



# District 6360 Gazette

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR GOVERNOR

### December is Family Month



December, 2007  
Volume No. IV  
Issue No. 6

### The Holidays Remind Me Why I'm a Rotarian



**DG Dick Sammis**

As I celebrate Christmas and others celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and other holidays, I'm reminded why I am a Rotarian. While others struggle to see the true meaning of the holidays through the maze of commercialism, Rotarians have an easier path. While many will talk of "keeping the spirit of Christmas alive year round," Rotarians...well....do!

The true meaning of Christmas for me is found in the Parable of the Good Samaritan as told by Jesus, taken from the Gospel of Luke. A man had been robbed, beaten, stripped of his clothes, and left on the road half dead. Several saw him, and crossed to the opposite side of the road to avoid him. Finally, the Good Samaritan came upon him, bandaged his wounds, placed him upon his donkey and took him to an Inn where the Samaritan paid for the suffering man's care.

As Rotarians, we take on the role of Good Samaritan in our communities year round. The Coldwater Club supports their local food bank to the tune of fifty thousand dollars over five years! The Paw Paw Lake Club is in the middle of a very successful 'coat drive' to prevent the less fortunate from being cold during the winter months. The Jackson Area Rotary Clubs continue to build handicap ramps cost-free for the wheel-chair bound.

During the holidays, many clubs step up their Good Samaritan role. Portage Club members will be seen during the holidays ringing bells to raise money for the needy. The Quincy Club will host a special Christmas party for needy school children, who will each receive a personal gift from a Rotarian. St Johns Rotarians bring unwrapped Christmas presents for Toys for Tots to their annual Christmas Party.

These are just a few examples of the Good Samaritan role all our District Rotarians play throughout the year. And I haven't even mentioned yet the gift of a polio-free world from all Rotarians worldwide! Yes, the true meaning of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa is easy – for Rotarians.

*Dick Sammis*

*Happy Holidays from the  
District Office  
Linda & Ed*



**Every Rotarian, Every Year [apf@rotary.org]  
This is the address to receive the EREY newsletter.**

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## Barbara Walters Presents Casa Ampara Project at the United Nations

“We realized we had to attack the root of the poverty that was robbing these girls of their basic right to dignity and even life itself: Illiteracy.” This evocative assessment was offered by Barbara Walters (Kalamazoo RC) during her presentation on the Casa

Ampara Literacy Project for Rotary International Day at the United Nations on November 3, 2007. She was addressing 1300 Rotarians from 48 countries attending the event.

UN -General Ban Ki-Moon’s greeting to Rotarians acknowledged that “Ever since our Foundation, Rotary International has always been a wonderful partner with the United Nations.” A series of panels followed, providing ample proof of just how effectively this partnership has been in providing individual Rotary clubs and districts with opportunities to advance worldwide the goals we have in common with the United Nations.

Rotary project initiatives shared during the day included: providing rain collection cistern tanks in Kenya; mosquito netting to combat malaria in Tanzania; and heifer cows to Romanian families for milk, income from milk products, breeding, and food. Photographic displays provided eyewitness proof that these efforts have not only changed the quality of life, but has actually saved lives.

A standing ovation followed the presentation by Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program graduate Richelieu Allison of Liberia. Richelieu spoke of witnessing atrocities suffered by his family in civil war contrasted with Rotary providing for his study of conflict resolution at Rotary’s Peace Center in Thailand. Rotary’s support provided not only a way to safety, but a program that has trained him to return home and contribute to the peaceful rebuilding of his country.

For Rotarians representing District 6360, Barbara Walter’s presentation of the Casa Ampara Project was the highlight of the day. Walters stated that education is fundamental human right. She then clearly demonstrated how one teacher can change the lives of children, especially those most vulnerable.

Initiated by the members of Gull Lake and Kalamazoo Rotary Clubs, this project of District 6360 began 14 years ago with the placement of a teacher at an orphanage for illiterate and under-educated girls, that has now produced university graduates.

Walters affirmed that “there are no more ‘throw away’ children at Casa Ampara. But these are only 55 children, out of the 113 million children, mostly girls, who are out of school around the world.” These 113 million children join nearly one billion illiterate adults worldwide. Two-thirds of the illiterate are women. “Extreme poverty, HIV/AIDS, prostitution and early death are far more likely to be the fate of illiterate women and their children, UNESCO and UN studies state.”

Until 15 years ago, Rotary Clubs in southwest Michigan were unaware of this crisis. We learned of the widespread epidemic of children’s illiteracy when we became involved in this orphanage for girls in Reynosa, Mexico across the Rio Grande from McAllen Texas.

At first Rotarians from our district began to help Casa physically, by building beds and providing kitchen equipment with the help of Rotary Foundation grants. Then, Walters noted, “we began to discover that the underlying root poverty for these children was the lack of education, especially for the girls age 12 and older.”

In 1993, District 6360 began sponsoring a teacher at Casa. In 2005, four Casa graduates received diplomas from the University of Reynosa. And District 6360 has completed setting up an endowment to fund a teacher at Casa Ampara in perpetuity.

Walters presented Rotarians at the UN with a template for recreating the project elsewhere:

First, a district adopts the place and the children, and work with the orphanage personnel and local Rotarians in partner districts to improve the physical needs of the students;

Second, the district provides and continues to provide funds for the teacher, and campaign to create an endowment to fund the teacher in perpetuity.

Walters then reminded us that the United Nations has proclaimed the period 2003 to 2012 as the Literacy Decade, essential for health and justice in the world.

Barbara Walters closed her presentation by encouraging us to “Provide the same basic human right of literacy to other children, in other ‘Casas’ and communities around the world. Give them a teacher. Give them, and their children and grandchildren, a future.”

Reported by Robert Graham Small, Portage Rotary Club

[Click here to read more on the United Nations' Web site.](#)

## NEWS FROM JOE DEVOIR, AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR

Hello all,

I hope everything is going well in snowy Michigan. It is still hot as blazes here in Palestine during the day before freezing at night. I have settled in well here and found an organization that is truly unique in its efforts to create a just and lasting peace. The Combatants for Peace ([www.combatantsforpeace.org](http://www.combatantsforpeace.org)) is a nongovernmental, non-profit organization composed of former Israeli and Palestinian fighters who have sworn off violence and now work toward a peaceful solution to the conflict through dialogue, understanding and the humanizing of *the other*.

With the help of several Rotarians in England, I have been able to offer my services to the Combatants for free for four months. During this time I am hoping to raise over 100,000 dollars (don't worry-not from Michigan) with which to expand and transform this group from a grassroots social movement into the most recognized peace organization working in the region. When my four months are up, if I have been successful in my fundraising efforts, I will be hired on full-time with the Combatants and continue my work well into the future. I am off to a good start.

I am not writing to tell you about myself though; rather something else which I think deserves the praise and recognition of the whole district. Before leaving to England to speak at a district conference in Torquey, I mentioned my plans to raise a salary to District Governor Dick Sammis. Thinking little of it, I went to England and was successful in raising enough funds for four months. A few days ago I received an email from Mr. Sammis stating that he had raised an additional 1500!! USD to help if I was still in need. Alas, I am not.

For the first time I was able to happily decline the support of District 6360 and those individuals within who have taken a personal interest in my work. It felt great. Not only because I was able to say no for once, but because I am once again bolstered by the moral support of my Rotary family back home. It is this support, as much as the financial, which allows me to continue doing what I do strengthened by the knowledge that there are people who believe in me and my mission.

I will not mention the names of the individuals who were so kind as to offer their help, but I want the district to know that there are kings and queens among them. Once more thank you all.

Joe DeVoir

Amabassadorial Scholar '06-'07

PS. I cannot wait to tell you all more and thank you in person at the coming District Conference. I hope to see as many of you there as possible ☺



Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to announce that we have completely redesigned and updated the Lingap Center website. We are excited with our new look and the additions that we have made! We hope that you will take a few minutes to visit the site at <http://lingapcenter.org>, look around and just explore. We have added new photos of the Lingap children, and photos of the new Lingap Center itself. We have also added a number of links to our partners. It is our intent to update it frequently, so please check back from time to time to stay current with all of our activities.

I want to personally thank our website designers Jeff and Megan Drake for the countless hours of volunteer effort and thought that they put into this project!

I hope you enjoy the new site!

John Drake

## A Message to Clubs Supporting RI Matching Grant #63257

It was just a year ago that I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Africa Project Fair in Accra, Ghana. Your club or club members chose to be financially involved in this project. The promise of support prior to my leaving for the trip gave me the confidence to know there would be Rotarians willing to help with a project I chose. The Albion club indicated their emphasis last year was water. This gave me an area to concentrate on. Some clubs gave donations after hearing my presentation about the fair and the project I chose. Ultimately the clubs that donated money were: Albion, Charlotte, Dowagiac, Jackson Noon, Niles, and White Pigeon. I cannot thank you enough for this support.

At the two-day project fair I interviewed many Rotary club representatives from eleven West African nations. As you know, the project I became committed to was the Water Boreholes and Tanks Project proposed by Benin Metropolitan Club of Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. This club wanted to provide borehole wells to fourteen outlying small communities that were presently getting their drinking water from rainwater during the rainy season and from a river polluted by upstream factories, livestock, and laundry washing the rest of the year. One of the communities is a leper colony.

Five United States Rotary Districts ultimately became the international partners for this project. Those districts are: D5400 (Idaho), D5440 (Wyoming), 6360 (Michigan), D6490 (Illinois), and D6540 (Indiana). Each district had someone participating in the project fair trip to Ghana—and through the year of developing this grant we have all become very good friends. Princewill, the sponsoring club contact in Nigeria, has been very committed to making this project a success. He has fulfilled every requirement for planning and also kept in close contact through email and phone with the U.S. partners. He has been the general project overseer, involved in every step of the process. This is his first involvement in a matching grant and he is justifiably proud of the success of the project. It would not have been possible without his leadership.

It is with great pleasure that I tell you of the success of this project! I am soon leaving for this year's West Africa Project Fair and NID volunteer trip. It is being held in Abuja, Nigeria, some six hours drive away from Benin City. Four of us from the U.S. who have worked on this grant will be staying five days longer in Nigeria so that we can travel by car to Benin City to be there for the dedication of all fourteen of the wells! Well drilling began just six weeks ago and will be completed by November 14! The wells are deep—ranging from 250 feet to over 300 feet deep. The project includes a commitment from local community leaders to maintain the wells and generators needed for raising the water. It also includes large storage tanks for the storage of clean, safe water.

I was hoping to have some construction photos of the work in progress but those have not arrived yet. As soon as they do I will forward that email to you. Thank you for helping to make these Nigerian communities healthier and happier!

Water is Life!  
Barbara Groner

New RI Grant Structure Offers Flexibility and Strategic Focus – under the new grant structure model for The Rotary Foundation, all grants will fall into one of two categories and consolidate educational and humanitarian programs.

Go to the the RI website for more details.

CLUBS	NO. OF MEMBERS	NO. OF MEMBERS	NET GAIN/ LOSS	NO. OF HONORARY MEMBERS	% ATTEN.	REPORTED GIVING TO ANNUAL FUND
	AS REPORTED BY RI	10/31/2007	10/31/2007	10/31/2007	10/31/2007	THROUGH 10-31-07
District 6360						\$100.00
Albion	59	59	0	2	68.00%	\$540.00
Allegan	38	40	2	1	63.89%	\$800.00
Battle Creek	92	96	4	5	37.88%	\$0.00
Benton Harbor Sunrise	55	57	2	0	63.57%	\$325.00
Berrien Springs/Eau Clair	29	29	0	0	NR	\$0.00
Bronson	48	47	-1	6	77.00%	\$0.00
Cereal City Sunrise	19	19	0	0	59.00%	\$0.00
Charlotte	83	83	0	5	75.74%	\$1,550.00
Climax	26	26	0	0	NR	\$0.00
Coldwater Township	45	46	1	6	NR	\$1,000.00
Coldwater Noon	92	93	1	3	75.22%	\$0.00
Constantine	18	18	0	0	100.00%	\$0.00
Delta Waverly	77	79	2	0	60.00%	\$0.00
Delton Area	29	30	1	3	NR	\$100.00
Dowagiac	68	64	-4	2	NR	\$200.00
East Lansing	80	80	0	3	58.67%	\$1,175.00
Eaton Rapids	33	34	1	3	NR	\$0.00
Grand Ledge	55	52	-3	2	53.20%	\$0.00
Gull Lake Area	47	49	2	2	70.95%	\$50.00
Haslett-Okemos	51	50	-1	0	65.00%	\$2,000.00
Hastings	66	62	-4	0	66.88%	\$0.00
Hillsdale	58	50	-8	1	NR	\$3,697.00
Ionia	39	40	1	1	49.00%	\$100.00
Jackson Noon	88	86	-2	2	58.14%	\$1,445.00
Jackson Breakfast	24	24	0	0	71.00%	\$2,142.66
Jonesville	26	23	-3	0	67.00%	\$0.00
Kalamazoo Sunrise	13	13	0	1	NR	\$0.00
Kalamazoo	247	252	5	5	51.54%	\$650.00
Lakeshore	53	60	7	0	63.37%	\$1,680.00
Lansing DeWitt Sunrise	33	29	-4	0	74.60%	\$1,275.00
Lansing	255	260	5	9	51.54%	\$1,700.30
Litchfield	17	17	0	0	NR	\$0.00
Marcellus	13	13	0	0	87.00%	\$0.00
Marshall	61	64	3	0	NR	\$875.00
Mason	31	27	-4	0	53.00%	\$1,000.00
Michigan Center JCE	14	15	1	6	NR	\$305.00
Middleville	38	38	0	2	NR	\$0.00
Niles-Buchanan	59	57	-2	1	70.00%	\$0.00
Oshemo	43	42	-1	3	NR	\$0.00
Otsego	18	19	1	0	74.00%	\$864.50
Parchment	17	16	-1	0	60.00%	\$0.00
Paw Paw Area	24	24	0	0	71.88%	\$0.00
Paw Paw Lake	16	14	-2	0	NR	\$0.00
Plainwell	22	21	-1	0	58.70%	\$0.00
Portage	84	92	8	3	92.00%	\$2,225.00
Portage AM	24	21	-3	0	69.00%	\$0.00
Quincy	37	37	0	1	NR	\$100.00
Reading	21	21	0	0	85.00%	\$0.00
South Haven	53	56	3	7	61.60%	\$2,100.00
South Lansing-Holt	26	24	-2	0	NR	\$0.00
St. Johns	46	46	0	3	53.95%	\$1,025.00
St. Joe/Benton Harbor	187	193	6	4	67.22%	\$7,864.00
Sturgis	45	45	0	0	NR	\$0.00
Three Rivers	104	107	3	3	51.08%	\$0.00
Union City	23	22	-1	1	75.00%	\$200.00
Vicksburg	36	34	-2	0	NR	\$0.00
White Pigeon	12	12	0	0	90.00%	\$0.00
Williamston Sunrise	44	41	-3	0	56.00%	\$37,088.46
Totals	3061	3068	7	96		



Please remember to send your election results to us at the District Office by the end of December – include name, address, phone and email information! This is especially important, as PETS comes a whole month early this year and we must know who the PE will be.

PEs – get February 15-17, 2008 on your calendar!

**NEED A PROGRAM?????**

Check out the Speakers' Bureau and Library Materials via the District 6360 Website: [www.district6360.com](http://www.district6360.com)



**DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE INTERVIEWS MOVED TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008. PLEASE CONTACT THE DISTRICT OFFICE OR PDG BILLMENSER BY FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> IF YOUR CLUB IS SUBMITTING A NOMINEE. REMEMBER, THE QUALIFICATIONS ARE:**

- A member in good standing in a club in the district
- The nominating club must not owe money to the district or RI
- Nominee must have served full term as president
- Nominee must be willing and able to serve & understand duties

➤ Nominee must attend the international assembly before taking office and been a member of a club for at least seven years.

[billcharmense@aol.com]

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# ROTARY DISTRICT FOUNDATION NEWS

## Rotary District 6360 Foundation

### 2007 Raffle Winners

#### First Prize - \$2,000

Linda Mulder - Grand Ledge

#### Second Prizes - \$500 each

Ann Marie Bauchler – Lakeshore

Don Lund – Plainwell

Bob Klein – Portage

Mike Beckworth – Coldwater Sunrise

#### Third Prizes - \$250 each

Rick Holmes – Reading

Tom Little – Kalamazoo

Jon Kasper – Dowagiac

Jeff Hannan – Lakeshore

#### Fourth Prizes - \$100 each

Linda Mulder – Grand Ledge

Randy Bettich St. Joe/Benton Harbor

Derek Nolan – Williamston

Maurice Nelson – Portage AM

### Grants 2006-2007

Marcellus Club, \$3,000 Habitat for Humanity House; Lansing Club, \$2,500 Velangaye High School Williamston Sunrise, Haslett- Project; Okemos and Eshowe Clubs

Plainwell Club, \$1,800 Statuary Restoration; South Haven Club, \$ 300 Summer Fun in the Park

St. Joseph/Benton Harbor, \$2,000 US Navel Sea Cadet Corp; **Total: \$9,600**

## Officers and Trustees

President Jerry Jenkins, President-Elect Barbara Baker, Secretary Barbara Baker  
Treasurer Shari LaBrenz, Assistant Secretary Sue Mills, Assistant Treasurer Teresa Fitzwater  
Trustees : Melinda Graham , Margie Haas, James McIntyre, Jim Miyagawa, Don Siegel

## Golden Trowel Awards

### Marie Corakis - Rotary Club of Oshtemo

Marie began working with the Oshtemo Club in 1981 to raise money for the Oshtemo Township Fire Department's Jaws of Life. In addition, for the past 26 years Marie has helped with the clubs "Benefit Breakfast" fundraiser by providing facilities, food and service, all at no cost. Marie and her husband, Ted, own Ted and Marie's Colonial Inn in Oshtemo.

### Shawn Davenport - Rotary Club of Union City

Shawn is a 10th grade, Union City High School student who helps the Rotary Club of Union City with their Maple Syrup Fundraiser. This is a very labor intense project and Shawn can be found tapping trees, collecting sap, boiling and helping with clean up. Maple syrup production only lasts three to four weeks in the spring and Shawn dedicates all his spare time to this project.

### Medical Team - Rotary Club of Lansing/DeWitt Sunrise

The Lansing/DeWitt Sunrise Club had been in contact with the Rotary Club of Huamachuco, Peru and learned that members of this Peru community were in dire need of cataract surgery. Tom Fisher (Ophthalmologist Specialist), Dr. Sander Cohen (Surgical Expeditions International), Dr. Michael Wong (Ophthalmologist Surgeon) and Dr. Sara Jones-Gomberg (expertise with missions abroad) responded to this call for help, traveled to the Andes Mountains and performed 85 surgeries.

**Ron Waldvogel - Rotary Club of St. Joseph/Benton Harbor** Since 2005 Ron has volunteered his time and expertise supporting the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Club's fundraiser "Track Meet". Ron's 34 year experience as a teacher and track coach helped the project grow to a major athletic event in southwest Michigan including participants from three counties. This state sanctioned event raises money to support the club's youth service and scholarship programs.

*If you will take the time to read these. I promise you'll come away with an enlightened perspective. The subjects covered affect us all on a daily basis! They're written by Andy Rooney, a man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.....*

*I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.*

*I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.*

*I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.*

*I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.*

*I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.*

*I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.*

*I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.*

*I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.*

*I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.*

*I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.*

*I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.*

*I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.*

*I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.*

*I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.*

*I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.*

*I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.*

*I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.*

*I've learned.... That love, not time, heal s all wounds.*

*I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.*

*I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.*

*I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.*

*I've learned... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.*

*I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.*

*I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.*

*I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.*

*I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.*

*I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.*

*I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.*

*I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.*

*I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.*

- **December 1, 2007 Club DG Nominations Due**
- **February 15-17, 2008 PETS [Mandatory for PE's] Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo**
- **February 25, 2008 Grand Rapids, "Thirsting to Serve Clean Water Conference"**
- **May 16-18, 2008, Friday – Sunday, District Conference, Potawatami Inn, Angola, IN**
- **June 15-18, 2008, RI Convention, Los angeles, CA**
- **June 25, 2008, Wednesday, DG Installation, Cascades Manor, Jackson**

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH.**

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