



District 6740 Rotary News

Rakesh Sachdeva, District Governor
December 2008 - Volume 1 Number 5



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Dear Rotarian,

Christmas is a time of goodwill when family and friends get together to share time and gifts. So it is not surprising that Rotary considers December the month to celebrate its family. The immediate family of Rotary includes Rotarians' family members, spouses, widows and widowers, children, grandchildren, and other relatives. Rotarians throughout the district should apply family values to their relationships with their "brothers and sisters" in Rotary, keeping in mind that the larger Rotary family includes our neighbors in other clubs and districts around the world, Rotary Foundation alumni, GSE members, Rotary Youth Exchange students, Rotaractors, Interactors, RYLA participants, and Global Networking Groups.

At this special time of year, we should embrace the opportunity to widen our Rotary family. By boosting membership and participation in Rotary clubs, the successes of the "Family of Rotary" concept will help to ensure Rotary's continued presence as a vital instrument of service in the century ahead.



As 2008 comes to a close and a new Rotary calendar year looms on the threshold, I reflect warmly on my first six months as district governor. It is with considerable satisfaction and gratitude that I contemplate the year. I am proud of the wonderful work that Rotarians throughout the district have accomplished. The resourceful leadership team as well as dedicated members have done an excellent job in fulfilling most of the targets fixed for this period. In addition, I am grateful for the hospitality and friendship provided to me as I visited clubs during my first six months, and I eagerly look forward to the next phase of my service.

So during the holiday period, enjoy yourselves, rest a bit, appreciate your family, and return to the second half of this Rotary year full of vigor and enthusiasm. I wish you all a safe and joyful holiday and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours in Rotary,
DG Rakesh Sachdeva

December is Family Month!

Celebrate Rotary's commitment to family in December. Consider bringing together the mothers, fathers,

children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and members of your Rotary family into shared activities. Participate in a community service project that will help strengthen families in your community by:

- 1) Sponsoring a seminar for new parents on child development;
- 2) Organizing a father/daughter or mother/son dinner;
- 3) Promoting a family literacy project which emphasizes parents reading to their children;
- 4) Raising awareness of child abuse prevention programs in your community;
- 5) Volunteering at a shelter for homeless families;
- 6) Assisting the elderly in nursing homes with simple crafts that they can give as gifts to their families;
- 7) Providing materials and support to a daycare facility or orphanage;
- 8) Creating an after-school activities program for older children which will give them a safe place to go while their parents are at work;
- 9) Chaperoning a safe and fun weekend activity for the community's teenagers; or
- 10) Creating a park or recreational area where parents can spend time with their children.

Merril Flanary Named Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar for 2009-2010



District 6740 is proud to introduce Merrill Flanary as its Ambassadorial Scholar for 2009-2010. Merrill, who grew up in Frankfort, earned a BS in Forestry from the University of Kentucky before moving to Harlan County where she accepted the position of Pine Mountain Forest Steward for the non-profit organization Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT).

As forest steward, Merrill is the caretaker of the 3,000 acre old-growth forest, Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve. She also works to promote conservation forestry practices on privately owned forest land in the region.

In addition, Merrill is a program manager for Save Kentucky's Hemlocks, a project aimed at combating a non-native insect from Asia expected to decimate eastern hemlock trees in Kentucky. She also serves as president of the Pine Mountain Trail Conference, the organization responsible for the construction and maintenance of the Pine Mountain Trail Linear State Park, a 120- mile long foot-trail along the ridge of Pine Mountain.

Merril is a member of the 2008 Harlan County Leadership United program. In her spare time, Merrill enjoys playing the fiddle in a local Bluegrass band called *Kudzu Killers*. She is active in her community both as a professional and as a citizen. Merrill confides, "The decision to leave Harlan is not an easy one to make, as this beautiful region of Kentucky has become my home, but as the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, I welcome learning about a new culture. I want to become an active, engaged community member who will take advantage of the graduate-level studies offered to me.

I take seriously the impact an effective ambassador of peace has on a community through service, empathy, and acceptance. Cultural tolerance and compassion are tools to build bridges from one world to another. I will work tirelessly to fulfill my role as Ambassadorial Scholar and to uphold the mission of Rotary International through "Service Above Self".

This experience will offer a wealth of experience and knowledge that will impact my life permanently. I am grateful for this opportunity and consider this scholarship the beginning of a life-long relationship with Rotary International. Thank you for your nomination, and I look forward to satisfying the obligations of Rotary

Ambassadorial Scholar before, during, and after my time abroad."

Project Ideas

- 1) ***Transforming pain to power*** - Provide one year of education to a survivor of war and sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (revolutionary playwright Eve Ensler V-Day \$100)
- 2) ***Mentoring girls in Africa to be the leaders of change*** - Provide a girl in Benin with one year of tutoring to help her thrive in school (the vision of Grammy award winner Angelique Kidjo, Batonga Foundation \$75)
- 3) ***A billion trees for a better world*** - plant 50 trees to support a revolutionary initiative for sustainable development and women's empowerment (Nobel Peace Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai for the Green Belt Movement \$100)
- 4) ***Birth right for a Tibetan mother and child*** - Give a pregnant woman prenatal vitamins, essential medications and clean clothing for her newborn baby (One H.E.A.R.T. founded by the Dalai Lama \$75)
- 5) ***Gift shares to help break the cycle of poverty*** - Contribute to microloans to help impoverished women around the world start small but profitable micro-businesses as artisans, traders, and other home-based entrepreneurs (Calvert Foundation's Gift Shares Program \$100)

Information on these and other worthwhile projects available at abchomeandplanet.org.

Rotary International Mission Statement

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the object of Rotary by:

- * **Fostering unity among member clubs;**
- * **Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world;**
- * **Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary; and**
- * **Providing a system of international administration.**

Don't Worry . . . Be Happy

Is the world getting you down? Are you feeling ineffective? Unimportant? If so, it would be good to remember how much of an impact even a small gesture such as smiling, can mean to someone else. Mother Teresa once said, "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."



Group Study Exchange Team Update

The Group Study Exchange between our district and District 3070 Amritsar, India is being carefully planned by team members through a number of informational meetings. GSE Chairperson **Josephine Richardson** has been working closely with team leader **Jeanne Clark** to make sure that all the details are covered thoroughly and are in compliance with RI.

There was a recent development within the team as one member withdrew and a replacement was sought. The photograph included in this month's newsletter reflects that change. The team warmly welcomes Nate Mick.

Non-Rotarian Team Members: Sallie Ingram, a therapist for children and adolescents with mental disorders (Warsaw)
Nathan Jeffries, a computer instructor at Gateway Technical College (Erlanger)
Jackie Wright, an attorney specializing in real estate (Maysville)
Nathan "Nate" Mick, the economic development director for Garrard County (Lancaster)

(Clockwise from left) *Sallie Ingram, Jackie Sue Wright, Nathan Jeffries, Jeanne Clark, and Nate Mick at Meadow Oaks Farm in Lexington.*



On generosity

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,

In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

- John Wesley

2009 RI Convention in Birmingham, England, 21-24 June

Be a part of history and celebrate the 100th Rotary Convention, which will take place in Birmingham, the heart of England! If you haven't been back to Birmingham since the 1984 convention, you may not recognize this former industrial town. Now a lively canal city known for its outstanding shopping and dining, Birmingham - or Brum, as the natives call it - underwent a dramatic facelift in the 1990s. The transformation resulted in a modern, more pedestrian-friendly city that retains traces of its medieval and Industrial Age roots.

Please note that the first registration deadline is December 15, 2008.



Lancaster Rotary "Trick or Treats" for Kids

Shane Young, President of the Lancaster Rotary Club, reports on a new twist his club put on the usual "Trick or Treat" this Halloween by focusing on the needy children in the county. Rotarians participated in the Backpack for Hunger Program that sends food home, tucked into a child's backpack. Over 200 children were able to enjoy a backpack full of goodies. To promote the event, the club held a bean dinner in addition to visiting each business in town to "trick or treat" for the items which would be sent home with the children.



In the Spotlight with ADG John Young

Assistant Governor **John Young** joined Rotary in 1996 when he was invited to attend the London Rotary Club by **David Vickers**, a neighbor in John's office building. John served as president of the Florence Club in 1994-95 and has served on the Board there in various offices.

John earned a BA in biology from Transylvania University in Lexington and later graduated from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. For the last nine years, John has practiced dentistry in Florence. John, his wife Caroline and their two children (10 year old Katherine and 7 year old Jim) live in Florence.

In his own words . . .

My favorite projects are 1) raising funds and supplying school uniforms to children in Tanzania. Without a uniform, a child is denied education in that country. 2) Raising funds and contributing to the St. Elizabeth Hospice Building in northern Kentucky. It is a wonderful facility that



Richmond Club Supports Hope's Wings



The Days of Wine and Roses fundraiser, held on Nov. 1 at the Acres of Land Winery, brought in revenue which was used to support Hope's Wings. **Tim Houch**, Richmond Rotary Service Director, presented Suzanne Howell, Assistant Director of Hope's Wings Domestic Violence Program, a check for \$3,400 to assist the service with daily operations. Also pictured are Club Administrator **Elizabeth Luxom** and Club President **Bud Lee**. Hope's Wings will begin accepting clients in January of 2009. To learn more about this program and how you may help, contact Suzanne Howell at 623-4095.

Also note that the Richmond Club will be moving its meetings from its present location to Arlington Association effective January 21, 2009.

The Richmond Club is proud to sponsor Rotary Youth Exchange Outbounder Rachel Ruppel, who will be spending the year Czech Republic. (See related article.)

We hope you enjoy receiving the Rotary Newsletter each month, and we look forward to hearing about your club projects and other newsworthy information. Please submit pictures and articles for publication by the third week in each month to jeanne@setel.com.

Yours in the spirit of Rotary,

Jeanne W. Clark
Newsletter Editor