

ROTARY DISTRICT 7280 NEWSLETTER

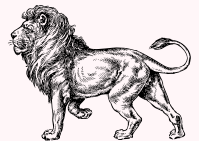
MARCH 2021



DG'S MESSAGE

by Beth Marshall

Hello Rotarians! March sure has come in like a Lion! As nice as it has been to enjoy a warmth beside the fireplace, I am looking forward to planning outdoor activities! Spring always makes me think of renewal, a before you know it, the trees will be budding! I am planting seeds in hope of having some starters for the garden in a few months.



March is **Water and Sanitation** month. Here are some statistics from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- An estimated 801,000 children younger than 5 years of age perish from diarrhea each year, mostly in developing countries. This amounts to 11% of the 7.6 million deaths of children under the age of five and means that about 2,200 children are dying every day as a result of diarrheal diseases.
- Unsafe drinking water, inadequate availability of water for hygiene, and lack of access to sanitation together contribute to about 88% of deaths from diarrheal diseases.
- Worldwide, millions of people are infected with neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), many of which are water and/or hygiene-related, such as Guinea Worm Disease, Buruli Ulcer, Trachoma, and Schistosomiasis. These diseases are most often found in places with unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, and insufficient hygiene practices.

In the following pages, Rich-Mar Rotarians Gary Weston and Joe Schmitt share their experiences working with the Honduran people to improve health conditions there. Gary works with the Honduras Hope Mission, they help distribute clay filters. Joe shares the story of brothers who run a clay factory that produces clay filters. Both Gary and Joe are available to speak to your club if you are interested in more information!

We also have an opportunity to raise money and awareness. Your club can join or host a **Walk for Water Event**. Please contact Darla Motta at KeystoneRotaryEClub@gmail.com for a Walk for Water Planning Guide. It is hard to imagine how difficult our lives would be without clean water and sanitation. I take it for granted every day. I hope with our help, many others will live healthier lives because Rotarians took Action! Let's hope March goes out like a lamb!

Stay well, DG Beth



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\$25 WATER FILTERS RESULT IN 90% REDUCTION IN GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASE

by Gary Weston

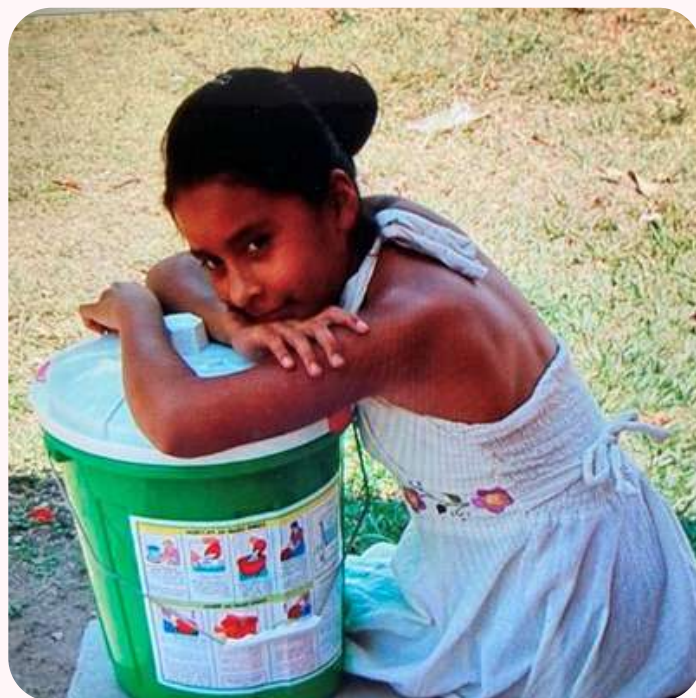
Since 2006, the Honduras Hope Mission has been sharing God's love with the people of Honduras. We do this by providing food, housing and educational support to the poorest of the poor families in the town of La Villa de San Francisco, Honduras. In addition, we operate a week-long medical clinic annually, during which between 1500 and 2000 poor Hondurans from La Villa and 5 nearby rural communities are provided free medical, dental and eye care, and receive the medicines, eyeglasses, dental supplies and feminine hygiene kits that they need so desperately. Typically people will begin lining up at the sites where we hold the clinics as much as 12 hours before they open - an indication of how important the clinics are to the people.



Very early on, though, the doctors realized that for the gastro-intestinal ailments the medicines were really only a stopgap measure. The parasite medicines could alleviate the diarrhea and intestinal problems temporarily, but because the water they were drinking every day was contaminated, very quickly the symptoms would return. So in 2009 we began providing ceramic water filters at our medical clinics. Each family that comes to the clinic is given a filter, as well as training in how to care for them. Each filter lasts for two years or more, during which time the family is able to enjoy clean, safe-to-drink water — regardless of whether the source of their water is the town's water system (which typically is only available every 4-5 days), a community well, or directly from a nearby river or stream, all of which are contaminated with parasites.

As a result local health officials have told us that they have seen as much as a 90 percent reduction in gastro-intestinal illnesses in the communities where we provide filters. And Dr. Rob Potter, the head of our medical mission team, has stated on numerous occasions, that he feels that the water filters have made more of a difference in the lives of poor Hondurans than anything else we do.

**If you would like to learn more about work of the Honduras Hope Mission, or would like me to put on a program for your club, please contact Rich-Mar Rotarian Gary Weston at:
glweston65@gmail.com or 724-816-0573.**



BEGINNINGS, WATER FROM CLAY AND THE HANNA JENKINS PROJECT

by Joe Schmitt

The filter plant got its start in 2000, approximately 2 years after hurricane Mitch destroyed much of Central America. Thousands died and simple constructed homes were washed away. If you mix torrents of water with inferior or nonexistent sanitation systems, the result is contaminated water everywhere. Without municipal water treatment, a "point of use" low-cost filter was needed in rural areas to remove sediment, bacteria and parasites from the water, making it usable for consumption.

The "Clay Media" version of the filter found its way to Nicaragua, Guatemala, Cuba and Honduras. The clay filter's simple design was not meant to produce large volumes of water for the masses. But it could solve the contamination problem within a small household by delivering 2.5 to 3 liters per hour.

To make a filter from clay requires a process involving many steps including a "quality control" flow test. Most important is the potter, the ceramic engineer that knows the properties of clay, how to mix it and then fire it in a kiln to proper temperature.

It took a team to find the right person and fund the training and equipment resources. That team and help came from many places. From individual chemists and ceramicist, to academics in ceramic design from the University of Slippery Rock Pa and Northern Illinois University. Rotary Club funding support came from clubs in Western Pa and Cincinnati Ohio as well as tech support from Potters for Peace.

Maximo Antonio Andreus was the right person for the job, who was later joined by his brother Guillermo. The small factory was built in Sabanagrande Honduras where the mixing, drying, kiln firing, and flow testing takes place. The final step is to add the silver solution, which is imported from Spain. The silver kills bacteria in the water. The result was not only a solution to clean water, but it empowered Hondurans to do it on their own.

In January 2006, Maximo delivered the first 100 filters to the village where we would conduct several medical clinics for people who could never have afforded to see a doctor. By the time of our 2nd visit a year later, the doctors announced the filter's compatibility with the purpose of the mission. Keeping people healthy. During this time, we began to work with the Peace Corp Volunteer assigned to the village. Her name was Hanna Jenkins. Hanna was from Vermont, but her Spanish was excellent. She was a strong-minded young woman who was trying to improve the lives of the women and children in the village.

Hanna loved the filter and saw how it reduced the time mothers had to spend finding water or using the little money they had to buy it. It was Hanna Jenkins who had the idea of trying to get the filter into as many homes as possible everywhere in rural Honduras. Now, each year we collaborate with Rotarians and other Honduran friends, to visit communities around the country with the ceramic filters.



We call it, Water From Clay, the Hanna Jenkins Project.

Did you know that 780 million people worldwide lack access to clean, safe drinking water? As a result, about 900 children under the age of 5 die every day. Will you help to save some of those children?

In observance of World Water Day, the Keystone International Rotary Club #7280 is organizing a Walk4Water event. We are asking you and your club to participate. Join with other Rotarians around the district and around the world and help to both educate others about the need for clean water, and to raise funds to combat the problem. We are providing you with two options to make it super easy for you to participate.



Walk 4 Water

**JOIN US on Saturday, March 20th
from 10:00 AM - 11:00AM**
Adams Twp. Park, 698 Valencia Rd, Mars, PA



Can you imagine having to walk several miles each day just to get water that your family needs to survive?

Visit our website to register or donate
KeystoneRotaryClub.org

- Family fun & educational experience - social distancing/masks required
- Virtual option on zoom available - register to receive the link
- Download a planning guide to host an event in your local school/community

Please consider a minimum \$25 donation to provide a water filter system for a family in Honduras



Rotary  **PEOPLE OF ACTION**

Option 1: Walk4Water with us at the Adams Township Community Park on Saturday, March 20th. To do this all you need to do is to go to www.KeystoneRotaryClub.org to register, and then show up at the park at 10am with your walking shoes on. We are asking for just one hour of your time. All Covid social distancing guidelines will be observed. Bring the entire family (including the dog if you like). Can you think of a more worthwhile way to get outdoors and enjoy the first day of Spring?

Option2: Plan a Walk4Water event in your own community. This can be on March 20th, or any other day that suits your club. Simply go to the same website, www.KeystoneRotaryClub.org, and download the Walk4Water planning guide. This includes step-by-step instructions for organizing the event, plus all the forms and sign templates you will need to promote and run your event. All we ask is that you send us a recap of what you're doing!

**Whichever option you choose,
You will be Making a Huge Difference
in the lives of many children!**

For more information, contact:
Michelle Bailey:
michellebailey110@gmail.com or
Gary Weston
glweston65@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP, HOW WE CAN THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX TO INCREASE OUR IMPACT

by Lisa Graff



Millennials and Generation X...WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? Born between mid-1960 to mid-1990, they are everywhere and they are the future of Rotary.

Although our 'traditional' legacy club model has served us well, membership in our District had shown slight growth before the pandemic but now it's rapidly backsliding. It's time for action and we have the tools to reverse the trend. The "Innovative Clubs Initiative" (ICI) provides a blueprint of club models which support creating a Rotary Club tailored to your potential members' needs and interests.

As a world-wide organization, Rotary values diversity and celebrates the contributions of its members. The ICI encourages us to reflect on membership and embrace diversity with its structure. Rotary and the Council of Legislations have opened the opportunity for potential new members to "do it their way" instead of "our way". It's okay if potential new members don't want to have a meal and hear a speaker at every meeting. It's okay if your innovative club doesn't meet every week or even meet at the same place at the same time. You get the drift because you know that Rotary is much more than a weekly meeting.

Let's take a quick look at the new club models.

Cause-Based Clubs are defined "as one whose members share a passion for a particular cause and whose service projects and activities center on that cause."

Satellite Clubs are sponsored by a legacy club and have the autonomy to structure the club based upon the members' wishes and desires. They attract members who have different interests and vocations, provide a more affordable club experience and provide an alternative meeting format.

Passport Clubs are flexible. They encourage members to visit other clubs and regularly participate in their activities, have relaxed attendance policies and offer a variety of meeting formats.

As humans we fear change yet we can't exist without it. As Rotarians, we love our clubs and are proud of our contributions to making the world a better place. Consider the potential. Rather than an innovative club replacing your legacy club, sponsoring an innovative club will enhance your overall membership. If prospective members are not joining or staying, then Rotary has already lost them. Why not adapt the Rotary experience to their interests and needs rather than searching (with limited success based on current membership numbers) for people who fit your legacy club model?

We, as Rotarians are PEOPLE OF ACTION and want to help those in need. There are many others in our communities that want to do the same. We, as ambassadors of Rotary, need to find a way to involve them, whether it be a "legacy club" or a new Innovative Club, to help fulfill their need to help.

If you would like more information on what you, or your club can do to increase membership, either in your current club or the development of a new "Innovative Club", please contact Lisa Graff at lisamgraff@gmail.com.



BUILD-A-CHAIR PROJECT

Looking for a great zoom program for your club meeting? Learn about our multi-club international initiative that is changing lives forever!

Phase #1 included changing the lives of 42 individuals (ages 6 to 76) in **Moshi, Tanzania** by funding locally manufactured personalized wheelchairs! Check out many of their stories on our website!

Phase #2 includes a great need for more funding for wheelchairs, education and transportation under the supervision of our Keystone Club Rotarian, Shedrack Domingo.

To schedule a presentation, contact Michelle Bailey michellebailey110@gmail.com



Rotary

Keystone E-Club
District #7280

www.keystonerotaryclub.org/build-a-chair

ROTARY WORKS

by Jack M. Cohen

In the age of Covid life, as we know, is very different. A lot of people have been laid off or terminated, and some would like to find a new opportunity to better themselves. I hope that all of you know about Rotary Works, a program through Zones 33-34 can help all Rotarians better themselves and be prepared to go out and find that perfect fit. Through this program you can pick up new ways to market yourself and better ways to communicate and sell yourself. This program has videos that can teach you how to be prepared and find what you want. Look at the Zone 33-34 website to view these videos.

There is another plus for Rotary Works, this is a great way to help others and get them to join Rotary. This service has coaches to talk with and get you ready to get the perfect job. There is also a grant program to help you with being ready to meet possible employers. Remember that qualified Rotarians that will schedule times to meet with you and council you to find what you are looking for. All Rotarians and Rotaractors can use this service at no charge.



Rotary has and will always be a service for others. As Service above Self is what we do and now we can help other Rotarians meet other people that can help them grow from this experience. I am sure we all know one or two People that can benefit from this great program. You can find out more information at www.Rotary.Works. Be the Rotarian that changed someone's life.

We have been requesting a donation from each District and all who can help. There is a link on the Rotary Works website where you can donate.



There is currently a vacancy in the Youth Exchange Program. We are looking for a Short Term Youth Exchange Chair/ Coordinator. This person would be responsible for interviewing candidates for the Short term (3-4 weeks) Exchange.

If you are interested, please connect with Nancy Clemente at nancy7280@gmail.com

POT "O" GOLD FUNDRAISER

@ SR Giant Eagle

Feb. 26-28

March 5-7

March 12-14

March 19-21

How does it work?



- For \$5 you get 2 chances to guess the amount of money in the pot
 - Select your local charity of choice to receive the Rotary profits from the fundraiser .
 - Winner will be posted and contacted on March 22
- *In case of a tie the money will be split.*

Rotary

Slippery Rock Club &
Boyers/Harrisville Satellite Club

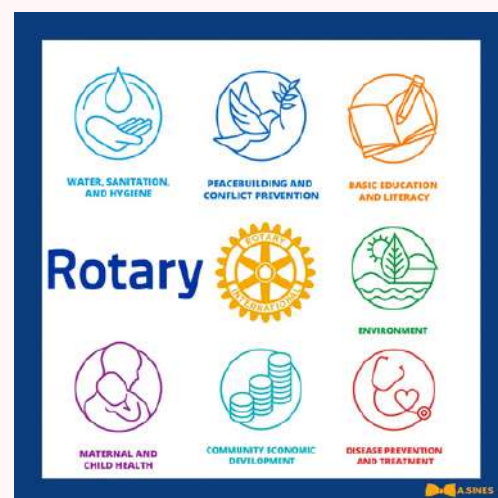


DISTRICT FOUNDATION UPDATE

by Ken Fleeson

District 7280 giving as of February 2021 YTD compared to February 2020 YTD

	2021	2020
Clubs who have given:	32 of 43 (74.4%)	33 of 43 (76.7%)
Number of Members:	1309	1301
<i>July 1 values</i>		
Annual Program Fund		
Giving Year to Date:	\$90,394.80	\$106,095.13
Annual Fund per Capita		
Giving Year to Date:	\$69.06	\$81.55



Clubs that have achieved or exceeded the \$100 per capita mark:

1.	Sharon	\$259.37
2.	Cranberry Twp.	\$197.64
3.	Butler	\$188.96
4.	Port Allegany	\$181.95
5.	Keystone	\$173.00
6.	Zelienople	\$163.00
7.	New Wilmington	\$161.84
8.	Greenville	\$146.88
9.	Slippery Rock	\$129.76
10.	Rich-Mar	\$120.97
11.	Clarion	\$117.65
12.	Bradford	\$110.25

Congratulations, and thank you, to the members of Bradford, Butler and Rich-Mar for achieving 100% giving to the Foundation.

The Rotary District 7280 Newsletter is published monthly for District Clubs. District News is also available on Facebook – Rotary District 7280, and at www.rotarydistrict7280.org. Email article suggestions to Ermira Kusari, Newsletter Editor, by the 25th of the month at ermirakusari@gmail.com