Continued on page 3)

## Water and Sanitation Corner (cont.)

The country is filled with beautiful landscape, amazing people, wonderful food, and a beautiful culture and more poverty than I ever imagined. I was surprised that I could be at a beautiful home that was only a 15 minute drive from villages that didn't have running water or bathrooms. What was also a surprise was that even in the nice homes, water and electricity were not reliable. Even what we would consider middle- or high-class families relied on rain water collections. How could a country not have clean, reliable, safe water? Something we take for granted is a rare commodity there. The basic concept of washing hands had to be taught to the population, starting with the teachers.

Each place we visited was a bigger shock than the previous. We visited a village on a day they had a medical clinic. They get to see a doctor twice a year...What if you only had access to a doctor two times a year? The average person makes about \$6 American dollars a day and not everyone has transportation. In fact some of the village people had motorcycles where a family of five including small children would all ride on one motorcycle...try to picture that for a second...your whole family riding helmetless on a small motorcycle to get from Point A to Point B.

I didn't feel sorry for the people, they were happy and who was I to throw my American thoughts onto them. What it did make me feel was hope and a strong desire to help make it so everyone regardless of income or socioeconomic status would have access to a clean latrine and the ability to wash their hands.

A latrine can be built for roughly \$300; a tippy tap can be made for roughly \$1.00. A Tippy Tap is made out of a gallon milk jug, with a mesh bag to hold soap that hangs from a tree. This simple device gives families the opportunity to wash their hands. Our Global Grant is simply a small beginning to a huge issue. I will never forget a conversation I was a part of. One of the Rotarians in the Moca club said "thank you for helping people that don't have the knowledge to appreciate what you are really helping them with." We, as a group of Rotarians, are truly living up to the "service above self" and "engaging lives."

I stepped off that plane a week later a different person. I don't turn on my faucet without remembering the lack of water just a plane ride away. I don't take a drink of water without remembering how not everyone has clean water to drink, and I don't forget the amazing friendships that were formed and those amazing smiles!



A Tippy Tap

## Rotary Leadership Institute

A training schedule for 2014 has just been announced by the Rotary Leadership Institute. For more information and to register, go to [www.rligreatlakes.org](http://www.rligreatlakes.org)

March 1	Shipshewana, Indiana
April 5	Lansing, Michigan
July 12	Mount Pleasant, Michigan
July 26	Ann Arbor, Michigan
August 23	Big Rapids, Michigan
October 18	Chatham, Ontario, Canada

## Around the District



Shown are members of the **Northern Bay & Arenac Rotary Club** receiving the Presidential Award for Outstanding Community Service presented by the Pinconning-Linwood Chamber of Commerce. The award ceremony was held on January 18, 2014, at the Cheese House in Pinconning.

Members shown [front row, L to R] are Tom and Dorothy Buechle, club president Lori Schumann, Mary Ellery; [back row] Dan Couveau, Lonna Hummel, Dennis Curtis, Mike Stoner, Luke Russell.

The **Mount Pleasant Rotary Club** recently inducted new members, (Left) Betsy Fagan, sponsored by Peggy Pickler, and (Middle) Marcella Hadden of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, sponsored by Kathy Beebe.

Amanda Schafer, membership committee director, is shown on the right.



Members of the **Bay City Morning Rotary Club** recently made their attempt to keep warm in this chilly weather on the Annual Sweater Vest Day.

# PLAN YOUR NEXT GRANT APPLICATION NOW

By Eileen Jennings

**It's that time again!** Our District will have four Grants Management Seminars to help clubs prepare applications for District Grant projects for the next Rotary year – 2014-15.

We want all clubs in the District to become “Qualified” for District Grants and Global Grants. There are three steps to becoming qualified:

- 1) Have at least two members of the club complete a Grants Management Seminar;
- 2) Sign a Memorandum of Understanding and Addendum with the District;
- 3) Have a Club Financial Management Plan.

Club Presidents will be receiving a series of emails about these three steps. The Grants Management Seminars will be held in Owosso, Bay City, Shepherd, and Oscoda in February and early March. Be sure to schedule two of your club members for one of these sessions! (Yes, even if two members attended last year, two members must attend this year.)

Every club can apply for a District Grant Project. District Grants are available for community or international projects. The project may cost as little as \$1,000 (\$500 from the club and a \$500 match from the District), or as much as \$8,000 (\$4,000 from each).

This past fall, the District funded 10 projects with 11 clubs. Millington, for example, received a \$636 match for updating the HVAC in the Community Center. Saginaw Valley received a \$5,000 match to create a rowing club for disadvantaged youth. Alma-St. Louis, Ithaca, and Breckenridge joined together to obtain a \$5,000 match to support the new Gratiot County Free Clinic.

Please come to one of the Grants Management Seminars to learn more about how to apply for these grants. Ask your club president for more details.

## Grants Management Seminars

Saturday, February 22 – Shepherd, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., United Methodist Church

Saturday, March 1 – Bay City, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. COPOCO

Wednesday, March 12 – Owosso; from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Shiawassee Regional Chamber of Commerce office

Wednesday, February 19 - Oscoda, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Wiltse's Restaurant



# Update on Former Ambassadorial Scholars and Current Global Scholar

By Tom Miles

**Monique (Metcalf) Terrazas** was an inbound scholar from South Africa who studied at Saginaw Valley State University in 2002-03. She is married and living in South Africa with two boys, 8 and 7. She says, "Please send my regards to all the Rotarians."

**Dave Cupery** from Harbor Beach spent his Ambassadorial Scholar year in 2006-07 in Ecuador. He is now at the dissertation stage of his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado. He recently returned to Boulder after spending about seven months in Ecuador doing field research. While there he helped his former host Rotary Club at a Christmas party at a local lower income school.

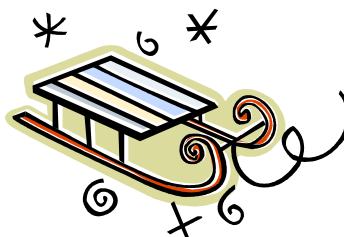
**Mohibullah Israr** was our 2007-08 Ambassadorial Scholar from Afghanistan. He obtained a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from CMU. When he returned home, he taught for a while at Nangarhar University in Jalalabad. Now he is the Regional Director for the National Solidarity Program, a reconstruction program, for five eastern provinces. In addition, he operates a pre-school through grade 6 school that has 450 students and Gandahara Educational and Vocational Services Organization, which has received several grants, primarily for the teaching of English to school teachers and students. Israr often asks about his friends here in mid-Michigan and sends his best wishes. He wishes that he could visit with everyone in person.

**Tyler Matthews**, from Midland, spent his Ambassadorial Scholar year in 2010-11 completing a master's degree at Oxford University. He is now a first lieutenant with the United States Army, stationed in Colorado Springs. He is scheduled to have his second deployment in Afghanistan beginning early in February.

**Mutinta Sondashi** was an inbound scholar from Zambia in 2011-12. She completed her MSA degree at Central Michigan University in 2013 and returned to Zambia with her husband. They have recently moved into a new home and have her 14 year old nephew living with them.

**Jency Schnettler** was our outbound scholar in 2012-13, sponsored by the Bay City Club. She spent her year in Shanghai and returned to Michigan this summer. She has spoken to five clubs in our district about her experience in China. On the 10th of February she started a six-month position in Washington, D.C. with the UK Trade and Investment arm of the British Embassy. She will be working with international business expansion in the investment and life science industries.

**Peter Ekadu** from Uganda is our current global scholar. He has successfully completed one semester at CMU and is a month into his second semester. He has spoken to 11 clubs in our district and expects to speak to a few more this spring. He had never seen snow before coming to the U.S. He says he's seen enough now, but he's adapting well, having tried ice skating and sledding so far.



# Happy birthday to us

We celebrate February as World Understanding Month and as Rotary's 109th birthday. It's amazing what we've accomplished since February 23, 1905. Each of you continues to change lives — on a personal *and* club level. Take time to reflect on all your countless actions — big and small — that keep Rotary a vibrant organization. You make it possible because you

- . . . are a role model in your vocation by living the Four Way Test.
- . . . mentor new members so they can better understand our part in the world.
- . . . place drops of a polio vaccine on a child's tongue so that they might never see the ravages of a dreadful disease.
- . . . guide youth so that we may pass along our values to an emerging generation of leaders.
- . . . reach out in fellowship to greet club visitors when they arrive at your club for the first time.
- . . . help spread the gift of clean water to areas that have none.
- . . . give up those extra couple of minutes, hours, days, or weeks to help others.
- . . . realize that our planet is a world of local communities.
- . . . read to a child to build literacy.
- . . . help other communities build sustainable futures.
- . . . offer a greater chance for peace in our world.

Because of you, the world is a better place. You reach out to your local communities; you make a difference.

Take pride Rotarians of District 6310. Thank you for all you do.



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



## HAPPY 109th BIRTHDAY, ROTARY



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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