



# SHRINK RAP

“Rotary District 5890’s Stream of Service Consciousness”



**Dr. Ed Charlesworth**

District 5890 Governor ~ 09-10

*“Will it matter that I was?”*

WWII Fleet Admiral William Halsey once said, “There are no extraordinary people, just extraordinary circumstances that ordinary people are forced to deal with.” These are extraordinary times with an almost perfect storm of economic challenges and our personal disaster relief due to Hurricane Ike. To think we, as Rotarians, can measure our relevance to the world this year through increased financial contributions may set us on a path of

## My Thoughts About Giving

*By Ed Charlesworth, Rotary District 5890 Governor for 2009 - 2010*

~ “My Life is my message.” - Mahatma Gandhi

discouragement. But to challenge ourselves to be better givers in terms of our time and talents, may be the pathway to a year end, deep down inside feeling that my life mattered, my club mattered, and my world is a little better place because of what was done.

This year you may not have as successful a fundraiser in dollars, but your club’s blood, tissue and organ donations may exceed anything you had imagined in the past. You may stretch to attain our goal of every Rotarian, every year for TRF giving, but you may be surprised at the number of benefactor and bequest society members that step up to the plate. You may have fewer scholarships to give, but you may mentor and counsel more students and help change lives in much more profound ways than dollars could ever do. You may be challenged to take an exotic vacation, but for little more than airfare you could be home hosted by fellow Rotarians in Germany to celebrate a Rotary Peace Conference and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the peaceful marches that led to the “wall” coming down. You may have fewer gourmet restaurant meals, but remember the bread and cold cuts you shared with fellow Rotarians while helping to clean up and rebuild damage from Hurricane Ike.

A New York Giants football team started the 2007 season as losers. When one of the coaches visited an old friend in Walter Reed Army Medical Center, he was truly inspired by this double amputee victim of a roadside bomb in Iraq. Lt. Col. Greg Gadson was optimistic and lacked any

self-pity. The coach asked the Lt. to talk to the losing New York Giants football team and try to instill this same can-do spirit in the dis-spirited players. Gadson’s message was, “When you find a way to do things greater than you thought you could, something you couldn’t do as an individual, a bond is formed that will last forever.” The Giants battled back to win the Super Bowl. We, as a team, will form a bond that will last forever as we tackle the perfect storm of economic downturn and disaster relief, and fight back to put service in the forefront of our giving.

Exploring your contribution to life may help provide a stress resistance to face life’s challenges. This is based on your unique talents, abilities, personality and experience. We would each benefit from choosing how to serve. If the economic storm has hurt you, then you don’t have to dig deeper into your pockets to give back to Rotary. Instead, dig down into your soul and share your time and talents. I can promise you will never lose your principle, and the interest earned will exceed your expectations.

*“To help, to serve, to care, to guide, to heal, these words were all used to express a reaching out toward our neighbor whereby we perceive life as a gift not to possess but to share.” - Henri J. M. Nouwen (Reaching Out)*

### Serving Others

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Life’s most urgent question is, what are you doing for others?” “Consciously or

unconsciously,” says Mahatma Gandhi, “every one of us does render some service or other. If we cultivate the habit of service deliberately, our desire for service will steadily grow stronger, and will make not only for our own happiness, but for that of the world at large.” Almost all the great religions of the world place service and giving among the most central and important points. When history reflects upon really great people, it is almost always those who have enriched the lives of others.

A Rotary club set up a “Once-a-Year Service Committee” to help awaken the spirit of service. Some members were very busy in their professions, but this committee encouraged the members to make a commitment of just one single act of service in an entire year.

One day the club president called a member and told him this was the day for him to perform his one annual act of service. The member complained about how busy he was, but relented. Another member, a doctor, was in the suburbs with a very poor woman who was about to have a baby. She had a five-year-old son and no one to leave him with while she had her baby. The president asked that the son be picked up and kept for a few hours while the mother had her baby. Seeing no alternative the member rushed off to pick up the boy, while the physician took the mother to the hospital.

As the Rotarian drove off with the boy in the passenger seat next

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Articles for Monthly Newsletter send by the 20th of each month.  
MJL10@windstream.net  
or call Marilyn at 979-429-6791 or 979-548-9350

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# September is New Generations Month

This month we are recognizing the Rotary youth programs including Youth Exchange, RYLA, EarlyAct, Interact and Rotaract. In the Youth Exchange Program, we have 25 long term inbound students and Robin and I had a great time at their orientation in New Braunfels this month. We also had another 15 short-term exchange students this summer.

*The inbound long-term youth exchange students hosted by District 5890 are:*

**Caio Soares** from Brazil who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Bear Creek Copperfield  
**Nina Dworschak** from Germany who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Bellaire  
**Guillaume Vandormael** from Belgium who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Brazosport  
**Jonas Husemann** from Germany who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Champions Sunrise  
**Adam Mendry** from Poland and **Jacob Scheel-Bech** from Denmark are hosted by the Rotary Club of Cy-Fair  
**Katarzyna Otto** from Poland who is hosted by the Rotary Club of El Campo  
**Jacob Nordin** from Sweden who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Highlands  
**Nina Werner** from Sweden and **Alexandre Pires** from Brazil are hosted by the Rotary Club of of Humble Intercontinental  
**Evelina Keifer** from Sweden who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Katy Sunrise  
**Deniz Mustu** from Turkey who is hosted by the Rotary Club of La Porte  
**Marion Bitonti-Commandre** from France who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Pasadena  
**Nadia Nieva** from Argentina who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Pasadena South  
**Tereza Krisicova** from Czech Republic who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Pearland  
**Celine Franck** from Belgium who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Richmond  
**Sirida Sombatto** from Thailand and **Leonardo Andrade** from Ecuador are hosted by the Rotary Club of Space Center  
**Emilie Gravelle** from France who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Sugar Land  
**Franziska Kassing** from Germany who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Tomball  
**Yu-Chieh “Jack” Yang** from Taiwan who is hosted by the Rotary Club of University Area  
**Juliette Pezaire** from France who is hosted by the Rotary Club of West University  
**Victor Gomes** from Brazil, **Kichsopon Utarachon** from Thailand and **Ashley Storm** from The Netherlands are all hosted by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook  
*Please take the opportunity to meet these incredible young ambassadors at club and District events.*

*The long-term outbound students are:*

**Sergio Cartagena** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bellaire and is in District 1630-Belgium  
**Cara Sprayberry** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Brazosport and is in District 2410-Sweden  
**Daniel Reyes** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Brenham and is in District 1690-France  
**Kandice Grantham** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cy-Fair and is in District 1550-The Netherlands  
**Ambreen Hooda** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Cy-Fair and is in District 2420-Turkey  
**Brittany Sullivan** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Galleria and is in District 4480-Brazil  
**Rebecca Holman** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pearland and is in District 1810-Germany  
**Kelli Fox** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pearland and is in District 1740-France  
**Michael Adamski** sponsored by the Rotary Club of University Area and is in District 2230-Poland

**Meghan Burke** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 1900-Germany  
**Minh Huu Cao** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 2390-Sweden  
**Kirsty Coulter** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 4400-Ecuador  
**Megan Ems** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 4815-Argentina  
**Krystal Ingram** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 1850-Germany  
**May Le** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 1460-Denmark  
**Melissa Lynch** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 2370-Sweden  
**George McHugh** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 1630-Belgium  
**Miriam Sanchez** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 1740-France  
**Mallory Schier** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 2230-Poland  
**Tarryn Shelman** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 3360-Thailand  
**Robert Van Patten** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Willowbrook and is in District 4470-Brazil  
**Jacquelyn Rodriguez** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sugar Land and is in District 3360-Thailand  
**Lisa Riojas** sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oyster Creek and is in District 3480-Taiwan  
*This is a fantastic opportunity for the youth of the world to learn about other cultures and an avenue toward peace through understanding.*

Our District is very active in all Youth Services and we have Alan Wylie as the Chair for all of Youth Services. I am proud of the support that each club has for our youth programs. The future of Rotary truly depends on our youth. I would like to see each club continue their work in the youth programs and think about expanding their involvement with the youth of our communities.

Robin and I attended the first kick-off ceremony for an EarlyAct program in the Huffman Independent School District. This program is being sponsored by the Rotary Club of Humble/Intercontinental. EarlyAct is for elementary and middle school aged children, and can be part of a character development curriculum. Can you imagine how you are taking the future of Rotary into your hands by mentoring and guiding these young students in the values of Rotary. Interact is Rotary International’s service club for young people ages 14 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting. Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and they’re sponsored by a local Rotary club. This makes them true “partners in service” and key members of the family of Rotary.

We are hoping that many other EarlyAct, Interact and Rotaract programs in our District are formed and flourish as we take the future of Rotary in our hands through our youth services. Every one of our clubs are in communities with at least one high school, middle and elementary school. I would like each club to seriously consider starting an EarlyAct or Interact Club in their local schools. If you need any help with this or have questions, Robin Charlesworth is the chair of the EarlyAct committee and Tommie Buscemi is the chair for Interact. Both would be happy to assist you. If your club is interested in sponsoring a Rotaract Club, please contact Jack Hardin.

*Governor Ed*



# Religious encouragement to vaccinate against polio

*Leading Islamic academy issues edict*

The International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) has issued a strong statement encouraging vaccinations against polio as a matter of urgency, and calls on Ministries of Health in Muslim countries to intensify their efforts to eradicate polio. The statement calls on parents and guardians - to ensure that their children benefit from all polio vaccination efforts- and on religious scholars and mosque leaders to encourage communities to support polio eradication campaigns.

The edict was researched at the request of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference, H.E. Prof. Ekmelddin Ihsanoglu. The request reflects the OIC’s concern that polio is still endemic in many of its member states, and addresses the critical need to raise awareness in Muslim communities about the benefits of polio vaccination campaigns. Quoting extensively from the Qu’ran, the edict lays out the duty to protect children when disease is preventable.

**UNTIL THE LAST CHILD IS VACCINATED,  
POLIO IS JUST A PLANE RIDE AWAY!**

**Please Inform Your Club Members Of These**

**Important Polio Eradication Dates:**

**October 3, 2009** – Saturday – Rice U vs Tulsa Football Game & Lombardi Fellowship/END POLIO NOW Celebration. Tailgate Party at 4 PM – Game time 6:30 PM. Contact Vickie Brentin [chair@rotarylombardiaward.org](mailto:chair@rotarylombardiaward.org) for info. & tickets.

**October 8, 2009** - Thursday - 7:15-8:30 AM – Dr. Carlos Vallbona, world recognized Polio and Post Polio expert will provide a Polio Update - Club Program - West U Rotary Club (Skeeter’s Mesquite Grill-5529 Wesleyan) You are all invited!

**October 10, 2009** - Saturday 7-11 PM - END POLIO NOW - Benefit/Fellowship/Concert at The Last Concert Cafe -1403 Nance St. (5-11 PM) Purchase Tickets online at [www.polioplus.us](http://www.polioplus.us) (\$15 or 2 for \$20) or at the door . Bands include Mike Dawson, Lost2gether & Kosmic Pearl. See the flier at this date on the [www.rotary5890.org](http://www.rotary5890.org) calendar or contact Wayne Staton for more info. at [wayne\\_staton@yahoo.com](mailto:wayne_staton@yahoo.com) or 281-389-5816.

**October 12, 2009** – Monday Noon – Polio update – Club Program – Galleria Area Rotary Club (Hess Club, 5430 Westheimer)

**October 24, 2009** - Saturday - World Polio Day - (Each Rotary Club is asked to collect “Good News” donations for Polio Plus during the month of October)

**Celebrate World END POLIO NOW Day - October 24**

Join Wade Bradford, Heights Rotarian & Chick-Fil-A owner to help **END POLIO NOW** at this Fundraiser October 19 thru October 24 at Chick-Fil-A (5005 Richmond - Southwest Corner of Richmond at the Loop 610-by Best Buy).

Join Rotarians at a Concert to **END POLIO NOW** at DG Ed & Robin Charlesworth’s home on the evening of October 24. Details to follow

**October 28, 2009** – Wednesday – 12:15 PM - Polio Update – Rotary Club of South Pasadena – Baywood Country Club – 5500 Genoa-Red Bluff - Pasadena

**November 7, 2009** – Saturday AM – HCC South Loop 610 – Rotary District 5890 Foundation Seminar

**December 2, 2009** – Wednesday 7:30 PM – Itzhak Perlman & New York Philharmonic Concert to END POLIO at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. Tickets \$70-\$500. Call 212-875-5656 and mention that you are a Rotarian to order tickets.

***District Governor Cont. from page 1***

to him, he began to feel the boy’s eyes staring at him. Finally the boy asked, “Mister, are you God?” His answer was, “Don’t talk nonsense, boy. Of course I’m not God.” After a few minutes the boy asked again, “Are you God?” Now in a gruff voice the reply was, “That’s ridiculous! What makes you think I’m God?”

In a voice of innocence the small boy said: “Mama was crying and in lots of pain. She said that only God could help us. Then you came and helped us, and so I got to thinking that you must be God.”

The member was silent. A change in his heart took place in that very instant. He has never since refused the chance to serve, be useful, or to do something to help his fellow man.

Two thousand five hundred years ago Mohammed said, “Every good act is charity. A man’s true wealth hereafter is the good that he does in this world to his fellows.”

***“The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”***

**- Albert Schweitzer**

## District Simplified Grants



**The Grants Committee has approved twelve applications with awards totaling \$22,750 for projects with a total value of \$64,000 after including contributions from the individual clubs towards the projects.**

***Projects funded to date:***

- Cypress Fairbanks – food pantry storage
- Sweeny – bikes for school attendance
- Willowbrook – Teen art program
- Space Center – toys and games for Shriner’s Hospital
- Richmond – pediatric equipment
- Pasadena – Dictionaries Pasadena ISD
- Memorial Spring Branch – bike helmets and car seats
- Rosenberg – equipment for Seabourne Creek Park
- 288 Corridor – teen access
- Houston – Rotary House receptions
- Alvin – food pantry
- Brazosport – clinic equipment

# Feed Honduras



Our District has an opportunity to meet the basic need of the less fortunate people in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Let me tell you about this special project that I am encouraging individual Rotarians and Clubs to consider.

The goal of the project is to provide 44,000 lbs. of rice and 44,000 lbs. of beans equivalent to 1,000,000 servings to children and families living in extreme poverty in Honduras.

This is four cents per meal! The need is urgent so at present we are seeking donations from both individuals and Clubs for this project. This is a joint efforts of District 5890, District 4250 of Honduras and Hunger Plus, Inc. The rice and beans will be distributed in 5 pound bags by the 7 Rotary Clubs of Tegucigalpa. Anyone from our District who would like to participate in the distribution would be very much welcomed. Our goal is for distribution in mid to late October.

At four cents a meal, lets do the math: \$10 = 250 meals; \$20 = 500 meals; \$30 = 750 meals; \$40 = 1000meals; \$50 = 1250 meals; \$100 = 2500 meals; \$300 = 7500 meals and \$400 = 10,000 meals. Our goal is one million meals!

Contributions may be made through our District website, or make checks payable to District 5890 or the Rotary Club of Brazosport (sponsoring Club), P.O. Box 71, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566. In both cases, please note on your check that this is for the Million Meal Deal.

If you have any further question, please feel free to contact Dan Carpenter of the Rotary Club of Brazosport who is coordinating this project. His email address is [dancarpenter777@aol.com](mailto:dancarpenter777@aol.com).

I know that we can always count on the Rotarians of District 5890 to make a positive impact to those in need.

Sincerely YIR,

*DG Ed Charlesworth*

**Rotary Club  
of  
Rosenberg  
  
Building a  
Brighter  
Future...with  
the Dictionary  
Project**



# Arkansas Teen Collects Money and Books for

## “Books for the World”

“My son, Ewald Visser (15) loves to read and believes that the better a child can read, the easier that child will find it to study. During a family visit to South Africa a couple of years ago, he was quite shocked to see how empty the shelves were in the public library where I used to check out books when I was young. When we asked the librarian why there were so few books, we were told that with all the changes taking place in South Africa, money was allocated to other, more important needs, such as housing and medical assistance, rather than to the acquisition of books. ....Ewald started wondering if the situation in schools would be any better, and discovered that there are in fact many schools, especially in the rural areas, that are in dire need of books.

Last year, after he gave it some careful thought, he spoke to his principal at his Junior High School in Bentonville, Arkansas to start a book drive to collect books for needy schools in South Africa. He asked the teachers and students at the school for contributions. The book drive went very well, and approximately 1,100 books were collected, shipped to South Africa and distributed by Mr. Roland Jones (one of your Rotary Club members in the Mpumalanga province) to schools he felt could put the books to good use.

After the success of last year's book drive, he decided to do a book drive again this year. This time, he contacted school administrators or teachers in six different schools in the Bentonville school district. He received a tremendous amount of support from everybody involved. In fact, this time, approximately 9,400 books were donated by the students and staff at the various schools. The books are for various age levels, from kindergarten to high school (even a few adult fiction books). Some books are gently used, others look brand new. The books are labeled and packed, ready for shipment. It is 66 boxes in total.

... is there any way that Ewald's books can be shipped with the books from your Rotary Club in the same container, and he will then see that Mr. Jones is contacted when the books arrive in Johannesburg.

... Ewald was born in South Africa, and as he is now privileged to live in the U.S., he wants to give something back to the children in South Africa who lack so many of the things Ewald takes for granted here. ....”

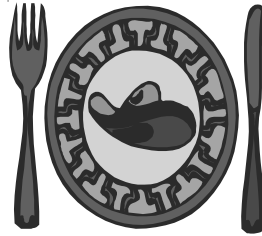
Sincerely,

**Marina Visser**

Our “Books for the World” project included Ewald books in a shipment to South Africa after WalMart collaborated getting the books to District 5890. Seabrook Rotarians volunteered time, manpower and company trucks and drivers to pick up Ewald's books to be shipped to South Africa.

Ewald has now joined the Interact Club in his school because he became so impressed with Rotary. And he promises to have an even bigger book drive next year. Ewald and the Visser family made a donation of over \$1500 to help with the expensive ocean freight. A great many books are donated to this worthy project, but financial donations are always needed for the freight.

Too much on your plate?  
Invest in another plate  
and support Los Ninos  
Montessori!!



*LOS NINOS MONTESSORI IS SPONSORING  
“LOS PLATOS DE LOS NINOS” WHICH  
FEATURES UNIQUE, HAND-PAINTED  
PLATES, A MEXICAN FIESTA, DRINKS AND  
RAFFLE OF DONATED GOODS.*

*Event is Honoring*

**Suzi Howe**

*(Owner of South Shore Montessori & Past District Governor)*

**Date - Thursday, October 15, 2009**

**Time - 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Location - United Way of Greater Houston Community Resource  
Center  
50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77008**

**Tickets - \$40/person**

**includes dinner, drinks, and hand-painted plate.**

**Dress - Business Casual**

**Tickets can be purchased with cash or check in advance or at  
the door.**

**If someone cannot attend, but would like to donate, checks can be  
made out to and sent to: Friends of Montessori c/o Los Ninos Early  
Childhood Montessori  
7305 Navigation  
Houston, TX 77011**

**RSVP - Bryana Gibson 713-923-2316  
[bgibson@communityfamilycenters.org](mailto:bgibson@communityfamilycenters.org)**

Los Ninos Montessori serves low-income children and families in Houston’s  
Greater East End as a part of community Family Centers, a non-profit agency  
working to strengthen families and enrich the quality of life in the community.  
To offer the highest quality early childhood education, Los Ninos partners  
with Friends of Montessori, a non-profit volunteer board of advocates and  
supporters of Montessori education in HISD.

**Event Sponsors**

**Rotary Club of Harrisburg, Purple Glaze Pottery, Central Market,  
Fiesta Club Party**

**The Future  
of Children  
is in Our Hands**

**Space Center Rotary’s  
36th Annual Festival  
and Auction**

**SHRIMPOREE**

**Saturday, Clear Lake Park  
October 17, 2009 Landolt Pavilion  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 5001 NASA Parkway**

**Major Beneficiaries:**  
*Shriner’s Childrens Hospital -  
Providing Play Equipment  
Armand Bayou Nature Center - Providing  
Handicap Accessible Trails*

**Lots of great fun for your family and friends  
Kids activities  
Live and silent auctions  
begin at 1:00 p.m.**

**Shrimp/Brisket Meal Plate - \$15  
Meal plate tickets may be  
purchased at:  
[www.spacecenterrotary.org](http://www.spacecenterrotary.org)  
Or, tickets may be purchased at  
the park on the day of the event.**

**For Information contact:  
Shrimporee Chairman, John Wilson at (713) 899-9852**

**Ticket Chairman, Courtney Lindberg at (407) 252-5193**



**Rotary Public Relations**

I’ll never forget Mattress Mac’s presentation to our Club about 12  
years ago. The most important message he shares is the importance of  
ADVERTISING and never lose an opportunity to advertise yourself. In today’s  
very busy day, our fastest tool of communication is electronic WOM – Word Of  
Mouth.

Take advantage of every good e-communication vehicle you can find  
and along with Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Constant Contact and many more,  
here’s another one to add your club events to.

It’s easy, quick, and FREE. This comes to us thanks to Tiffany Cady-  
Moore, a member of the PR Committee and a member of The Cy-Fair Rotary  
Club. [www.events.gstv.com](http://www.events.gstv.com) Priors Neighborhood is a community-powered Web  
site and Gas Station TV program produced in partnership with the 3rd generation  
Prius, brought to you by Toyota.

Anyone can submit, share and promote their community-focused  
events and causes on Priors Neighborhood. The events will be posted on this Priors  
Neighborhood website, on our Facebook and Twitter pages and considered for  
broadcast on the Priors Neighborhood show on Gas Station TV. Other people can  
then search, view and attend these events in their neighborhood.

Want to participate? [Submit an Event](#) and tell us about your cause. Or  
search events to see how you can get involved in your neighborhood.  
Priors Neighborhood is a free service designed to help connect people with their  
local community events and causes.” Cecile Schutter and Ann Wright  
D5890 Public Relations Committee, Meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month at  
Los Tios Restaurant. Join us for the next one, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Check [www.rotary5890.org](http://www.rotary5890.org) for details.



# Why Rotarians Leave Your Club

RI has compiled a large amount of survey research data on the reasons members leave their clubs. The primary reasons for each tenure group are listed below, as well as some retention strategies to consider as your club addresses each group.

## Less than 1 Year and 1-2 Years

Many members who leave within the first two years do so because they weren’t fully informed about the responsibilities of membership before joining or fully educated about Rotary after joining. Many have trouble meeting the attendance requirements and financial expectations. Still others feel unconnected to the club’s activities and their networking.

If a club loses many members within the first two years, focus on pre-induction education and new member orientation. Make sure prospective members are fully informed of both the responsibilities of membership and its personal and professional benefits. Establish an effective new member orientation program, and encourage new members to get involved in club activities and projects immediately. Conducting professional development events and pairing younger members with older mentors might help address new members’ networking expectations.

## 2-3 Years

Many members who leave after spending two to three years in a club do so because they feel unconnected to the club’s events and activities and their fellowship expectations aren’t being met. They also have difficulty meeting the attendance requirements because of competing priorities.

Encourage members who have been in your club for two to three years to get involved in more club committees and take on more club leadership positions. By being more involved in the leadership of the club, these members will feel more control over and connection to the club’s activities and will have more incentive to meet the attendance requirements and keep Rotary as a top priority. They may also have ideas for revitalizing the club’s fellowship activities. Consider involving this tenure group in the club’s youth programs by hosting a Youth Exchange student or serving as a liaison to your Rotaract or Interact club.

## 3-5 Years

Many members who leave after spending three to five years in a club do so because their fellowship expectations aren’t being met and they’re frustrated with the club’s leadership. Others have difficulty meeting the attendance requirements because of competing priorities.

Encourage members who have been in a club for three to five years to get involved in the highest leadership levels of the club (president, secretary, committee chair). This involvement will help them feel more control over club activities and more connected to club members. Those who have already been involved in club leadership might be interested in participating in more district-level activities. Also consider focusing on continuing member education or revitalizing club activities so that members remain engaged in the club, excited about attending each week, and satisfied that their fellowship expectations are being met.

## 5-10 Years

Some members who leave after spending 5-10 years in a club note that their fellowship expectations weren’t met and they were frustrated with the club’s leadership. Others leave because of retirement and relocation.

Encourage members who have been in a club for 5-10 years to get involved in more district activities. Perhaps they would be interested in helping to plan the district conference or serving on a district committee. District involvement might help them meet more people and experience Rotary beyond the club level. These members may also be interested in joining a Rotary Fellowship to interact with other Rotarians who share their interests. If many members are leaving due to retirement, remind them that retired members are still welcome in the club. If many members are relocating, be sure to forward their contact information to the clubs in their new area or have them fill out the Rotarian Relocation Form, found in the Members section of [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

## More than 10 Years

Many members who leave after spending more than 10 years in a club say they aren’t interested in the club’s current programs. Others leave because of retirement and family obligations. Many also leave because of financial constraints and health problems.

Encourage members who have been in a club for more than 10 years to take on more leadership positions at the district level (assistant governor, district governor, district committee chair). Retired club members might have more time to take on the responsibilities of a district position, which in turn may help to reignite their passion for Rotary’s mission and interest in its programs. The club may also want to consider easing some of the financial expectations for the members of this tenure group who may be under financial strain because retirement or other factors. If many members are leaving because of health problems or death, consider bringing in more younger members to keep the club active.

## Interact District Roundup



District Governor Ed Charlesworth and first lady Robin with Interact District Governor, Secretary and Ambassador at recent District Round-up in Sealy.

*More to come in the November issue.*

## 2009-2010 Rotary Foundation Academic Year Ambassadorial Scholars Outbound from Rotary District 5890

**Stephanie Kollister** ~Sponsored by Rotary Club of Cypress-Fairbanks Assigned to Lancaster University, Lancaster, England (District 1190)

e-mail: [koll166@neo.tamu.edu](mailto:koll166@neo.tamu.edu)



**Jessie Martinez** ~ Sponsored by Rotary Club of River Oaks Assigned to Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago, Chile (District 4340)

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## Amassadorial Scholar Brian Davis Reports....



**Brian Davis**

The scholarship year is passing wonderfully. The first semester has just completed and although grades are pending, I am in the chase for “topper” of the class. Being the first westerner to enroll in the Institute of Engineering, I want to present a good model. With so many drug fuelled hipster tourists being attracted to Nepal for the past 50 years, I wish to exemplify the more laborious qualities that help define western culture. After giving a presentation to a group of younger students, the head of the mechanical engineering department gave some additional comments. He said he was skeptical when he first heard that an

American would be coming to study. In the past, visiting professors from the developed world had come for a relaxing vacation more than a serious teaching position. He concluded by saying that after seeing my involvement in class discussions, he was glad that I had come to the school. In order to be a good ambassador to an engineering school, it is necessary to be a dedicated student. While I have been studying hard, I have also been careful to ensure that the inside of the library is not the only part of Nepal that I have seen.

I have just returned from a trip into rural Nepal to look at a potential water project. Originally, I had overheard that the area housed several schools with lead contaminated water. After meeting with a local NGO that provides community educational services there, they agreed to take me to the villages. While being productive, the trip was also very enjoyable. I got the opportunity to meet many local people and share tea with them at the local shops. Looking at the sharply terraced hillsides, one can gain a fuller understanding of the term “subsistence farming”. Additionally, the small corn flour mill that is powered by a steep river has a design that is centuries old. From the homes to the pathways, it is like walking in a different world. In the case of investigating a water project, it is even better to be a welcomed guest in that world. On the first day, five teachers at a local primary school invited us to join them for a meal celebrating the beginning of the Desai holiday. On our second to last day there, we joined them for that meal. Made of locally grown food, it was by far the best food I’ve had in Nepal. While I have been looking for projects, life is still not all work.

Currently, I am planning to join a trek going into Upper Mustang. The portion of the Tibetan Plateau that extends into Nepal, this area has a limited number of trekking permits and a higher permit fee meant to discourage excessive foreign infiltration. The two week trek promises to be a venture into one of the last places on earth that still may be called “Shangri-La”. After this, I am planning on visiting friends in Mumbai for the Dwali holiday. At dinner tonight, one of the Nepali students told me that India is known for its extravagant Dwali celebrations. Already, I have been able to visit many of the local sites in Kathmandu. These include one of the main Buddhist pilgrimage sites, Swayambhu, one of the main Hindu pilgrimage sites, Pasupati, and so many more places. In conclusion, I am having a wonderful time here and I am looking forward to more to come.

# Rotary Rescues Rotaractors Retreat

Submitted by Nathalie Cras, President Rotaractor of River Oaks

The deflating news came on July 17<sup>th</sup> that the retreat being planned by the Rotaractor of River Oaks club had been dealt a major setback due to the fact that we were not all above the age of 27, and therefore, the rental house which we had been planning on using had shut its doors to our proposal. With only a month left to go before the scheduled date for our retreat to Canyon Lake.

Many people would have given up: there would be no trip, the lake was dry for us; our bags were packed, but we were staying home. However, we are not most people.

In a frenzy of e-mailing and telephone calls, former club Vice President and Ambassadorial Scholar for 2009 Jessie Martinez used the vast network of Rotarians to help find not one but *two* different generous families who would be willing to welcome us into their homes with open arms. We decided to accept the gracious invitation of Tom and Diane Purdy of Rotary of Canyon Lake.

The trip was on! On August 15<sup>th</sup>, we drove four hours west through New Braunfels to Canyon Lake. The Purdy's home was a lovely new construction on a hill overlooking

the lake, with a magnificent outdoor deck that provided views of not only the lake, but also the surrounding greenery and the large herds of deer which grazed on it, the latter being a particularly prominent feature of the neighborhood. I saw an eight point buck on the way to Tom's driveway. The Purdy's themselves were incredibly kind and hospitable; one could not ask for more accommodating hosts. Twenty minutes after our arrival and introductions, they graciously provided us with a cooler, a map, and directions to the best place to tube in the area.

We loaded the cars, iced the beers (minimal sprite for our teetotalers and underage members), and headed for the calm and peaceful waters of the Guadalupe River and Canyon Lake. The *very* calm and peaceful waters of the Guadalupe River and Canyon Lake. Like all parts of Texas, the hill country suffered a drought this summer, and the clear, crystal blue waters had slowed to a trickle, however, we were not deterred. Flat bottom tubes allowed us to scrape along the rocks nicely, and all told, we only had to wade in the frigid water carrying our tubes a total of five or six times. When we got back to the cars, we were hot,

exhausted, hungry, and happy.

On the ride back to the Purdy's several club members (myself included) ate more potato chips than is advisable. This, however, would not dent our appetites as our president, Nathalie Cras, unveiled a *massive* spread which she had prepared in advance in Houston to give thanks to the Purdy's and to feed the hungry club members, who in moments of food deprivation have been known to turn into barbarian hordes. Before long, the sun had gone down, and we found ourselves out on the deck facing plates of roast, chicken, potatoes, salad, cookies, brownies, water, and of course, wine! Dinner was a blast as Tom regaled us with his stories of *cycling across the country!* Eventually, dinner conversation topic turned to the Rotary Family, and how fortunate we are to belong—of the things we say and do, will it build good will and better friendships?

In the case of our Canyon Lake retreat, the answer was resoundingly *yes*. It never ceases to amaze how daily, around the world, families like the Purdy's open their doors to strangers like us; to Graduate Student Exchange

students, and Youth Exchange Students, and how, no matter where you go in the world, —when you are in Rotary you are *never without friends*. The connections we built during our brief stay with the Purdy's helped solidify the fact for many of our members that the concept of "Rotary Family" is not just a talking point but something very real, very special, and very tangible that exists within our communities. Of course, the service is great too.

Houston, a nexus of economic activity, frequently attracts young men and women who are active in Rotaractor clubs around the world. When they arrive, they look us up, come to our meetings, and find what they are expecting—an opportunity to serve the community, make good honest friendships, and be welcomed unconditionally. And we know that, were we to go to Germany, or India, or wherever fate may carry a person, we would find the same; a common fraternal commitment to making the world a better place that pervades the Rotary Organization at its every level. Infinite thanks to Tom and Diane Purdy for hosting a great time for our club and, in typical Rotary fashion, driving this message home spectacularly.

## Rotary District 5890's 2010 District Conference Art for the Hungry Theme will be "Earth Day"

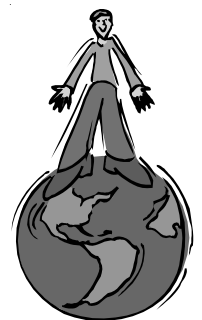
**Calling all food architects: Take part in promoting a greener, cleaner world while feeding the hungry at rotary District 5890's District conference Art for the Hungry. April 22 is Earth Day worldwide, and we will celebrate by creating an opening exhibit for our District Conference on the theme "The future of Mother Earth is in your Hands." This is an invitation to work with your club members, Interactors, Rotaractors, or RYE students to design a sculpture that symbolizes Rotary's commitment to leave a better and greener world to our children's children. Then everyone can feast their eyes upon Rotarian**

"construction" creations at the Hyatt Regency.

*Art for the Hungry* is a food-sculpture competition where Rotarians are challenged to create a themed structure using a minimum of 1,000 non-perishable food items. *Art for the Hungry* is a great event! It's fun to see people's creativity as they design and build "construction" sculptures from food items. Sometimes groups want to participate but are intimidated by the idea of the sculpture. Soon they realize that it's easier than it looks, and it becomes an absorbing and wonderful group project. Some

possible ideals include a vegetable garden, 100-mpg automobile, Mother Earth as seen from space, a tree of life, a clean river or tree-shaded street for future generations to enjoy, or whatever your imagination can create with nonperishable foods.

Sculpture-building with take place on Thursday, April 22. The edible artwork will remain on display through April 24<sup>th</sup>, and Rotarians are encouraged to vote via monetary donations for their favorite sculpture(s). On April 24, votes will be tallied and winners announced at the Governor's Banquet. *Art for Hungry* is important in ensuring that



many local children have meals throughout the summer and that our area food banks stay stocked.

Registration packets are available now. To register your club or group, or for more information on Art for the Hungry, contact:

Jack Wallace  
([jack.wallace.b373@statefarm.com](mailto:jack.wallace.b373@statefarm.com),  
713-626-7500)

# Introducing EarlyAct/First Knight Program in Huffman

By Robin Charlesworth

EAFK developed into an unprecedented character education program that would put Rotary ideals into the daily academics of mainstream K-8 education for the first time ever. Doug Killian, Huffman ISD Superintendent, is proud to be the first in District 5890

their daily curriculum a ten minute lesson, discussion or activity on ethics and character. Students recite the Four Way Test every day during school following the Pledge of Allegiance and at each bimonthly service club meeting. In addition, there is an EAFK community



to promote the EAFK program. His students have already memorized the Four-Way Test. Developed by Rotarian Chris Byrd and Founder and Executive Director of Knights of the Guild, Randall Parr, this program is well known in the Texas Hill Country amongst school administrators. The EAFK approach to teaching character education creatively inspires students with instruction of noble “knight” character traits.

service club at the schools and all students in the school can become members. Rotarians assist with these service projects. Role modeling by the Rotarians is an important element of this program. The students learn the Rotary



motto of “Service Above Self” which is taught to the children at EAFK Club meetings and the students are rewarded and earn medals for their acts of chivalry.

In many schools across our country, we see bullying, dishonesty, irresponsibility, disrespect, hatred, cheating, jealousy, greed, and a lack of tolerance to others. This sort of behavior can manifest itself outside the schools through things like substance abuse, crime, gangs and violence. We are even seeing kids attacking other kids and posting videos of the assault on youtube and other video sharing websites. EarlyAct First Knight can help build the kind of moral and ethical ideals in our children early in life so that they can develop better character traits as young adults and beyond.

Students from Kindergarten through eighth grade will have in



## Rotary District 5890 Gulf Coast Leadership Institute

Thanks the Jon Eiche, Gulf Coast Leadership Institute (GCLI) Chair, and a very talented staff of Rotarian trainers, twenty-one participants graduated from our second Gulf Coast Leadership Institute on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Last year at this time the first GCLI had to be cancelled as Hurricane Ike took aim for our great community. This powerful hurricane was a metaphor for a powerful, intimidating and dominant leader and required shifting priorities. Since then inspiring and cooperative leaders came from our Rotary clubs as we did what we needed to mobilize our communities in efforts at first responses with chainsaws, food, and water, and later with repair and remediation efforts. We are now back to living by a calendar and not a stopwatch.

The GCLI institute participants have been empowered by their weekend training to go forward and make a difference in personal, family, vocational and Rotary lives. An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success. We look forward to their contributions in making Rotary even more successful in our communities.

“The future of Rotary is in your hands,” and we individually and collectively have the opportunity to make history this year. We have no problem taking the future of Rotary into our hands and give the next generations reasons to hope: for a polio free world, a more literate and less hungry world, a cleaner and greener world with fewer childhood deaths from water-borne illness, and a world with an army waging peace in over 200 countries and territories. Rotarians are making history, and we are doing it through you as courageous, skillful leaders seizing the opportunity to change things for the better.

Remember, the goal of many leaders is to get people to think more highly of the leader, but the goal of a great leader is to help people think more highly of themselves. We hope our graduates will take what they learned at the GCLI weekend, become even more dedicated to service as a way of life, and choose to take responsibility for the vision and direction of their personal, family, vocational and Rotary lives.

Next GCLI will be January 23rd and 24<sup>th</sup>. Contact PDG Jon Eiche at [eichej1@comcast.net](mailto:eichej1@comcast.net) for more information.

# Rotarians from Districts 5890 and 1880 Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Peaceful Demonstrations in Leipzig that led to the Reunification of Germany

In October 2009 a Group Study Exchange (GSE), Friendship exchange, Rotary Peace Conference, dedication of a Rotary Peace Window and performance of an original Peace Cantata by Professor Ann Gebuhr, Houston Baptist University, will all express the support between Rotary Districts 5890 and 1880. These events grew from the historic GSE initiated in the late 1980's by Rotary District 5890 in the greater Houston, Texas area of the USA with Leipzig, Germany (at the time a "non-Rotarian"-communist country). To understand the significance of these significant October 2009 events one must first understand the momentous events of October 1989. The **Monday demonstrations in East Germany in 1989** (German: *Montagsdemonstrationen*) were a series of peaceful political protests against the authoritarian government of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) of East Germany that took place every Monday evening. In Leipzig the demonstrations began in September 1989 after regular prayers for peace in the Nikolai Church with Pastor Christian Führer\*, and eventually filled the nearby downtown Karl Marx Square (today known again as Augustus-Platz). Safe in the knowledge that the Lutheran Church supported their resistance, many dissatisfied East German citizens gathered in the court of the church, and nonviolent demonstrations began to demand rights such as the freedom to travel to foreign countries and to elect a democratic government. By 9 October 1989, what had begun as a few hundred gatherers at the Nikolai Church had swelled to more than 70,000, all united in peaceful opposition to the regime. The most famous chant became *Wir sind das Volk!* - "We are the people!", reminding their leaders that a democratic republic has to be ruled by the people, not by an undemocratic party claiming to represent them. Although some demonstrators were arrested, the threat of large-scale intervention by security forces never materialized as local leaders, without precise orders from East Berlin and surprised by the unexpected high number of citizens, shied away from causing a possible massacre, ordering the retreat of their forces. During the next weeks, in Leipzig the numbers swelled to over

320,000 citizens, with military units again being held on stand-by in the vicinity. This proved that the majority of the population opposed the regime. This pressure led to the Fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989, marking the imminent fall of the socialist GDR regime.

## \*Comments from Rev. Führer on events in Leipzig in October 1989

"Nikolaikirche - open to all" became reality in autumn 1989 and surprised us all. After all, it united people from the whole of the former GDR: those who wanted to leave the country and those who were curious, regime critics and Stasi (State Security Police) personnel, church staff and SED members, Christians and Non-Christians ... In view of the political reality between 1949 and 1989, this defies all imagination. ... the driveways to the church were blocked by the police. ... The state authorities exerted greater pressure on us to cancel the peace prayers. ... Monday after Monday there were arrests or "temporary detentions" in connection with the peace prayers. Even so, the number of visitors flocking to the church continued to grow to a point where the 2,000 seats were no longer sufficient. Then came the all-deciding 9 October 1989. And what a day it was! There was a hideous show of force by soldiers, industrial militia, police and plain-clothes officers. But the opening scene had taken place two days before on 7 October, the 40th anniversary of the GDR, which entered into GDR history as Remembrance Day. On this day, for 10 long hours, uniformed police battered defenseless people who made no attempt to fight back and took them away in trucks. Hundreds of them were locked up. ... In due course, an article was published in the press saying that it was high time to put an end to what they called "counter-revolution, if necessary by armed forces". That was the situation on 9 October 1989. ... party members had been ordered to go to the St. Nicholas Church. ... to perform like the numerous Stasi personnel who were on hand regularly at the peace prayers. What has not been considered was the fact, that these people were exposed to ... Jesus Christ's gospel which they didn't know, in a church they could not do

anything with. They heard from Jesus who said: "Blessed are the poor!" And not: Wealthy people are happy. Jesus said: "Love your enemies!" And not: Down with your opponent. Jesus said: "Many who now are first will be last!" And not: Everything stays the same. .... Thus, the prayers for peace took place in unbelievable calm and concentration. ... The solidarity between church and art, music and the gospel was of importance in the threatening situation of those days. The prayers for peace ended with the bishop's blessing and the urgent call for non-violence. ... thousands waiting outside with candles in their hands ... Two hands are necessary to carry a candle and to protect it from extinguishing so that you cannot carry stones or clubs at the same time. The ... spirit of non-violence seized

the masses and ...troops, ... and the police were drawn in, became engaged in conversations, then withdrew. ... there were no winners and no defeated, nobody triumphed over the other, nobody lost his face. There was just a tremendous feeling of relief. This non-violent movement ... caused the party and ideological dictatorship to collapse. ... hundreds of thousands in the streets ... but not a single shattered shop window. This was the incredible experience of the power of non-violence." ... "We had planned everything. We were prepared for everything. But not for candles and prayers." The prayers for peace continue. Rotarians from Districts 5890 and 1880 will be there to celebrate and advance Rotary's peace and understanding initiatives throughout the world.

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There are **2 PAYMENT OPTIONS** available as follows:

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\*\*\*\* **Checks** can be made to **Rotary District 5890** with a notation of the Option that you wish to purchase. **If you select Option II**, please **specifically state the desired ad**. Please forward your **check** and **two (2) business cards** to Ann Wright at the following address: 8331 Winningham Lane, Houston, Texas 77055.

**CONTACT ANN WRIGHT NOW** Regarding the referenced purchase options at **713-647-8400** OR **wright.away@att.net**.

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Marilyn Lidberg, Editor

District Newsletter

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## Robin' s Rambling

It is with great honor that I join with my husband to represent the greatest Rotary District of Rotary International – District 5890! We have met so many outstanding and committed Rotarians throughout our district as the new officers have been installed and I have no doubt that we will build a brighter future with our hands united in service to others. Although we currently have 60 clubs with their unique personalities and projects, we always recognize the common bond of genuine care and concern to promote a better life for others. We are in the Family of Rotary

and hope to be inclusive of our families of origin along with those in the Rotary family. This past summer I promoted the Family of Rotary across America by coordinating 11 Rotary clubs from Texas to New Jersey who hosted 17 Houston Police Department officers, one member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and one policeman from Portland, Maine in their quest to raise \$140,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Foundation. These dedicated officers rode their bicycles as four relay teams from Houston to Providence, Rhode Island and thoroughly

enjoyed the hospitality of Rotarians across our great nation. Our youth exchange students, Ambassadorial Scholars, and your own club's scholarship recipients are also included in the "Family of Rotary". I encourage your club to seek qualified applicants for these Rotary programs as they will enhance lives in a most unforgettable way for not only these individuals, but also for the host families, sponsoring Rotary clubs and counselors. Let's continue to grow our Rotary Family and invest in relationships which will be beneficial to all concerned!



*District Governor  
Ed and Robin  
Charlesworth*

*P.S. Remember to send the "Calendar Girl" your chosen dates for fundraisers or other special events for the District Calendar.*

