



District Governor's Newsletter

District 5970

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Governor 2009-2010

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Recently, twelve Rotarians from District 5970 traveled to Chinandega Nicaragua to deliver shoeboxes and layettes and other items to the children there. This project has been going on for almost 10 years and great things are happening. I want to thank all the clubs that have had a hand in donating to this on going International project. Enjoy PDG Dave Buck's account of what he saw during this most recent trip. If your looking for a program PDG Steve Thorpe, PDG Dave Buck, PDG Dick Moeller and others may like to show and tell you about how this area is becoming an oasis in the midst of poverty.

Nicaragua--Several Names, Several Projects

by Buck, David

Our work in Nicaragua is known by different names, "The Children of the Dump", "The Shoebox Project," and Hope and Relief International.



By whatever name, it is really a collection of ten or more efforts to eliminate extreme poverty through education of students in one of several projects under the direction of the Chinandega 2001 Foundation.

The city dump in Chinandega, Nicaragua must be one of the most depressing sites in the entire western hemisphere. Early every morning when the day's garbage arrives, dozens of people, mostly children, descend on them looking for something to sell or eat. The smell, the smoke, the dirty kids, the dogs and cows who compete for food- -the images are burned on your personal hard drive for ever. Yet 300 meters south is another set of images that also linger. Just past the dump and the cluster of shanties that surround it lies one of the most remarkable schools in the country of 5.2 million people.

It's the School of Haldo Dubon, named for a local young man who was killed in a car accident. His father donated the land for a set of buildings, one for grammar and a second set for high school and a building with a cafeteria and kitchen.

Most of the students who attend were rescued from the dump and offered a chance to change their lives through education.

Teachers in Nicaragua are paid about \$100 per month by the federal government; to make sure Haldo Dubon has the best, the Chinandega 2001 Foundation nearly doubles the total. I've visited the school eight times to deliver Christmas boxes to those who meet attendance and academic standards- -tough love in action. And best of all, the school is working well.

In 2008 the first of its former students was graduated from the prestigious University of Central America with a degree in accounting. Maria Jose Perez Lopez is now working for a large sugar processing plant in the area and working part time for our foundation—Hope and Relief International. Another student- -Jalmar, is close to a degree in odontology and has a very bright future.

A few years ago a baseball team from the school won a national title and in 2009 students there won a national arts and crafts award. There are 450 students at the school and we estimate it takes about \$20 per month to support them. Who knows how many Maria Jose's and Jalmar's are among them. If you can help, even for just one year, please contact Hope and Relief International at 10700 Gerke Road, Brenham, Texas 77833-8959.

Multi-PETS Bus Trip

Plans are under way for a bus to travel from Dubuque to Mason City via Hwys 20 and 218 with several stops along the way to pick up President elects and other club officers interested in attending the PETS session held at the Airport Hilton in Bloomington, MN on Feb 26 -27. All President-Elects are required to attend this training opportunity. Additional information will be sent to PEs in the weeks ahead. Approx bus cost will be \$70. Watch for registration for the PETS and bus trip information soon.

G Retzlaff

Montreal International Convention, June 20-23

Plans for a bus trip/hotel accommodation package for the Montreal convention are progressing. At this point, the bus ride will start in Fort Dodge and travel eastward, picking up Rotarians at convenient locations in our district. The bus trip will cost approximately \$250 per person, with hotel accommodations still in negotiation. Please remember that you will need a passport for this trip into Canada. Call **PDG Dick Moeller** with questions at 319-290-78778.

RYLA CAMP - MARCH 26-28, 2010

The **2009-10 RYLA Camp** has been rescheduled for the weekend of March 26th - 28th at Camp Shalom near Maquoketa, Iowa.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an updated and corrected brochure regarding the camp experience. PLEASE review ASAP and begin your club's process for selecting students from your community. I would suggest contacting schools guidance counselors, principals or any other school staff that can get this camp information to the appropriate students as soon as possible.

An application can be obtained off the District website www.district5970.org. Under the Main Menu click on RYLA and click again on RYLA application. If the application is not corrected with the new dates please print and use anyhow or watch for the corrected application soon. Mail the completed applications to: Gus Glaser PO BOX 671, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060. Due date is Feb 15, 2010.

After the selection of students, they and the Rotary Clubs will be notified and payments will be requested. Thank you for supporting this new District Youth program.

Club Service Projects

Here are what some clubs are doing to serve their communities:

Waterloo Downtown - several club members traveled to Nicaragua to deliver shoeboxes and layettes filled by Cedar Valley Area Rotary clubs as well as items donated by many other district clubs.

Cedar Rapids Sunrise - Youth Exchange student spent 6 days in early December traveling with other exchange students to Punta Arenas, Chile, the most southern city in the world. There they toured many natural wonders before the sun would set a 10:30 PM and met the Punta Arenas Rotarians.

Iowa Lakes - Club completed their 5th year of distributing dictionaries to Spirit Lake third-graders.

Algona - Club members donated waterproof gloves and mittens at their annual Christmas party and the donated the items to the local CARE team.

Washington High School Interactor - The Interact club raised \$160 from their sale of Puppy Chow and donated the proceeds to the Joint Cedar Rapids Rotary Flood Appliance Project.

Decorah - Club collected to support the local food pantry and also served as volunteer attendants for the community display of holiday lights.

Anamosa - Club hosted Rotarians and spouses, friends from Mt-Vernon/Lisbon and Monticello at their annual Tri-City meeting and event that has continued annual since the 1930's. Prior to the meal the group toured the just completed Jones Regional Medical Center and the evening's program was the hospital's Rotarian administrator.

Bellevue - Raised \$200 at the community the Little Mr & Mrs Christmas. All proceeds were donated to the Jackson County Humane Society.

Cedar Rapids West - Members served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army during the recent holiday season.

Looking for Host Clubs for GSE TEAM

While the dates for the inbound GSE team from District 2230 (Poland, Belarus, and the Ukraine), the GSE planning team is looking for clubs interested in hosting the 5 member team during their visit to District 5970. If your club is interested please contact one of the co-chairs Jill Olsen golsen@graceland.edu or Jim Coloff jacoloff@hotmail.com

In addition to your indication of interest the committee also would like for you to identify some creative attractions that you might be able to show the team members .i.e. court house and court room, mom and pop business, funeral home, bank, boy or girl scout troop meeting, FFA Chapter project or meeting, school board meeting and school tour, livestock production, various manufacturing business, local restaurant, etc.

Please send your interest intentions and list the various activities you can provide to the committee. We look forward to your involvement. As soon as the dates are set and the composition of their team is known the information will be shared with the hosting clubs.

Foundation donations deductibility

It has recently come to our attention that the IRS has questioned the method clubs use in billing and collection of member donations to The Rotary Foundation. The specific practice being scrutinized is the inclusion of a line item on the billing that identifies the Foundation as part of the dues collected on the billing method your club uses. Generally, that is quarterly.

Apparently, the IRS is indication that any billing for The Rotary Foundation **MUST** be on a **separate statement** and NOT included in the normal billing process.

Therefore, if your club includes a portion of every members dues as a contribution to The Rotary Foundation (TRF), I would suggest the practice be revised to avoid potential loss of tax deductibility

of the members donations to The Rotary Foundation.

This leads us to two other thoughts. 1) While clubs and districts do not have to pay federal income tax, donations to clubs and district are NOT tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, such deductible status is possible for a contribution to any club or district charitable fund that has been independently classified by the IRS as qualifying under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. (i.e. The Rotary Foundation, TRF)

Membership dues may be deductible for some Rotarians as a business expense. Please contact the IRS or your tax consultant or attorney for guidance on this issue.

2) The best practice for Foundation contributions is to have members make all donations to the Foundation payable to the Rotary Foundation and give the check to your club treasurer or Foundation Chr and they complete donor ID forms and then mail the donations directly to the Rotary Foundation. 3) a much talked about method is the TRF direct which is an automatic deduction from your checking account which is deposited into the TRF account. At the end of the year TRF sends you a receipt for your contributions. Information from at letter from IRS dated Nov 2007 entitled "USA and Puerto Rica Rotary Clubs and Districts and the IRS"

Secretary Membership Report

Congratulations Secretaries for getting reports in. Great Effort!

Based on secretary reports from 98% of District clubs we are NET +8 in membership after 5 months. Several clubs have shown great membership growth and in every situation there has been a focused effort by the membership and the club leadership

to **INVITE qualified prospective** members. The net +8 is based on the newsletter numbers reported in the July issue. Let's work hard at limiting the number of Rotarians that feel they want to leave our great organization. There is so much to do and we need all Rotarians to help in our local, district and international service efforts.

Rotary District 5970 Monthly Attendance	Nov '09			
	Last Report	Meetings	Members	Attendance %
ACKLEY	Nov	4	19	61.00
ALGONA	Nov	5	61	83.00
ANAMOSA	Nov	4	29	55.00
BANCROFT	Nov	4	24	62.00
BELLE PLAINE	Nov	5	22	75.00
BELLEVUE	Nov	3	26	77.00
CEDAR FALLS	Nov	4	121	56.00
CEDAR RAPIDS	Nov	4	310	57.00
CEDAR RAPIDS DAYBREAK	Nov	2	118	68.00
CEDAR RAPIDS HIAWATHA METRO	Nov	3	72	53.00
CEDAR RAPIDS SUNRISE	Nov	4	38	88.16
CEDAR RAPIDS WEST	Nov	2	101	70.00
CHARLES CITY	Nov	5	46	70.00
CLARION	Nov	5	23	70.00
CLEAR LAKE	Nov	3	22	61.00
DECORAH	Nov	4	82	62.00
DUBUQUE	Nov	4	199	42.17
EAGLE GROVE	Nov	4	35	63.00
ELDORA	Nov	4	46	67.32
ELY GATEWAY	Nov	2	20	78.00
EMMETSBURG	Nov	4	37	68.10
ESTHERVILLE	Nov	3	59	45.00
FOREST CITY	Nov	4	52	60.00
FORT DODGE	Nov	5	103	54.00
FORT DODGE DAYBREAK	Nov	4	27	68.00
GARNER	Nov	4	44	68.50
GUTTENBERG	Nov	3	19	48.00
HAMPTON	Nov	4	40	65.00
HUMBOLDT	Nov	4	27	63.00
INDEPENDENCE	Nov	5	40	59.00
IOWA FALLS	Nov	5	39	67.00
IOWA GREAT LAKES	Nov	4	83	51.00
MANCHESTER	Nov	4	29	57.00
MAQUOKETA	Nov	4	35	71.60
MARION EAST CEDAR RAPIDS	Nov	4	36	65.00
MASON CITY	Nov	5	102	77.39
MASON CITY RIVER CITY SUNRISE	Nov	3	25	88.00
MONTICELLO	Nov	5	30	67.00
MT. VERNON-LISBON	Nov	3	28	49.00
NEW HAMPTON	Nov	3	39	61.00
ODEBOLT	Nov	4	19	69.00
OELWEIN	Nov	5	34	66.00
OSAGE	Nov	4	34	96.00
PARKERSBURG	Nov	4	16	81.00
POCAHONTAS	Nov	4	14	55.00
ROCKWELL CITY	Nov	3	35	68.00
SPENCER	Jun	5	47	55.00
STORM LAKE	Nov	4	45	46.00
SUMNER	Nov	4	22	73.00
WATERLOO	Nov	4	192	48.65
WATERLOO CROSSROADS	Nov	4	28	61.00
WAVERLY	Nov	3	68	55.00
WEBSTER CITY	Nov	5	56	68.00
WEST UNION	Nov	3	29	79.00
District 5970 Total			2947	
Average Monthly Attendance %				64.66



Rotary International
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