



## **Rotary Star February 25, 2010**

Members of the Boothbay Harbor Rotary Club spoke at the Club's meeting last Thursday about The Rotary Foundation and how it had contributed to their involvement in Rotary.

Bob Jacobson noted that the Foundation functions as the charitable 501(c)(3) adjunct to Rotary International. It works together with the 32,000 Rotary clubs and 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide to address core concerns of health, hunger and alleviation of poverty, which it carries out through humanitarian and educational grants and the PolioPlus campaign.

"Rotary gives us the possibility to turn passions into results," said Chip Griffin, the next speaker. As an example, he cited a project conceived by a South African Rotarian of setting up an AIDS clinic in a church, where clients could enter without fear of the stigma that being identified with AIDS still carries in that area. With a \$1,000 grant from our club and the participation of two other area clubs and our Rotary district, plus matching funds from The Rotary Foundation, the project became a reality. Another example was a grant initiated by our club to buy new trucks for Safe Passage, the educational support program in Guatemala. Purchase of the trucks was made possible by grants from our club and others, with support from the Rotary district and matching funds from The Rotary Foundation.

Craig Tukey sees The Rotary Foundation as a way to give back to the community. Founded in 1917, its endowment has grown from an initial contribution of \$26.50 to over \$800 million by 2009. Its first grant in 1930 was to the International Foundation for Crippled Children (now known as Easter Seals); its scope is now worldwide. While we are lucky, said Craig, most of the world is not. That The Rotary Foundation does so much for people all over the world is what speaks to him.

Polio eradication is close to Jim Botti's heart, as his mother was one of that disease's victims. Polio has been around since at least 1850 B.C. There is no cure, but immunization became possible with the development of the Salk vaccine in 1954 and the oral vaccine is now available for only 60¢ per dose. In 1985 Rotary initiated its PolioPlus campaign to eradicate the disease worldwide. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, national health services and other NGOs, the campaign has eliminated polio in all but four countries: Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Rotary has raised \$800 million for this effort, and its success thus far was recognized by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which recently committed an additional \$355 million to the cause.

Rick Elder listed three appealing aspects of The Rotary Foundation's work. The first is leverage, by which modest sums at the club level can be augmented at the district and Foundation level to become substantial amounts. He recalled how club member Doug Bevins, having learned in the mid-1990s of the need for an ambulance in a community in Honduras, managed to finance the purchase with an initial grant of just \$1,000. (Getting the ambulance to Honduras after it was bought was another adventure, said Rick.) The second aspect is opportunity, since half of what we contribute to The Rotary Foundation comes back to the district, to be further applied to projects of individual clubs, while the other half is available to match funds raised at the local level. And the final aspect is charity, since all of us want to give back in one form or another. Contributions to the Rotary Foundation go to well-thought-out projects managed by accountable Rotarians; there is no better avenue for charitable dollars.

Skip and Sue Krehling, co-chairs of the club's Foundation committee, wrapped up the program by soliciting gifts to the Foundation's annual fund (of which, as mentioned, 50% comes back to our district), with primary emphasis on the "Every Rotarian, Every Year" initiative, which urges each Rotarian to contribute \$100 a year to the Foundation. Last year Rotarians in our district contributed almost \$200,000 to the Foundation, an average of just about \$100 per member. On April 8 we will have a "checkwriting evening," at which all members are asked to bring their checkbooks and be prepared to write a check to the Foundation for their annual contribution.

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President Vic Taylor opened the business meeting preceding the presentation by reporting that a diagnosis for Deb Graves's illness had still not been found, which was met with general expressions of concern.

Seth Hedgcock asked members to keep the bicycle project in mind and to make sure that their neighbors and friends were aware of the need for more bicycles. Call Seth to arrange for pickups. A work day for needed repairs and tire inflation, etc., will be scheduled in the near future.

Connie Jones encouraged members to donate to the Red Cross blood drive, to take place from 1:00–6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, at the YMCA gym. Appointments can be made by calling 1 (800) GIVE-LIFE, but are not required.

On Thursday, March 4, three students from the most recent Safe Passage trip in November will tell of their experiences. Waiters that evening will be Tony Curulla and Elaine Halligan with Laura Francis as greeter and offering the invocation and Adam Maguire as program chair. Monthly assignments for March are Andy Hamblett as steward, Duane Lewis as sergeant at arms, Bill Bailey as innkeeper and Bill Kautzmann handling the 50/50. The Board will meet at 4:45 p.m. that afternoon at the office of the Walter Foundation, 7 Oak Street.

It is not too late to register for the Rotary Leadership Institute at York County Community College on Saturday, March 6, in Wells, according to President Vic. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Rotary beyond the club level and also to meet Rotarians from other clubs and exchange ideas and experiences. Courses are offered on four levels – 1, 2, 3 and graduate. Tuition is \$65, which the club will reimburse for first-time attendees. Go to [www.rotary7780.org/RLICourseDates.cfm](http://www.rotary7780.org/RLICourseDates.cfm) to register online. See Marty Helman for details.

Adam Maguire invited members to attend the staff/student basketball game at the high school on Wednesday, March 10, at 5:00 p.m. Proceeds will go to Haiti relief. A lucky attendee will take home a pair of Celtics tickets.

On Thursday, March 11, Dan Welch will give us his impressions of his first year as principal of Boothbay Region High School.

IJ Pinkham reminded members that the basketball tourney scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13, at the high school, is fast approaching. Jason Lorrain is helping with the organization, but ticket sellers, scorers and concessionaires are still needed. Volunteers are asked to sign up for

4-hour shifts beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Cookies, brownies, etc., in bags to sell for 75¢, are also needed.

Marty Peak Helman reminded members that we will host a “Business after Hours” event in the clubhouse from 5:00–7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, and she passed around a sign-up sheet for appetizers. This will be an opportunity for the local business community to learn about our club and the work we do.

On Thursday, March 18 Interact Students will give an update on their activities for the past year.

Jim Botti, chair of the Soup Bowl Supper on March 25, reported that while he has commitments for “a ton of food,” he is still low on salads and needs some additional help for the breakdown crew. Sign-up sheets were passed around for the missing slots.

Connie Jones announced that the annual District Assembly will take place at York County Community College in Wells from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. on April 10. Registration, which begins at 7:15 a.m.; the \$30 fee includes continental breakfast and lunch. Sign up online at [www.rotary7780.org/DistrictAssembly.cfm](http://www.rotary7780.org/DistrictAssembly.cfm).

Interested in learning more about Rotary and about our Club and all the good stuff we do? Prospective members, visiting Rotarians and guests are always invited to check out our website: [www.boothbayharborrotary.org](http://www.boothbayharborrotary.org), and to join us at our weekly meetings, held Thursday nights at our one-of-a-kind Clubhouse at 29 Oak Street in downtown Boothbay Harbor. Conviviality commences around 6:00 p.m., dinner is served promptly at 6:30 p.m., and we then have a short business meeting followed by a special speaker. The evening ends at 8:00 p.m.