



**ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY**

226 S. Dysart Ave ♦ Springfield, MO 65802 ♦

Vol. 12 No. 12 June 2017

Rotary
District 6080



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District 6080 Monthly Newsletter

Notes from the Governor

It is with a tremendous amount of emotion that I write my last Governor notes. I feel a bit like a marathon runner who has been on a record pace, but only by seconds. The finish line is so close there is nothing left in reserve and yet finishing the race at this record pace is the difference between success and failure. This has been the experience of a lifetime. Being Governor has shaped my life in ways that I have yet to even appreciate, and I owe all of you a debt of gratitude. I have had the privilege of seeing things and gaining perspective that only a few have been afforded. I wish I had the words to give you the perspective that I have been afforded by serving you this year. It is truly humbling to see how many of you tirelessly go about the work of Rotary while people like me go around and take the bows for all your hard work. Words can't express how grateful I am for your service and your generosity. Please know that what you are doing matters. If the world is going to be a better place tomorrow, it will be because you made that happen.

I am so proud to be part of a District that doesn't just excel in the local mission of Rotary, you are making a huge difference in the international mission of Rotary as well. So much so that we have run out of money to do global grants. We now have global grants that are waiting to be funded. However, there is more good news, we are on the verge of a record breaking year for Foundation and Polio Plus giving, but only if we finish strong. The ability to fund all our local and global grants with Foundation dollars is hanging in the balance. It's all coming down to the last few days of the year. Let's finish this year like we started it. "Let's do this."

David Bixler





Rotary
District 6080



3 Days left
Don't Miss Out

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



YEARS OF DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

Governor Bixler is Matching Annual Fund Foundation Contributions

Any contribution over \$100 will be matched by the District Governor until June 30. Checks or credit card information must be received in the Bixler Corporation office by noon June 30 in order to receive a match.

Example: If you are \$250 away from your next Paul Harris Fellow, a contribution of \$125 will complete your next Paul Harris Fellow. Become a PHF for \$500.

To claim your match or find out how much more you need to get to the next Paul Harris Fellow level.

Call: 417-839-4254 or Email: 6080dg1617@bixlercorp.com



DISTRICT 6080 PANAMANIAN WATER PROJECT IS UNDER WAY



Nine Rotary clubs in District 6080 have received a global grant totaling \$71,259.00 to install 129 water filtration systems in 26 communities in the Darien Province of Panama and the project will include training for teachers, community leaders and families in installing, using and maintaining the filtration systems. This will provide an estimated 7,200 men, women and children with clean drinking water as nearby contaminated rivers are their only water sources. These families have no means of filtration and purification and the consumption of such water increases the risk of stomach diseases, which deteriorates the health of children and adults in the community.

This water project has been led by the Breakfast Rotary Club of Jefferson City along with Lake Ozark Breakfast, Warrensburg Noon, Laurie Sunrise Beach, Branson Hollister, Springfield Sunrise, Springfield Southeast, Columbia South and Columbia Sunrise Rotary Clubs contributed a total of \$20,370.00. Additionally, The Rotary Club of Panama City, who are our partners, contributed \$5000.00. More details to follow. Jim Wieberg, Jefferson City Breakfast Rotary.

Sunrise Rotary and Ashley House By Linda Leicht for the News Leader



Fourteen-year-old Selena holds onto a German shepherd mix named Grace that she has helped to foster in the eight months she has been at Ashley House. Like Grace, Selena is in foster care, and currently resides at Ashley House, a residential transitional program operated by Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services of Missouri. (Photo: Nathan Papes/News-Leader)

home. (The last names of children in foster care are not used.) Now 14, she has been in foster care for about two years and hopes to be able to return to her original foster family soon. She came to Ashley House because she was having trouble adjusting to life. There, she gets consistent supervision and help to overcome her fears and learn to succeed.

The dogs, all placed by Rescue One, provide some of those lessons.

"It shows us how to love," says Selena. "A dog needs love and so does a human. ... I didn't really know what love feels like until I came to Springfield. Now I am learning, learning how to talk about my emotions."



The girls at Ashley House pose for a photo after helping to put in a garden with volunteers from Sunrise Rotary. Because they know that kids in foster care cannot have their photos published, they figured out ways to keep their faces hidden. (Photo: G.R. Stovall)

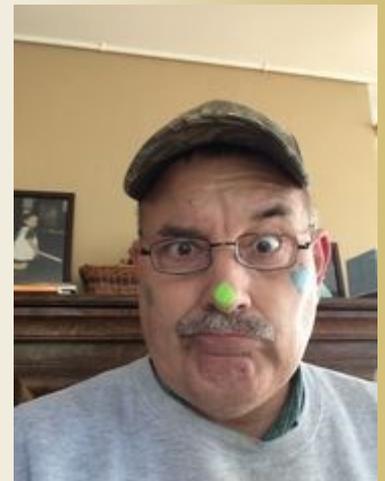
Grace, a German shepherd mix, nuzzles up to Selena's arm as the teenager runs through the names and personalities of the other nine dogs she has helped to foster in the eight months she has been at Ashley House.

There was Chewy, who finally "started to love people;" Homer, who was too aggressive; Truman, who was mellow and obedient; Junior, who "made you sparkle;" Meryl, who barked at everyone; Trisket, who was "gorgeous;" Callie, who learned to calm down; Harley, who had been on a chain for four months and was abused; and Mocha, who was a couch potato.

Grace had been kept in a kennel for months and at first isolated herself.

Like the other dogs, Grace "kind of went through the things we went through," Selena says as she pets the gentle dog.

Like Grace, Selena is in foster care, as are the other girls who call Ashley House



G.R. Stovall makes a funny face while painting at Ashley House with Sunrise Rotary. (Photo: G.R. Stovall)

Ashley House, a residential transitional program operated by Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services of Missouri, is a safe place to learn those lessons, but it takes a community of people who are willing to share themselves. Ellen Dowdy, foster coordinator with Rescue One, is one of those people. A former schoolteacher, she loves being part of a program that has such an important impact on the girls.

"Those dogs make a big impact on their hearts in a short time," she says. "I wish we could find a way to get them a fence."

G.R. Stovall learned about Ashley House, formerly known as the Regional Girls Shelter, when Sunrise Rotary took on the facility as a service program about five years ago. By the time the year ended, the group had done a lot of work on the building, had provided needed furniture, cleaned up the property and planted a garden with the girls.

Sunrise Rotary and Ashley House (Continued)

But Stovall and the other Rotarians never stopped caring about the girls and Ashley House. Once a month, a group of them visit for Cookies and Conversation.

"That's the kind of thing they don't have, a relationship," said Stovall.

Stovall has seen many girls come and go at Ashley House over the years and acknowledges that each has problems that are not easy to resolve.



Ann Calvin shows off some of the shelves of household items collected for the Giving Closet at Covenant Presbyterian Church. (Photo: Linda Leicht/For The News-Leader)

"These girls just haven't had a fair shake," he says. "I'm just hoping that one of those girls who goes through there will someday make a good decision because some crazy guy named G.R. said this or that."

Ann Calvin, another volunteer at Ashley House, knows personally about the impact volunteers, staff, and even dogs have on the girls who pass through Ashley House. Now a mother herself, Calvin spent six months in a transitional living program in Farmington when she was a teenager.

"My time there was invaluable," she says. "That time has got me through a lot of dark times in my life."

The most important lesson she learned: "It doesn't matter what the past is, you can overcome. ... I'm worth it."

Calvin not only volunteers her own time to Ashley House, she encourages others, including her church, to do the same. Covenant Presbyterian Church contributes to more than 20 organizations, but Ashley House has become a favorite. Besides donating financially, members of the church donate their time, and a new "Caring Closet" collects household items for girls aging out of foster care and living on their own.

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"Somebody stepped in and showed me how to survive," Calvin says. "How can I not do the same?"

It doesn't take any special skills, lots of money or even much time, she adds. "All they need is someone to come, maybe once a week, maybe for 10 minutes, someone investing time on a regular basis. ... You would be amazed what that does."

Even a small investment pays off in big returns.

"We are raising the next generation," says Alisa Griffiths, site director at Ashley House. "These are the future mothers. You want them to have choices, opportunity options, to be powerful and be leaders. ... That's the only way that you are going to create any change."



One of the girls at Ashley House wrote this message on her mirror, expressing her frustration and disappointment. (Photo: G.R. Stovall)

But the odds are stacked against these girls. Only 58 percent of youths in foster care will graduate from high school; fewer than 3 percent will earn a college degree; and 71 percent of girls in foster care will become pregnant by the time they are 21. They have higher rates of poverty, public assistance and criminal convictions. More than one in five will become homeless after they age out of foster care.

Sunrise Rotary and Ashley House (Continued)

Ashley House addresses those odds by focusing a therapeutic and education curriculum around five core areas — life skills and housing stability, vocational skills, academic success, social skills and self-care.



Sarah, 17, shows a poster of her favorite band, Black Veil Brides. "A lot of their songs have words that speak to me," she says. (Photo: Linda Leicht/For The News-Leader)

Sarah, 17, is proud to report that she has completed all five areas of the program. "I guess you can say I'm a success story," she says.

Sarah has been at Ashley House for a year. "I'm glad I came here," she says, "When I arrived, I had a lot of problems. I would blame everything on everyone else. Now I'm more mature than I ever thought I would be."

She has plans for her future. Although she nearly failed during her first two years of high school, since arriving at Ashley House she has turned all that around and is succeeding. In fact, she expects to have more than the required number of credits when she graduates next year. She is going to go to college, majoring in theater and secondary education, and become a high school theater teacher. She will be the first person in her family to get a college degree.

"I'm going to be successful," she says. "I'm not going to live paycheck to paycheck. I'm going to live on a salary."

Giving girls the tools to succeed is an important part of the programs at Ashley House, but more is needed, says Griffiths. She encourages people to be mentors, either one-on-one with a girl or speaking before the whole group to share their skills — from professionals to homemakers. Or just a little "girl talk" with one of the residents at a restaurant or coffee shop. Men are needed to do dad things, like fix a bike or cook out on the grill.

One organization that has stepped up to help is I Pour Life, a nonprofit dedicated to coaching marginalized youths in its LifeStrengths program. Located less than a block away from Ashley House, the girls are invited to participate at I Pour Life, and coaches often visit Ashley House.

In addition to basic skills such as applying for a job or using a checking account, the programs aim to give the girls self-confidence and "grittiness," says Jeremy Alvarez, LifeStrengths director. "You don't stop. You're going to fail ... lose jobs ... that's part of the journey," he explains. "We help them to see that success and failure are not on opposite ends of the journey. ... You're not a failure. You have just experienced failure."

Selena and Sarah and the other girls at Ashley House have all experienced failures, just like the foster dogs from Rescue One.

"We are a safe place to fail," says Griffiths. But with love and encouragement, they can also succeed.

Want to help?

To learn more out how you can help financially or as a volunteer at Ashley House, call Alisa Griffiths at 417-862-9634 or

email alsa.griffiths@pchas.org



Selena, 14, has learned "what loves feels like" since arriving at Ashley House about eight months ago. (Photo: Linda Leicht/For The News-Leader)



Ashley House is a residential transitional program operated by Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services of Missouri for foster girls. (Photo: Nathan Papes/News-Leader)



Columbia's newest Rotary turns 1

On Monday, the Columbia Evening Rotary celebrated its one-year anniversary at Charter Night. The group has around 30 members and has already put in over 200 service hours in 15 months. The group has contributed to projects ranging from landscaping at Boys and Girls Club to stringing barbed wire for the horse pastures at Coyote Hills.

In addition to service and raising money for PolioPlus — the international Rotary mission to eradicate polio — the group also raised \$3,250 for the Rotary Foundation, which supports service projects locally and around the world, and sponsored Emily Elsea, an incoming senior at Battle High School, to attend a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards leadership workshop this summer.

The Columbia Evening Rotary meets at 5:15 p.m. every Monday at Grand Cru, 2600 S. Providence Road. Once per month, the group has a service night in place of a meeting. For information about joining Columbia Evening Rotary, contact Membership Chair Clint Cooper at clint_cooper@hotmail.com.



Past President Mary Ropp, left, stand with Kristie Wolfe Beck, the newly installed president of the Columbia Evening Rotary, on June 5

Did we make a difference at Camp Wunderland?

You be the judge



We are finishing up the 3rd week of camp and I wanted to tell you how the challenge elements are going. This week is Prader Willi week. I went to help out with the clinic and I asked some of the kids what was their favorite thing to do at camp. One teenage boy said, "Well now it's the climbing wall!" The campers are having a terrific time climbing, swinging, walking on the cable, and wobbling!

I've attached some of my favorite pictures. There are more on the Wonderland Camp Face Book Page.



Please share these with the other Rotarian's. Thank you again.

Jill



Story for Sunrise about the India NID Trip - Ken Homan

The keynote speaker for Rotary District 6080 training in early 2016 was Ann Lee Hussey, a polio survivor and activist for Rotary's polio eradication efforts. I listened with interest to her story and plea that all Rotarians understand what an incredible feat we have accomplished over the past 3 and a half decades to bring this horrible disease to the edge of extinction and how we, as the successors to those original Rotary warriors, must never forget and never let up until that battle is won.

I connected with Howard Tours in Oakland, California who have been conducting Rotary tours for many years, including over 20 National Immunization Days (NID) to India. I left on March 25, 2017 to join the rest of our group at Newark Airport for the 14 hour flight to Delhi, India to begin our trip.

The first few days were filled taking in the "Golden Triangle" region of northern India, which is rich in history. Visiting the Taj Mahal, palaces, forts, and traveling the countryside added an understanding and appreciation for India and its people.

Over the course of the next 3 days we exchanged banners with four Rotary Clubs who showed us projects they were doing, helped us with understanding the Indian culture, and the place that Rotary holds in Indian culture. With 130,000 members, Rotary supports some extraordinary humanitarian efforts. We witnessed first-hand the Jaipur Limb Factory, St. Stephens Hospital for polio corrective surgery, Kusumpur Pahari elementary school, and a vocational training facility in one of Delhi's ghettos.

The National Immunization Day (NID) took place on Sunday, April 2nd. In India alone, a force of around 2.2 million volunteers and health workers from around the world gathered to run over 700,000 booths and administer oral immunizations, "two drops of life". These immunizations are given to about 157 million children under the age of 5! That day, we administered the drops to 192 children. A small impact in the scheme of things, but together we, all of India was reached in a single day!

Mop-up activities started the next day. In small groups accompanied by a health worker, we went in to the community of shelters that these people call home. In these "clusters" we searched for kids, checking to see if their pinky fingers were marked as a sign they had received the immunization. We were welcomed into these communities. The children followed us, curious about what we had in our bag of goodies to hand out. The parents were glad that, because of our efforts, they could go one more year free from the worry that their little ones would contract that dreaded disease that had crippled so many in their communities in generations past.

What did this trip mean to us? On the world stage, Rotary accomplishes what no political organization can do, cutting through social and political barriers and bringing differing factions together. To see a country of 1.3 billion coming together on this one day, across many cultures is amazing. And to think this is also going on in Nigeria, in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, all across the developing world is even more incredible. I have always been a proud Rotarian, but understanding the international scope of the organization pushes beyond simple pride to the point of feeling an obligation to those who came before me to do what I can to exercise the power of this international organization. The eradication of Polio will be a monumental accomplishment, but I am confident it will not be our last great accomplishment.



Sunrise Rotary Lends Hand to Habitat for Humanity

On a late February morning, Sunrise Rotary donated their time and efforts to Habitat for Humanity. Members of the rotary group met at a house in North Springfield to demo



an existing sidewalk and set the frame for concrete to be poured to create a new sidewalk. Along with repairing the sidewalk, members of Sunrise



Rotary also cleaned and repaired gutters to ensure proper water flow before the upcoming spring.

before the upcoming spring.

The owner of the home acts as the caretaker of her elderly mother who lives across the street. Her mother visited often and had a hard time getting her wheelchair up and down the original sidewalk due to it being in such bad shape. The new sidewalk will allow safer access for the homeowner's mother and guests.



Thanks to the support of Sunrise

Rotary of Springfield,

Habitat for Humanity could offer much needed improvements to the home.





Rotary Club of Warrensburg, MO

THANK YOU ROTARY CLUBS of DISTRICT 6080

Huge Success Story For
Accessible Equipment at Wonderland Camp
Rotary Play Ground

Rotary Clubs That Matched Their District Simplified Grant

Rotary Club

Columbia South
Columbia-Sunrise Southwest
Fulton
Jefferson City Breakfast
Jefferson City West
Lake Ozark *
Lake Ozark Daybreak *
Laurie-Sunrise Beach *
Rolla Breakfast
Warrensburg
Warrensburg Early Bird

* Power of 3

Naming Rights

Tree Top Bridge
Merry Go Round
Wobbly Bridge

Musical Stand

*Tree Climb

Climbing Wall

Other Contributions

Private
Torch Bearer Sorority
Boonville
Branson Daybreakers
Jefferson City Evening
Nixa
Rolla
Springfield Sunrise
Springfield Metro
Willow Springs

Chamberlain's Giant Swing

Save The Date

May 7th for Dedication Ceremony



Rotary Interact— Creating Roots for Rotary in High School

Springfield Catholic Rotary Interact (SCRI) was established in 2011 with 15 students willing to listen to a 15-20 minute discussion about making a difference in their community and their world.

Susan Haralson and Doug Twigger of Sunrise Rotary attended the Rotary International Conference and came home “fired up about Interact”. They attended a session and heard young people discussing the great volunteer efforts they were engaged in through Rotary Interact.

Rotary Interact instills the knowledge of what being a Rotarian really is...helping others, community giving and reaching across continents to extend a helping hand. A true worldwide vision of how they can make a difference. The first 15 students were amazed to learn Rotary took on the challenge to eradicate polio from the face of the earth...and after nearly 30 years of fundraising and delivering vaccinations to children across the world, only 5 cases of polio were reported in 2016...we’ve almost accomplished this dream. We still have work to do but by working together, we’re almost there.

Interact members Test all Rotarians es; how it relates to ing and by using the change lives. One ans attend every Stilley, New Genera-Rotary, has led SCRI memorable experi- volved.



Each year SCRI Their volunteer efforts and fund raising have changed too. They have adopted children to support internationally, donated to polio plus, written cards and letters of encouragement to soldiers deployed fighting for our freedom. Locally, they support Rare Breed, Ashley House, Convoy of Hope, MDA and many other organizations through volunteer hours as well as financial assistance.

This year, SCRI boasts membership of 100+...A true testament of the hard work and continued efforts in promoting their club to fellow school mates, incoming freshmen and expanding their efforts to educate parents as well. Springfield Catholic High School principal and teachers provide dedication and support to SCRI which contributes to their success.

Since the creation of SCRI, they have been recipients of the Rotary District Presidential Award each year in recognition of their tremendous achievements and hope to be recognized again in 2017. They continue to be energized, compassionate and dedicated to the continued growth and success of their club.

The Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise members are extremely proud of SCRI and their many accomplishments. Each year SCRI members are invited to attend Sunrise breakfast meeting, starting at 7 am, and this year 56 of the SCRI members boarded a bus at 6:30 am to arrive for breakfast and attend our meeting. All four SCRI officers took time to present during the meeting to bring Sunrise members up to date on their efforts and successes of the 2016-17 school-year.

learn about the 4 Way use in their daily practice every day decision making and by using the 4Way Test we can or more Sunrise Rotary-Interact meeting. Jimmy Stille is the Rotations Chair for Sunrise and has led SCRI officers in creating a difference for all students in-

membership has grown.



Foreign Exchange Student becomes a Paul Harris Fellow

When you think of the great people that have travelled from Italy to the United States, another shining example is one of the students that travelled to Springfield through Rotary Youth Exchange.

Sofia T. came to Springfield in early August 2016 from a large city in northern Italy to live with two local host families, attend high school, and absorb as much of the life, experiences and cultures of our community, as well as other parts of the United States.

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is a Rotary International student exchange program for students in secondary school. Since 1929, Rotary International has sent young people around the globe to experience new cultures. Currently, about 9,000 students are sponsored by Rotary clubs every year. Typically, students are sent to another country for a



year-long stay, generally living with multiple host families during the year and being expected to perform daily tasks within the household as well as attend school in the host country.



For Sofia, becoming a part of her host families was easy. She now has three sets of "parents", new sisters and a little

brother that have become as much a part of her family as she became part of theirs. In the following months, Sofia experienced American cuisine (she had never encountered peanut butter or baked beans), culture - incredibly friendly people and huge cars, high school, making friends, joining the tennis and swim teams, and activities such as;



travelling, Cardinal ball games, heading to the lake, Silver Dollar City, flying over the Ozark countryside, going to the prom and graduation! Sofia also became a regular attending member of our 7:00 am Sunrise Rotary. (she is really not an early morning person) This led to a remarkable moment of her visit was when members of Sunrise Rotary contributed funds to have Sofia become a Paul Harris Fellow.

We all connected with that sparkling personality that picked us up on Wednesday mornings and enjoyed her grace and spirit. Thank you Sophia! We are so glad to be a special part of your journey.



Rob Hulstra May 19, 2017