

# Happy Holidays!!

## North Notes

### Spokane-North Rotary Club

December 9, 2024

#### Calendar:

**Dec. 16:** Noon luncheon at the Bark. Holmes gifts due. **Speaker:** Club President **Melinda Keberle** quarterly report.

#### Announcements:

- Remember: Gifts, wrapped and tagged, for the club's "\$60 for 40" holiday program for needy families at Holmes Elementary School are due at the Dec. 16 luncheon. **Lenore Romney** is coordinating.
- A hot cocoa bar is one of the attractions as club **Scott and Janine McKorkle** host the club holiday party 6-8 p.m., Dec. 20. The party is BYOB and includes secret gifts and a cookie exchange.
- Several members have signed up to help tear down holiday decorations at the Spokane Fairgrounds on Dec. 20 from 9 to Noon.

### Membership has grown

At the Dec. 9 meeting, Club President Melinda Keberle proudly noted that the club has added six new members this Rotary year, two more have inquired about joining and "there is not a week without a guest" at our luncheons.

Membership had declined to 19 at one point, but now is at 25 members and the new goal is 30 members by the end of the June 30 Rotary year.

#### Happy Bucks:

- **Bill Simer** was happy not to be home with Covid symptoms.
- **John Mailliard**, saying he doesn't relish holiday cards because too many old friends have passed, was happy to get a Christmas card from an 83-year-old Rotarian.
- **Ron Noble** said "ditto" for being still alive.
- **Sheila Fritts** shared some happiness and brought three guests, including **Josh Porter**, who added a happy dollar himself.
- **Amy Jo Carlson** also added a dollar of happiness.
- **Theresa Flegel** was happy that grandkids joined her on the shopping trip for Holmes gifts.

# *Rotary contributions help in many ways*

For a small group, big money from Rotary of Spokane North has helped people, from the Holmes School community to the world.

A key funding source is the District 5080 Charitable Fund. At the Dec. 9 luncheon, club board member Bill Simer described how much the club has supported Rotary projects.

In the past five years, he said, \$57,420 has been allocated to various projects. The largest recipient -- \$33,571 -- has been Holmes Elementary, with a variety of programs including the year-long supply closet items, Holmes Heroes T-shirt awards, Mobius science kits and this year, helping installation of a washing machine and dryer from a donor. And that total did not include the money club members Christmas gift for needy families.



*Bill Simer talks about club giving*

Holmes, it was noted, has up to 95 percent of students who receive free and reduced-priced meals in the West Central area, possibly the most in the state.

Education also has been supported well with high school students by \$9,000 worth of Saling Scholarships and \$6,000 in Lumen School Scholarships.

Various international projects were funded by \$6,229 in that span.

Since July 2002, Simer said, club member support totaled \$390,140, including \$160,749 for Holmes, \$61,000 for Saling scholars and \$54,000 for international projects.

John Mailliard, the club's RI coordinator, said 80 percent of club members donate up to \$100 a year annually with Rotary International dues and several members exceed that.

Several years ago the Charitable Fund replaced annual events including club golf tournaments and annual dinners at various venues.

Simer said in 2019 the Dine Out program raised \$20,240. With expenses of \$7,122, that net was \$13,118. In 2020, the dinner raised \$19,035, with expenses of \$6,837 and a net of \$12,198.

He said in recent years, with the Charitable Fund program, the net has nearly matched those totals, without the tremendous effort of gathering friends to attend and gathering auction items.

Gary Bowe, a Deer Park Rotary Club member, coordinates the program. Simer is a board member director of the fund.

Donors can advise the fund on where money can be directed and the central fund insures that all filing deadlines are met. Simer said some other clubs have missed deadlines as membership changed.

He said the fund also allows estate and memorial gifts.

Simer said six area Rotary clubs use the charitable fund program.

*Bulletin editors: Chuck Rehberg and Scott McKorkle. Photo by Scott McKorkle.*