



The June 17 meeting of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo took place at Milestone Senior Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan and was called to order by President Martin Velten at 12:15 p.m. President Martin led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rotarian Lucinda Stinson reflected on the many positive attributes of our Red Rose recipient and Rotary Member, Dan Hartlieb.

Due to the length of today's meeting, we dispensed with Art News and other normal functions of the Rotary meeting.

### **Special Guests:**

**Family of Dan Hartlieb:** Madeline Hartlieb, Paul and Jan Hartlieb, Abby Brown, Francie Brown, Tim Brown.

**Former Red Rose Recipients:** Al Heilman, Betty Mason Upjohn, Bill Maxie, Jack Hopkins, Caroline Ham, Patti Huiskamp

Al Heilman introduced his daughter Patti.

D. Terry Williams was the MC for today's recognition and acknowledged the work of the Red Rose Committee which consisted of Ann Fergemann, Amy Remmert, Brian Kaufman, Jeff Murphy and D. Terry Williams. A fun fact about the approval of Dan as this year's recipient. The committee was unanimous about the choice of Dan for all his dedicated work but when they were presenting their recommendation to the board of directors, they suddenly realized that Dan was on the Rotary Board. What to do??? We could ask him to leave the room but that would be a clear hint something weird was going on. So, D. Terry just announced it. The look on Dan's face was priceless and one for the books. Total and unbelievable surprise.

The first person to attest to Dan's qualifications for this year's award was his brother, Gary Hartlieb. Gary emphasized that Dan's top priority is the Casa Amparo work. Over the years, Dan has spent meaningful time making sure the girls at Casa have a safe place and that they are provided with a good education. He has meaningful connections with the children and the sisters. He has compassion for them and annually brings new shoes for the girls. He stays connected to the sisters year around.

Dan fights disease by donating platelets for medical studies and has made over 250 donations. His lifelong support of education is evident in his volunteerism to "Rotary is For Reading" where actions are louder than words. As an Episcopalian, Dan serves his church community as a scout leader and more. He works to unite people to solve problems. His friend, Dennis LeClear

admires Dan for his work at St. Lukes through ushering and work on the diaper drive. He shows enthusiasm toward service without self-promotion. Dan is willing to talk to everyone and engages people.

Barb Walters, who has had the privilege to accompany Dan on many early trips to Casa talked about how he is bleeding heart of Casa. He promotes the program to Kalamazoo, helps with building projects at Casa, shoots baskets and plays dominos with them. He also runs with the girls, encouraging fitness. Dan would generally get up early with the girls to run, but the main reason he got up early was because of the ROOSTER. Upper most in his mind is to provide dignity to the children, and give of his time and resources.

Martin Velten, Rotary President of 2023-24, presented the Red Rose Citation to Dan and commented that there were few words he could say that weren't already said by the speakers. Dan thanked everyone for the honor and especially the former recipients for being the inspiration, and his family for their support. A big thanks to Barb Walters for pushing and a huge thanks to the sister of Casa for their love and joy – and strong faith.