

ROTARY DISTRICT 7120

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE NEWS



D7120 International Service Newsletter

February 2017

The Rotary District 7120 International Service Committee educates and nurtures Rotarians and clubs working on international projects, while focusing on Rotary's Six Areas of Focus.

- It connects clubs
- It builds relationships
- It educates, assists, and may help finance clubs' international project development and fulfilment efforts.

It also inspires Rotarians like you to visit international projects and see first-hand how Rotary is Serving Humanity. In this newsletter, we'll show some of the many projects our clubs are involved with and opportunities for YOU to participate on international projects so you can become part of the solution for a better world.

Bringing About Reconciliation

By Nadia Mahmood, Rotary Peace Fellow, Queensland, Australia

Over the past two and a half months, The Prison Fellowship Solomon Islands, a grassroots peace-building organization, has furthered their work with conflict resolution, restorative justice, and reconciliation programs which are providing support for families of inmates.

It is hard to put into words how inspiring it is to work with this team of local volunteers who exemplify everything that Rotary stands for. I have had the opportunity to travel to different provinces to be part of restorative justice training in the prisons and help inmates write letters of apology to their victims.



A community reconciliation event in the Solomon Islands

Thinking Outside the Box

Skydivers raise money for polio eradication

By Arnold R. Grahl

Rotary members have gone to great lengths, and heights, to raise money for polio eradication. However, thousands of dollars were raised as Rotarians in Michigan, USA, and Toronto, Canada, organized a pair of skydives, jumping out of a plane at 14,000 feet strapped in tandem with a professional skydiver to raise pledges to help end polio.

The jump raised \$15,000 for Rotary's polio eradication campaign. Matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the effort contributed \$45,000 to the cause.

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Youth Exchange Students take part in a year-end European tour

Youth Exchange Students Make an International Impact

By PDG Bill Gormont, D7120 International Service Director

Rotary Youth Exchange is an excellent way to introduce young people to a life of international service. It builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries sponsor exchanges for students ages 15 to 19.

Exchange students unlock their true potential to:

- Develop lifelong leadership skills
- Learn a new language and culture
- Build lasting friendships with people from around the world
- Become a global citizen

Here are some comments from former Youth Exchange students:

- “During my year in Brazil, I was a representative of Australia, of my family, and of Rotary. Doing something bigger than yourself, it humbles you.”, Joel Jackson, Student from Australia
- “Before, I would never be able to make a conversation with a person I didn’t know. Now, I can go up to people more confidently, open and mature.”, Varda Shah, Student from India

If you think your Rotary Club and members of your local community could benefit from hosting an International Youth Exchange student, contact our D7120 Youth Exchange chair, Anne Morrell, 585-738-8304, annedm@rochester.rr.com.

Embracing and Celebrating our Differences

By PDG Bill Gormont, D7120 International Service Director

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteers who come from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and professions. We embrace and celebrate these differences as they are what makes the Rotary community so strong. By leveraging unique perspectives and tapping into their expertise, members address the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges.

The Rotary family is committed to contributing time, energy and passion to empower our local communities. Through international service projects, peace fellowships, scholarships, and international exchanges, members are taking action to promote peace and international understanding.

Share Your Project Story

Send your international service story of 200 words or less and a photo (600 x 600) to International Service Director PDG Bill Gormont, bill@empiremagic.com 585-227-9760

Deadline: 1st of the month