

It's a busy time of the year for our Rotary club and its members. Many of us are preparing for the Highlands Craft Brewfest major fundraiser. Others are away on trips or have family and friends visiting. For those members who were available for our meeting, we were treated to a very powerful, motivational speaker. Ruth Bowling, a developmental coordinator for Advent Health Hospitals (Florida), is part of a team of outreach health care workers who have partnered with Rotary International and Rotary Global Grants to provide medical care to underserved countries in Latin America. The group she coordinates, "Sharing Smiles", travels to Central and South America to treat children with cleft lip and palates, provide pediatric dentistry, and rehabilitative therapy. Ruth spoke of all the lives that have been changed forever through this program; not only the patients and their families, but the doctors and Rotarians that coordinated and participated. And as an added consequence, the participating medical facilities have the opportunity to receive training to sustain the program and carry it forward. As always, with the creation of a program such as this, there are setbacks and conditions that were not planned on. One such incident involved administering medication that needed drinkable water. Patients couldn't take their medication because of the lack of clean drinking water. So, Advent Health called upon the rotary community in that region along with the WASH Rotary International program; and together they were able to get a good well established, and the proper training and support to maintain this clean water facility. Rotary at work, partnering with amazing people to bring a better life to those desperately in need. Ruth is passionate about this project, and she is passionate about the work that Rotary does, and it shows.

Other News:

*Karen Aultman awarded a Paul Harris Fellow to Laura Husser, her sister. Laura is a "friend" to our club and a tireless volunteer. Congratulations Laura! Well deserved.

*Brewfest February 24- all hands-on deck! It's GO time.

*March 2&3 – Strawberry Shortcake Making at the Strawberry Festival. Sign up with John Murphy. This is another chance to make money for our club.

*March 5 – One Bag at Whispering Pines Park with the Floral City Elementary 3rd graders

*No 100 club was done

*50/50 - \$21 to Maria Nunez

*H/s Dollars - \$76

Request from Greg Hamilton: please take pictures at the Event this weekend and email them to him for publication on our FB page and our club website. Hamilton4495@gmail.com.

Here's hoping that our fundraiser is the best one yet. The park project is awaiting and we must go!