

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BONDS MEADOW ROTARY



[Above] The Paul Harris Fellow recipients at the 25th anniversary of the Bonds Meadow Rotary Club on September 24, 2019.

By Dave Highfield

The Rotary Club of Bonds Meadow celebrated our official charter night on September 14, 1994. The sponsoring club was the Rotary Club of Westminster which first gathered a committee in January, 1994 to consider giving birth to a new Rotary club. After reporting back in March, the Westminster Rotary Club in April voted 26 to 6 in favor of beginning a new club. Those opposed were concerned that members might leave the Westminster club to join a new club. A committee of four selected Tuesday morning as the day to hold future meetings, hoping that a breakfast meeting would attract a new age and demographic group. Bullock's Airport Inn was chosen as our meeting location. We later moved to Wilhelms, Best Western, and now Carroll Lutheran Village.

Within four weeks 25 members of the new club had been recruited and soon 17 more were added. Most were new to Rotary. When Westminster was chartered the area of the Airport Inn was merely a meadow, owned by the Bond family. The area became known as Bonds Meadow, a name adopted by the new Rotary club. 42 Rotarians became members of the new club. The "father" of our club was PDG Ken Shook. The first president was Melvin Mills. Within 10 years of our founding, the club had 70 members. From the beginning, women were always part of our club.

Special fund raising events by the club over the years have included a St. Patrick's Day corn beef Dinner, spaghetti dinners, a classic car show, basket bingo, selling the monopoly game of Westminster,

Hearts of Gold banquet, the Rotary Roast, Oktoberfest and, in 2010, a raffle for a getaway to Jamaica.

Many dollars have been given to worthy causes over the years from a \$200 donation to victims of the 1995 Oklahoma bombing to \$1000 to the Literacy Council of Carroll County. We initiated an international project to combat Riverblindness in Tanzania where we also provided insecticide-treated bed nets, latrine slabs, and supported the combating of Burkitt's Lymphoma, all in partnership with the Rotary Club of Dar Es Salem and World Health IMA. A key person in this project with Hatim Karimjee of Tanzania, a Rotarian who helped raise funds and who hosted Rotarians from Bonds Meadow when we traveled to participate in the Riverblindness project.

The club assembled over 1000 Safe Motherhood Kits, a service project initiated by Pat Amass, sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo and Haiti. Along with other Carroll County Rotary Clubs we are currently supporting a water project in India, providing clean water to 14 schools and 1 village. It is estimated that the project will provide clean drinking water to 25,000 persons. With Rotary International, we have supported Polio Plus and the Rotary International Foundation. With a monthly donation we presently support a Compassion Child in Haiti.

Locally, one major community project in the club's early years was to provide games and supervision for the YMCA Teen Time.

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[Above] The front page of the Sunday, September 8, 2019, Carroll County Times featured Rotary projects (see article on page 5)