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LETTER FROM THE TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER

Dear Rotarians,

I would like to pass my appreciation on behalf of Turkish Cultural Center Members and myself to mention that it was a great program on Monday evening.

We enjoyed your visit and we are happy to hear that we have many, many common goals in life that we would help each other and foster very wonderful friendship. I am looking forward to continue these conversations and friendship.

One more time, on behalf of TCC, I would like to thank you and your members and invite you to TCC anytime. Our doors are open to good friends and everyone forever. Please could you pass along this email to other members of your organization?

Have a fantastic day.

Kind regards,

Ozgur Yaglidere
<http://www.TurkishCulturalCenterCT.com>

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING

I would like to ask members of the Fundraising Committee (and any interested club members) to participate in a committee meeting next week (Mar 8th) after our regular meeting to discuss current projects.

The meeting will take about an hour.

Thanks for your support. ☺

DISTRICT 7980 IS ONE IN A HUNDRED

District 7980 has been selected as one of 100 districts in the world for a three year international grant funding pilot project sponsored by Rotary International. The success of this pilot will change the way international grants are distributed at the Rotary Foundation level.

Cathy Forsberg participated in a district seminar last weekend to learn how the project will affect the Hamden club.

It's clear from the documentation that RI is seeking to improve transparency, efficiency, and accountability. Among the accountability measures in place, clubs will be held individually responsible for the proper application of grant funds, and documents are potentially subject to audit for a period of five years.

International projects funded by this grant pilot may only be performed in districts which are also part of the pilot.

Participating pilot clubs may apply for qualification each year for a one year term.

And because I think it's representative of what been said so far, I'll share the 2010-11 RI logo with you.



ROTARY CLUB OF CHICAGO MARKS 105 YEARS

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 24 February 2010

As members of the Rotary Club of Chicago celebrated Rotary's 105th anniversary at a downtown hotel on 23 February, the city's historic Wrigley Building was illuminated in the background with an urgent message: End Polio Now.

The Wrigley Building joined several other iconic landmarks worldwide, each lit with an anniversary message or the three words representing Rotary's commitment to rid the world of the crippling childhood disease.

Joining Chicago Rotarians at the lighting ceremony were Illinois Governor Pat Quinn; the Reverend Jesse Jackson, president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition; Dr. Ciro de Quadros, executive vice president of the Sabin Vaccine Institute; James Galloway, U.S. assistant surgeon general; and RI General Secretary Ed Futa.

Before the lighting, Rotarians handed out End Polio Now postcards at the Wrigley Building.



"This is a very significant event," says Angelo Lombas, president of the Chicago club. "Rotary's end polio campaign is the initiative I want my club to sponsor as much as they can this year. The fact that we were able to promote End Polio Now and at the same time celebrate Rotary's 105th anniversary really turned out to be a big advantage for us."

Joined by Rotarians from districts 6440 and 6450, the Chicago club, the first Rotary club, commemorated its own 105th anniversary. At the celebration, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley congratulated Rotarians for their achievement and thanked them for their ongoing commitment to literacy, promoting peace, improving health, and eradicating polio.

"I'm very grateful for Rotary's commitment to service, not only here in America but all over the world," said Daley. "In the spirit of volunteerism, Rotary carries the torch. Each and every one of you stands alone in leading the way to eradicate polio."

WITHIN REACH

"I'm honored to participate in the End Polio Now campaign in Chicago, where Rotary was founded 105 years ago," said Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. "The eradication of one of the world's most terrible diseases is finally within reach due to Rotary International's extraordinary efforts."

The club awarded de Quadros its Chesley Perry Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service for global polio eradication. He led a team responsible for developing a surveillance and response strategy to eliminate polio from the Americas.

The landmark displays coincide with a mass mailing of End Polio Now postcards to heads of state in more than 40 countries, encouraging governments to continue or increase their commitment to polio eradication.

In addition to the Wrigley Building, other landmarks illuminated during the week of 23 February include the Pyramid of Khafre in Egypt; the Taipei Arena in Taiwan; the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain; the Old Port Captain's Office on the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa; the Obelisk of Buenos Aires, Argentina; and the Royal Palace at Caserta in Italy.

"By lighting these historic landmarks with Rotary's pledge to end polio, Rotary is saying to the world that we will fight this disease to the end," said Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Glenn E. Estess Sr. "People around the world will see these words and join Rotary and its partners in the historic effort to eradicate polio from the face of the earth."



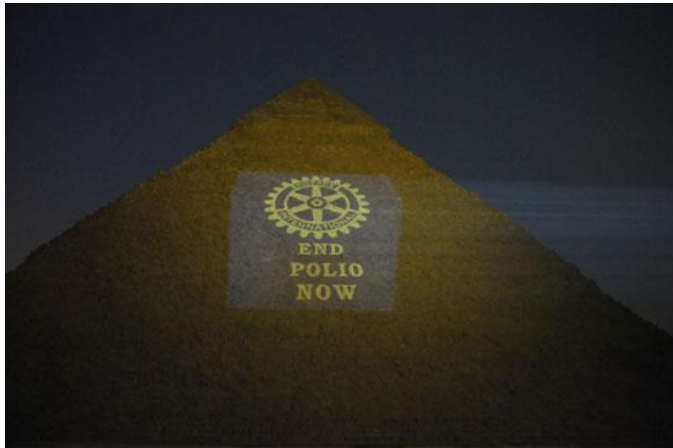
Parliament & Big Ben - London England



The Roman Coliseum - Rome Italy



Sydney Opera House - Sydney Australia



The Pyramid of Khafre - Egypt

TENTS TOP PRIORITY IN HAITI

ShelterBox News Thursday 18 February 2010

It is now five weeks since Haiti was rocked by a catastrophic earthquake and there is still an urgent need for secure shelter which can stand up to the Haitian climate.

ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) member Jane Nash has just returned to the UK from Port au Prince. She says the importance of getting people into tents cannot be underestimated.

'The rains are going to be really hard and it's going to take a long time to get transitional housing up and running. Our tents will withstand heavy rain. Would you want to be in a tarpaulin sheet in a torrential downpour when the ground will be soaked? The look on one woman's face when I gave her a tent was like it was the best thing she had ever had,' said Jane.

ShelterBox General Manager Lasse Petersen added: 'At present the vast majority of people left homeless have yet to receive even plastic sheeting. These families need immediate emergency shelter rather than becoming caught up in policy debates.'

'A tent, as we've already seen, can be a life saving difference to many of the most vulnerable during what is likely to become a very lengthy wait for anything more permanent. It's vital we continue our efforts in Haiti; tents are the number one priority.'

So far more than 7,000 ShelterBoxes and disaster relief tents have been distributed in Haiti and another 1,200 are due to arrive in Port au Prince, Haiti's capital, by Friday. The SRT in Port au Prince already has a planned distribution in place for these boxes.

ShelterBox has committed another 5,000 tents to Haiti, which will provide shelter for another 50,000 people. These will start arriving at the end of February. ShelterBox tents undergo rigorous testing and will be able to stand up to the spring rains which will soon descend on Haiti.

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

On February, Tuesday 16, SRT members Mike Greenslade (AU) and Dave Ray (UK), who are in Port au Prince, worked closely with community leaders and the Red Falcon, US 82nd Airborne to distribute 180 ShelterBoxes.

Mike said: 'We could not have achieved a safe distribution without the 82nd Airborne. The soldiers of Red Falcon ensured that boxes went to the most needy in the camp.'

'Conditions in the camp are amongst the worst I've seen with people living cheek by jowl, camping out on piles of rubble, surrounded by rubbish and rotting waste. In this space people have to wash, cook, eat and sleep, many with no more than a bed sheet for overhead cover.'

'This picture is replicated throughout Port au Prince and the outlying affected by the quake. There are not enough tents to go round and the consensus is that when the rains come we will have a second emergency on our hands.'



Tents are urgently needed in Haiti before the Caribbean rains begin. Photograph: Tom Lay

The below video, shot by SRT member Tom Lay (UK) who returned to the UK from Haiti last week, features SRT member John Diksa (FR) and outlines ShelterBox's work in Haiti so far:

ShelterBox will continue responding to the crisis in Haiti until the job is done. At the same time, we need to rebuild our stock levels so we have the capacity to immediately respond to the next disaster that strikes.

SHELTERBOX RESPONDS TO EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE

ShelterBox News Saturday 27 February 2010

ShelterBox is responding to the news of destruction caused by a massive earthquake which hit Chile at 06:43 GMT this morning.

A ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) is currently being mobilised with two SRT members from the UK and one from the US set to deploy to the region.



THE CHARM



The 8.8 magnitude quake struck southern Chile and triggered a tsunami alert along thousands of miles of the South American coastline and beyond. It caused buildings to collapse in the Chilean capital, Santiago, 200 miles from the epicentre. It is feared thousands of homes could have been destroyed.



MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Mar 1 st	Ted Lipkin on Judaism
Mon	Mar 8 th	McGivney Cancer Center - Hamden
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
Sat	Apr 24 th	Community Tag Sale Fundraiser with Amber Alert Registrations and the Gas Card Raffle drawing Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church @ 600 Shepard Ave.
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

ShelterBox General Manager Lasse Petersen said: 'ShelterBox will respond quickly where needed, as the unfolding news becomes clearer and the scale of need is confirmed.'

'A ShelterBox Response Team is preparing to mobilise as the earliest opportunity. Our thoughts go out to the people who have been affected by this disaster.'

Chile's second-largest city, Concepcion, just 75 miles from the epicentre, is likely to be the worst affected by the earthquake, with more than 200,000 people living along the Bio Bio river.

The initial quake was followed by two aftershocks measuring 6.9 and 5.5 in magnitude. The quake is Chile's largest in 25 years and Chile's president Michelle Bachelet has declared a 'state of catastrophe' in the country.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

In heaven, organized by the Swiss, we will all be Italian lovers enjoying British humor, French cooking and German engineering.

In hell, under Italian administration, we will all be Swiss lovers suffering German humor, French engineering and British cooking.

—Phil Wallace, Milwaukie, Oregon

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

