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ROTARACT BENEFIT DINNER FOR COLUMBUS HOUSE



Our Rotaractors have organized a wonderful benefit dinner for Columbus House.

Please come and join us this Thursday at Quinnipiac University in Alumni Hall at 5PM.

Tickets are \$5 each, and will be available for sale tomorrow at our meeting.

TAG SALE UPDATE

With a month to go there's still an awful lot to do.

On Saturday, I took a couple hours to price many of the items we've received from you all so far. (For those who have donated, thank you for being so generous!) In some cases, you all have taken the time to price your goods in advance of delivering them, and I appreciate that greatly.

In this vein, I've purchased some pricing labels. There are stickers available in a variety of denominations ranging from 10¢ to \$20, and if we're not happy with what's available, there are also several blank labels which can be written on. These labels are available at Ms. Jackie's shop.

My assessment of how we're doing is that we so far have about 10% of the items we need to have a successful tag sale.

We definitely need more tag sale items.

Later in the newsletter I'll post some suggestions about things you might find in your home that you might like to consider donating.

It's also time to start thinking collectively about scheduling our service activities for April 24th, and if I may say so, the day prior.

On Friday the 23rd, we'll need to move all of the tag sale items from Jackie's store to Owen's church. In addition, once moved, all of the items will need to be placed into groups of like materials (although I've already tried to do some of this organizing). I'm planning to take the day off that Friday to specifically do this, but it would be wonderful to have some help.

On Saturday the 24th, we'll have to start early, say about 7 or 7:30AM.

Setup 7AM – 8:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up tent (if available) Set up tables Move items to tables Set up Amber Alert area and equipment Put up signs (that Joena is making, thank you Jo!) to help folks find the different areas. Set up silent auction area
Event 8:30 – 2:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotary Meet & Greet (to share with the community all that Rotary does, and prospect for potential members). The tag sale itself Amber Alert ID Registrations Silent Auction (closes at 1PM, with a 2:15 pickup) Raffle Ticket Sales with a 2PM drawing
Cleanup 2:30 – 5PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pack up remaining items and take them to the Salvation Army Break down tables Break down tent Break down Amber Alert Equipment Pick up signs Clean up trash
Pizza 5:30PM - ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let's all meet up for supper at Eli's Pizza. Please bring your spouses and sweethearts.

POLIO PLUS FUNDRAISER

Thanks to the help of many Hamden Rotarians our club and its members have made donations totaling \$1,399 to the Rotary International Foundation for the Polio Plus campaign this year!



Thank you to Tom Hylinski, event chair, Eamonn (Sonny) Ryan and the Playwright staff for their generous help during our dining event at the Playwright on January 25th. Thank you also to the many individual members who made generous personal donations to help with this important cause.

RECRUITING SCHOLARS AN ONGOING EFFORT

By Peter Schmidtko Rotary International News -- 15 March 2010

[Rotary Peace Fellows](#) and [Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars](#) can be the pride of their sponsor districts. But finding the best candidates requires an ongoing, strategic effort.

Gudmundur Haraldsson, Rotary Peace Fellowships subcommittee chair for District 1360 (Iceland), says his district taps contacts within the local university and humanitarian aid organizations, advertises in newspapers, and relies on past fellows to advise, educate, and recommend candidates.



"Put the main emphasis on the good academic record of the students, and their experience and ambitions regarding humanitarian aid," Haraldsson says.

In District 5890 (Texas, USA), ongoing recruitment efforts have led to 36 Ambassadorial Scholars over the past 10 years, an achievement that Bill Barmore, district scholarships subcommittee chair, attributes in part to word-of-mouth publicity and continual relationship-building.

"Each year, we ask the members of our committee if they know a contact person at a local university who will be an advocate," Barmore says. The committee also sends scholarship information kits to every club in the district.

District 5890 asks its Rotaract clubs to help recruit candidates, and it encourages former Ambassadorial Scholars to speak to clubs and universities.

If you need to narrow down your pool of candidates, District 6440 (Illinois, USA) Scholarships Subcommittee Chair Linda Lutz suggests using personal interviews not only to get to know your applicants but also to observe how they interact with Rotarians.

She also recommends emphasizing the unique advantages of a Rotary experience, such as the networks of Rotarians available to fellows and scholars before and after they go abroad. "That's a huge asset over other scholarships," Lutz points out

This story appeared in the [January 2010 Rotary Leader](#).

For more information:

- Learn more about [Ambassadorial Scholarships](#)
- Learn more about the [Rotary Centers](#)
- Download a copy of the [Rotary Peace Fellowships leaflet](#) (PDF)
- Download a [2011 Rotary Peace Fellowship Application](#) (PDF)

FIRST DEPLOYMENT ONE OF MANY CHALLENGES

Shelterbox News Wednesday 17 March 2010

Jodie Hurt, aged 33 from Cornwall, UK, qualified as a ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) member in November 2009.

In February 2010, Jodie received the call for her first ShelterBox deployment. She would be part of a three-person team heading to Cuzco, deep in the Peruvian Andes, to deliver emergency shelter to thousands of people who lost their homes in floods and landslides.

Jodie wanted to become a SRT to make a difference to people's lives and help them at a time when they need it most. Her first deployment threw many challenges at her and her fellow team members Gary Boe (US) and Denise Ho (US).

'My first deployment as a ShelterBox Response Team member was one of many extremes and mixed emotions. Peru. Floods and landslides. It was an amazing experience for me to be able to help those people who have lost everything.

'While waiting for the shipment of boxes we were working with Rotarians, INDECI (the National Civil Defense Institute of Peru) and customs. There were lots of meetings and coordinating of logistics as well as research into where the need was most in Peru.

'We were made honorary associates to INDECI and attended important functions where I made a presentation for ShelterBox. Once the boxes arrived and we saw all 200 of them in customs it was such an exciting feeling.

'The normal time for clearing customs in Peru is at least two weeks but with help from our consignee, INDECI, and Carlos Rioja we managed to break the record and got the boxes released in just six days!

'During this time Denise, who lives in Lima, stayed to ensure the smooth process and release of the boxes. Gary and I flew to one of the worst hit regions of Peru, Cuzco.

'We were at 8000ft and on arriving both suffered from altitude sickness. We were forced to rest and we made sure we drank lots of coca tea. The next day, once recovered, we travelled to three different villages in the Cusco region. It was awful to see so many families who had lost everything. I could see the sadness and loss within their eyes, it was heart breaking. While we were assessing different villages, we received information about another region of Peru, Puno where the need was also great. We decided Gary should make the six hour bus ride to Puno.

'I continued with my recon work in Cusco and also planning logistics and storage of the boxes. I found it difficult to be the person who made the decision as to whether these people would receive ShelterBoxes or not. I knew I'd make the right decision, but it was hard when so many people needed our help. I wish I could've helped everyone.

'Denise was due to join me after a few days and I couldn't wait. Not having a second person there for help and support was tough particularly at the end of the day when you need to talk through some of the devastating sites you'd seen.

'The day before Denise was due to join me, the earthquake hit Chile. Peru was now on a tsunami alert. I was okay as I was at 8000ft but my team mates were both on the coast. Denise couldn't fly to me as the airports were inundated.



This was a really stressful time but in the face of trouble I'm always able to keep my sense of humour.

'When Denise finally joined me I had made decisions on the three villages that were most in need. But within a disaster zone things change daily. We heard about a village, Taray, which had been struck by a landslide. We immediately set about trying to get there.

'The road was blocked by another landslide. We met up with the Cusco army and they had a bus on the other side, so we climbed the rubble and got a lift with them. After about 20 minutes the bus broke down and so we began the long walk to Taray. I contacted HQ to give them our exact location and would make the necessary arrangements if we were unable to make it back to our base that night. Carrying around your 24hr emergency bag makes you feel all the safer!

'We managed to get a lift with a tuk-tuk for the final leg of our journey. We were the first NGO on site, the village had been destroyed. We saw the room where people had been laid to rest. The people and families were distraught. Denise and I continued with the task at hand, doing everything we'd been trained to do. It was so hard and upsetting but I became detached so I could continue my work.

'We spoke to the people and listened to their stories. They were harrowing and horrific. Shelterbox would help these people start to rebuild their lives but not here, the village was a death trap, more rain and the same would happen again. With help of the army we found a nearby village in Pisac that had a large school compound, not in use but it did have water, toilets and showers.

'The next day we set off on a two hour journey to Pisac to set up the IDP camp with help from the army. We'd been there a couple of hours when the worst screaming I've ever heard began

'The army dropped everything and ran. There was another landslide and we could see it all happening before our eyes. After what seemed like ages, there was deathly silence. It was even worse than the screaming. Then there was the sound of church bells.

'We were surrounded by hills and didn't know if the slide would have a knock on effect and put us right in the middle of this disaster. It was too dangerous to drive out of Pisac. We decided to secure the site and continue to put up tents, whilst watching out for landslides. I kept a close eye on the people gathering outside.

They were watching the river, looking out for people being brought down by the landslide.

'We'd done everything we could and now had to make the decision whether we stay in Pisac for the night or make the drive back to base. We decided to make the journey back as we didn't feel safe once we started losing light. We told the people that we would be back to finish their homes the next day. The journey home was one of the longest ever. I was completely exhausted by the day's events.

'The next day we went back to finish the camp. Seeing where the landslide was and knowing that 10 people had died was difficult but we continued with our work and by the end of the day we gave 44 families shelter, comfort and warmth. All these people were completely overwhelmed and happy.

'My first deployment was hard, exhausting, fun, challenging, upsetting, frustrating, dangerous, rewarding and satisfying. I know this is what I want to do with my life; to help people at such an unbelievably devastating time.

'I looked for so long to find a charity that just felt right and I have found it with ShelterBox. Words can't describe the impact ShelterBox has on people's lives.'

1,000 SHELTERBOXES EN ROUTE TO CHILE

ShelterBox News Friday 12 March 2010

ShelterBox is distributing disaster relief tents and life-saving supplies for up to 10,000 earthquake survivors in Chile.

Around 1,000 ShelterBoxes are arriving in the capital Santiago this weekend where they will be met by two ShelterBox Response Teams (SRT) and delivered to those who lost their homes in the devastating 8.8 magnitude quake.

With strong aftershocks still a regular occurrence nearly a fortnight after the disaster, ShelterBox workers on the ground have been assessing areas of greatest need in the Talca region, north of the worst-affected city, Concepcion.

SRT members Tom Lay (UK), Pat Prendergast (UK) and Traci Oliver (US) will be joined by SRT members Jessica Stanton, Sallie Buck, Andy Green and Malcolm Shead, all from the UK, who are flying out to Chile on Saturday.

Incoming Team Leader and ShelterBox Operations Coordinator Jessica Stanton said: 'We'll be arriving at the same time as 1,000 ShelterBoxes arrive so we'll have our work cut out distributing the tents and supplies.'



THE CHARM



'The Chilean government and other agencies have been providing emergency shelter in Concepcion, the city closest to the quake's epicentre, and to areas along the coast which were hit by a tsunami.

'But we're hearing reports that more inland, rural communities near Talca are not getting any support despite people's homes being destroyed by the earthquake. We're looking to put tents up close to people's homesteads so they can stay where they are under cover while starting to rebuild their lives and homes.'

The 1,000 ShelterBoxes – providing enough aid for up to 10,000 people - have come from prepositioned stock in Melbourne, Singapore and Dubai as well as from ShelterBox HQ in Cornwall, UK. ShelterBox has a network of strategic locations around the globe where boxes are stored to allow a speedy response to disasters wherever they strike.

On arrival in Santiago the boxes will be transported by road to Talca with help from shipping company DHL.

SRT member Tom Lay said: 'There is massive damage in the region of Talca and a lot of buildings are just gone. We've identified rural communities in the towns of Curepto, Villa Prat and Curico which were hit by the quake and suffered devastation, but are at the bottom of the list in terms of getting aid, so we're making sure these communities get emergency shelter as quickly as possible.

'The aftershocks we've felt have been really strong and we had to evacuate the building we were in. We can't wait for the boxes to arrive and as soon as they do we'll be distributing them.'

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Six retired Irishmen were playing poker in O'Leary's apartment when Paddy Murphy loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest, and drops dead at the table. Showing respect for their fallen brother, the other five continue playing standing up.

Michael O'Connor looks around and asks, 'Oh, me boys, someone got's to tell Paddy's wife. Who will it be?'

They draw straws. Paul Gallagher picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse.

'Discreet??? I'm the most discreet Irishmen you'll ever meet. Discretion is me middle name. Leave it to me.'

Gallagher goes over to Murphy's house and knocks on the door. Mrs. Murphy answers, and asks what he wants. Gallagher declares, 'Your husband just lost \$500, and is afraid to come home.'

'Tell him to drop dead!', says Murphy's wife..

'I'll go tell him.' says Gallagher.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Mar 22 nd	Albert Schweitzer Institute – Nicaragua Programs
Thu	Mar 25 th @ 5PM	Rotaract Dinner to Benefit Columbus House @ Quinnipiac University, Alumni Hall
Mon	Apr 5 th	Bill Llewellyn AG Fairfield - Scrubby Bears Community Service project
Mon	Apr 12 th	Eamonn "Sonny" Ryan (Owner of The Playwright) - Ireland in America Student of the Month
Sat	Apr 17 th	District Assembly – Meriden
Mon	Apr 19 th	Tag Sale Planning
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.
Mon	Apr 26 th	Kyle Torres, Student @ St. Martin's de Porres Academy - Community Service Project to Address the needs of kids in foster care.
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

CAN'T MAKE THE MONDAY MEETING?

Town	Day	Time	Location	Address
Branford	Mon	12:15 PM	Italian-American Club	40 Hamre Lane
Hamden	Mon	05:45 PM	The Playwright	1232 Whitney Ave
North Haven	Tue	07:15 AM	Breakfast Nook	448 Washington Ave
New Haven	Tue	12:15 PM	Graduate Club	155 Elm St
West Haven	Wed	12:15 PM	App's Ristorante	283 Capt. Thomas Blvd
Orange	Fri	12:15 PM	Race Brook Ctry Club	246 Derby Ave
Woodbridge	Fri	12:15 PM	Coachman Square	21 Bradley Rd
E-Club (Dist. 7890)			http://www.rotaryclub7890.org/	

"In truth, people can generally make time for what they choose to do; it is not really the time but the will that is lacking."

~Sir John Lubbock 1834 – 1913 British Statesman, Banker, Naturalist

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

