



THE CHARM



Rotary Club of Hamden, Club 6732, District 7980, PO Box 185304 Hamden, CT 06518
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President's Corner



Last month we had a presentation from Norm Methot. As a former Rotarian and previous speaker at our meeting, many club members know Norm and were happy not only to see him, but to hear of his recent experiences visiting Haiti as a representative of the Haitian Health Foundation.

While sharing dinner with Norm and his wife we talked about "Why Haiti?" and how the little things that he has been able to do over the years have grown to significant positive changes in the lives of the people they are striving to help.

Haiti has always been a curiosity to me. I am aware of the impact Columbus had on the island of Hispaniola. I am aware of the slave rebellion and of the political unrest that has existed in Haiti, but not much beyond that.

I spent a little time reading some history of the island and its people and found quite a kinship we in this country have with the Haitian people: Columbus landed on Hispaniola in 1492, the island was colonized for its valuable resources, and Haiti

was occupied by the United States from 1915 to 1934. In recent memory, President Clinton sent a delegation consisting of Jimmy Carter, Sam Nunn and Colin Powell to Haiti to negotiate a peaceful settlement of a military coup and return the ousted president back into office. There is a substantial Haitian population who have fled their country to the United States. Furthermore a significant portion of the Haitian government's budget is funded by foreign aid and the U.S. is a major contributor. By any measurement, Haiti is clearly the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

I would like to reach out to Norm and see if our club is in a position to help his cause, or some other need that exists within the country. It seems a little can do so much. Let's talk about this at our **Club Assembly September 14th**. I hope to see all of our members there to participate in the various conversations we will be having.

John Karavas

Upcoming Meetings And Events

- Sept. 14 Club Assembly
Board Meeting
- Sept. 19 Amber Alert at Big E
- Sept. 20 Amber Alert-Edgerton
Park
- Sept. 21 Colin Gershon-District
Governor's Visit
- Oct. 10 Make a Difference Day
Annual Skiff St. Clean-up



Give us a Hand! **2009-10 Service Chairs**

Membership-Owen Sanderson-288-3196

Club Service-Eric Lind-315-0295

Community Service-Betsy Gorman-288-0017

Vocational Service-Fabi Giguere-239-1456

International-Lynda Hammond-281-7540
Fabi Giguere-239-1456

Program-Joena Russell-606-9975

Amber Alert-Joena Russell-606-9975

The Charm-Rich Miller-675-5907

Owen Sanderson-288-3196

Public Relations-Betsy Gorman-288-0017

She's Done it Again!



“Sitting at the airport awaiting to board a flight ...but after receiving an e-mail from Rotary International, I don't think I really need a plane! The Matching Grant for much needed medical equipment for our Pediatric Cardiac program in Santiago, Dominican Republic has been Approved!!! This effort was a true collaboration and I would like to thank Drs. Juan Ramirez, Bill Novick, Jenn Liedel and Rotarians PDGs Ernie Luise, and Henry Scopp and DG Colin Gershon. Also District 7980 Grants Committee chaired by Karen Strickland and Foundation Chair Pam Akins on behalf of our kids, thank you for caring! Lynda”

From Rich Miller's e-mail of Sept. 2, 2009

Be Sure to Look For.....

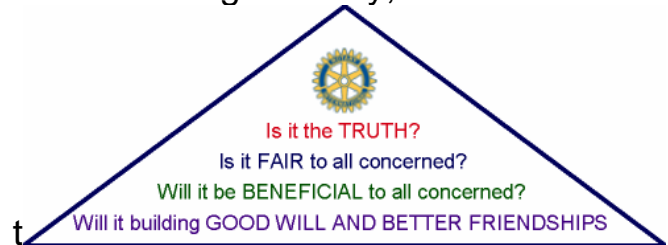
Honorary Rotarian Oscar Roos will be featured in an up-coming edition of *The Rotarian*. Oscar, a member of Hamden Rotary since 1937, offers his reflections of the Great Depression along with other Rotarians of that era. It's a great read.

Quote of the Week

“Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not.” *Robert F. Kennedy*

The Four Way Test

Of the things we say, think and do:



Service Above Self



Janet Kniffin, Development Director of Connecticut Food Bank, spoke to the club August 31 about the importance of the Food Bank to Hamden and the greater New Haven Area. With 1 in 8 children in CT going to bed hungry, there's much that needs to be done.

In the first half of 2009, Connecticut Food Bank distributed 9.1 million pounds of food.