

Live and In Person.....ABBY BLOCKER !!! (crowd applauds). Yes, we had the distinct pleasure of meeting with Abby and hearing about her studies and adventures. Abby, our International Scholar, is getting her Masters/PhD in Cape Town, South Africa. Home for the holidays, she joined us to give an update on her journey. Currently, she has completed her Masters and is preparing to submit her PhD prospectus for review at the end of January. Her focus has been in creating a telemedicine network placing nurses in remote locations that can converse with doctors through visual computer portals to help diagnose and prescription medicine and medical care for those who would otherwise not be treated. As she moves forward with this endeavor, she has to overcome some critical issues; those being, power supply to equipment in a country that has an unstable grid, operators that have no working knowledge of the technology they would use, and a poor internet infrastructure. The Beta testing has started, raising more questions that she will need to explore. Abby has also had the opportunity to attend several conferences that focused on areas she is involved with including: creating telemedicine, healthcare research and water and energy, and prospectives of telemedicine. She has also submitted two papers on her topic. When she is not researching and networking, Abby also participates in rotary activities, which include the distribution of food, making Christmas bags for the elderly, and working on the major club fundraiser. Abby is such an amazing young lady, and it is our pleasure to support her.

Abby also gave us an update on her friend Bertha Kapopo who is now able to attend a school in India after hurdling many roadblocks to get there. She wants to study to become a physical therapist. Our club has been generous to her in the past, and she was asking us if we would consider once again individually giving a donation. Abby is truly inspired by Bertha and by all that Rotary can do to help people all over the world. If you are interested in supporting Bertha, contact Lace Blue-Mclean or Ned Barry for further assistance.

Other News:

- *John and Lisa Cino were inducted into our club. Congratulations!
- *One Hundred Club - \$10 Tom (go figure), \$20 Bruce, \$30 (drum roll) Lace
- *First District Training – this Saturday, all 3 upcoming Presidents will attend(woot! Woot!)
- *Tom and Byron will be exploring club meeting locations and frequency of meetings in a survey monkey soon.
- *Relief Share – medical supply sorting 1/20
- *CWOW next giveaway is 1/24
- *Deadline for Silent Auction submissions is 1/31
- *50/50 – Lisa Cino \$34 H/s-\$109

Until we meet again.....keep the shiny side up and the rubber side down.