



## Rotarians help tornado victims rebuild Rotary International News

22 May 2007

Rotary District 5690, which covers Kansas and parts of Oklahoma, USA, and the local Rotary club are helping the victims of a 4 May tornado that killed nine people and damaged rural towns.

The tornado demolished the town of Greensburg, Kansas. Nearby towns also suffered damage. It's estimated that more than 1,700 people were affected by this disaster, which caused numerous injuries, and destroyed homes, schools, and the local hospital.

Local Rotarians already have been busy helping the community. They made the local high school graduation possible by organizing the event, providing security, and hosting the reception.

District 5690 is collecting funds to help the people of Greensburg and the surrounding communities. It hopes to provide help with immediate needs, including temporary housing, equipment for cleaning up, donations of books and clothing, as well as long-term recovery.

Learn how to make a contribution or donate items through District 5690. The Rotary Club of Greensburg will determine how contributions should be used to best meet the area's most essential needs.

*Dick*



Dear fellow Rotarians,

When I speak before a Rotarian audience, I often find myself quoting the words of others. And although the quotations I use rarely come from Rotary sources, they speak to the universal lessons of Rotary and to our tasks as Rotarians. Khalil Gibran wasn't thinking of Rotary when he wrote: "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Yet these are perfect words to apply to the pleasure we experience in giving to our Rotary Foundation and doing our humanitarian work as Rotarians.

I frequently come across a quotation from Eleanor Roosevelt, who said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." That surely is so, for the world needs people of vision, people who are capable of dreaming dreams. We see in Rotary day after day how these dreams influence the things we do, for it is not enough just to dream: You must put your dreams into action.

Last year in Copenhagen, Denmark, I began a speech by quoting from the sundial that stands outside Union Station by Alameda Street in Los Angeles, a historic part of that city. The inscription on the sundial reads, Vision to see, faith to believe, courage to do. That line struck me as a perfect representation of what is required of us to be successful in Rotary. We must see the needs around us, believe we can make a difference, and step forward to act.

Over and over throughout this year, Lorna and I have seen Rotarians who have done all of this. They have had the vision to see – to look at their community and to look even more broadly at the global village. But that vision alone is not enough. It is essential that we as Rotarians have the faith to believe we can make a difference. We see so many statistics that horrify us: how many are hungry, how many are illiterate, how many are denied access to clean water and sanitation. It would be so easy to say these problems are too great for us to attempt to solve.

But as Rotarians, we do not walk away from these tremendous challenges. Not only do we have that faith to believe we can make a difference, we have the courage to do. That courage is the difference between dreaming great dreams and putting them into action.

In all our travels this year, Lorna and I have seen projects that, one by one, are changing the world. They are succeeding because Rotarians everywhere are acting on their courage to do. I have always been proud to be a Rotarian, but as I see more and more of what Rotary can accomplish, I am ever more honored to be a member of the first and the greatest service club in the world.

W.B. (Bill) Boyd  
President, Rotary International



## Show off your Rotary Park

**By Brian Barstead**

DISTRICT 6460 PUBLIC RELATIONS

Many clubs in the area have sponsored parks in their towns over the years. With Spring and Summer upon us, I thought it would be fun to use the 4-Way Today to show off your local Rotary Park or other efforts by your clubs to

support your local community parks, youth sports, other activities. During the summer, please send me photos and short articles of outdoor events or your local Rotary Park and I'll put them in the paper.

This month, we feature the Abingdon Rotary Park. Photos and informa-

tion were recently submitted by George Owen, President of the Abingdon club. The Rotary Park in Abingdon has been wholly maintained by its Rotary Club for many years. In 1969, the club built a park shelter, lights and picnic tables on land owned by



See **Park** on page 2

# PARKS

■ From page 1

the city. The park also includes a playground. The shelter was updated in 2002. Over the years, memorial benches and tables have been added honoring rotarians in the club.

In addition to their park investment, the Abingdon Club bought street signs for the entire community in 1996. In recognition for their efforts,



the Abingdon City Council named the street on the park's east side Rotary Drive.

The club's main fund raiser is an annual food stand at the Abingdon Fall Festival, as well as other



events.

Send pictures of your town's Rotary Park or outdoor efforts to me at the 4-

Way Today and I'll be happy to give you a plug!

## Local Ambassadorial Scholar a big Hit in Wales

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

This month I am attaching the letter or Email I received from the hosting District in Wales for our Ambassadorial Scholar Rachel Rogers. This is a great message about the individual the District Committee selected which was chaired by David McDonald of Galesburg. Governor Gerry Heaslip message to us is precisely the message we thought we would receive when Ms. Rogers was selected. Congratulations are extended to Rachel and to the committee for an outstanding effort on behalf of District 6460.

Dick Robinson,  
Governor  
District 6460



Good afternoon Richard.

First - greetings from District 1180.

Just a note to let you know what a wonderful Ambassadorial Scholar you sent to District 1180. It has been a great pleasure for us to host Rachel Rogers and we will be sorry when she returns to your District. She has been excellent in every way. She has spoken to many of our clubs and her presentations have been very interesting and informative and our members

have certainly learnt a lot about your part of the world.

She has charmed everyone she has met and has been a credit to herself, her family, your District and the USA and to the Ambassadorial Scholarship Programme.

My best wishes - perhaps we will bump into each other in Salt Lake City at the Convention.

Gerry Heaslip  
Governor  
District 1180

**Q:** Why doesn't Rotary offer postgraduate educational scholarship opportunities specifically designed for Rotarians? Nearly all educational opportunities prohibit Rotarians from participating. What is the philosophy behind this?

**A:** The primary reason for prohibiting Rotarians from applying for Rotary Foundation scholarships is to exemplify Rotary's ideal of service. The Trustees agreed many years ago that the Foundation exists to benefit non-Rotarians. Selecting Rotarians to receive the awards wouldn't be in harmony with The Four-Way Test. Given a pool of applicants from the community, selecting candidates who are perceived as

favoritism — that is, not fair or beneficial to all concerned — and would contradict Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. A few other groups, such as Rotary International employees, are also excluded. (The others are mentioned in The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies, section 7.030.)

Legal concerns are another reason. A tax-exempt organization can't be operated for the benefit of its members. If the Foundation awarded scholarships to Rotarians, it could jeopardize its tax-exempt status.

President Boyd would like to hear your questions. Please e-mail him (website@rotary.org), and he will try to respond in an upcoming edition of Interactive.

64way Today



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# Collinsville Club Distributes Dictionaries to 3rd Graders

By Sallie Jo Burton

DISTRICT 6460 PUBLIC RELATIONS

"I will keep the dictionary all the way to college. It will help me learn lots of words. And I can pass it on to my kids," wrote Summit School third grader Devin Williams after receiving a dictionary recently from the Collinsville Rotary Club.

Many other thank you notes have been sent to the Rotarians from third-grade students in public and private schools throughout Collinsville Community Unit School District No.10.

Julie Haake, Twin Echo School principal and president of the Collinsville Rotary Club, stated in a letter to the parents of the third graders that "A dictionary is perhaps the first and most powerful resource tool a child should own. Its usefulness goes beyond the spellings, pronunciations and definitions it lists. Is is a companion for solving problems that arise as a child develops his or her reading, writing and creative thinking abilities."

A total of 576 students received the Webster Dictionary for Students in an attempt to aid third-grade teachers in their goal to see all their students leave at the end of the year as good writers, active readers and creative thinkers, Haake said.

Twin Echo School student Xavier Anthony



Learning is fun - Twin Echo School third graders from left, Xavier Anthony, Persie Carter and Brian Simmons, are shown how to use a dictionary by principal Julie Haake. All third-grade students in public and private schools located in the Collinsville school district recently received dictionaries from the Collinsville Rotary Club.

said the first word he looked up was "odd." He is also using his new dictionary to look up words he picks up from games he plays.

Persie Carter said she has looked up words she didn't know the meaning of, such as "pink" and "angel."

Brian Simmons, another Twin Echo student, said he liked looking at the maps in the back of the book. The first word he recalls he looked us was "brain."

The dictionaries

were distributed by Collinsville Rotary Club members to Caseyville, Hollywood Heights, Jefferson, Kreitner, Maryville, Renfro, Summit, Twin Echo and Webster schools and to Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Cross Lutheran, Collinsville Christian Academy and SS. Peter and Paul Catholic schools in Collinsville and St. John Neumann Catholic School in Maryville.

Haake said the dictionary project was

made possible through proceeds from the organization's orange sale during the holidays. Another fund raiser, a Trivia Night, will be held on March 10 at St. John

Neumann School. More information about this event can be obtained by calling Kerroll Hays at 345-9942.

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Arch Klumph  
Visionary of The Rotary Foundation

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# Ambulance Arrives in Argentina

By Zanini Gruas  
ROTARIAN FROM ARGENTINA

Hello to all.

Here we are, back from all the wonderful time we had on Friday when we went to Buenos Aires to receive the ambulance.

First of all, I'll explain the pictures.

In the first one, Captain Schneider is speaking with Governor Caroley and Pedro.

Second I'll explain in the order they are standing:



Griselda Bosio, president of our Fire department, Sam Valencia from the U.S.A. government who lives in B.A. and was in charge of the mission to bring the ambulance and other donations for other institutions. Pedro. The American Ambassador in Argentina: Mr. Wayne. Mr. Roberto Bosio, Griseldas husband.

Governor Caroley.

And of course, the ambulance.

The last picture is in the evening when



we were leaving the ship after the cocktail/reception. We were received at 2 in the afternoon by the Captain and there was a brief ceremony where the captain spoke, the American Ambassador and a lady that received a donation from U.S.A.

After that, we were invited to make a tour of the ship. We visited every corner, were allowed to take as many pictures as we wanted to and had some delicious chocolate cookies.

Everybody was wonderful and we had a great time seeing everything.

At 7 in the evening we went back for the cocktail.

Again we were received by the Captain and members of the crew. We ate VERY American food, which I thought was delicious. Again, the Captain and the Ambassador spoke and this time there

was a representative of the Argentine Government. There were over 300 guests.

I can't say how grateful we felt and how honored to be received in this way by your Navy. The captain especially spoke with us in two occasions and also another chief of the mission here in Argentina, Mr. Napoli. Sam Valencia was very busy, but he also had some minutes for us.

The experience I repeat, was marvelous. We shall remember it as long as we live.

behalf of the fire fighters, but we believe everything will be OK.

We briefly saw what was inside the ambulance, we couldn't unpack a single box, but what we saw made our hearts jump.

Once more, we could prove the wonder of Rotary, how from a visit from a GSE, all this wonderful dream came true.

We must thank Rotary, all the people that worked in this and ask to be forgiven if we insisted on some things.

Thanks again for helping the Rotary Wheel to keep turning.



Both Mr. Napoli and Mr. Valencia said they would come to Las Parejas for the official donation of the ambulance.

All our best regards to all.

Elba and Pedro Zanini.

We shall advise you when we finally bring the ambulance to Las Parejas which will be in about two weeks. There is some paperwork to be finished on

Rotary Club Las Parejas.

Argentina.

## Bushnell Dentist David Jameson receives Herbert Taylor Award

Dr. Jameson came to Bushnell and opened his office for General dentistry on Nov. 1, 1979. It was Don Lantz who invited him to join Rotary shortly thereafter. Rotary turned out to be a natural fit for Dave. He had been living by the 4-way Test for many years before becoming a Rotarian.

Dr. Jameson has had the opportunity to exhibit his fairness and good

will in two careers. His 37 years in the United States Navy allowed him to be in positions of leadership where truth and fairness are brought to task. In all of his travels with the Navy his best trips were three tours to Alaska where he and his unit provided humanitarian dental/medical care for the native Americans. What better way to build good will and friendships.

Since 2001 Dr. Jameson has been a participating dentist for Donated Dental Services, a program of the National Foundation of Dentistry for the handicapped. This program has provided over \$1 million in services by Illinois Dentists last year. He is proud that he has been able to bring these patients back to good oral health.



# The United Way of Adams County and The Quincy Rotary Club names **Darrell Peacher** the **2007 Recipient of the Joe Bonansinga Community Service Award**



Driven by a vision that it is important to recognize individuals whose service to the community is exceptional and constant, United Way of Adams County announced ten years ago the creation of an annual award for an individual who has exemplified the highest standards of community service. This award was named for the first recipient, the late Joe Bonansinga, who was more commonly known as "Mr. Quincy" and was a life-long Rotarian.

This year the United Way of Adams County, in conjunction with Quincy Rotary Club, named Darrell Peacher the recipient of the 2007 Joe Bonansinga Community Service Award. Darrell's perfect attendance as a member of Rotary since 1946 makes it easy to find him Tuesday at the weekly noon meeting in Tony's East Room. Darrell has an astonishing career of volunteerism for the community of Quincy. If

you have been around Quincy for long you have probably seen Darrell in one of his many roles. He spends time helping others in programs at Adams County RSVP, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Illinois Employment Training Center, St. Francis Solanus Church, Quincy Rotary Club, Good Samaritan Home, Western Illinois Center for Independent Living and Blessing Hospital.

United Way Board President and fellow Rotarian Larry Shepherd presented Darrell with the award stating "Darrell's service to our community happens on a daily even hourly schedule. He has given his time to help the disadvantaged youth, illiterate adults, the elderly, the disabled and our country's veterans."

Darrell was nominated for the award by Mary Muehlenfeld for one of his most important community service

roles at Big Brother Big Sister. In her nomination letter she commented that "While many give money to causes, Darrell gives what is priceless, his time and genuine desire to help his fellow mankind. Darrell gives unselfishly, without expecting recog-

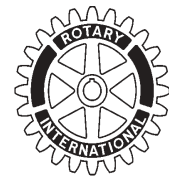
nition or reward. His reward is intrinsic."

"Without volunteers like Darrell, our community would look very different" said Executive Director for United Way of Adams County Cheryl Waterman. "Every day there's a force of hundreds of volunteers in

our schools, hospital, churches, and many organizations adding incredible value and quality to our lives here in Adams County. Darrell is a true example of someone that cares about the community."

## 6460

Membership & Attendance:  
Ordered by: Club Name



Abingdon	4 of 4	80.80	6	78	5	19	22	+3
Aledo	3 of 3	67.00	=20	75	9	7	7	-
Alton-Godfrey	4 of 4	66.90	22	61	27	-	114	-
Bethalto Illinois	4 of 4	67.57	19	72	15	40	37	-3
Cambridge	4 of 4	69.56	16	69	19	22	23	+1
Collinsville	4 of 0	61.00	=27	61	29	26	29	+3
Delavan	4 of 4	82.00	3	77	6	23	23	-
East Alton, IL	4 of 4	61.21	=27	65	23	33	34	+1
East Peoria	4 of 4	50.68	37	55	37	29	37	+8
Edwardsville	4 of 4	74.99	11	75	=7	-	140	-
Farmington	4 of 4	55.08	35	53	38	45	34	-11
Galesburg Sunrise	4 of 4	68.75	17	71	16	50	48	-2
Galesburg, IL	3 of 4	76.97	9	68	21	-	78	-
Galva	5 of 5	60.00	=30	57	33	19	15	-4
Granite City	4 of 4	55.75	34	57	32	76	69	-7
Havana	5 of 5	67.00	=20	69	18	41	40	-1
Highland	4 of 4	70.70	15	74	11	71	78	+7
Jacksonville	4 of 4	62.00	=24	55	36	109	106	-3
Jacksonville Sunrise	4 of 4	43.75	40	50	40	-	16	-
Jerseyville	5 of 5	74.00	12	72	=13	42	44	+2
Kewanee	4 of 4	78.10	8	73	12	46	48	+2
Land of Goshen	4 of 4	81.59	4	80	2	57	64	+7
Macomb	4 of 4	61.63	26	63	25	107	108	+1
Macomb Centennial Morning	4 of 4	81.30	5	83	1	38	42	+4
Manito-Forest City	4 of 4	54.00	36	58	30	-	30	-
Mason City	4 of 4	50.00	38	53	39	18	17	-1
Monmouth	5 of 5	62.47	=24	64	24	77	77	-
Morton	4 of 4	72.94	14	72	=13	116	128	+12
Pekin	4 of 4	84.13	2	80	3	53	52	-1
Peoria North	4 of 4	58.22	33	56	34	186	188	+2
Peoria Sunrise	4 of 4	47.22	39	56	35	19	18	-1
Petersburg	4 of 4	68.00	18	69	20	17	17	-
Pittsfield	4 of 4	75.44	10	70	17	49	53	+4
Quincy	4 of 4	62.81	23	61	28	91	93	+2
Quincy East	4 of 4	59.10	32	62	26	22	22	-
Rushville	3 of 3	85.00	1	75	=7	32	29	-3
Springfield - Midtown	4 of 4	39.00	41	46	41	-	28	-
Springfield South, IL	4 of 4	60.19	=30	57	31	43	37	-6
Springfield Sunrise	4 of 4	73.00	13	74	10	29	25	-4
Washington	4 of 4	61.00	=27	66	22	47	52	+5
Wood River	4 of 4	80.00	7	79	4	34	37	+3
<b>Totals</b>					<b>1733</b>		<b>2159</b>	<b>+20</b>

No report received from:

Rotary Club of Athens  
Rotary Club of Canton  
Rotary Club of Peoria

Rotary Club of Benld  
Rotary Club of Carlinville  
Rotary Club of Springfield

Rotary Club of Bushnell  
Rotary Club of Chillicothe

# Council on legislation changes rotary rules

**By Kenneth A. Buel**

PDG, DISTRICT 6460 COL DELEGATE

By Kenneth A. Buel, PDG, District 6460 COL Delegate

Delegates to the tri-annual Rotary International Council on Legislation considered 337 proposals when meeting in Chicago April 22-28. While many were rejected or referred to the Board of Directors, several changes to long-standing Rotary rules were approved.

Delegates approved by a 2-1 margin reducing the basic Rotary attendance requirement from sixty to fifty percent of meetings in a six-month period. The change takes effect July 1. A change to the R.I. constitution was approved which will permit membership by a community leader who has demonstrated through personal involvement in community affairs a commitment to service and the object of Rotary. This opens membership to persons who are not employed but are active in the affairs of their local community.

Delegates reaffirmed that the goal of certification of the worldwide eradication of polio is the highest priority of Rotary International, and that no other corporate project should be adopted until certification is completed. Attempts to endorse several alternative projects

were all defeated.

An increase in Rotary International per-capita dues was approved starting July 1, 2008, when the semi-annual amount will rise from \$23.50 to \$24. The amount will go up to \$24.50 on July 1, 2009, and to \$25 on July 1, 2010. Also changed was the prorated amount for new members; they will be charged 1/12 of the annual amount according to the month rather than the current practice of either nothing or half the six-month amount.

Delegates could not agree on a proposal to allow Rotary clubs to meet either weekly or twice per month and referred the issue to the R.I. Board of Directors. Efforts to change the period for meeting make-ups from 14 to either 21 or seven days were defeated, as were several attempts to curtail or eliminate make-ups via the internet at Rotary E-clubs.

The Council reaffirmed the requirement that club presidents-elect must attend both PETS and the District Assembly in order to serve, but can receive alternative training and preparation at the discretion of the governor-elect. Delegates also voted that the current president shall continue to serve until a successor has been given appropriate training approved by the district governor-elect.

Two resolutions which had originated with the Springfield Rotary Club and endorsed at the District 6460 Conference in Jacksonville in 2006 were approved by large margins. Henceforth, the next club president will be known as "President-Elect" on July 1 of the year preceding taking office. The "Four Avenues of Service" has been added to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. However, in a hotly contested vote (246-232), the text was amended to add the word "dignified" in the Vocational Service section in advance of "occupations."

Being part of the Council on Legislation was a great Rotary experience; it was an honor and pleasure to represent District 6460 as your delegate. I would be glad to present a program to any club which would like a more full report on the Council. You can contact me at [kabuel@charter.net](mailto:kabuel@charter.net) or 618-345-3685 to arrange a date.

# What Paul Harris Said

In The Rotarian magazine in 1925

**By Calum Thomson**

RGHF CHAIRMAN 06/07 R/C LONGNIDDRY & DIST

"Can personal friendships grow into national friendships in such manner as to promote the interests of peace?..."

Yes, but it is a dream that we can make come true. Our confidence must never falter. I believe that there is justification for our faith, in the lives of great men such as these, who were faithful to their trusts, who could be friendly, and who were "what they seemed."

Paul Harris The Rotarian magazine 1925

Paul Harris was writing about our fourth object of Rotary then (known as the sixth object) in 1925 and spent some time discussing some of the various friends he had met through the Rotary movement from all parts of the world.

Today, it seem clear to me, that the best way to make friends from all over the world is to get involved with our Rotary Fellowships - Rotarian Action Groups or Global Networking Groups. <http://www.rotary.org/programs/fellowships/index.ht>

ml The work that these organizations carry out is vast and varied and there is a group for you!

Through our Rotary Fellowships long-lasting and lifelong friendships can be made. Our first object of Rotary states that acquaintance is an opportunity for service and any club member can see the obvious truth in that statement by considering her or his own club. Rotary Fellowships allows the Rotarian to take a step further and make friends on an international basis.

For example, Rotary Global History Fellowship is a worldwide fellowship of over 130 members based in more than 30 countries. It is not just a grouping of like-minded individuals. RGHF has opened doors for many Rotarians around the world and directly led to successful matching grant projects and Group Study Exchanges to name but two developments.

Other fellowships can boast of similar successes. Never underestimate the power of global networking!

## District 6460 now HAS AN OFFICE!

*We have finally moved into our Central District Office! All general district correspondence should now be sent through the following channels:*

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## Rotary International District 6460

€ Paul Harris Society

€ Paul Harris Circle

€ Every Rotarian, Every Year

Through funds available to District 6460, every Rotarian participating in any of the three new classifications of The Rotary Foundation will be supported by a **donation of fifty percent (50%) for the first year contribution.**

Please send this completed form or inquires to:

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Foundation Chairperson  
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Jacksonville, IL 62650-2662

Dick Robinson  
District Governor 2006-2007  
District 6460  
42 White Birch Road  
Springfield, IL 62712



Request a presentation for your club to learn about the opportunities to support **The Rotary Foundation.**  
**The Rotary Foundation – Annual Fund Contributions**

The **Paul Harris Society** is being established in the Rotary Year of 2005-2006 to recognize those individuals who wish to make a difference through their contributions to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Rotarians pledging a \$1,000 to TRF, annually, on a sustaining basis, will be recognized as Paul Harris Society members. Please check the box to the left to indicate your willingness to become a Paul Harris Society member.

The **Paul Harris Circle** may consist of 2, 3, 4 or 5 members and is committed to contributing \$1,000, annually, on a sustaining basis to TRF. A circle may establish membership in the manner that meets the needs of its members. The members of the Paul Harris Circle are making a commitment to continue their contributions on a sustaining basis. Each member is responsible for the contribution at a time that is agreeable to the circle members. Please check the box to the left to indicate your willingness to form a Paul Harris Circle. Please list all members of the circle.

**Every Rotarian-Every Year** is a request for each Rotarian to make a contribution of \$100 per year on a sustaining basis. The accumulation will allow each participant to name yourself, or another to be a Paul Harris Fellow when the accumulated amount reaches the level of \$1,000. Please check the box to the left to indicate your willingness to contribute to *Every Rotarian, Every Year*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGN UP TODAY!**                      **SIGN UP TODAY!**                      **SIGN UP TODAY!**

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(as it appears on card)  
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Visa    Mastercard    Check                      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Rotarians still helping victims of Hurricane Katrina

By Vanessa N. Glavinskas  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Almost two years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the U.S. Gulf Coast, Rotarians are still on the scene, helping communities rebuild.

In Long Beach, Mississippi, Rotarians from districts 6440 and 6450 (Illinois) and 6360 (Michigan) are working together with Mississippi Rotary clubs to construct a 30,000-square-foot recreation center that will double as an emergency shelter in the event of another Category 5 storm.

"Today, both District 6440 and 6450 are giving \$50,000 each to the project," explained Jack Blane, a member of the Rotary Club of Wheeling, Illinois, and past governor of District 6440, on 16 May. According to Blane, the amount will be matched by Mittal Steel, one of his club's partner organizations. Other groups have also made contributions, including a \$2 million grant from the South Mississippi Planning and Development District.

"It will be a place for first-responders and a place of last resort for those who don't evacuate in time," says Bob Kranz, of the Rotary clubs of Gulfport and Long Beach, Mississippi, USA. He says he realized that a venue for first-responders was desperately needed when his local police department was destroyed during Katrina.

After the 2005 storm, almost every structure up to a half mile inland from the Mississippi shore was destroyed. Thousands of homes were washed away, and Long Beach lost its recreation center, fire station, two schools, and hundreds of busi-

nesses. Because of changes in building codes to make structures more weather resistant, recovery has been extremely slow, nearly eliminating the tax base in many communities.

"You can see in the people who still live there that their spirit is gone," says Brian Andersen, a member of the Rotary Club of Darien, Illinois, and chair of District 6450's fellowships committee. "Rebuilding this recreation center will give them some encouragement that the community is coming back," he adds. "It's a star that people can hang their hat on."

The center, named the Long Beach Senior Recreation Shelter, is scheduled for completion in June 2008 and will house areas for craftmaking and meetings, as well as a cafeteria, basketball courts, and a gym for seniors and local residents alike. It will be a gathering place and emergency refuge for the communities of Gulfport, Long Beach, Pass Christian, and Pineville.

"With the Boomers coming along, there's a need for recreational areas for this age group," explains Kranz. "However, we also expect community youth will use the basketball courts and running track."

"Were it not for the Rotary network, this project would not have worked," adds Blane. "We estimate the project will be worth \$6 million, with zero long-term debt when we're done. And there will be a 60-foot Rotary wheel painted in the parking lot."

### How you can help

If you'd like to contribute to this project, contact Rotarian Bob Kranz at [leavealegacy@bellsouth.net](mailto:leavealegacy@bellsouth.net)



Send information and pictures for the newsletter to:

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Deadline - end of the month | November edition is due by October 31.