

IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Claremont Rotary Year 92 | Week 42 | April 16, 2021

Program: How HOPE brings hope to communities. Sandra Bowers

submitted by Chris Hayes

Sarah Jo Antonucci introduced Sandra Bowers, a Regional Director of the Hope through Housing Foundation. The organization helps people find affordable housing, and makes sure that they have a great experience. All kinds of interactive services related to housing are part of the experience, delivered by about 9 staff.



The Hope through Housing Foundation is dedicated to elevating the well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income residents living within National CORE affordable apartment communities throughout Southern California and beyond. Believing that both people and place matter in achieving community-wide well-being, Hope through Housing concentrates direct services, partnerships, and other resources right in the neighborhoods that need them most.

At the individual level, their goal is to see all people thrive—whether that means helping children do well in school, helping families improve their financial situation, or aiding seniors to age with dignity in their own homes.

In turn, Hope helps to transform entire neighborhoods as individual success leads to community success, influencing communities' quality of life and creating real change in neighborhoods plagued with poverty, crime, blight, and isolation.

Hope Through Housing (HOPE) is part of National Community Renaissance (CORE), a builder of beautiful affordable housing; it has 85 affordable housing developments in SoCAL, Texas, and Florida.

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National Community Renaissance (National CORE)

National CORE Communities:

- 85 Affordable Housing Developments throughout SoCal, Texas, and Florida
- Inland Empire, Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego
- 6 New Projects Under Construction
- 8,000+ Apartment Units
- 27,000 Low-Income Residents
 - 60% Families
 - 40% Seniors



Watch it!!
 You can hear the program at about 46 minutes into the meeting!
 Here's a link to the [recording](#) .
 Passcode: Apr16!Bowers
 It will be available until 5/08.

Next Zoom Meeting
 April 23: Features LA County Health Program Analyst Melisa Acoba talking about the LA County COVID Response
[ZOOM LINK](#)

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ROTARY, THE ZOOM MEETING

Claremont and surrounding communities are starting to reopen! And it seems that there's a lot going on, which we'll hear more about in Announcements. I'd love to hear about how or whether your lives are starting to feel more normal and how we can make the best use of this glorious spring to serve our communities.

The first breakout discussion was about making beer and bathtub gin! **Nona Tirre** related that she is glad its Friday because she and Jason have been working on a diet. **Ron Coleman** asked if they know what a man's balanced diet is. (a beer in each hand?) **John Howland** is going to see NomadLand at the theater. Buff noted that since it is essentially a film about homeless wanderers, it would be good to see. Ron suggested the discussion about merging OOTT with the TOC, currently scheduled for October 23.

submitted by Harry Sparrow



WELCOME GUEST AND VISITING ROTARIAN

We welcomed **Bill Gershon** and Rotarian **Sharon Douglas**.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Buff will send out a poll to all members to assess when we'll feel comfortable coming back to in-person meetings. You'll recall that we did a poll earlier in the year and about a month ago, and numbers who felt comfortable coming back in June doubled to about 50%. In the meantime, with **Sean Harrison's** help, **Karen Sapio** and **Mark Carson** will test the OWL system that **Tim Harrison** generously gave to the Club so we might have hybrid meetings, at the DoubleTree this week. She shared a screen of how the zoom screen would look for those online. More to come!

Nona Tirre led our club's efforts to provide assistance to Claremont Unified School District (CUSD), which provided needed items to help our elementary students safely return to campus after school activities, and we delivered! Thanks to **Tim Harrison, Cara Araiza, Jenna Irish, John Howland, Susie Ilsley, Lucinda McDade, Mary Segawa, Buff Wright, Sylvia Whitlock, Nona and JJ Miranda, Jerry Tambe, Lyn Childress and Blanca Aguiar**, for making it work!

Brett O'Connor announced that six contestants will participate live in the Stover Music Competition on **April 17** at Claremont High School. Thanks to Brett for making it happen as though he didn't have enough to do! Brett also announced that they are ready for students to return.

Buff again brought up that the Las Vegas Summerlin Rotary Club is hosting a virtual fundraiser this Saturday, April 17 that can benefit OUR Club. Details in last week's Clarifier.

The **International Rotary Convention** in Taipei was cancelled (Sorry **Mark** and **Kelly Carson** and **Jim Marchant**), but you can register early for the conference for just \$49 through **Friday, May 7 at 9:59 pm** and the Club will reimburse the first 25 who register! Watch for it in your email or [click here](#) to register. If like last year's virtual offering, it will be good!!

INSPIRATION OF THE DAY

Submitted by Sylvia Whitlock



On this day mend a quarrel. Search out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in a word or deed. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate, be kind, be gentle. Laugh a little more.

Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Worship your God. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still again. Speak it still once again.

Sylvia Whitlock will be presenting a Spark Lecture on April 20 for the Sunrise Santa Barbara Club, "Inclusion in Action" about the effects of the loss of education with children during COVID. The Spark lectures are posted to the Club website: <https://sparksbsunriserotary.com/>

Cameron Troxell talked about the recent planting activity at the California Botanic Garden (CaBG), funded by our District Grant, supplemented by Club funds. On Wednesday, April 14, Interactors from the Webb school and **Francis Limbe** were involved in planting the welcome garden at the entrance to CalBG. Later in the day, the Interactors volunteered to package dry goods at Uncommon Good. Thank you for stepping up, Interactors!



Cameron also reminded the group about attending the Planning Committee meeting for Buff's Debunking on April 20.

SERGEANT JERRY TAMBE

President Buff was fined for being president.

Cameron Troxell was fined for praising Buff too early for the good job she's done as prez.

Nona Tirre was fined for mis-handling the school supplies drop-off that resulted in a feeding frenzy.

Susie Ilsley was fined for mis-timing her school supplies drop-off finishing before **Lucinda McDade** arrived.

SJ Antonucci was fined ahead of time for getting us all invited to the next beer-fest and for the cool nursing recruitment ads.

Arman Ariane was fined for not sharing the brewer's identity from last week's meeting. (Steve Julian makes the best beer...)

Don Ralls caught a fine for the lack of clarity of this year's weird tax-day(s) (April 15 or May 17???)

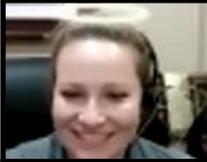
Nona Tirre was fined again for the confusing insurance dividends pay-backs, etc. etc. yadda yadda. There's no rest for the wicked.

Patrick Tambe was fined for his pending unruly puppy training. (Did someone say puppy?)

Brett O'Connor fined for the newly named building on the high school campus, the Brett O'Connor Student Center. Does this mean he's dead or rich? Brett claims neither.

Gail Spark was fined for embarrassing Patrick online and for filibustering the Sargeant.

Ron Coleman for going noir on us! Not to be outdone, Cameron and Buff joined him in the dark



ROTARIANS IN ACTION THIS WEEK

California Botanic Garden Project: Webb Interactors and Francis Limbe in Service of the Environment.



CUSD Elementary Supplies Delivered!



Webb Interactors Volunteering at Uncommon Good



Hope Through Housing, cont'd from p.1

There are six new projects currently under Construction, including one in Rancho Cucamonga at Day Creek. There are seven communities in Rancho. Sandra manages 30 of the 85 communities in the Low Desert to High Desert areas. It is not Section 8 low income housing, but the criteria are relevant. 60% are occupied by families (young couples with kids) and 40% are seniors.

HOPE brings social services to people who live in these communities. When COVID started last year, they started delivering groceries, and have delivered over 90,000 bags of food, including both diapers for kids, and items to meet senior needs.

The mission of HOPE is transforming lives and communities. HOPE “breaks the cycle of generational poverty by providing programs and services that empower individuals and change communities.” Sandra said it’s a launching pad, not a landing pad!

For example, they helped a mother of four kids living in a room to get into their own two bedroom apartment and with available afterschool programs. Mom went on to go to school to become a nurse. Sandra was able to get help in the community to make this happen.

They get local officials involved as well small businesses in the community to get the help for their local people.

The **Hope through Housing service pillars** include the following areas of focus.

Bright futures: Afterschool programs are great for the children in the developments. Sandra’s staff helps kids get caught up in their studies. One child was behind 95 lessons and they got him caught up, and another was behind 102 lessons and he caught up as well. Their staff also does fun activities with the kids.

Connections to Care: They help seniors. Hillside Church came out and sang to the seniors and passed out food while they listened.

Economic Empowerment: they help set up and prepare budgets, set goals, and improve the credit. They teach people how to save and build their savings in hope of buying a home. They provide financial counseling and one on one financial coaching and connect local businesses to help for work and counseling to better understand how to use their money effectively, and getting credit back on track. There are 20 people in the program right now that will help take their families to the next level. See slide at right.

They launched nine Virtual Teen Programs this year, and they are well attended.

2020 Highlights

They are rewarding adults and youth a total of \$10,000 in scholarships. One girl was able to buy a laptop to be able to do her work.

They did 9600 door to door senior wellness checks to make sure they are safe. One team has been deployed to make sure they get vaccinated against COVID.

35000 meals were distributed. And one senior said how happy that there was a soup and a sandwich, so that they could eat one today, and save the second for tomorrow. SO, more was given to that senior. They try to get fresh food out every day.

1,714 residents have been helped financially. 100% established a budget. 75% improved their employment status. 67% reduced their debt. And 64% increased their savings.

Helping residents apply for \$1.4 million dollars of rental assistance. This has been an important part of the program for many who have lost their jobs in the service industries. It is important that they make their rent payments, for if they lose their home, they cannot apply again into the program. Many of their residents have gone back to work.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Sandra at sbowers@hthf.org They lean on their volunteers, as their staff is not that big. And she would love for us to reach out and get started!!

In answer to questions, Sandra provided additional information. Their webpage show donors in both private and government grants. Most is private donations. They have a Gala to raise money each year with over 700 people attending. Last year it was on line and very successful! Their residents love gifts during the holidays! Montclair has a Disability building with 17 units.

Connection with people is the focus of their work!

What financial services are provided through Pathways?

Financial Counseling Program

- ▶ One counseling session with one or two follow ups. File open 60 days.
- ▶ Short term Counseling with the goals of:
 - ▶ Establishing a budget.
 - ▶ Designing an personalized action plan so they can attain short term goals.
 - ▶ Connect to local resources and partners.

One-on-one Financial Coaching

- ▶ Long term financial goals 6 months to year with 45-60 day check in's.
- ▶ Pull credit on Credit Karma, go over line by line and set an action plan on how to improve.
- ▶ Establishing a budget.
- ▶ Help get buyer ready for a home purchase.
- ▶ Employment needs.

VIRTUAL ROTARY IN YOUR SPARE TIME

Brought to you by [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland](#): TogetherTalks. New talks will be scheduled soon.

You can catch up on all the events so far on the [Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland's YouTube channel](#).

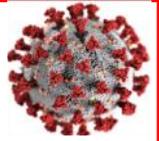
Highly recommended by Buff is the talk by [Daniel Flynn](#), Chief Visionary and Co-Founder of [Thankyou](#). Daniel's corporation provides the proceeds from selling water and other products to charity. His remarkable business development story is quite interesting and inspiring!

Doug McGoon Bequest to the Isiphiwo School

When Doug McGoon went to South Africa in 2017 for Afrika Burn, he spent time with Biffy Dankwerts, who showed him the area and introduced him to projects taken on by her Rotary Club, including the Isiphiwo School. Doug enjoyed it thoroughly. He left \$5000 to Biffy's Club to use for a good cause. Biffy has chosen remodeling a room at the school for arts and crafts. We are quite certain that Doug, an artist himself, would have approved. This week, we transferred a check for \$5000 to Lowell Rice, CEO of Pathways Africa, who is Biffy's friend and will facilitate its journey into Biffy's hands. We look forward to hearing more about the project!



COVID Vaccination Update



Melisa Acoba, health program analyst from LA County Public Health will speak to our club on April 23.

From the [LA County Public Health Website](#):

As of April 15, all people over 16 are eligible. 37% of the 8.3M LA County citizens over 16 had received at least one dose by April 4, leaving 5.3M seeking vaccines!

You can access all County's sites through [MyTurn.CA.Gov](#) or link to [all county information sites](#).

NEW: Smaller sites may have waiting lists. Try Von's on Baseline.

CDC Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED

AS OF 04/16/2021

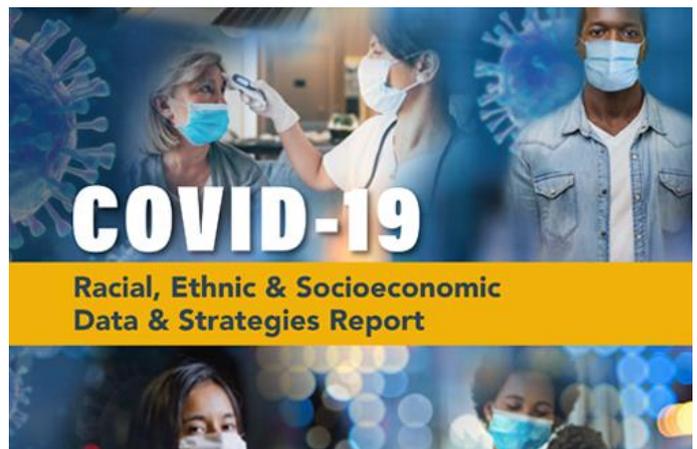
6,319,798

Second Doses: 2,239,672

Equitable Distribution of Vaccines?

There is abundant data about the equitable distribution COVID 19 vaccinations. Los Angeles County posts distribution data online and has compiled a COVID-19 Racial, Ethnic & Socioeconomic Data & Strategies Report

[View the Report](#)





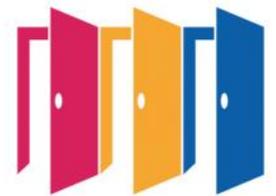
the CLARifier

The Clarifier, P.O. Box 357, Claremont, CA 91711



Buff Wright

Claremont Rotary
President
2020-2021



Rotary Opens Opportunities

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

April 23	LA County COVID Response, Melisa Acoba, LA County Health Program Analyst
April 30	City of Claremont News, Jennifer Stark, Mayor
April 27 May 4	District Assembly (virtual) Register on DACdb!



Spring Bloom

Photo of the Week by Steve Schenck

Send fines and donations [here](#) or mail your check to
PO Box 357, Claremont
91711



Bacon Bits

Let's fill up the pig!



Sergeants committee
gathers before each meeting by email. Anyone is welcome to share information!!

Nona Tirre, chair

Clarifier Committee

- Mike DeWees
- Bill Burrows
- Sean Harrison
- Bobby Hyde
- Jim Lehman
- Steve Schenck
- Chris Hayes Shaner
- Harry Sparrow
- Peter Weinberger
- Buff Wright, editor



Website

Information about the club and back editions of this newsletter are always available on DACdb and www.claremontRotary.org

Join us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RotaryofClaremont

Club [Bylaws](#) and [Policies](#) are posted for member access on DACdb

April—May Birthdays

- Pete Robertson 4/21
- Sylvia Whitlock 4/28
- Lyn Childress 5-16
- Bill McAllister 5-18
- Frank Bedoya 5-19
- Chris Hayes Shaner 5-20
- Bob Hauducoeur 5-26



Notes by Chris Hayes and Bill Burrows. Pictures by Steve Schenck

The Claremont Rotary Club meets on Zoom at 12:00 on Friday until further notice