

District Dispatch

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Notes from DG Dee

Happy Birthday, Rotary!

Rotary turns 110 years old on February 23rd. To commemorate the occasion, I'm asking each club to celebrate with a Rotary Birthday Cake, complete with ice cream, at your club meeting closest to that date. Think of all the lives that have been saved or changed for the better in 110 years of "doing good" around the world and in our own communities. I think that deserves a celebration!



Youth Services



Joe Sawyer, Dianne Rodgers, Dave Smith

Last week I traveled with Dianne Rodgers, our Youth Exchange District Chair, Dave Smith, our District YE Compliance Officer, and Joe Sawyer, our District Outbound YE Officer, to the Central States Rotary Youth Exchange Winter Conference in Schaumburg, IL. Our district is part of a multi-district organization made up of the Youth Exchange programs from 18 districts.

Some of you probably already know that our district is active in Central States, but I wonder how many of you know what a huge role our district plays in that organization. I am proud to say that our district is home to the chairperson and the treasurer of Central States RYE – Dave Smith, Rotary Club of Midland, is the chair of CSRYE, and Joe Sawyer, Rotary Club of Corunna, is the treasurer for CSRYE. So, as you can imagine, this was one beaming District Governor as I listened to their presentations. District 6310 Rotarians, you can be proud of the leadership our district provides in CSRYE! And, just as I felt when I visited their Summer Conference at Calvin College last July, I was simply in awe of the many volunteer Rotarians who work so hard to provide lifetime experiences for those students who are fortunate enough to be in the Youth Exchange program!

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards committee met in January and hopes to have the 2015 Registration Packets ready by the end of February. We are also hoping to have a brochure available this year that might make it easier for the clubs to recruit students. The brochure would explain RYLA, the program, and Camp Rotary.

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2014-2015 District Governor
Delores "Dee" Brock

Notes from DG Dee (continued)

Rotary's New Emblem

In the January District Dispatch, I shared with you a request from Georgene Hildebrand, Zone 29 Rotary Public Image Coordinator, urging our clubs to implement the new Rotary emblem. Yesterday, I received an email from Mary Beth Growney Selene, Zone 29 Rotary International Director, who repeated the request. I will forward that email to the club presidents, and I hope they will share her message with their clubs. Thank you to all those clubs who are already using the new emblem on their website, FB, newsletters, etc. I'm hoping that all of our clubs will make this request from Georgene and Mary Beth a priority. It's time!

Rotary Days

Rotary International President Gary Huang asked each district and club to have a Rotary Day during this Rotary year. The District had a Rotary Day at a Loons game in August and a Rotary Night at a Saginaw Spirits Hockey game in January. On January 26, the Rotary Club of Alma-St. Louis hosted a Rotary Day. The purpose of a Rotary Day is to introduce non-Rotarians to what Rotary is all about, to explain what it does in the community and in the world, and of course, to have fun! The Alma-St. Louis club did just that. They hosted an informal get-together at the Alma Brewing Co., had brochures about Rotary and the Alma-St. Louis Rotary club available, and asked some of their Rotarians to tell their Rotary story! It was that simple! It was a great evening! I'm hoping other clubs will consider hosting a Rotary Day ... and please, invite me!



Polio Update

By Chairman Chuck Cusick



The first month of 2015 gives us some hope for eradicating polio. Nigeria has been free of poliovirus type 1 for 6 months. Four new cases of wild poliovirus type 1 have been reported in Pakistan. No other countries have reported any cases.

In 2014, cases of polio in Pakistan accounted for 85% of cases worldwide. Leaders across Pakistan met in November to establish an emergency strategy for 2015. With the low season for polio transmission approaching, there was consensus that this was an opportunity to gain control over the virus in Pakistan.

Political leaders from all levels of government were joined by public health experts, partners of the polio eradication program and community leaders from across the country. The meeting focused on several specific issues such as improving the quality of activities in accessible areas, increasing the security measures for protecting health workers, developing special strategies for reaching mobile populations, and also using inactivated polio vaccine in areas where unvaccinated children are leaving areas of conflict.

This evidence of increased commitment from the government of Pakistan at all levels is crucial for turning the tide on polio. In the long history of the polio eradication program, countries that seemed to have insurmountable problems have made a dramatic turnaround following a similar commitment from their governments.

The following article is republished from the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group newsletter.

Thinking Strategically about WASH in Schools

submitted by Charles Adams & PDG Alexandra Martinez - Dominican Republic

"WASH in Schools" is the theme for Rotary's 2015 Water Summit in Brazil. Why is that important? How do you do it? Where do we go with it? Inspired by Rotary's PolioPlus, we're motivated to take a serious look at ways to get more bang for the bucks that Rotary invests in other humanitarian programs. Basically, like PolioPlus, this goal will translate into Rotary's becoming an "advocate" that can find and motivate partners to share the commitment, share the funding, and extend the scope of Rotary's programs.

Increasingly, it is thought that one of Rotary's greatest achievements in the fight against polio has been as an advocate. While Rotary has put up something over 10% of the world's budget to fight polio, it has been most visible as a "change agent" in motivating hundreds, perhaps thousands, of other organizations and multitudes of individuals to fight polio.

Advocacy clearly gave Rotary *two* bangs for the buck in polio. One was the direct benefit to hundreds of millions of children through immunizations. The second was in giving legs to the campaign by energizing hundreds of thousands of other people to share Rotary's commitment.

The question is: can we do that with water, sanitation, and hygiene projects? First, an example.

Studies show that handwashing can reduce diarrheal diseases by more than 40% and upper respiratory diseases (like pneumonia) by 23%. With documented results like those, handwashing and hygiene should be at the top of the list of anyone who wants the *cheapest, fastest, and most effective way* to dramatically improve the health of a nation. That's what happened in the U.S. in the 1800s and early 1900s, and that will likely be the pattern in developing nations.

This is what motivates the Rotary Handwashing Campaign in the Dominican Republic. And it can be looked at as a program that potentially fits the advocacy model. In this campaign, Rotary recruits schools and it funds the training of teachers and the production of classroom teaching materials to use in the schools' health curricula. The teachers then train and monitor the handwashing behavior of students. Thus, because schools have a vested interest in the health of their students, we create advocates among schools, principals, teachers, and students that continue to do Rotary's work well beyond anything that Rotary can do by itself. And they do it year after year.

Who could ask for better partners than a nation's schools – or the schools of the world — to help accomplish Rotary's mission in handwashing and hygiene?

But what about clean water? That's more problematic because Rotary's typical WASH projects have followed a "benefit/charity" model. We drill a well; that's the end of it; great benefits but no more advocacy. We install rainwater harvesting; great benefits but nothing else happens. We put a filter in people's homes; finish; nada; no legs. All of that makes us feel good; but, increasingly, Rotary must look for leverage to optimize its investments. However, it will take a different model to get leverage.

So where can we turn? What can we create?

Let's look again at the schools. After all, everyone will agree that "the health of a nation tomorrow depends upon what we teach our children today." That realization has profound implications not only for personal health but also for the productivity of a nation's economy and its health costs.

One of the largest expenses in public health is the treatment of waterborne diseases. A new WHO/UN study in 94 countries shows that, for every \$1 invested in WASH, the economic benefits in a developing nation can be a \$4.30 reduction in health costs. Sounds compelling, but that's not all. The study also showed that nationwide WASH can produce a gain of 1.5% in GDP.

So what do we have here? A major reduction in diseases *and* a four-to-one return on the invested WASH dollar *and* something that sounds equivalent to a big dollop of foreign aid with a 1.5% increase in GDP. That sounds like *three* big bangs for the humanitarian buck. But if we want a nation's commitment to these WASH benefits *tomorrow*, we have to be teaching its children how to do WASH *today*. Just how do we do that?

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Thinking Strategically about WASH in Schools (continued)

Here we have a problem.

One of the first things we learned starting the Handwashing Campaign was how ill-prepared we were for reality in the schools. Here we were, teaching thousands of students in hundreds of classrooms about handwashing; but, guess what? At least 80% of the schools we were in had no facilities for washing hands. Pretty hard to make handwashing advocates just with book learning. So we designed simple, economical handwashing stations for schools that had none. Now students *learn about* handwashing, then *do it*, then *take the habit home* with them (slow at first, but getting better).

We've discovered the same problem with clean water. Our surveys show that 80%-90% of Dominican schools do not provide clean drinking water for students — unless they buy bottled water so they can distribute a few ounces a day. Imagine hundreds of schools, each with hundreds of students, that provide no drinking water at all (or, at most, a small cup).

There's something else. We know that clean water can reduce diarrheal diseases by more than 50%. But no one is talking about reducing the serious *stealth* effects of dehydration — the silent enemy of children — on learning, health, and nutrition. Forget the hit on health and nutrition for a moment, studies show that a child's learning ability can easily drop 15%-25% due to dehydration during a school day. That's a serious erosion of dollars invested in education. What do we do about that?



In 2013, we introduced a new, low-cost, water filter for homes based upon hollow-fiber membrane technology (see photo). [\[iv\]](#) It is now being used in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, and other countries.

This technology can remove all bacteria and all parasites, and it is fully scalable. That means that we can design small filters for homes and large filters for large applications — even for entire villages.

So why can't we do something about schools? Well, now we can.

This is new ground for Rotary because, to our knowledge, nowhere in the world has Rotary ever had *economical* programs to provide pure drinking water for students in any but the smaller schools. (Neither has any other NGO.) Systems installed in the larger schools typically involve electrical components, chemicals, and replacement parts. The reasons such systems have *not proliferated* is, first, because of their capital cost and, second, because schools can't or don't have the capacity or the will to manage the upkeep costs.

(To its credit, the bio-sand filter (BSF) has tried to serve this market. It was a great workhorse and the best many of us had to work with for years; but, for schools, we pushed it far beyond its design specs.)

So how do we break new ground? How can Rotary *transform* a benefit/charity WASH program into an advocacy WASH program?

One way is to go back to our handwashing model. We need partners (a) that can share our commitment to a goal, (b) that have broad outreach, (c) that are highly respected, (d) that strongly influence community behavior, and (e) that have lots of boots on the ground to do the work.

Is there a better candidate than a nation's schools?

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Thinking Strategically about WASH in Schools (continued)

So, without getting technical, we now have the ability to work with schools making clean water available to their students *economically*. Is there any school that does not want to do that? To accomplish this, the hollow-fiber filters have, so far, been scaled up into five sizes that can serve schools of 50 to 500 students. (Three sizes are shown.) Larger schools, of course, can use multiple filters in multiple locations; or we can scale up to larger, even centralized, systems to suit their needs economically.



These filters remove all bacteria and parasites. They are user-friendly, easily maintained, and require no electricity, chemicals, or replacement parts. They have multiple spigots for easy student access. They are fully mobile for use in high traffic areas (daytime) but easily secured in a locked room (at night).

The economics? For the full cost of building one latrine for one family, we can produce a filter that, filled twice, provides one liter per day of water free from bacteria and parasites for a school of 220 students. It doesn't get simpler than that.

What do we get for this?

First, we get the direct benefit of improved health for students from drinking clean water. *Second*, we get penetration of the community through the training and advocacy of principals, teachers, and students. In this way, we *transform* a simple one-time WASH *benefit* program into a continuing WASH *advocacy* program that has the potential to cover a nation.

And not only can it work in one nation, it can work in many nations. That's what we've been looking for!

But how can we make it happen?

We have to more fully document and operationalize this model to bring it to scale for large regions and small nations. An operations manual must be developed to share expertise on how to design, build, fund, organize, and implement school filter campaigns. This will take some time, but it isn't rocket science.

Is it all worth the effort? We think so. By transforming WASH charity programs into advocacy programs – as in the handwashing and school filter campaigns – Rotary can add substance to its slogan of “WASH in Schools.” With a full strategic commitment, Rotary could truly energize the world's schools and can make a significant difference in the world's health just as it has done with its partners in polio.

Is this pie in the sky, or could we really do that with WASH? Of course we could! In fact, since 1990, deaths of children under five have been cut in half largely by programs like Rotary has been funding for decades. Is there any reason why 1.2 million Rotarians in 34,000 clubs in 200 countries, 12,000 Interact clubs in 133 countries, 8,000 Rotaract clubs in 167 countries, and 7,500 Rotary Community Corps in 75 countries — all working with partners like the world's schools — can't put extra bounce in those numbers just like we've done with our partners in polio?

Rotary has the ability to make that happen. The question is: what's the next step?

Making The Rotary Foundation Real

By Chairman Eileen Jennings

The following is an edited column written by a Rotarian Tusu Tusubira from Africa. It was published in the Reach Out to African (ROTA) newsletter. Although it was written about African contributions to the Foundation, I think it reflects the thinking of many Rotarians in our own district. And our district is learning the truth of what he recommends – once we visit one of our projects, we are hooked for life.

[Even in leadership training programs,] there is a general avoidance of dealing with topics related to The Rotary Foundation. And who can blame them? TRF has been presented to most of us in such complex and confusing terms that it takes on the appearance of some scary god-beast in our minds. We are then harassed to give this beast money in ways that make it sound like sacrificing to a deity for our Rotarian wellbeing and recognition. If you fail to sacrifice to this god, you are apparently less than a Rotarian. Do you feel like this about TRF? Do not worry – you are in very good company.

I must admit that this was my own perception of TRF for a long time, trying to figure out the SHARE system and matching and such like. I heard about Major Donors and the Arch Klumph society before I even had a car. I heard about the Bequest Society when I did not have anything to my name. . . . TRF sounded like an exercise in mathematics, economics, and the stock market. “Triple PHF George Kasedde-Musaka” was mentioned with awe and reverence: he had given \$3,000 to TRF! Wow! I was struggling just to keep up with my dues, and if I could find \$3,000 somewhere, I would buy a fourth-hand car . . .

Then I had one of those rare opportunities in life: when I was club president, then DG Nelson Kawalya identified me to TRF as someone who could carry out an advance site visit to be the eyes and boots on ground for TRF staff and Trustees in evaluating a proposed 3H grant (Yes, I know, those grants are gone now, but they were the largest grants TRF gave at the time. . . .) “Excuse me, DG Nelson,” I asked my Rotary mentor, “What is 3H? What is the work of an Advance Site Visitor?” “Don’t worry,” he assured me. “TRF will send you all the literature you need to understand what you are supposed to know and do.” And this I got in large volumes and, academic that I was, read diligently. And this, my friends, is how I became a volunteer for the Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisors . . .

Aha, you will think, all that literature from TRF helped me to understand TRF. I am afraid you are wrong: being an Advance Site Visitor helped me begin to understand what TRF is, but it was not the reading. For the first time, I met Rotarians who were totally dedicated to the service of humanity. . . . Of course they were somewhat amazed: they expected a portly PDG with a generous bulge around the mid-riff as the Advance Site Visitor, not an athletic and fit Rotarian of forty who wanted to visit all project locations including going up the lower slopes of Mt Meru. I visited Upendo, a community of former lepers producing crafts and verdant vegetables, wielding hoes with hands that in most cases had no fingers. I had been involved in projects before, but I had never felt deep inside the great impact that TRF funded projects, however simple, have on people we normally never meet.

This was my first real lesson about what TRF is. It is not the staff in Chicago. It is not all the rules and regulations and policies. It is not the Trustees. It is dedicated Rotarians around the world, pouring themselves into service to help those who are in need. Through my volunteer work, I got to see more of this kind of person, and for each location, I felt the human experience, I felt the spirit of great Rotarians. I felt this in the Nandi hills . . . , in the Ethiopian highlands . . . , in Nana Karodia, Gujarat [India] after the great earthquake that shattered lives in this region . . . , in Abia, Aba, Nigeria . . .

Once I understood this, the rest was easy. Having felt and having seen, how could I not give? A person who feels other people’s needs always has a coin to spare, not once, but always. Having felt and given, how could I not be involved in projects in my club? And yet I believe I am a greater beneficiary of TRF than the communities we serve: Service makes me feel complete as a human being. It gives me energy that I pour into other areas of my life, to my great benefit.

TRF is a thing of the heart, a crystallization of how we feel for other people and reach out to those in need. TRF is about developing and implementing effective service projects on the one hand, and supporting our Foundation through our donations on the other hand. The two march hand in hand. Indeed, as I have said to many, feel TRF first through service; feel the people and the communities we work with as individuals; feel them as part of you, as part of your family. The next step, giving, becomes inevitable, it becomes a habit.

Finally, if you have felt, and you are giving from the heart, try to understand the mechanics of TRF – if you have the time. Like love, our Foundation starts with the feeling in the heart, not the giving of things.

Around the District



Left to Right: Amy Peters, Mark Karwowski, Val Hartel, Carolyn Sorenson, Susan Truemner, Greg Biddinger, Craig Bellew and Emily Phillips, Christmas for Kids, Coordinator

Members of the **Cass City Rotary Club** are very instrumental in making sure the Christmas for Kids outreach is a success. They ask our Rotarians and the community to come together to help fund this program. In the past it has been highly successful and this year was no different.

Several businesses, community members, Rotarians, our local cub scout group, our local nursing home, and many others donated funds and gifts this year. We also placed boxes in businesses in our town so the community could donate toys and clothing. With the money donated, some of our Rotarians took a day two weeks before Christmas and did the shopping for items requested. Then Rotarians came together on an evening to bag the items so they were ready to be given to recipients on the Friday before Christmas.

This year we gave away clothing, books and toys to over 200 needy children which included 90 different family's.

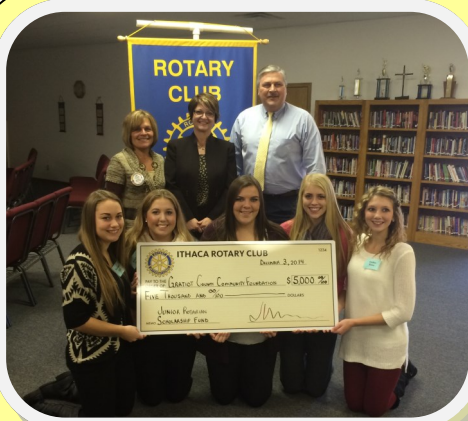
It truly is a rewarding project and without the help of the event coordinators, all of the Rotarians, and the whole community participating, it wouldn't be possible.

Over 30 Rotarians participated in the Rotary Leadership Seminar sponsored by the **Pigeon Rotary Club**. General attendance surpassed 250 participants! The seminar is the club's biggest fund raiser, and a big part of the reason is the corporate sponsorships.

The speaker, Rob Miller, began by admitting that athletics was what he knew from participation and coaching. He said that the group all needed to translate what he was saying into their own language, but it should be easy to do. Some of the high points from his talk were teams are teams in any language and business. With teams you need to be 1) intentional, leave nothing to chance; and 2) abnormal, be different to be noticeable and appealing. He said, with a great team there are no regrets, and teammates are teammates for life. Some other notes, "We don't let people fail enough. It's ok to fail, if you learn and grow from it." As a leader, "When it's hard, be first. When it's easy let other go first." The program was excellent.



"MAGGIE" SHENG-PING KAO, center, who was an **Owosso Rotary Club** exchange student during the 2010-11 school year, is back in Owosso for a month. Maggie was 17 when she first came to Owosso from Taipei and was originally hosted by Renita Mikolajczyk.



The **Ithaca Rotary Club** has started a scholarship fund with the Gratiot County Community Foundation. Shown with initial donation of \$5,000 are:

Front row (L to R)- Junior Rotarians Karrigan Aikin, Teighlor Malek, MacKenzie Thompson, Courtney Crumbaugh, and Jordan Town.

Back row (L to R)- Rotary President Kim Hodge, GCCF executive director Tina Travis, and Rotary youth program chairman Steve Bakker.

Ithaca Rotary has provided scholarships to Ithaca High School seniors for over 25 years. The community foundation partnership will provide funds for the future.



The **Ithaca Rotary Club** donated \$500 to the local food pantry. This is a yearly project the club has done for years. President Kim Hodge presents food pantry board member Dale Nester with the \$500 check.



Mary Humm was honored by the **Ithaca Rotary Club** with a Paul Harris Fellow Award at a Rotary meeting. Mary has served as club secretary, serves on many club committees, and is a relentless participant in club activities. She also is involved in many committees and causes in the City of Ithaca.



Once a year, at the annual **Ithaca Rotary Club** Christmas party, an Ithaca Rotarian wins a trip for two to England, to renew an Ormskirk, England, /Ithaca, Michigan, exchange that began in 1971 or 44 years ago. Maybe the Rotarian has to win a round of "Minute to Win It" challenges; maybe the winner has to answer the most "Jeopardy-like" questions. The quest to win the England trip always provides a lot of laughs and entertainment. The exchange has provided life long friends and experiences.

Left to right Eileen Bailey, Corey Bailey (trip winner), Scott Crumbaugh, Amy Ball visited Ormskirk in October.

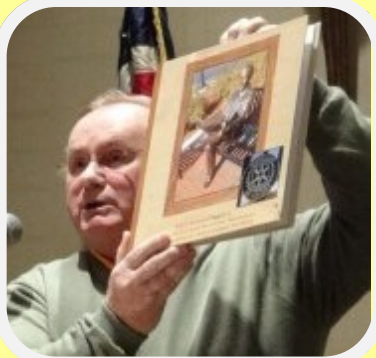
The **Durand Rotary Club** is sponsoring a Purple Pinkie project at three basketball games at their local high school. Almost \$50 was raised at the first event in January!



Alma/St. Louis Rotary Club President Harmony Nowlin re-inducts former Rotarian Zip Meyer as a new member. The Club had invited Zip back to participate in the Club's 84th birthday celebration, and invited Zip to consider joining again! Since that day he has been a regular weekly meeting attendee!"



The **Bay City Morning Rotary Club** recently celebrated its 4th Annual Sweater Vest Day. Even Assistant Governor Steve Wildes (far right) got into the act—and the picture!



PDG and current District Treasurer Bob Chadwick holds up a large photo book that **Bay City Rotary Club** member Don Carlyon's daughter made for him to commemorate the dedication of the Paul Harris statue in Bay City's Rotary Park.

Bob had extra copies of the book printed —one for the club and one for the Bay County Library (where Don is on the board). Additional copies will be \$45.



**Frankenmuth Morning
Rotary Club's
Winter Wine Affair
February 19, 5:30—8 PM**

Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club
52nd Annual
Beef & Turkey Tenderloin
Dinner
Fundraiser

Saturday, February 21st
5 pm to 7 pm
Dine-In* or Take-Out Available!

Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn
2424 S. Mission St., Mt. Pleasant

\$20 Adult and All Take Out Meals
\$10 Kid Meals (12 yrs. Old & Younger, Dine-in only)

Musical entertainment!
Tickets Available from any Rotary Club member
or
Mt. Pleasant Agency - Central Insurance
119 South Franklin Street
www.mprotary.com

"Share your Rotary stories. Tell them to your friends, on social media, and through Rotary.org. Our Rotary stories are what inspire us, and what encourage others to join us: they help light up our service, as we work to *Light Up Rotary.*"

RI President Gary C.K. Huang

Future Matters

By Eileen Jennings

Since 1947, Rotarians have contributed over \$3.2 billion that was used to fund over \$3 billion in programs throughout the world. Our organization has

- + committed more than \$1.2 billion to global *polio eradication*
- + funded more than 37,000 club and district *projects* in over 200 countries
- + Awarded *scholarships* to nearly 42,000 scholars from over 130 countries
- + sent more than 72,000 people from 106 countries on volunteer *exchange programs*.

Our district has participated in all these efforts.

- + Last year, we contributed \$18,415 to *Polio Plus*. This year, through January, we have contributed **\$34,153**.
- + We have funded *Matching and Global Grants* in the Dominican Republic, Zambia, India, and Japan, in the last five years. Every club in the district has contributed to at least one of these international projects. We have funded numerous local service projects with *District Simplified Grants*. Last year, we funded 9 local projects through *District Grants*, and this year we are funding 15 projects. In addition, every club supports local service projects and several clubs directly support an international project.
- + We have sponsored inbound and outbound *Ambassadorial Scholars* from and to countries including Czech Republic, Argentina, Italy, Zambia, England, Afghanistan. We are currently sponsoring the graduate studies of Global Scholar Peter Ekadu from Uganda. And then there is also the financial and other support we have provided for *Youth Exchange* students to and from most of the world.
- + We had *Group Study Exchanges* over at least 31 years with districts throughout the world. Several clubs have *Friendship Exchanges* with districts in other countries.

All of these activities are supported by our contributions to The Rotary Foundation and to our local Rotary clubs. So far this Rotary year, our district has contributed **\$79,345** to the Annual Fund of The Rotary Foundation. That is terrific!

Our Foundation continues to be rated by independent reviewers as one of the very best charities in the U.S. We give the best value for contributions. Thanks to your contributions, Rotary and The Rotary Foundation continue the good work throughout the world.

Let's help the figures above continue to grow and grow and grow!



Congratulations to the following club celebrating an anniversary this month

Saginaw - 101 years - Chartered February 1, 1914



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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