

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

## DISTRICT 5840

2005/2006



**DISTRICT**

**GOVERNOR**

### **DOUG WHINNERY (Sue) Rotary Club of Kerrville**

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## **From Governor Doug's Desk**

January is Rotary Awareness Month. This is the month where we focus on educating Rotarians what Rotary is all about. Our Rotarians should know what the areas of emphasis are for Rotary: literacy, water management, health, and hunger, membership, and public image. Our Rotarians should know what the goals are for the District: increased attendance at the district conference, every club should earn a Presidential Citation, supporting the Rotary Foundation with "Every Rotarian, Every Year", and membership growth. Rotarians should also know what the goals are for their club. Use club assemblies and your club newsletters to remind Rotarians of the goals and what progress you have made to achieve those goals.

Reminding Rotarians what Rotary is all about is important. But don't forget that we need to share that knowledge with people outside of Rotary. As I said during my official club visits, one way to leverage our limited resources is to partner with other agencies and service clubs to conduct projects. The only way we can gain a partner is by telling our story. We all network with other leaders. Be sure to tell our friends and neighbors about the good work we do and what we have accomplished as Rotarians with local and international service projects.

An easy way to create Rotary awareness is to wear your Rotary lapel pin. Wear your pin all the time not just on the day of your Rotary meeting. When people ask you about the pin, be ready to explain to them what Rotary is all about.

Another way to create Rotary Awareness is to publish a press release or news article in your

Another way to create Rotary Awareness is to publish a press release or news article in your local paper. Show Rotary in action. Invite interested parties to participate. Not so good at writing press releases? Contact Jim Montgomery, Chair of District Public Relations, for assistance. His e-mail address is: [jemlaw@mac.com](mailto:jemlaw@mac.com).

Dates to remember:

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006: District Birthday Ball to be held at Ye Kendall Inn in Boerne. Come and celebrate Rotary's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Guest speaker will be Brigadier General Walter Schellhase, U.S. Army (retired).

March 23-26, 2006: Lone Star P.E.T.S. at the DFW Hyatt Hotel in Dallas. All incoming club presidents need to attend.

May 19-21, 2006: District Conference in Kerrville at the Inn of the Hills. Come to have fun, learn about Rotary and "Kick Back in Kerrville."

## The Rotary Foundation Grants

**The Rotary Club of San Antonio had a few Rotary Foundation grants funded this year.**

**Here are the details:**

### **1. Community Center in Tlautla, Mexico**

**Total grant - \$24,600, \$10,300 received from TRF**

**Community center will provide adult education (older than 15) to the area to**

**make residents employable. Center will teach reading, writing, and basic computer skills.**

### **2. Purchase 400 glucometers for detection of diabetes in Mexico City and**

**surrounding areas**

**Total grant - \$20,472, \$9,581 received from TRF**

**3. Honduras Water Project  
Total grant - \$21,000, \$8,500 received from TRF  
Dig wells in areas of Honduras where no clean water is available. Residents are sometimes forced to walk miles to obtain water.**

**4. Juarez Community Center  
Total grant - \$24,850, received \$10,950 from TRF  
Center was established in an area where there is no schools for anyone over the age of 15. The center will provide education and job training.**

**Another Grant involves the Del Rio Rotary Club, Acuna, Mexico, and a San Antonio Club. A medical group donated several Dialysis Machines to a San Antonio Rotary Club. Northern Mexico adjoining Texas are in dire need of this service. The three clubs each put up \$3,333.00 for a total of \$10,000.00. TRF matched this amount 50%, \$5,000.00. District 5840 matched the amount of the three clubs and TRF matched this amount 100%. Clubs, \$10,000.00, District \$10,000.00 TRF \$15,000.00. Total amount, \$35,000.00. This is being used to build a sanitary water system for use in dialysis treatments.**

**We should all be aware that TRF puts a lot of money back in our area.**

**Any clubs who have received grants from TRF, let the editor know and we can get the word out.**

Margaret Tovar, a senior at Burbank High School, knows how empowering it feels to have someone listen when she talks about her future. She knows students believe that adults underestimate them and doubt their opinions. Margaret is lucky to have found a one-on-one match in Yvonne Perez, her Big Sister and a member of the Rotary Club of San Antonio. Perez is always ready to lend an ear as part of the Diploma Plus program, sponsored by the Rotary Club.

"She helped me open up as a person," Margaret said. "I can talk to her about any problem."

The club partnered with Big Brothers, Big Sisters of South Texas, which provides mentoring for the program. It's one of thousands of such programs celebrated during January, National Mentoring Month. This year, the goal is to recruit the country's 77 million baby boomers to "Share What You Know. Mentor A Child." The Rotary Club and member Sam J. Riklin created its initiative in 1991 to help financially challenged students stay in school and graduate.

The club helps students by paying them a stipend of \$100 a month in their senior year, with an additional payment after graduation.

Locally, the program has 50 students and 28 mentors at nine high schools in five San Antonio-area districts.

Jim Rice, chairman of the Rotary youth mentoring committee, said volunteers are always welcome.

"It's such a powerful thing," he said.

Rice said his group would love for all the students to go to college, but that's not always going to be the case.

School counselors help the club identify possible recipients in the applicants' junior year. Students are required to write an essay, and club members and educators review applications.

Selected students must keep a "C" average, plus a 95 percent attendance rate, to receive the monthly stipend.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters provides free administrative support and background checks.

"This partnership is available to any company, nonprofit or club that has a volunteer source," said Melissa Vela-Williamson, a Big Brothers, Big Sisters spokeswoman. "We just really need more volunteers to help teenagers like Margaret find the perfect role model."

Rotarians and their matches meet for an hour once a week during the school year.

Margaret meets with Perez, director of sales and marketing at Frontier Enterprises, every Monday morning. They chat about their weekends, families and "Bubba Dink," Margaret's pig that she's raising as a member of her school's Future Farmers of America club.

But mostly, they talk about Margaret's future. She hopes to attend San Antonio College or Palo Alto College.

As much as the teen looks forward to their meetings, Perez said she's the one who has gotten the better deal.

Her days were packed with appointments and long hours without a break. She was losing focus. She regained it minutes into their first meeting.

Helping Margaret, whom she describes as a "go-getter," became her commitment. The teen is vice president of her senior class, vice president of the FFA chapter and secretary of the student council.

"What's important is taking time to sit down and talk with someone whose whole future is in front of them," Perez said. "The most important gift you can give is your time."

Perez plans to stay in the program and help other youths, but she noted that she's going to keep tabs on Margaret, her first charge.

Tuesday marked the third annual Thank Your Mentor Day, a time set aside to recognize individuals who guide and advise youth to reach their full potential, as Perez hopes Margaret will do.

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# CRUISE

## General Description and Reporting Procedures

### Rotary District 5840

#### 2005-2006 Fund Raiser For The Rotary Foundation

Rotary District 5840 will have a raffle for a seven day cruise for two people aboard one of the luxurious ships of Radisson Seven Seas exploring the beauty of Tahiti. The winning package includes the seven day cruise, taxes, gratuities, round trip airfare, and wine with dinner. Travel must be completed by December 15, 2006.

**The Prizes:** The person who buys the winning ticket wins the trip to Tahiti.

The Rotarian who sells the winning ticket wins the same cruise, provided s/he has sold at least \$100 worth of tickets.

**Procedure:** It is suggested that each Rotarian be given 10 tickets. More tickets are available. All proceeds from the sale of the tickets go to the Rotary Foundation. The price of each ticket is \$10. Those individuals paying by check should make the check payable to The Rotary Foundation.

Each club collects the money and sends the proceeds along with The Donor Recognition Form (123-EN) to the Rotary Foundation the same way it sends in and other contribution to the Foundation.

The seller will receive Paul Harris credit for the number of tickets sold. It is very important to include the seller's ID number on the Donor Recognition Form. You can get the ID number from the semi-annual report that is sent from RI or the club secretary can retrieve the ID number through "Member Access" on the Rotary International web site [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

The ticket stubs should be completed with the name, address, and phone number of the buyer. It should have the seller's name and the name of the seller's Rotary Club. Ticket stubs should be sent to your Assistant District Governor. The Assistant Governors will collect the ticket stubs and bring them to the District Conference in Kerrville for the drawing on May 20th, 2006. The Assistant Governors will ask for a monthly status report on the number of tickets sold and the amount of money sent to The Rotary Foundation.

Reports will be due on March 1st, April 1st and May 1st, 2006.

If you have questions please contact DG Doug Whinnery or PCDG John Peterson.

## Winner Announced

One hundred dollar check! For eating at Mamacita's! This sounds like two rewards in one. Kristi Sagebiel, the daughter of Ruben Sagebiel, had the winning ticket which was given to her by Camey Stewart of the Fredericksburg Rotary. The award was part of the Hunger Plus fundraiser sponsored by Mamacita's Restaurants Y Cantinas and the Fredericksburg Rotary. For every \$12.50 ticket sold by the Fredericksburg Rotary, Mamacita's Restaurant donated \$8.00 to Hunger Plus. In addition, the tickets were collected as they were honored at the restaurant and one lucky ticket won \$100.00. Furthermore, Kristi will have a 1 in 5 chance of winning \$2000.00 in gold.

The Rotary club selling the most tickets per capita will receive \$1000.00 for a service project or their choosing. The Interact Club selling the most tickets per capita will receive \$500.00 for a selected service project.

All the monies collected through this fundraiser are used to support the existing project for the seven villages in Mexico which have been identified to receive help in becoming more self sufficient and independent.

Over the past three years the specific objective was to equip every home in the seven villages with window and door screens. That is an approximate cost of \$100.00 per home or \$52,500.00. The 2005 goal was to raise \$35,000.00 during the month of September.

## Eleven Russian Doctors!

Eleven Russian doctors are visiting Fredericksburg, San Antonio, and Austin to learn how they can better serve their people in the medical facilities that they operate in their home country. Since free enterprise is only fourteen years old in Russia, they have come to the United States to learn from facilities which have been in business much longer. They will be visiting local clinics, local banks, the Chamber of Commerce and other businesses in Fredericksburg and San Antonio for presentations on topics ranging from running a medical facility to investment banking.

Their trip was made possible through the efforts of the Center for Citizen Initiatives Productivity Enhancement Program. The combined Rotary Clubs of Fredericksburg are hosting the team during their two week-long stay in the Hill Country. A reception for the personable team was held at Chase Bank on November 18 soon after their arrival. They were introduced to Fredericksburg Rotary members at a noontime lunch meeting on Monday, November 21. By then they were already on page two of their ten-page itinerary. They will certainly become familiar with the American phrase 24-7.

Their very busy schedule does allow them to do some sightseeing as they tour Fredericksburg with their host families and visit a museum in Austin before returning home on December 11. Their enthusiasm and excitement for being in our country is contagious and they touch our hearts with their desire to learn.



2006 RYLA Students



And More 2006 RYLA students

It has been reported that there was a good turn out with great teaching.

Rotary's float in the 2006 Rose Parade survived the California rains over New Year's weekend to bring the "Magic of Caring" message to millions of television viewers around the world.

Since 1980, Rotary has entered a float in the famous Tournament of Roses parade as a way to raise awareness and promote the organization. Every year, the float is entirely funded by Rotarian donations and decorated by volunteers who are a part of the worldwide Rotary family, including Interactors, Rotaractors, and scholarship recipients.

This year, we had 1,400 volunteers decorating the float in prearranged sessions," says Rotarian Jim Miceli, chair of the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee. He explained that the float's theme, the Magic of Caring, was designed to appeal to children and adults alike and spread awareness of Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio while matching the overall parade theme "It's Magical." Although Miceli is a member of the Rotary Club of Universal City-Sunrise, California, he is careful to point out that the float is not a club- or RI-sponsored project. "The float is a separate entity," he notes, "though we do have the blessing of

Rotary International." To express Rotary's approval, RI Directors David Hossler and Ken Morgan braved the downpour to join nearly 100 other Rotarians cheering from the curbs of Colorado Boulevard, where more than a million onlookers traditionally line up to watch the parade. "Hundreds of thousands of people pay \$5 to get into the float-building areas," explains Hossler. "It seemed to me that I had something to talk about with everyone - they're either a Rotarian, were a Rotarian, or interested in being a Rotarian, or they had suffered from polio."

As this is the time of year when the Tickets for the Tahiti cruise are distributed, don't forget that your donations are eligible for what ever you designate other than the Permanent Fund. If you want your donations to go to Polio Plus, you just need to designate them to that program.

### **Grants**

**Be sure and get any data in to the District Newsletter about any Grants your Club has received to enable all to share in the good works the clubs and the Rotary Foundation are doing.**