



# District Dispatch

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER, 2015

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Right Around the Corner 2

Going, Going, 2

Give Thanks 3

Annual Fund Progress Report 3

Teachers—Key to a Better Future 4

Peace Fellow

How TRF Changed My Life 6

Oscoda Rotary Club Grant 7

Around the District 9-10

Upcoming Event 11

One Rotary Summit 12

Congrats 12

## Rotary Foundation Month

This is a very special issue of our District Dispatch! It contains several articles about the great work of The Rotary Foundation in our communities, in our District 6310, and around the world.

Take a few moments and learn more about the efforts of our District **“to do good in the world”**! Those were the words of Arch C. Klumph who founded the Rotary Foundation in 1917, and nearly a century later we are still doing just that.

Consider for a moment all of the good things that happen to make the world a better place as a result of our contributions as evidenced in these examples and make a commitment to supporting The Rotary Foundation – Do it now and “be a gift to the world”! **Thanks for all you do for Rotary!**

If you haven’t already sent in your reservation for the Foundation Gala on November 20th at Zehnder’s of Frankenmuth, you still have time. Reservations are being accepted until Monday, November 16th. More information about this annual event is included in this publication.

World Polio Day and various fundraisers – Pizza for Polio, Purple Pinkie, etc. for the “End Polio Now” effort were held around the District during October. Not all the results are in yet, but we know **“we are this close”!** The total amount raised should be available in the December issue.

Current and future Rotary club leaders are encouraged to attend the first **“One Rotary Summit”** to be held on Saturday, December 05, from 9:00 AM until Noon. All are welcome and this will be our major interactive leadership training event for this Rotary year. Further details are included on the last page of this edition.

**Be a gift to the world!**



**District Governor  
Mike Kelly**

# Right Around the Corner!

By Chair Eileen Jennings



**Have you registered to attend the Rotary Foundation Gala?**

**It is Friday evening, November 20, at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth.**

We will have a great time again, as we celebrate our District's commitment to The Rotary Foundation. We will hear about Jeanne Schaller's recent experience as a Rotary Peace Scholar in Thailand and Stephanie Urchick will talk with us about Rotary's international humanitarian work. Stephanie is an immediate past Rotary Foundation Trustee and currently chair of the Rotary Foundation Centennial Celebration Committee.

We expect about 200 Rotarians and guests at this event. You don't want to miss it. The meal is always delicious, and the opportunity to visit with friends from throughout the District is very special.

The price for Rotarians and their guests is \$40. A table of 8 costs \$295. Rotaractors, Interactors, and Youth Exchange students are invited at the discount price of only \$15.00 each. We hope that the sponsor Rotary clubs will pay for the tickets for these young people.

Every Rotarian should have received an individualized invitation and reservation form on October 21. However, if you cannot easily find this, the invitation and registration form is on our district web site at [www.rotary6310.org](http://www.rotary6310.org).

Please register for this dinner by November 16.



## We want polio to be going, going, GONE!

By Chair Chuck Cusick

October proved to be an exciting month in our efforts to eradicate polio. Several fundraisers were held throughout the district. The Interact club of Bad Axe High School conducted a Pizza Hut tip night. Ten club members worked for 16 hours and raised \$223.81 for polio. Cass City raised \$2,899 for polio in their fundraiser.

Rob Clark, editor of *The Bay City Times*, recently wrote a feature article on the "Faces of Polio." Rob interviewed several polio survivors and told their stories for his readers. You can read this article at [http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2015/10/faces\\_of\\_polio\\_60\\_years\\_after.html?ath=1cc2417085feda435ed016653f4b1684#cmpid=nsltr\\_strybutton](http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2015/10/faces_of_polio_60_years_after.html?ath=1cc2417085feda435ed016653f4b1684#cmpid=nsltr_strybutton).

On World Polio Day, many polio survivors joined members of the Rotary Club of Bay City in watching the live stream event. A "Purple Pinkie" event netted \$84.00.

Wild poliovirus cases this year include 38 in Pakistan (219 at this time last year) and 13 cases in Afghanistan. We are close, but we need your help to finish the job. November is Rotary Foundation Month. What better time to ask our members to make a gift to the children of the world by helping to eradicate polio.

# Give Thanks

By Annual Fund Chair Rod Bieber



As November arrives we turn our thoughts toward Thanksgiving and reflect upon all that we have for which to be thankful. November is also home to our Rotary District 6310 Foundation Gala. Each year at this time we celebrate the work of our Rotary Foundation and the spirit of giving both locally and globally.

Simply put, it makes us feel good as human beings when we help others. We come together at the Foundation Gala to recognize the positive impact our collective giving has on our world. As Rotarians we accomplish so much more than we ever could as individuals. Combining our gifts we can eradicate polio, provide clean water, promote sanitation, help people become literate, and improve the lives of many of the less fortunate among us.

Many years ago, an elderly woman of meager financial resources gave me a nugget of wisdom as she explained why she volunteered her time and donated what little she could to charity. "You can never become poor from giving" she said. "What you give to others always comes back to you. Always" Wise words.

Consider giving to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund. Your gift is powerful and will come back to you...many times over!

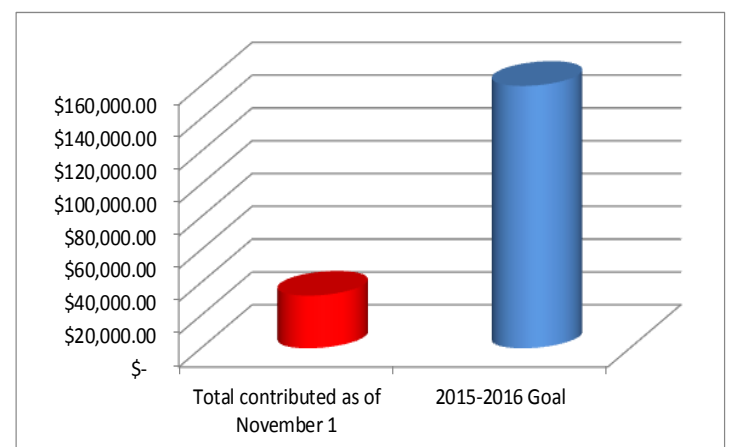
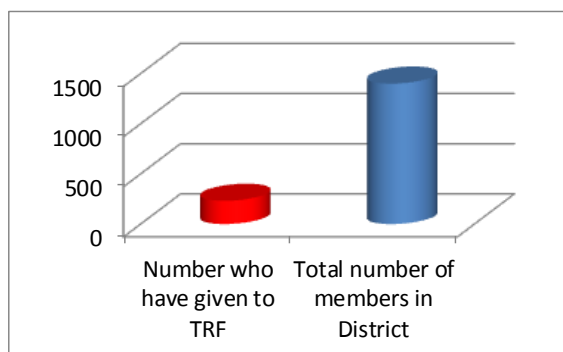
## Annual Fund Progress Report

By Chair Eileen Jennings

As of November, Rotarians and clubs have contributed \$32,092 to the Annual Fund this Rotary year. Our goal is \$161,000 by next June 30.

Thanks to those who have given already. November is Rotary Foundation Month, so it is a good month for everyone to make a contribution (note, I said "a" contribution, not "the" contribution for this year).

We are really encouraging EVERY Rotarian to make a contribution to the Foundation Annual Fund this year.



As of now, 232 Rotarians, or 17 % of our membership, have made a contribution. Let's get that participation up by the beginning of December!

Remember, the goal is **Every Rotarian Every Year!**

# Teachers—The Key to a Better Future

By District Governor Elect Cheryl Peterson

The learnings and impressions that occur during a visit to the Dominican Republic are many and varied. One sees the beautiful country---lush, green, with enticing beaches surrounding much of the island. One sees the teeming cities, heavily populated, with narrow streets and uncertain driving practices. One visits the barrios and villages where the population is less and poverty is abundantly evident. One experiences food prepared with varying tastes and food products. Simply, one experiences a different culture.



Yet, many things are the same as we know them here in our country. Mothers want their children to be healthy and to receive education. School children express their dreams to become teachers, doctors, and other professionals. Rotarians work hard to make a difference in their local communities.

From these varied learnings and impressions, each visitor takes away their own set of perceptions. Here is the story of what impacted me the most during my two visits to the Dominican Republic:

Beyond parental/family influence, one of the most important people in the early life of a child is the teacher. In most cultures, teachers are held in high esteem and looked to as a role model of “how to do things right.” Dominican children are no different---observation tells us they look up to “their teacher.” My most unforgettable experience in the DR was attending a teacher training program on handwashing and hygiene.

When we are preparing to implement a new grant project in one of the local schools, the classroom teacher(s) is provided with 3 hours of training in handwashing and hygiene. I was excited to know that during our visit we would have opportunity to watch this training in action. What did I expect??? An introduction of curriculum, the distribution of teaching materials, hands on training in effective use of each, the need to promote good handwashing practices beyond the classroom (reaching into the home), and how to recognize changes in health that may be reflective of better health practices on the part of students.

What did I find in the teacher training sessions? All of the above. But the greatest “ahh-ha” moment for me was when listening to the trainer, I came to understand that many of the teachers in the room had minimal understanding of the true need and benefit of handwashing practices. When the trainer shared with them that the spread of cholera could be lessened by good handwashing, the response, even in a different language, was clearly evident in the teacher’s verbal and facial communications. Upon questioning, the program leader confirmed such basic knowledge was missing from the Dominican culture.

This ahh-ha learning on my part was borne out in conversations with teachers from previous trainings who shared about their personal learning in training sessions and how it had impacted them and their family personally. Teachers from previous trainings shared their perceptions of observing the health of their students improve because of what they, the teacher, had been able to communicate about handwashing and hygiene.

(continued on Page 5)

## Teachers—The Key to a Better Future (cont.)

While the role of the classroom teacher is pivotal in teaching the children of today, it extends to the children of tomorrow and generations to come. What starts with one teacher, one child, one family, one school is replicable and, over time, can indeed change the culture and create a healthier tomorrow for those who follow.



The learning here, for us, is obvious. We cannot expect teachers to teach what they do not know. We cannot expect mothers to model what they have never had opportunity to learn. Mothers and teachers---the basic influencers in the life of a child---yet are without the basic information of how to better keep their children healthy and whole. Here, I thought, is where we, as Rotarians, can make a difference. Yes, we can build latrines, we can install safe water filters, we can do many things to improve the lives of people. But, if we can bring them education as well as the tools to apply that learning, then we are making a difference for the long term—from generation to generation.

Of course, we do not do this work alone. We have great partners in various clubs within District 4060 who put “boots on the ground” to complete community assessments, develop project plans, implement projects and monitor the outcomes. We appreciate our relationship with those clubs and individual Rotarians as personal friendships have developed as a result of this work.



Because of our learnings, we, in District 6310, can know that every project in the Dominican Republic that involves water and sanitation has the component of handwashing and hygiene training. When thinking about such training, it may not on the surface appear to be a very exciting project. But when one considers the true impact over the lifespan and into future generations, such education and training becomes foundational to a better world into which children are born, grow up, and live.

**“We cannot fight violence with violence. But when we fight it with education, with understanding, and with peace, we can truly *Be a Gift to the World.*”**

**Rotary International President Ravi Ravindran**

# District 6310's Peace Fellow

By Jeanne Schaller

After receiving the precious gift of being a Peace Fellow in the Rotary International Professional Development Certificate Program and after spending this past summer studying at Chulalongkorn University, I take seriously the challenge by Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran to do my best to "Be a gift to the world." In fulfilling the purpose of this program, I am continuing my work as a mediator with the Community Resolution Center, teaching conflict resolution skills to students, and also networking and organizing to increase awareness of and support for nonviolent conflict resolution through our Midland Chapter of the Nonviolent Peaceforce.

From my arrival in Bangkok, when I was warmly welcomed by my Host-counselor, Dr. Panjarat, to the moment I left to return home I was challenged, stretched, inspired, and filled with gratitude for this fantastic experience. My brain expanded (the synapses were popping), as did my international perspective and relationships while sharing this experience with 17 Fellows from 11 countries and 5 continents.

It was a pleasure to meet Past Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul, initiator of the certificate program, Director Surichai Wun'gao and to work directly with Deputy Director, Jenn Weidman. Jenn is highly dedicated to her work and has a special gift for connecting personally with Peace Fellows and for keeping a complex schedule flowing smoothly. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year of this program and we were the 19<sup>th</sup> class. Approximately 350 Fellows have graduated.

The four academic modules were: The Concepts and Values of Peace and Conflict Studies; The Diagnosis and Analysis of Conflict; Conflict Resolution Skills, Approaches and Strategies; and Conflict Transformation and Building a Sustainable Peace. Individual topics included Gender in Conflict Situations, Constructing Workable Peace Processes, Truth Commissions and Social Justice, and Role of Religion and Dialogue in Peacebuilding. In addition to spending six hours daily, five days a week in the classroom hearing presenters from many countries, we traveled to Northern Thailand and to Cambodia for Field Study trips. We also enjoyed having time to visit Bangkok's Grand Palace, the Temple of the Dawn, the Temple of the Reclining Buddha, as well as many other historical and cultural sites.



Each Fellow had to write a blog for the Chula Rotary Peace website. Mine was titled "Life is a Mystery" and it ended this way:

"A year ago I had no idea if I would be chosen for this program and remember saying to a friend that if it was meant to happen it would. If it didn't, I had lots of other things I wanted to do. To my great delight I was chosen, to be in this place at this time with these people. The mystery deepens, and the next page in my life is about to turn. That's all I need to know."



# How The Rotary Foundation Changed My Life

By Eileen Jennings

I joined the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club in February of 1990. The following fall, our club hosted an Ambassadorial Scholar from the Czech Republic. When the Club President asked for help furnishing Jan Melichar's apartment, I took some items to him. That day, we struck up a friendship.

During the following year, I learned so much about central Europe, the Velvet Revolution that ousted the Russians from Czechoslovakia, the separation of the Czech Republic from the Slovak Republic. I listened to stories about Jan's and his father's participation in the Velvet Revolution and how he learned English by listening to the BBC at night. Suddenly current events in central Europe had a personal face. As a new Rotarian, I was hooked!

While Jan was here, he fell in love with the sister of a friend from home. When he and Lucie returned home, I was invited to be his witness at their wedding. Although I had visited family in Quebec many times, one trip to Ireland was my only other international experience. Then I made three trips to the Czech Republic to visit Jan and Lucie, and traveled with Jan's mother to Austria and the Slovak Republic.

I have often told Jan that he changed my life. He provided the impetus for me to travel to many countries and to make friends here with students and faculty from around the world. Today I have friends from Slovakia, Romania, Estonia, Zambia, El Salvador, and others.

My experience with Jan exposed me to the fantastic Ambassadorial Scholar program of The Rotary Foundation. Our district had a unique program, started by Al Knoll of Frankenmuth Noon Rotary. Every other year, we brought to our district a student from a Rotary country that could not afford to send students, usually for graduate study. Sometimes the students studied at Saginaw Valley State University and sometimes at Central Michigan University. Most of the CMU students became my friends.

Then, in 2008, our district provided a scholarship to Mohibullah Israr to obtain his master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages at CMU. Israr was one of the first two scholars to come to the United States from Afghanistan. Previous scholars enriched my appreciation of various languages, cultures and religions, but the learning Israr brought was of a different magnitude.

Israr and I hit it off right away because we shared an odd sense of humor. But our friendship quickly acquired depth as we discussed and learned from each other the similarities and differences of our religions, cultures, and personal stories. One day about 3 months after Israr came to Mt. Pleasant, we were shopping and he said he just could not call me "Eileen," and he wanted to know if he could call me "Mom." When he started calling me this, it was simply a name, a title. By the time he left, it had become much more. Now he is the son I never had, and I am the second mother who offers the love and support that mothers in his culture are unable to give.



I was privileged to visit Israr once in his home in Afghanistan and to meet his extended family. I am now "Nana" to his six children (see picture on the next page). He introduced me to a large circle of young Afghan men who are all working hard to make the country succeed and achieve peace. In order to see Israr, I have now traveled to India, Dubai, and the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon.

(Continued on Page 8)

## How The Rotary Foundation Changed My Life (cont.)



The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar program is now changed to the Global Scholar program, but the enriching opportunities it provides to both scholars and hosts continues. Many of you met our most recent Global Scholar, Peter Ekadu from Uganda.

I love all the international programs of Rotary. I love our grant programs, our international membership and conventions, and our polio eradication focus. But I love the international Scholar exchange the most. It made me a citizen of the world instead of just my local community and country; it made world conflict and peace personal, and has shown me that every single thing we can do to help bring peace and economic development is important. And it gave me a son and 6 lovely grandchildren! Thank you, Jan and Rotary, for changing my life. Rotary as been such a gift to me. In return I am firmly committed to Be a Gift to the World in any way I can.

Has Rotary changed your life? If so, how about sharing your story with the District?  
Submit your article to [connie.rotary6310@gmail.com](mailto:connie.rotary6310@gmail.com).

## Oscoda Rotary Club District Grant

In the spring of 2014, the Rotary Club of Oscoda, recognizing a need in the community, applied for and received a community grant from District 6310 Foundation Committee. The Matching Community Grant would support a preschool literacy project.

The focus of the literacy project is to provide books to children from birth to years old. This target population was deemed to be in the most need and underserved regarding support for school readiness. Each family that qualified for the project was provided with two new books and information on effective strategies for helping their child prepare for school based learning. The success of the project immediately prompted the Club to apply for a second year to continue the program. The Club renewed its commitment to families in the area that qualified through the local Head Start and Great Starts Readiness Programs as well as young families serviced through two local baby pantries.

With a second District 6310 Foundation Community Grant approval, the club was able to purchase another 800 books this year, which will service 200 families. The Preschool Literacy Project provided the club an opportunity to join other organizations in our community to promote literacy and early childhood school readiness. The Rotary Club of Oscoda has partnered with the Oscoda Area Schools, Oscoda Parks Library, PNC Bank, Carol's Baby Pantry, and Alcona Baby Pantry. All members of the club have been involved directly or indirectly in the project.

During the book distribution at pantry sites and pre-school classrooms, members are afforded the opportunity to meet and talk with parents about the literacy program. We are building goodwill and better friendships while placing age appropriate reading materials in the homes of the families in our area facing economic challenges.



Left to right: Diana London, Oscoda librarian;  
Janet Schenk and Oscoda Rotarian Bernie Schenk



## Around the District

The **Northern Bay & Arenac Rotary Club** recently heard presentations from two club members on significant events in their life. Jim Ordiway described an incident that occurred in the 1960's while he was serving in Vietnam. Jim accompanied the pilot of an aircraft repaired after a mid-air collision. During the test, the pilot cut power to the front engine causing the plane to go into a nosedive. The pilot restarted the engine in time to right the plane. Jim said it was a terrifying experience. When asked afterward why he had cut power to the engine, the pilot said it had nothing to do with testing the new wing – he just felt like doing it. When asked to accompany the pilot on a second test flight, Jim responded: Not if a nosedive was part of the flight!



The second presenter was Barb Fisher who described trips she took on Great Lakes freighters, one in 1979 and the other in 1997. A friend of hers in Bay City, Alan Flood, who served as an officer on the freighters, invited her to accompany the crew on these trips. The first voyage traveled down the narrow Cuyahoga River into Cleveland before heading north to Escanaba. The second trip was on a 1,000 foot freighter that started on the St. Clair River, went first to Monroe, then north through the Soo Locks to the port at Duluth-Superior. During the trip, when Barb attempted to pour the ashes of her recently deceased father into the St. Mary's River, they were blown back onto the ship, something she said her father would have found hilarious. At the end of the presentation, it was pointed out that due to national security regulations implemented following the terrorist attacks of 2001, such informal travel on Great Lakes freighters is no longer allowed.



Ceci DaSilva (Inbound), Dave Smith (RYE District 6310), Vishwangi Vadnere (Inbound), JiHo Lee (Inbound), Aubrey Ouderkirk (Rebound), Karl Kamena (YEO), Craig Stevens (Host Father of JiHo)

The **Rotary Club of Midland** recently hosted Youth Exchange Program participants. They heard from Cecilia DaSilva, inbound from Argentina, who spoke about her hometown of Martin Coronado, Buenos Aires and shared some information about her family. Ceci also shared how she was able to literally conquer a significant obstacle in her life when she and her host dad scaled one of Colorado's highest peaks!

Rebounding exchanger Aubrey Ouderkirk shared some tremendous cultural aspects of her time in Turkey, including the proximity to territory controlled by ISIS.

She also shared how she learned to adapt to a culture very different from the one she was accustomed to but in so adapting, how she learned to embrace this culture. One of the most significant aspects was her excellent grasp of some of the regional differences in the country and her understanding of Turkey's endemic support for their secularism while being a vastly predominantly Muslim country. Her very positive experience there has resulted in her planning for mission work in the Middle East next year.



District 6310 Membership Chair Rich Fleming recently provided the program to the **Rotary Club of Durand**.

Rich is shown at left with Club President Mary Warner-Stone.

The **Rotary Club of Pigeon** has come up with an innovative idea to help The Rotary Foundation and encourage members to give to the Foundation. The lunch price, usually \$7, has been increased for the month of November to \$10. The \$3 over the regular rate will go to the Foundation, and each member will receive credit for that amount!

The **Rotary Club of Saginaw** guests at a recent meeting were five students from Saginaw Valley State University who spoke about their countries and their impression of the United States.

Member Pat Shelley is the international student adviser at the university, overseeing 900 students enrolled from 23 countries.



From left: Paul Boursinhac from France, Saher Ali from Pakistan, Izabella Ismailova from Khazakhstan, Ashwini Pokharel from Nepal, Asma Ben Amor from Tunisia, and Rotary Club member Pat Shelley

# Upcoming Event



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAGINAW SUNRISE  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A  
**ROTARY HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015**

**11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

RAMADA INN & SUITES (RAINMAKER'S ENTRANCE ON DAVENPORT AVENUE)  
COURTSIDE ROOM

ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY:



**MENU:**

*CHICKEN PARMESAN*

*TENDERLOIN TIPS AND GRAVY*

*BUTTER AND HERB NOODLES*

*CALIFORNIA BLEND: BROCCOLI, CAULIFLOWER AND CARROTS*

*POTATO SALAD*

*TOSSED SALAD W/CHEESE, CROUTONS AND ASSORTED DRESSINGS*

*DINNER ROLLS/BUTTER, COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS, DESSERT*

PRICE PER PERSON: \$20.00 (CAN BE PAID AT THE DOOR BY CHECK, CASH OR CREDIT CARD)

RSVP TO: TERESA STITT at [TERESASTITT@YAHOO.COM](mailto:TERESASTITT@YAHOO.COM)  
or by calling 989-755-8460

REGISTER BY: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2015





# ONE ROTARY SUMMIT

Attention enthusiastic Rotarians! ONE ROTARY SUMMIT joins together Rotary leaders to exchange ideas on energizing and boosting your club for growth, service and public interaction. Rotarians are Leaders! Engage fresh new thinking and take home hands-on tools to strengthen membership, public image and involvement in Foundation programs.



## Congratulations to the following clubs celebrating an anniversary this month

**Alma/St. Louis** - 85 years - Chartered November 13, 1930

**Ithaca** - 80 years - Chartered November 29, 1935

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:  
Connie M. Deford, Administrative Assistant  
[connie.rotary6310@gmail.com](mailto:connie.rotary6310@gmail.com)