



Lend a Hand

Rotary International District 6800

Governor's Newsletter

January 2004

--Assistant Governors--

MARSHA BALLARD
Aberdeen

JOHNNY CARSON
Batesville

JACK CREELY
Fulton

JO ANN DENLEY
Bruce

BETTY JO DULANEY
Robinsonville

KEITH FULCHER
Cleveland

TOM MICHAEL
Memphis Central

KING ROGERS
Memphis East

DICK WOOD
Corinth

--District Governor--

KENNETH BENDER
100 Clubview Road
Oxford, MS 38655
662-234-6744

Rotary6800@watervalley.net

--District and RI Websites--

www.watervalley.net/users/rotary6800
www.rotary.org

--District Secretary--

DON BAKER

P.O. Box 186, Amory MS 38821

O- 662-256-3991

R- 663-256-3286

F- 662-256-3991

rotary68@bellsouth.net

January is Rotary Awareness Month. What better way of becoming aware of the great things that are being done in Rotary than a look at the greatest international project that has co vfgv vfgvdme out of District 6800. Below is an article written by David Mullens from the Rotary Club of Clarksdale. KRB

HOW AN INDIVIDUAL ROTARIAN MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MANY

-- A look at the dream, the action, and the result as told by David Mullens, a Member of the Rotary Club of Clarksdale. Here is his story - - - -

In 1984 I heard a Presbyterian minister, Andy Toth, speak at both Rotary and the church in Clarksdale. The talk was about Manuel and Marsha Velasquez and a program named Happy Face in Celaya, Mexico. Marsha, a native of Valdosta, GA, was teaching in a small village east of Acapulco when she met Manuel. Manuel is a plastic surgeon with a heart for children, especially those with cleft lips and palate problems. Marsha and Manuel married in Acapulco, and started Happy Face as a Christian ministry as an offshoot of his work as a plastic surgeon.

I was set me on fire by Andy Toth's talks. I had farmed in Tampico, Mexico for the previous 20 years and was a pilot with a private plane. I immediately called Manuel. I did not know whether to expect English or Spanish (my Spanish was poor.) He spoke fluent English and invited me to Celaya. Within days I flew to Celaya. I fell in love with the Velasquez family and Happy face.

I guess that I talked about it to Rotarian friends and our club adopted same. As you may know our district has done much the same. I then traveled to Fresno, CA to discuss Happy Face with the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama joined in being an early and strong supporter of Happy Face. Members of the Velasquez family are coming to Decatur in the spring. They have told me that they can come to Clarksdale an, perhaps other areas of our district as well.

Cleft lips and palates are more prevalent in Mexico than here in the United States. The victim cannot swallow correctly at all, and children, because of unattractive lips are withdrawn from society. When the physician corrects these ugly clefts, it is the thrill of a lifetime. In this clinic a patient does not have to have money, just the need.

Happy Face is a clinic of medical doctors, dentist, speech therapist, nurses, orthodontist, and other medical personnel to perform all the functions as needed. The beauty of Happy Face is that the organization stays with patients for several years as necessary to complete the case. The Velasquez's have never received any remuneration for services in twenty years. Some of the other staff are paid nominally; some volunteer weekly or on a regular basis.

For me the great event in Rotary career was the May, 1997 trip to Celaya for Happy Face. I flew my Cessna and Ewing Carruthers from the Rotary Club of Memphis flew a twin engine Beach to Celaya. Together they carried an additional six passengers--Jane Carruthers, then DG William Dulaney, PDG John Bennett, PDG Janice Trawick, and Memphis Rotarians Will Gotten and James McClure.

We spent several days in Celaya, both being entertained and being exposed to the clinic, patients, and staff. The highlight would be a soybean party put on by the parents and children. Soybeans were used in all he dishes served: hors d'oeuvres, milk, cookies, "hamburgers," and other food items.

I shall never forget PDG Dulaney with all those kids at the soy bean party. He brought caps for all the kids. Guess what? He is ready to go back!

Because I no longer fly, my involvement with Happy Face has slowed down. We need to get involvement within District 6800 and its clubs moving once again--it is truly a great humanitarian project, one that provides an opportunity to help others become a part of the real world once again

REMINDER--REMINDER--REMINDER

This year's Rotary Youth Leadership Conference is scheduled for March 25-- 28. It is not too early to begin selecting the students you'll be sending. It will once again be held at the Whispering Woods Conference Center in Olive Branch. Make plans to send as many students as possible. Any questions or needs? Call.

[O. W. Smith, Chairman, Rotary Youth Leadership Conference, 901-388-8333]

March 19 -- 20
March 25 -- 28
April 30 -- May 1

President Elect Training Session
Rotary Youth Leadership Conference
District 6800 Conference

Tupelo
Olive Branch
Oxford

JANUARY IS
ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH



DISTRICT STATISTICS DECEMBER 2003

CLUB	# 12/1	# MEET	% ATTND	[+/-]	# 12/31
Aberdeen	61	4	70		61
Amory	67	3	72	-1	66
Baldwyn	37	3	69	-2	35
Bartlett-Cordova	41	3	70	+3	44
Batesville	93	3	56		93
Booneville	48	3	72	-2	46
Bruce	28	3	81		28
Calhoun City	41	3	60		41
Charleston	22	4	54		22
Clarksdale	87	2	54	-1	86
Cleveland	54	3	60	-2	52
Collierville	54	5	72	+1	55
Como	18	3	50		18
Corinth	90	2	59		90
Drew	11	4	73		11
Fulton	35	2	61		35
Germantown	45	3	71		45
Grenada	51	3	69		51
Hernando	28	2	65		28
Holly Springs	44	3	72		44
Houston	21	5	65		21
Iuka	32	3	70		32
Memphis	352	3	51	+5	357
Memphis-Central	46	3	64		46
Memphis-East	142	3	63	+1	143
New Albany	55	3	64		55
Olive Branch	62	3	71	-5	57
Oxford	140	3	52	+3	143
Pontotoc	49	4	62		49
Quitman County	20	3	72		20
Ripley	68	3	82	-1	67
Robinsonville	35	3	52	+2	37
Ruleville	12	3	50		12
Sardis	17	3	68	-1	16
Senatobia	56	3	64		56
Southaven	53	3	49	-2	51
Sumner	32	3	62		32
Tunica	41	3	47	+4	45
Tupelo	161	3	83	+2	163
Water Valley	24	2	84		24
West Point	74	3	65		74
District 6/30/03		2434		+4	
District 12/31/03		2451			

>> TOP FOUR GIVERS--PER CLUB- MEMBER--JULY-NOVEMBER <<
 Corrected Data July-November. July-December not available at this time
 Robinsonville \$111.67|Tupelo 399.14|Drew \$93.18|Memphis Central \$68.18

We Still Have a task to do

When Captain Cook set out in search of the North Pole, one of the team members was Dr. Solander, a naturalist. The trip was made in the depth of winter, and a cold south wind with driving snow caught the party of explorers while they were some distance from camp. Dr. Solander gravely told them, "I've had some experience of this in my own country, but you have none. Now, attend to my advice, for upon it depends your lives. We must resolutely set our faces to get back to camp, and with never a stop, for the danger lies in falling asleep."

To the team leader he said, "I warn you . . . the men, as their blood grows cold, will ask to be allowed to rest. Do not permit it for a moment — urge them — with blows, with the bayonet, if necessary. Remember, the wish to stop is the first symptom of the blood refusing to circulate. To yield to it is death." The party kept moving until all arrived safely at the camp. All had heard, and heeded, Dr. Solander's warning.

Last year our District had an unprecedented year in giving to The Rotary Foundation. Although \$86,898 of the total \$195,092 given was restricted to the Polio Eradication Fund

DISTRICT CONFERENCE APRIL 30-MAY 1

Please announce dates of the District Conference. The plenary sessions and meals will be held in the *spectacular* new Ford Performing Arts Center (similar to the New York Lincoln Center and the Washington Kennedy Center) located on the Ole Miss campus.

We are truly pleased to have Senator Thad Cochran, a former Ambassadorial Scholar, speaking at the Saturday noon luncheon. He will relate what this experience has meant to him in his career.

Spouses are scheduled to visit "Strawberry Plains," the Mississippi headquarters of the national Audubon Society; they will receive a guided tour of this renowned wildlife sanctuary, the mansion itself, and a guided bus tour to see Holly Springs antebellum homes.

[John and Ruth Kloha, Conference chairs]

ELECTION IS OVER AND INFORMATION IS OVERDUE

If you have sent in the information, great. Otherwise

SEND INFORMATION ON OFFICERS TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL,
 TO DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT DICK WIELAND,
 AND TO DISTRICT GOVERNOR KENNETH BENDER

AND BE CERTAIN TO INCLUDE DISTRICT SECRETARY DON BAKER

Send to RI using the envelope provided. Send to the others either by USPS (addresses in the directory) or email to (<rwieland@midsouth.rr.com>, <cibender@olemiss.edu>, <rotary68@bellsouth.net>



PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING SESSION FOR FOR INCOMING PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20 AT TUPELO. ALL NEW PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND!

Campaign (PEFC), we know that if we can do it once, we can do it again. IF we don't, the very life of our District depends on it.

In 2004-05, DGE Dick Wieland will have only \$50,506 to be used for all our SHARE projects. As we always commit to two Ambassadorial Scholarships at \$25,000 each, there will be no money for humanitarian grants, District Simplified Grants, or Polio Eradication. We have 6 more months of this Rotary year to give so that our District will not only survive but thrive. Remember, 50% of what we give comes back for District-designated projects in 2006-07 and 50% will be used for GSE and Matching Grants. **Don't stop! Give at the same level you did last year!** While the commitment to PEFC is over (except for payment of pledges), your Club's commitment to annual giving is not. This year's goal is Every Rotarian, Every Year \$100. Let me know how I can help you achieve this!

Janice Trawick (Tupelo)
 D6800 Foundation Chair
 Zone 30 Annual Programs Fund Strategic Advisor



A REMINDER TO ROTARIANS OF THE PRESSING NEEDS AND SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS IN THE WORLD

If we could shrink the Earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look like this:

- There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the western hemisphere, and 8 Africans;
- 51 would be female; 49 male;
- 50% of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people--all 6 would be US citizens;
- 70 would be non-white; 30 white;
- 80 would live in substandard housing;
- 70 would be Non-Christian; 30 Christian;
- 70 would be unable to read;
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition;
- 1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth;
- 1 would have a college education.

When one considers our world from such an incredibly compressed perspective, the need for tolerance and understanding becomes glaringly

apparent.