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LETTER FROM CATHY

Happy New Year to all and welcome to 2010! It is not really my style to make a lot of specific New Year’s resolutions, but rather to try to work towards making my overall life just a little bit better over time. Perhaps we can all try to do that right here in our own Rotary club. Let us work together in 2010 to create meaningful relationships with other members and work as a team to make our club stronger than ever. We can accomplish so much when we all chip in with club projects and help to reach common club goals together.

As I hope you all know our next group effort is a Polio Plus fundraiser on January 25th. The Playwright has agreed to donate a generous portion of the proceeds from the restaurant business at the Hamden Playwright Restaurant on January 25, 2010 for our club’s commitment to end Polio. This includes the lunch, dinner and take-out business on that day.

Our job is easy; we have spread the word and tell people to eat at the Hamden Playwright Restaurant on January 25th. We all know that the food and the atmosphere are great; piece of cake! This is something EVERYONE can easily help with and we DO need EVERYONE’s help to make it successful. Place a flyer in your office and ask other businesses near you to do the same. Pick up the phone and ask your friends to join you for a meal that day. Offer to contact a local newspaper or radio station to help spread the word. This is truly an easy sell. Please contact event chair Tom Hylinski who will be coordinating all of our efforts. Thank you in advance for your help.

During the next six months if anyone has any ideas, suggestions or even complaints, please feel free to contact me. I am open to all suggestions and will pass them along to the board of directors for further consideration.

I send you all good wishes for a New Year of Happiness.

POLIO PLUS FUNDRAISER NEWS

From the Editor

\$555 Million Dollars is a lot of money. Add up the \$355 million dollars that the Bill and Melinda Gates offered as a challenge grant and compare that to the \$200 million dollars Rotary has to raise to claim that challenge grant and we have a winning combination for every person in the world.

With the Polio Plus fundraiser coming up on January 25th, this club has a unique opportunity to do two things: raise funds and build awareness.

This past week has been very busy for members of the board. Lynda created a wonderful flier to promote the event. Tom took the lead at coordinating the activities. Cathy ordered Rotary brochures and other materials about Polio. I sent a personal invitation to all of our grant recipients to come join us for a meal, and created a FaceBook calendar item and invited 98 people to join us; which Joena passed on to several of her friends as well.

All said, we’ve got a lot more to do, but now we need your help to invite folks to “Come have a meal for a good cause”.

INTERACT – INTERACTIVE

From the Editor

On January 18th, Fran Rabinowitz, Superintendent of Schools, will be joining us for a special sort of Club Assembly. Specifically, we’re going to have an open discussion about whether and how we might be able to start an Interact Club at Hamden High School.

This is an exploratory session and I’m sure Fran will have as many questions for us as we do for her. It’s a great opportunity to help shape the direction of kids right here in town.

FIVE REASONS TO SUPPORT THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

By Antoinette Tuscano Rotary International News -- 29 December 2009

There are as many reasons to support The Rotary Foundation as there are ways to do good in the world.

By [contributing to the Foundation](#), you advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Here are a few ways your contributions are making change possible.

5. Fighting hunger

In Romania, orphans and sick children have eggs, milk, and meat because of a [Health, Hunger and Humanity \(3-H\) Grant](#) that benefits local farmers. The farmers are able to buy everything from animal feed to packaging materials. There is one stipulation: They must donate a portion of their products to children’s hospitals, schools, and orphanages.

In Alaska, USA, the Rotary Club of Anchorage East is also [fighting hunger](#) by distributing food to low-income families through a mobile food pantry.



4. Reducing child mortality

The Rotary clubs of Jaela-Kandana, Western Province, Sri Lanka, and Madras Northwest, Tamil Nadu, India, are helping to reduce child mortality by providing improved sanitation facilities for 15 families in a small community in Sri Lanka. With a [Rotary Foundation Matching Grant](#), the clubs have built 14 toilets, helping to prevent diarrhea and other diseases related to poor sanitation.

According to the World Health Organization, 1.8 million children die of diarrhea every year, making it the second leading cause of death among children under five. Proper sanitation can reduce the rate of child mortality in many communities by up to a third.

3. Promoting peace and conflict resolution

Watching civil war tear apart his homeland of Côte d'Ivoire instilled in Rotary Peace Fellow Kouame Remi Oussou a passion to resolve conflict.

He is now working for the [United Nations Development Programme](#) in the Central African Republic, a country that weathered periodic internal fighting before a comprehensive peace accord took effect in 2007. [Read more about Oussou.](#)

[Rotary Peace Fellows](#) are leaders in promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and conflict resolution. [Help support the Rotary Peace Centers.](#)

2. Giving the world hope for just US\$2 a week

Foundation Trustee Chair Glenn E. Estess Sr. paraphrases Mother Teresa in explaining what keeps the Foundation going in the face of overwhelming need. "We must do what we can, where we are, with what we have," says Estess. "Through our Foundation, we are able to pool our resources and achieve even more. And the stronger our Rotary Foundation becomes, the greater the scope of the tasks we will be able to undertake successfully. We will be able to do far more good, in far more lasting ways." [Read more.](#)

By giving US\$100 a year through the [Every Rotarian, Every Year](#) (EREY) initiative, you become a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member. Contributions to EREY are the primary source of funding for Foundation programs. [Make a contribution now.](#)

1. Eradicating polio

Around the world, Rotarians are taking millions of steps in walkathons, diving into icy ocean waters, and participating in other fundraisers to help Rotary fulfill its promise to rid the world of polio. Si Burgher, of the Rotary Club of Bloomfield, Indiana, USA, raised almost \$1,600 by having his shaggy eyebrows shaved.

Rotary launched its [PolioPlus program](#) in 1985. Since then, eradicating polio has been the organization's top priority. [End Polio Now](#) and help fulfill its promise.

SCORING AN ADVANCE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION IN ESTONIA

By Peter Schmidtke Rotary International News -- 29 December 2009

Forty Estonian high school students rolled up their sleeves and used Matching Grant-funded science equipment to test water, air, and soil at a nuclear power plant and other sites in Latvia and Lithuania during a three-day trip in October.

"The possibility of taking the equipment along and letting students do on-site measuring is a dream come true for any science teacher," says Katrin Raie, a 2003-04 Ambassadorial Scholar who acted as a project liaison between the sponsor Rotary clubs and the Vanalinna Hariduskollegegium school in Tallinn, Estonia.

Teachers have been using the US\$24,000 worth of equipment in high school classes and in extracurricular lab sessions for younger students.

As a board member of a foundation serving the school and a former vice principal, Raie helped complete the grant application and coordinate the effort with the sponsor Rotary clubs of Nõmme-Tallinn, Estonia; Magdeburg-Otto von Guericke, Germany; and Helsinki City West, Mäntsälä, Tuusula, and Ylikerava, Finland. She also took German Rotarians on a tour of the lab.

Scholars are typically introduced to Rotary service during their scholarship year, but Raie was already coordinating a Matching Grant effort as a school vice principal when she first heard about the Ambassadorial Scholarship opportunity. With a degree in English as a second language, she has coordinated multiple grants since 1998 involving the local club and Rotarians in Finland, Germany, and the United States.

"There was a U.S. Rotarian visiting some of the sites that were the beneficiaries of medical equipment, and I was taking her around to the hospitals," recalls Raie. "I mentioned that I have a dream that I would like to get a graduate degree in America, and she said, 'You know, we have this scholarship program. Why don't you try?'"

Less than two years later, Raie, then 38, was working as a Rotary Scholar toward a master's degree in cultural and educational policy studies at Loyola University in Chicago. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Chicago, she introduced herself to the Midwest Estonian Association and helped the group prepare for a convention at which she gave a presentation.

While completing an internship at the Latin School of Chicago, Raie became acquainted with the school's music director, Michael Teolis. She invited Teolis to bring the school's band and choir to Tallinn, and in 2008, 85 students spent eight days in Estonia and Finland, performing at joint concerts with students from both countries.



“She was instrumental in almost every aspect of planning the trip,” says Teolis. “Tallinn students gave tours, and some of our students are still in contact with students they met there.

In 2009, after a two-year position professionalizing the training curriculum at a national freight-forwarding association, Raie was named deputy regional director for SOS Children’s Villages International.

“My experience as a Rotary Scholar as well as the knowledge and skills I acquired at Loyola will be put to the best use in this position, for the benefit of children and families,” says Raie.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

A prospector died. When he got to the pearly gates, Saint Peter looked in his book and said that his quota of prospectors was full and he would have to go to hell.

The prospector asked if he could at least look inside the gate before going. Saint Peter didn't like the idea, but said yes. The prospector looked in and yelled, "They found gold in hell!"

Immediately, every prospector in Heaven came rushing out with all their equipment and headed hell bent for hell.

Saint Peter said, "Well, we've got room now. Welcome to Heaven."

The prospector looked at him, soulfully and said, "There just might be some truth in that rumor."

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Jan 4 th	Club Assembly: Fundraising for 2010-11
Mon	Jan 11 th	Student of the Month
Mon	Jan 18 th	Club Assembly: Interact @ Hamden High
Mon	Feb 8 th	Student of the Month
Mon	Feb 22 nd	Rotary's 105 th Anniversary
Sat	Feb 27 th	District Leadership Seminar
Sat	Mar 13 th	World Rotaract Day
Mon	Mar 15 th	Student of the Month
Mon	Apr 12 th	Student of the Month
Sat	Apr 17 th	District Assembly – Meriden
Fri-Sun	Apr 30 th -May 2 nd	District Conference – Burlington VT
Mon	May 10 th	Student of the Month
Sun-Wed	Jun 20 th – 23 rd	International Convention Montreal

Of the things we think, say, or do...

