



JOHN KENNY
Rotary International President

COLIN M. GERSHON
District Governor

PAUL MANGELS
Assistant District Governor

CATHY FORSBERG
Hamden Club President

CONTENTS

District Relief Fund for Haiti.....	1
Polio Plus Fundraiser	2
Hamden Rotary Champion's Ethics.....	2
FUN-Raising in Full Swing.....	2
Afghanistan first to use new polio vaccine.....	3
Rotarians witness chaos in Haiti.....	3
Rotarians focus on Haiti relief.....	4
Joke of the Week.....	5
Meeting Schedule.....	5

DISTRICT RELIEF FUND FOR HAITI

From: District Governor Colin Gershon



The Board of Directors of the District's Foundation met last night to decide how the funds the District Foundation receives shall be used to relieve the misery inflicted upon the Haitian people by the terrible earthquake earlier this month. We have already received donations from Interact Clubs, Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians.

At the meeting, both Past District Governor Dick Benson of Madison Rotary and District International Service Chair Lynda Hammond of Hamden Rotary made presentations. Both are recipients of Rotary's highest humanitarian honor - the Service Above Self Award. Dick has made many visits to the Haitian Health Foundation in Jeremie, Haiti, which is about 100 miles from Port-au-Prince. HHF was founded by Dr. Jerry Lowney, a Norwich Rotarian, who himself is a recipient of the Service Above Self Award. Lynda, who heads the Gift of Life program in our district, has spent much time in the adjacent Dominican Republic and will be heading there again during the second half of February for a Gift of Life surgical mission and, in addition, will work with local Rotarians involved in Haitian relief efforts.

The Board members agreed it is very important we work through contacts we know personally and who are reliable and whom we can trust. Lynda is well acquainted with the Haiti Disaster Relief Committee of Dominican Republic Rotarians (District 4060) ("Committee"). The Committee is composed of senior Rotary officers of the Dominican Republic as well as specialists assigned to the elements of obtaining and moving relief supplies to Haiti. The Dominican Republic has become a major lifeline to Haiti. Much of the provision of emergency materials and supplies to Haiti from non-governmental sources has been transported through the Dominican Republic.

The Committee has made arrangements with Rotarians in Haiti for the receiving, securing, warehousing and distribution of supplies. In fact, President Prevel of Haiti just named Dr. Claude Surena, a prominent Rotarian, to coordinate the receipt and distribution of all medical relief.

Claude is also the president of the Haitian Medical Association and a dear friend of our district.

Accordingly, the Board has agreed that all donations received on or before Friday, February 5, 2010 will be forwarded to the Haiti Disaster Relief Committee in Rotary District 4060 (Dominican Republic) to assist in the immediate short-term needs of the Haitian people in the most affected areas.

These funds will be used to purchase medicines, food, and emergency supplies which will be transported from the Dominican Republic into Haiti. We will forward every four or five days whatever donations we receive to the Committee during that period.

I hope clubs will consider making donations to the Rotary District 7980 Foundation for this cause.

Checks payable to "Rotary District 7980 Foundation, Inc." may be sent to:

Colin M. Gershon
One Century Tower
265 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

The Board has agreed to meet again in mid-February to re-assess the situation and decide if there should be any adjustments in our short-term relief plan based on developments between now and then.

Of course, we are well aware of other well-known non-profits which have strong Rotary connections, such as Shelter Box, (www.shelterbox.org), which has already provided 3,000 tents to the homeless in Port-au-Prince, and the Haitian Health Foundation (www.haitianhealthfoundation.org), which is treating many refugees arriving from Port-au-Prince. Individual Rotarians and Clubs may decide to contribute directly to these and other non-governmental organizations.

The Board is mindful that this crisis will not be over a month from now or even a year from now. The Board will be developing more long-term projects to help the Haitian people over the next few months. It is too early to identify these projects at this point.

Sincerely,

Colin M. Gershon~
District Governor



POLIO PLUS FUNDRAISER



This Monday, the 25th, is the Polio Plus Fundraiser at the Playwright Restaurant.

Bring your family.

Bring your friends.

In 1988, Polio was endemic in more than 100 different countries to include all of Africa, most of Asia, and a large portion of Latin America. Since that time Rotary International, and many partner organizations, have been able to vaccinate 99% of the global population. Four countries remain: Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.

18 months ago Rotary International received a \$100 million dollar matching challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to vaccinate the remaining 1% of the population. Rotary Clubs throughout the world were given three years to meet this challenge.

A year into the process, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation increased the matching grant to a total \$355 million dollars, provided Rotary could raise a total of \$200 million.

18 months have passed and we're making excellent progress, but we still need your help.

All we're asking you to do is come have lunch or dinner at the Playwright Restaurant right here in Hamden on January 25th.

The Playwright's owner has graciously offered to donate a substantial portion of the day's meal sales to this wonderful cause.

Come have a meal with us for a good cause.

If you can't eat with us, you can even order take out.

It's great food, and the good you'll do for a great cause, just by sharing a meal with us, can help make one of the world's most intractable diseases disappear forever.

The Playwright Restaurant
1232 Whitney Ave.
Hamden CT 06517
(203) 287-2401

Click for >> [Maps & Directions](#)

Fundraiser Hours: 11AM – 2:30PM & 4PM – 9PM

Club members are asked to park in the parking lot across Putnam Ave. to make room for our guests at The Playwright's parking lot.

HAMDEN ROTARY CHAMPION'S ETHICS

Last week our own Rev. Owen Sanderson, who sat on the Town's Ethics Committee for 10 years, led an interactive discussion about Ethics.

He explained that ethics has to do with standards of right and wrong and our relationship of being honest with ourselves and with others.

The second Object of Rotary is "High ethical standards in business and professions" and the first two items of Rotary's Four Way Test also deal with ethics: "Is it the Truth?" and "Is it Fair to All Concerned?"

We discussed specific examples of ethical issues in some of our own lives and businesses and it was clear how important it is in our daily dealings. Thank you Owen!



Rev. Owen Sanderson

FUN-RAISING IN FULL SWING

Last week the Fundraising Committee met and discussed the current and proposed fundraising initiatives for the remainder of this fiscal Rotary year.

Among the many things discussed were the gas card raffle, which we just submitted the permit application for, and our Community Service Tag Sale coming up on Saturday April 24th.

We need your help for both of these fundraisers.



Thanks to Owen Sanderson, the tag sale will be held April 24th at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church at 600 Shepard Ave. in Hamden from 9:30AM to 2:30PM, but there's a great deal to do before hand.

In addition to this being a tag sale, we will be drawing the winning ticket for the gas card raffle that day. And moreover, we will be scheduling an Amber Alert ID session. If that wasn't enough, we'll also be holding a silent auction for higher priced items.

The club will be posting ads in the newspapers for this multi-faceted event, but in the mean time we need your help with the following:

- ✎ We need tag sale items to sell.
- ✎ We need to sell raffle tickets.
- ✎ We need volunteers to help set up and break down.
- ✎ We need volunteers to help register kids for Amber Alert IDs.
- ✎ We need volunteers to cover the tables.
- ✎ We need items for the silent auction.

Jackie Kaywood has volunteered to store tag sale items at her warehouse. This is a terrific opportunity to get a jump on your spring cleaning, clean out your garages and attics, and otherwise lighten your loads.

Jackie is available to take tag sale items Monday thru Saturday from 10:30AM to 3:30PM at her Lamp Shoppe located at 993 Dixwell Ave. in Hamden; between Aaron's Furniture and Maaco.

Anything left over at the end of the tag sale will be donated to the Salvation Army.

We will be contacting other clubs in the area to ask for volunteers to support the Amber Alert ID registrations, but we'll still need members to help.

There's much more to do, and we need your help, but this should be a wonderful event.

AFGHANISTAN FIRST TO USE NEW POLIO VACCINE

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 14 January 2010

A new oral polio vaccine, developed to stop the transmission of the type 1 and type 3 wild polioviruses simultaneously, made its world debut during 15-17 December Subnational Immunization Days in Afghanistan.

An estimated 2.8 million children received the vaccine during the campaign, which was funded by the Canadian government.

According to the [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int), the bivalent vaccine is also intended for introduction in India and Nigeria by late January and is expected to be a critical new tool in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Of the three wild polioviruses, known as types 1, 2, and 3, type 2 hasn't been seen anywhere in the world since 1999. This achievement led to the development of monovalent vaccines, which provide more effective protection against a single type than the traditional trivalent vaccine. In a clinical field trial completed in June, the newly developed bivalent vaccine proved to be at least 30 percent more effective than the trivalent vaccine and almost as good as the monovalent vaccines.

As of 22 December, Afghanistan reported 31 polio cases in 2009, 28 of which occurred in the southern region. Families there are frequently on the move because of the changing security situation, limiting health workers' access to children.

The bivalent vaccine simplifies the logistics of optimally protecting each child.

"The new vaccine will allow us to save time and energy and reach, eventually, many more children," said Sheila Noor, one of 21,000 health workers deployed by the Afghan Ministry of Health. "We explain to every mother that this time a new vaccine is used that will protect their children even better. They appreciate it."

One reason health workers encountered little resistance during the immunization campaign was the effectiveness of social mobilizers. Before the effort began, volunteers trained by WHO, UNICEF, and the health ministry visited homes and explained the importance of vaccination.

Another reason was the agreement of Taliban leaders to allow immunization in the areas they control. Health workers who went house to house to vaccinate children carried letters from these leaders endorsing the campaign.

The ongoing effort to end polio in the country is staunchly supported by Rotary's Afghanistan PolioPlus Committee, chaired by Ajmal Pardis, a member of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad.

"Eighty-four percent of Afghans live in parts that are polio-free, and they are not being reinfected despite the vast movement [of people] we have in this country," said WHO spokesperson Peter Graaff. "We are doing quite well, even in areas that are either disputed or under control of insurgents."

ROTARIANS WITNESS CHAOS IN HAITI

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 20 January 2010

As president of the Rotary Club of Houston, it had been Michelle Bohreer's dream to travel to Haiti and conduct a service project to improve the lives of children there.

On 12 January, 45 minutes into a weeklong trip to Port-au-Prince to do just that, the dream quickly spiraled into a nightmare.



Bohreer and a team of five Rotarians from Houston were heading into Haiti's capital city to implement a water project for an orphanage when a powerful earthquake rocked the area, causing widespread devastation.

"Minutes after the quake happened, thousands of people poured out into the street running and screaming. Hundreds were walking around bleeding," says Bohreer. "It was moments like that when the absolute catastrophe hit you."

The quake, the worst in the region in more than 200 years, flattened much of the capital, killing as many as 200,000 and leaving millions more injured. A massive international relief operation is underway to bring food, water, and medicine to those who need it.

"I was overwhelmed by sights, sounds, and smells that I will never forget," says team member Vicki Brentin, past president of the Houston club. "I held tight to the hands of frightened, injured children and looked deep into the eyes of their mothers or fathers begging for help. That left a compelling and lasting impression on me."

Unable to leave the country, the team members spent four days in Port-au-Prince trying to help in any way they could. They found a collapsed hospital, sifted through the wreckage, and found Tylenol and antibiotic ointment to distribute to injured people.

"The injuries were too severe for the medicine we had, but receiving care of any kind during that time gave them hope. It gave us hope," says Bohreer. "I've never been so proud to be a Rotarian."

On 15 January, she and her team were able to board a charter flight to the Dominican Republic and, from there, back to Houston, where they arrived safely the next day.

Brentin said the team drew strength from the Haitian people who they encountered. "I was so moved by the amazing spirit of the Haitian people who, in the face of their own tragedy, pain and suffering, reached out to us with such kindness and concern for our well being."

Bohreer says her club will be back to help the country rebuild.

"We as Rotary have an obligation to take care of people who are suffering under such difficult conditions," she said.

From Safety into Catastrophe

A day after the earthquake, Caleb Lucien, a member of the Rotary Club of Pignon, and nine other Haitians traveled 85 miles south from Pignon to Port-au-Prince to assess the damage and help victims.

"The city is completely destroyed," says Lucien, Health and Hunger Resource Group coordinator for District 7020 in the Caribbean. "We drove past hundreds and hundreds of dead bodies. The loss of life is beyond belief."

Lucien spent US\$3,500 of his own money on water and food to distribute to victims. He also searched for Rotarians who he knew lived in affected areas and helped evacuate more than 120 injured people to Pignon.

"It was not a time to feel or think about the devastation. It was a time to act," he says. "I grieve, but I have to move forward and focus on getting Rotarians to help in the recovery."

He is working closely to bring relief supplies to affected areas with District 7020's Haiti Task Force, established two years ago to administer financial aid to the nation.

"The immediate need for the next two to six months is shelter, food, and clean water," says Lucien. "In the long term, I hope to see Rotary help with rebuilding infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and churches."

ROTARIANS FOCUS ON HAITI RELIEF

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 22 January 2010

Rotary clubs and districts worldwide are mobilizing resources to deliver urgently needed relief to the millions affected by Haiti's devastating earthquake.

District 7020, which includes Haiti, has flown in 55 planes filled with more than 50,000 pounds of medical equipment and supplies into the cities of Pignon and Port-de-Paix to bypass logistical problems in the hard-hit capital of Port-au-Prince.

The United Nations estimates that more than half of the buildings in the capital have collapsed. About 200,000 people are dead and millions more homeless.

"Rotary had an incredible infrastructure established before the quake, which has made our relief efforts very effective," says Dick McCombe, past district governor and Haiti liaison chair. "We're flying in supplies through backdoor channels and doing things a lot of agencies can't do."

The district's Haiti Task Force, set up two years ago to administer all financial aid to the nation, is working with local clubs to deliver aid to Port-au-Prince and those who have taken refuge in the countryside.

McCombe says Rotary was in a good position to help in Haiti, with 33 projects already underway to provide water, sanitation, medical care, and education.

"We changed from teaching children how to read to saving their lives," says McCombe.

Clubs in the district have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for short- and long-term recovery.

"Rotarians are incredibly generous and are doing what needs to be done," says McCombe. "We are setting aside some of these contributions for long-term recovery."



Rotarian Claude Surena, head of the Haiti Task Force and president of the Haitian Medical Association, is sheltering more than 100 injured people in his damaged home in Port-au-Prince. His house has become a makeshift hospital and medical distribution center.

Within the next two weeks, McCombe says, a barge will be hired to transport 20 to 30 tons of clothes, blankets, folding beds, and other items to Haiti from Nassau, Bahamas.

ShelterBox responds

[ShelterBox](#) has already delivered more than 3,300 containers to Haiti, with another 1,000 or more scheduled to be deployed.

"This is the largest, quickest, and most complex deployment in our history," says John Leach, head of operations for ShelterBox. "We organized across four countries to get ShelterBoxes to the people of Haiti quickly."

Each box contains a tent that houses 10 people as well as a stove, blankets, and other essential items.

Doctors have been using supplies from the containers to treat the injured. Hospitals in the capital city are using the tents to provide emergency shelter for postoperative patients.

"There's hundreds of thousands of people that are injured. The walking wounded are everywhere," says Mark Pearson, one of three ShelterBox response team members in Haiti. "People are getting taken to hospital now, eight, nine days later."

The Rotary Foundation has established the [Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, a donor advised fund primarily](#) for U.S. Rotarians who want to donate toward recovery efforts. The fund has raised more than \$48,000 so far.

A one-time \$5 donation to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund can be made by texting [ROTARY to 90999](#).

Around the world, Rotary clubs, districts, and Interact and Rotaract clubs have donated directly to ShelterBox. Other Rotarian relief efforts in Haiti include:

- ✧ The Rotary Club of Tocoa, Colón, Honduras, has chartered three flights to send 25,000 to 30,000 pounds of food to Haiti.
- ✧ A six-person team from the Rotary clubs of Inwood, Manhattan, and New York is working with Comprehensive and Response Service to establish a staging area in the Dominican Republic for bringing medical supplies into Port-au-Prince.
- ✧ Past District Governor Alfonso Leppes launched a campaign asking each of the more than 4,500 Rotarians in Chile to donate \$50 to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.
- ✧ Five Rotarian doctors from Venezuela are in Haiti as part of a search-and-rescue team established by their government.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

A man gets a chance to ask God any questions he wants. So first he asks, "

"Lord, will there ever be world peace?"

God answers, "Not in your lifetime."

So then the man inquires, "Lord, will America's economy ever be in as good of shape as it was in the 1920s again?"

God answers, "Not in your lifetime."

Finally, being a Detroit resident, the man inquires,

"Lord, will the Detroit Lions ever make it to the playoffs again?"

God answers, "Not even in MY lifetime!"

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Jan 25 th	Polio Plus Fundraiser
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...

