



Lend a Hand



Breakfast Rotary—Jefferson City, MO



www.jeffcityrotary.org

March, 2004

Every Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Capitol Plaza Hotel 415 W. McCarty St. Jefferson City, MO

DAN'S DISSERTATION

(WORDS FROM OUR ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT)



Youth activities are taking center stage as we head into the spring. This is the time of year when placement of next year's crop of exchange students takes place. Our club will once again be involved on both sides of the program. For the second straight year, we will be sponsoring an outbound student. Sarah Markenson is a sophomore at Jefferson City High School who will be going to Germany. She ranks in the top 15% of her class and is a member of the National Honor Society. Having met with her, I am confident she will be an outstanding representative of our club and our country to Germany. We plan to have Sarah visit the club before she leaves this summer and I hope you will get a chance to meet her and wish her well. We also plan to sponsor an inbound exchange student for what I believe will be the 13th consecutive year. The District is currently receiving applications and I am hoping the Board will soon be able to decide which student we want to host.

Also coming up soon is the annual Student Government Day. This is an event that we have participated in for several years and we once again are hoping to sponsor about four students to take part in the activities on March 22nd at the Capitol.

Randy Scherr and Norb Plassmeyer are once again coordinating this for the Club so if you know of any students who might be interested in taking part, please let one of them know. Another activity which is a bit further down the road, but which we want to be aware of, is the RYLA camp, which is devoted to teaching leadership skills to incoming high school juniors. We sponsored two students last year, and I am hoping we will get the chance to sponsor some students for this year's camp. RYLA will take place June 27 through 30 at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg.

Meals on Wheels

After a three month layoff due to holidays and snow storms the crack Rotary delivery team sprang (well, in some cases creaked and groaned) back into action with a successful delivery of hot meals on Feb. 23rd. Due to the layoff it was necessary to re-train only two of the team. Discretion keeps me from disclosing their names. This months team was a group of veterans who are: Rob Angstead, Dave and Mary Kay Linsenhardt, Bob Sfredo, Harv Sanders, Ron and Marlene Medin and Mark Dumas. There were three others who signed as backups in case of emergency but were not needed. They are Robert Hess, Bob Asahl and Larry Vincent. Another big thanks to them all on behalf of about 70 homes where hot meals were delivered and on behalf of our Rotary club. We will be looking forward to another big day on March 22nd when we again deliver meals. Mark your calendars and get ready to join the team.

Al Laffoon

35 million immunized against polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan

More than 30 million children across Pakistan were targeted in three days of polio immunization, beginning on 20 January. Four days later, an estimated 5 million children were vaccinated against the crippling disease in neighboring Afghanistan.

In addition to launching immunization activities at local and national administrative centers, government, religious, and opinion leaders participated in polio-related public awareness efforts and helped deliver and administer oral polio vaccine in the most remote regions of Pakistan. They focused especially on Baluchistan, North Western Frontier Province, and Sindh, where a combination of lawlessness, geography, cultural and religious practices such as the seclusion of women, and cross-border movement of families has encouraged the continued circulation of the poliovirus.

"Coverage has greatly improved in the problem areas as a result of increased participation by these leaders," says Abdul Haiy Khan, chairman of Pakistan's National PolioPlus Committee. "In many rural communities, families will not let male strangers into their homes or near their children. But we have greatly improved on vaccine delivery in such areas because more female health workers and volunteers are now involved."

According to the NPPC chair, Rotarians recruited volunteers from schools, the scout movement, and nongovernmental organizations and provided transportation, food, and refreshments for NID participants. They also helped mobilize communities through well-

March Programs

Mar 3rd - Member Bios
Mark Dumas; Stan Hutson
(Introduced by Robert Hess)

Mar 10th - Youth Violence
In sports
(Introduced by Bill Lockwood)

Mar 17th - Carl Jaynes
WHALE-(We Have A Little Emergency)
(Introduced by Robert Hess)

Mar 24th - TBA

Mar 31st - TBA

attended workshops and set up fixed immunization centers at airports, bus stations, and other public places.

Facing obstacles similar to those in Pakistan, 40,000 volunteers fanned across Afghanistan during NIDs on 26-28 January. More women were deployed to reach homes that previously wouldn't allow their children to be immunized by male health workers.

"Importation of polio will remain a risk until the debilitating disease is eradicated everywhere, and that is why Afghanistan's Ministry of Health should be commended for treating the issue of polio as an urgent public health threat," said Sharad Sapra, UNICEF representative in Afghanistan, to IRIN, a UN-sponsored news agency.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are among six remaining polio-endemic countries, along with Nigeria, India, Egypt, Niger, and Pakistan. Health ministers from those countries recently pledged to immunize a total of 250 million children multiple times this year to hasten the demise of the poliovirus.

From <http://www.rotary.org>