



# the eye-opener

February 2008

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Brian Monroe*

The Rotary theme for February is “world understanding”. How appropriate, for as you read this our group will be returning from our humanitarian project in Oliveros, Guatemala. This will mark the successful completion of our fourth GMRP project serving those of our extended family in Central America. I will not be able to recap this fourth trip until the March “Eye-Opener”, but I will draw on my experiences from last year and share with you how that project increased world understanding for me.

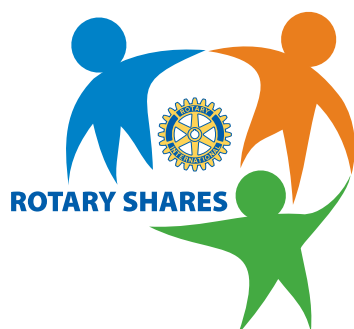
World understanding started weeks before we actually left. I’m sure everyone remembers getting vaccination shots before you went off to grade school to fend off diseases that we never even think of anymore. We still get tetanus booster shots and some even take advantage of yearly flu shots, but before we could travel to Guatemala we were required to make sure that we were protected from many other life threatening diseases. How many in our world have to try to survive without these vaccinations and how many die every day from something as small as a mosquito bite?

World understanding continued as we road in an old school bus down rutted out roads that had been that way since the rainy season, creating clouds of dust that washed over the dwellings of our host village. Most people I know would not even park their car in something as crude of a structure. Any vehicle passing by perpetuates this cloud of dust and after years of exposure will cause damage to the eyes and lungs of those inhabitants, but that does not deter our hosts from waving at us and greeting us with huge smiles. The day the clinic is opened I am humbled by the patience and smiles we are welcomed with, despite the fact that many of these patients have not had any medical attention since the year before. Many were sick and in pain, but held on to hope that Rotary would be back. No amenities in our outdoor waiting room except for some old desks that were set up under trees to provide some shade for those who may have to wait all day with their children behind a chain link fence. No complaints, just appreciative smiles for whatever we could do to improve their condition.

I could go on and share more about the GMRP experience, but I have realized that world understanding can take place right here in Mequon and Thiensville. You do not have to travel to a third world country to increase world understanding. Our Rotary club provides us with many opportunities to enter the world of those we are serving. All we have to do is look at the world through their eyes, from the residents at Lasata to the students, parents and staff at Running Rebels. I urge you to take a moment to leave our world of comforts and walk in someone else’s shoes for a while. It may be uncomfortable at first, but I promise you if you share that experience with others it will increase world understanding. We are doing it with the upcoming bake sale, where some of the proceeds will provide scholarships for children of Oliveros who may never had the opportunity to go further than sixth grade. Those scholarships will change lives and their world understanding. Now I ask you to bake and to continue sharing that awareness with others and we will make the world a better place for all of us.

## WHERE CAN I GET MAKE-UP?

Go to [www.mtsuniserotary.org](http://www.mtsuniserotary.org) or [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) for worldwide opportunities.



## Officers

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 Dan O'Connor - Pres. Elect  
 Tom Johnson - VP  
 Dick Dieffenbach ✓ - Treasurer  
 Mike Reuteman - Asst. Treas.  
 Gordon Hetzel - Secretary  
 Sharon Pechiva - Sgt. Arms  
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Club: Holly Bern  
 Community: Lynn Streefer  
 International: Bob Blazich ✓  
 Vocational: Sharon Pechiva

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 Rich Bub\* ✓  
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## Deceased

Doyle Barker  
 Dick Miller ✓  
 Don Roensch ✓

\*Past President  
 ✓ Paul Harris Fellow

# TRUCK FOR GUATEMALA

By Bob Blazich

Be careful for what you ask for because you just might get it. In our case, our talk about possibly sending a truck to Guatemala ended up with being given a full 18-wheeler!! For Free!! And now that you have a 53-foot long trailer, how do you fill it? And once it's full, how do you license it, insure it, drive it 2000 miles to Guatemala, and then sell it in hopes of covering your expenses?

After nearly 18 months of begging, planning, and preparation, the loaded truck arrived at our clinic site in rural Guatemala just four hours ahead of the medical team. Running about a week late due to #%\*&@ problems at the Mexican border, the slightly lighter truck finally made it.

The cargo included nine computers for the school, six of which were fully loaded with Spanish software, tons of school supplies, five donated dental chairs and lights, dozens of tables and chairs for the school, all the supplies needed to rewire the school, fans, water coolers, two generators, and the equipment needed to seal, chlorinate, and fluoridate the community's new well.

The success of this truck venture represents a shared effort of Rotarians and others from Sheboygan, West Allis, Hartford, Menomonee Falls, Madison, Oak Creek, Mequon, and Thiensville as well as Rotarians in Texas, Mexico, and Guatemala. It was truly a joint venture and one which will produce results for many years to come.



## OLIVEROS VISIT

By Brian Monroe

I was very proud to be in this group photo of the GMRP team's fourth visit to the remote village of Oliveros. The photo was taken at 7:45 at Kico's ranch, while most of us were still fresh (including some clean t-shirts) on the last day that our clinic was open to serve our Guatemala friends. This eclectic group pictured included the Harford Rotarians that completed the water filtration project; other Rotarians from our district and Kico's Madison club; PA (physician assistant) students from IL, a doctor and dentist who flew in from FI and NE and finally some staff of a local neighboring clinic. Not pictured were the behind the scenes MT Rotarians of Bob Blazich and Andy Moss (who coordinated the logistics) and others; the 6 Guatemalan doctors and staff who left after the weekend and the Rotarians and Rotoract students from Escuintla; who also volunteered their entire weekend to assist and translate for us and finally, the teachers of the school that hosted us and our scholarship recipients.

This group shot is more than a photo; it is an indication of how an individual's idea can become a reality and through a group effort we have changed the lives of those that we set out to serve and continue to serve. Ted our DG said it best' "Rotary allows ordinary people to do extra ordinary things". I want to say thank you to our two local clubs that continue to support our efforts to promote good health, peace and education to our extended family.



## FEBRUARY AFTER-HOURS

By Holly Bern

We will be gathering at Harvey's Central Grille (formerly Chip and Py's) Wednesday evening February 20th, starting at 5:30. In addition to enjoying each other's company, we will be commemorating the founding of Rotary in 1905. So far four people have signed up to have dinner with other Rotarians at 6:45. Please let me know by February 15th if you would like me to make a dinner reservation for you too--the more the merrier! Harvey's phone number is (262) 241-9589 if you wish to make your own reservation. Also, you can google Harvey's to preview their drink, dinner and appetizer menus. People ordering appetizers between 5:30 and 6:00 will receive a discount. Please bring yourself, your spouse, friends, and prospective members for a relaxed, fun time.

## SOUTH KOREANS TO VISIT MT SUNRISE ROTARY

By Alice Sedgwick

Information on the inbound team is still quite sketchy but we do know they are arriving on or about May 1 and will be here for the month of May. We do not yet have any bios on the team members but hope to soon. Jean, Bob Blazich and I are trying to plan the activities for them during their stay with our club which is Saturday, May 24th through Friday, May 30th. We are looking for host families within the M-T Sunrise Rotary Club. Usually a host family houses one of the team but can also host 2 if they have the room.

Please let one of us know if you are willing to host. It is a great experience! Just ask any of us who have done it in the past.

## NEW MEMBER

The board approved the application for membership of Dick Kinney. Dick is the Managing Principal for Legacy Wealth Management LLC in Brown Deer. He lives in Mequon and has two grown children. Dick's sponsor is Chuck Zamora. Welcome Dick!

## WELCOME JULIE



Welcome to MT Sunrise Rotary Julie Shlensky Pictured left to Right, Sponsor Holly Bern, Julie Shlensky and Brian Monroe.

## AUCTIONFEST 2008

By Gordon Hetzel

It is time again to start thinking about the Auction. Last year we sold donated goods and services valued at \$25,000. Our auction was an extraordinary value for patrons who paid a little over \$18,000 in 2007. It was a record breaking event.

What do we do with this money? Ask Tom Johnson who heads this year's grants and donations committee. Ask Sharon Pechiva who approves scholarships to worthy students. Ask Bob Blazich who heads our club's efforts to send an annual medical mission to Guatemala. Ask the outbound GSE travelers who we help sponsor each year. Ask the inbound exchange student we sponsor each year. Visit a monthly Board Meeting to learn the details of what your club does.

This year we will strive to increase the value, and narrow the discount. Contact me if you want to help. We are always looking for a few good members to help with the work (it isn't work, you won't break a sweat) in advance and during the auction. Learn what it takes to be a Lady of the Tent, or a Man on the Street. We even have Men in Waiting! We are always looking for new donation ideas. We are always in need of new donors. And we need your donations.

So many ways to help. Don't be left out.

## POLIO PLUS UPDATE

Reprinted from Rotary.org

Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio have gotten a US\$2 million boost from a Rotarian diamond and jewelry magnate.

Harshad Mehta, a native of India who is a senior partner in the Belgium-based Rosy Blue diamond and jewelry company, has pledged to donate the money to Rotary's polio eradication efforts over the next three years.

Mehta, the largest Indian donor to The Rotary Foundation, was inspired to make the commitment after learning about the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication. Rotary must match the grant dollar for dollar over a three-year period.

Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott recalls a conversation with him in December, when Mehta suddenly said, "I will give \$2 million toward the match." It was "a very exciting development and an extremely generous" commitment, says Scott.

Mehta, 60, joined the Rotary Club of Bombay Metropolitan in 1986 as a charter member. His previous contributions to The Rotary Foundation have totaled more than \$1 million. Some of the money has been used to endow an Ambassadorial Scholarship that finances recipients' studies at universities.

Mehta serves as chair of the United Arab Emirates operations of Rosy Blue, a family business that employs more than 15,000 people around the world. He's also Armenia's honorary consul in Mumbai and the vice chair of the Dubai Diamond Exchange. He is a past chair of the Gem and Jewelry Export Promotion Council and a past vice president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading, listening to music, walking, swimming, playing cricket, and spending time with his wife, three children, and five grandchildren.

In the final push to stop polio, Mehta urges Rotarians not to give up. "We must further strengthen our resolve as we are so close to the ultimate goal," he says. "Any slackening at this point will result in a total loss of all the time, effort, and money put in over the past years."

## Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary

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12308 N. Corporate Parkway, Suite 250  
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### Mark Your Calendars

#### Upcoming Activities

February 8-9 .....Bake Sale @ Oz. Bank  
February 20 .....After-Hours @ Chip & Py's  
April 19 .....District Assembly  
May 16-18 .....District Conference  
May 24-29....South Korea GSE Team Visits

### SPEAKERS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

February 15 .....Polio Plus  
.....Rick Debe  
Thought of the day ....Jackie Kaminski

February 22 .....Town Center  
.....Stan Smith  
Thought of the day ....Brian Kendzor

February 29 .....K9 Unit Needs 45 Min.  
.....John Hoell  
Thought of the day ....Michael Kim

March 7 .....Classification Talks  
Thought of the day ....David Kliber

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