

Joseph Bernardo of Billerica named Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar for 2008-2009



Central Massachusetts Rotary District 7910 is proud to announce the selection of Joseph Bernardo of Billerica as their Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar for the year 2008-2009. The \$23,000 scholarship is awarded to someone who both qualifies academically and who has contributed their skills to humanity in volunteer service. Joseph was chosen

after sifting through many applications and interviewing (in person) six very qualified scholars. Each scholar was nominated by a local Rotary club.

Bernardo, a graduate of the University of Connecticut, majored in English and Philosophy. He is currently working at Boston University in International Admissions. He will study at a university overseas and seek a Master's Degree in International Relations. In making his choices of study, Joe has picked locations where he will have a chance to continue his literacy volunteer opportunities. During his stay he plans to work with a local Rotary Club to teach English.

As an Ambassadorial Scholar, Joe will join thousands of Rotary alumni. One that you will be familiar with is Kerri Healey, a recent Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. She has spoken to hundreds of people about her experience as an Ambassadorial Scholar.

The Ambassadorial Scholar program is one of the many ways Rotary works to promote Peace & Understanding in the world. As such, people become familiar with customs of other countries, in the process developing their understanding and friendships.

Joseph will study in one of five universities he has selected in Turkey, Singapore, India, or Sri Lanka. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International will approve the final assignment. He will work as a literacy volunteer, study international relations & diplomacy and carry out a photo-journalism project to promote cross-cultural understanding.

Joseph will have a Rotarian Sponsor-Counselor assigned to him by his sponsor club who will help him as he trains for his ambassadorial scholar mission. He will be tasked to visit local Rotary clubs and also be speaking to civic groups about his task to promote international understanding and friendly relations.

During his study time abroad, he will have a Rotarian Host-Counselor assigned to him by his host club who will guide him in local ways and assist him with speaking commitments. He will also be welcomed to the family of Rotary, yet live independently.

After completing his studies, Joe will be required to tell of his experience to our clubs, local schools and other organizations willing to listen and increase their understanding of our world.

Rotary is a volunteer organization of over 32,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. The organization initiates humanitarian programs that address today's challenging issues, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy.

Rotary club members represent a cross-section of business and professional leaders worldwide. These 1.2 million men and women donate their expertise, time and funds to support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures.

Rotary's flagship program is Polio-Plus, its effort to protect children against polio, with the goal of eliminating the disease throughout the world.

If you have an interest in being a part of this wonderful volunteer organization or would like to learn more about how you could apply for an Ambassadorial Scholarship, please contact carolaction@aol.com or call Carol at 978-371-2442 to find a Rotary club near you. Alternatively, visit the website www.rotary7910.org .