

Celebrating a Century of Service

GOOD WORKS



Photo of the Fargo Rotary Club marching past Broadway and First Avenue in 1917, intermingled with the same spot in 2017. 1917 photo courtesy of NDSU Archives. Present-day photography and digital artwork by Dan Francis.

WE ARE THIS CLOSE TO ENDING POLIO

Now is our chance to change the world. To make
sure no child is disabled by polio ever again.

Join in. Speak out. Donate. Be a part of history.

endpolionow.org



ThisClose

Bill Gates

A Publication of the Fargo/Moorhead Area Rotary Clubs, Centennial Edition

GOOD WORKS

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A Century of Service

The Fargo Rotary Club was founded on June 17, 1917. Today, there are five Rotary Clubs in the Fargo-Moorhead area: the Fargo Club, the Moorhead Club, the Fargo West



Club, the FMAM Club and the FMFM Club. In this Centennial Issue, you'll get a few brief glimpses of our many *Good Works* in Fargo, past, present and future.

The Fargo Rotary Club in a parade through downtown Fargo, sometime in 1917. (Photo courtesy of the NDSU Archives.)

Fargo Rotary Timeline 1917-2017



© Rotary International

1905 // In 1905, a group of men gathered together to form a new kind of organization, one with friendship and mutual helpfulness as the basis. This organization was called 'Rotary', because originally the members met in rotation at their various places of business. Paul Harris (far right) started the first Rotary Club in Chicago, IL.



© NDSU Archives

1917 // After a preliminary meeting at the Hotel Annex, organized by Wright Scott and Roy Baker, 29 men were invited to attend an organizational meeting to discuss bringing Rotary to Fargo. It was resolved that the next meeting would be the club's first official meeting and would take place May 9, 1917. The club would be made permanent by adopting a constitution and club by-laws. The by-laws stated the meetings would be held at noon on Wednesdays and annual dues were \$16.



Image provided by Fargo Rotary

1917 // Fargo Rotary was chartered as Rotary Club #317 on June 17, 1917. The Charter was presented during a special meeting on October 26, 1917.



© Rotary International

1920 // By 1920, Fargo Rotary had directly or indirectly assisted in founding the following 7 clubs in North Dakota: Grand Forks, Minot, Dickinson, Jamestown, Devils Lake, Bismarck, and Williston.

The Charter (Founding) Members

of Fargo Rotary: R.T. Baker, Insurance; F.H. Bailey, Eye & Ear Specialist; B.L. Bentsen, Druggist; Norman B. Black, Newspaper; Frank Bracelin, Telephone; W.E. Boyd, Hotels; P.H. Burton, Surgeon; P.W. Clemens, Trust Co.; Ralph J. Cone, Wholesale; S.J. Doyle, Automobile; C.O. Follett, Wholesale; G.B. Haggert, Contractor; Albert Hallenberg, Dentist; G.H. Hollister, Trust Co.; M.L. Hubbard, Public Service Corp.; T.D. Hughes, Insurance; B.I. Keating, Banker; S.F. Knight, Printer; W.F. Kurke, Architect; J.F. McKone, Tobacconist; M.W. Murphy, Legal; G.H. Nesbit, First National Bank; Julius R., Insurance; J.E. Rockwell, Newspaper; E.A. Ricker, Retail; W.W. Scott, Insurance; W.B. Shotwell, Florist; C.O. Smith, Wholesale Harness; C.R. Stone, Music Business.

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© NDSU Archives

1921 // Fargo Rotary finds its first permanent home, at the Commercial Club. Until this point, the Club had been rotating between the Hotel Annex, The Gardner Hotel, and the Moose Lodge. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows constructed the building at 521 1st Avenue North, in 1893. The west end of the building was at 101 Broadway. Early on, it housed the Fargo Forum and the Fargo Harness Company. The Commercial Club (sort of a forerunner to today's Chamber) was on the second floor. A third floor was added in 1915, and when Horace Donaldson took over the building he converted the upper floors to the Hotel Donaldson.



© Rotary International

1921 // During 1921, Fargo Rotary presented charters to the following area clubs: Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Wahpeton, and Detroit Lakes.

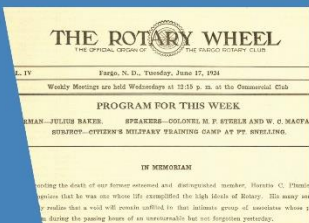


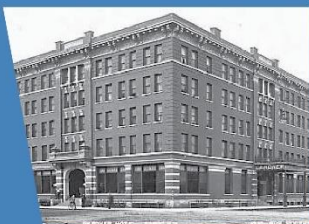
Image provided by Fargo Rotary

1921 // Norman Black is elected president of the club and begins a weekly newsletter for the club called The Wheel.



© NDSU Archives

1927 // Fargo Rotary moved to the Chamber of Commerce, located in the Telephone Building at 502 North 1st Avenue. Built in 1902, with an addition in 1982, it is now known as the Gibb Building. It has been the home to the Fargo Rotary, Fargo Chamber, Commercial Welfare Association of Fargo, Community Chest, Commons' Club, Exchange Club, Fargo Aeronautic Club, Fargo Business Women's Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, and the North Dakota State Fair Association.



© NDSU Archives

1942 // The Club now moved to the Gardner Hotel. Located at 26 Roberts Street, the hotel's grand opening took place on January 14, 1909. Guests who stayed at the Hotel included FDR, Richard Nixon, Charles Lindbergh, Al Jolson, and Charlie Chaplin.

Fargo Rotary

Presidents:

1917
Wright W. Scott
 1918
Lou Hibbard
 1919
C.O. Smith
 1920
B.L. Bentson
 1921
Norman B. Black
 1922
Pierre Clemens
 1923
Dave DeHaven
 1924
Amos Crowl
 1925
Ben C. Thighe
 1926
Matt Murphy
 1927
Walter L. Stockwell
 1928
Matt F. Steele
 1929
Wm. A. McMillan
 1930
Frank McKone
 1931
Norman D. Black
 1932
Jack (W.B.) Shotwell
 1933
Vic Conrad
 1934
W.R. Haggart
 1935
Carl Herdeg
 1936
Percy L. Godwin
 1937
Claire H. Simpson
 1938
Russell A. Sand
 1939
F. Urban Powers
 1940
Walter Lee Airheart

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© NDSU Archives

1949 // Norman D. Black, Jr. became the 3rd generation of the Black family to hold the position of Fargo Rotary Club President (preceded by his father Norman D. Black, Sr., and grandfather, Norman B. Black - who was also a founding member, District Governor and International Director).



© Rotary International

1950 // The Four Way Test was presented to the Club. The Four Way Test is one of the pillars of what makes Rotary what it is today. The test was originated by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor of Chicago in 1933, as a step to save a business on the verge of bankruptcy. Rotary International adopted it and made it available to local clubs in 1949.



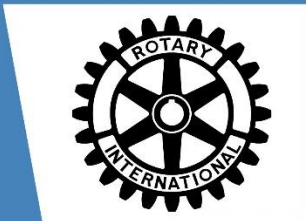
Image provided by Fargo Rotary

1953 // The inaugural Fargo Rotary invitational track meet takes place in May. This is Fargo Rotary's longest running service project, which continues to this day.



© NDSU Archives

1974 // After the Gardner was sold, the Club moved to the Elks Club, located at 102 N. 7th Street. The Elks Club was dedicated on January 21, 1926, and was torn down in 1995 to make room for the addition to the Quentin Burdick Federal Building.



© Rotary International

1984 // The Fargo West Rotary Club was chartered.



© Rotary International/Alyce Henson

1985 // Rotary International created PolioPlus, a campaign to eliminate polio across the globe. When this effort began, there were over 100 polio-endemic countries in the world. As of 2015, there were three remaining (Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria).

Fargo Rotary Presidents cont'd

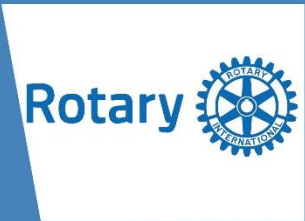
1941
W.F. Kreiselmaier
 1942
Ralph R. Borman
 1943
Verne E. Noble
 1944
Lester C. Rhode
 1945
Irving J. Peet
 1946
Melvin J. Sullivan
 1947
Arthur M. Brandvik
 1948
Norman D. Black, Jr.
 1949
Arthur M. Dargan
 1950
Eugene A. Revel
 1951
Albert W. Shupienis
 1952
John W. Shotwell
 1953
C. Warner Litten
 1954
Millard (Jack Dunn) Dunkirk
 1955
Russell O. Freeman
 1956
E. Maine Shafer
 1957
John F. Dixon
 1958
Charles G. Burke/
E.T. Conmy, Jr.
 1959
Frank P. Hennessy
 1960
W.C. Lontz
 1961
Dr. C.M. Hunter
 1962
H.R. Tait
 1963
E.M. Kvikstad
 1964
G.R. Jacobson
 1965
B.C. Fjelde

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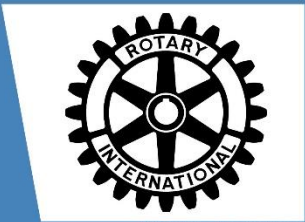
© Fargo Rotary

1987 // Fargo Rotary moves to its current home, the Radisson Hotel, located at 201 5th Street North.



© Rotary International

1987 // After the Supreme Court ruling in Board of Directors, Rotary International v. Rotary Club of Duarte, service clubs are no longer allowed to restrict membership based on gender. Fargo Rotary's first female member was Donna Chalimonczyk.



© Rotary International

1991 // The FM AM Rotary Club was chartered.



Image provided by Fargo Rotary

2006 // The Rotary Clubs of Fargo-Moorhead came together to create the FM Rotary Foundation with the initial purpose of building the Universal Playground in Lindenwood Park. The park was created to allow children of all abilities to play together, and in honor of Rotary's centennial in 2005 was named Rotary Centennial Universal Playground.



Image provided by Fargo Rotary

2009 // The Moorhead Rotary Club started the Dictionary Project in 2009. Fargo Rotary has been focused on the area's youth since its inception and this program fit in with that mission. Every 3rd grader in Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead is given their own dictionary, which encourages them to learn and grow their vocabulary.



Image provided by Fargo Rotary

2009 // The Recital with a Cause is a 5 club collaboration that highlights young, classical musicians from our area. All proceeds of this event go to "End Polio Now", Rotary International's program to eradicate polio worldwide.

Fargo Rotary Presidents cont'd

1966
R.C. Coleman
 1967
Doug Schnell
 1968
John Grove
 1969
Frank Conlin
 1970
Gordon Kartenson
 1971
William Marcil
 1972
Edwin Clapp, Jr.
 1973
Edwin E. Graber
 1974
Robert Herbst
 1975
Richard Kloubec
 1976
James Dillard
 1977
Bob Ward
 1978
W.J. Kennelly
 1979
Frank Hyjek
 1980
Jerry Lovell
 1981
Don Hanson
 1982
Dick Alsop
 1983
Connie Andrews
 1984
Bob Kostka
 1985
Don Kilander
 1986
John Shotwell, Jr.
 1987
Glenn (Duffy) Williams
 1988
Brad Pratt
 1989
Lynn Marr
 1990
Jim O'Day
 1991
Bill McLean

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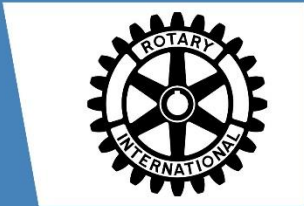
© Rotary International/Seong Joon Cho

2010 // Project English was started as a way to help new Americans integrate into our communities by helping them learn English. Software was purchased and training is provided at 8 locations throughout the FM area.



Image provided by Fargo Rotary

2010 // The FM Rotary Foundation again came together to help the area's children, to raise funds for the Moorhead Miracle Field. The Miracle Field is a t-ball sized baseball diamond, with a cushioned, rubberized surface to prevent injuries and facilitate the use of wheelchairs and walkers. The Moorhead Miracle Field provides a place where all ages and all abilities can play together.



© Rotary International

2012 // The FM PM Rotary Club was chartered.



Image provided by TNT Kids Fitness

2016 // Fargo Rotary donates \$35,000 to TNT Kids Fitness, to help fund a sensory gym, the first of its kind in ND. In May 2016, TNT opened the largest 'public' sensory gym in the nation. The gym uses a non-traditional setting utilizing gymnastics and sensory-based space to provide occupational therapy services.



© Dan Francis

2017 // Fargo Rotary Celebrates its 100th Anniversary



Fargo Rotary
District #5580, Club #317
PO Box 1653
Fargo, ND 58107
www.FargoRotary.org

Fargo Rotary Presidents cont'd

1992
Ben Brunsvoild
1993
Jim Hausmann
1994
Peter Gugisberg
1995
Karen Engler
1996
Daryl Stensgaard
1997
Greg Sweeney
1998
Sheldon Maier
1999
Jan Ulfers
2000
Mike Weiner
2001
John Strinden
2002
Mark Holtz
2003
Rex Carlson
2004
Arnie Kuhn
2005
Bob Medhus
2006
Sandy Korbel
2007
Randy Wimmer
2008
Joel Fremstad
2009
Stan Kaufman
2010
Matt Langemo
2011
Steve Halverson
2012
Lynn Sperial
2013
Dick Larson
2014
Cheryl Knudson
2015
Dan Jacobson
2016
Travis Christopher
2017
Hari Panjini



The Universal Playground in Lindenwood Park, built in 2006-2007 with \$265,000 raised by the Fargo/Moorhead Area Rotary Clubs. Here, children and parents with special needs can play on an equal footing with children and parents of normal abilities, changing the way disabled and non-disabled children view each other. The sign in the foreground lists the major individuals and businesses that contributed to building the playground.

◆ 21st Century Good Works ◆

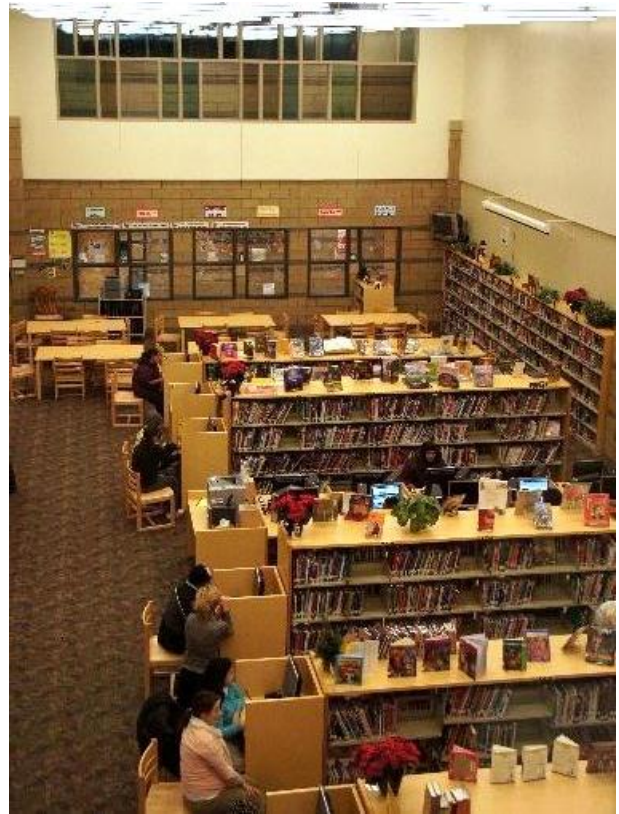
The Rotary Centennial Universal Playground

In early 2006, the Rotary Clubs of Fargo/Moorhead came together to create the Fargo Moorhead Rotary Foundation, with the initial purpose of building the Universal Playground in Lindenwood Park. The playground was finished the next year, with \$265,000 in contributions from businesses and individuals in the Fargo/Moorhead area. It features a smooth and soft walk area, ramps, Braille markings, adaptive swings, slides, and climbing apparatus, enabling children of all abilities to play together. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the creation of the first Rotary Club in Chicago in 1905, the playground was named the Rotary Centennial Universal Playground. It is managed and maintained by the Fargo Park District.

Since 2007, the FM Rotary Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has been engaged in numerous other local and international good works. ►

Project English

Project English helps newcomers to our country learn to speak English. Spearheaded by Rotarian Heather Ranck in 2010, several independent training facilities are now established in the FM area. At least one of these facilities is within walking distance of most new American refugees in our area, eliminating the main obstacle for this audience. Each facility has at least one computer running Rosetta Stone software. Hundreds of new English learners have been trained in the use of the software and are now using it on their own. Area Rotary Clubs have donated more than \$15,000 to this effort, and thousands of hours have been donated by hundreds of volunteers, both Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike. All area Rotary clubs have contributed to this effort.



Carl Ben Eielson Library, one of several Project English locations. Project English stations are at the ends of the aisles, where people can be seen studying.

"Project English has been the spark that was needed to connect parents to the school and community. It's adult education, but the impact has a ripple effect and it has built a fabulous sense of community." —Barbara Weber, Retired Assistant Principal

TNT Fitness and Agassiz School Playgrounds

Fargo Rotary and the FM Rotary Foundation recently raised over \$50,000 to help build two state-of-the-art inclusive playgrounds in Fargo – both wheelchair accessible and anti-static (so as not to interfere with cochlear implants) benefiting nearly 2,000 area children and parents.



TNT Fitness Playground



TNT Fitness Playground



Agassiz School Playground

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Miracle Field

"Every Child Deserves A Chance to Play Baseball."

Miracle Field in Moorhead provides a place where children of all abilities can enjoy the game of baseball. The field was built with \$254,000 raised by the Fargo Moorhead Rotary Foundation.



Miracle League baseball began in Georgia in 1998, when the Rockdale Youth Baseball Association decided to invite children with disabilities to play baseball on a typical baseball field. With tens of thousands of disabled children in the Atlanta area, enthusiasm mushroomed. But there was a problem:

A normal baseball field presents many hazards to players in wheelchairs or walkers. That's when the Rotary Clubs of Rockdale County, Georgia got involved, forming the Rotary Club Miracle League Fund. By the second season, a new kind of baseball field was created: It had a cushioned, rubberized surface to help prevent injuries and facilitate the use of wheelchairs and walkers.



Miracle Fields began springing up across the country.¹ In early 2009, the Fargo/Moorhead Rotary Foundation learned that the Moorhead Parks and Recreation Department wanted to build a Miracle Field at the Southside Regional Soccer Complex in south Moorhead. We offered to raise the funds to build the field, and the city agreed. Rotarians from each Fargo/Moorhead Club were then selected to participate in a committee responsible for promoting, coordinating, and raising the money. Funding took off quickly, and the groundbreaking ceremony to start the project was conducted on June 10th of that year.



Hundreds of people now use Miracle Field on a weekly basis.

Opening ceremonies took place less than 18 months after fundraising began. This is the fastest concept-to-completion of any Miracle Field built in Minnesota. ▶

¹ There are now more than 250 Miracle Leagues around the world, spreading as far as Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia, serving over 250,000 disabled children worldwide. Go to: <http://www.miracleleague.com/home.html>

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The Tri-College University International Student Picnic

This local, annual Rotary tradition of welcoming international students to our area was started by the Moorhead Rotary Club twenty years ago, in 1992. **Every September, area Rotary Clubs welcome hundreds of international students attending NDSU, MSUM and Concordia by hosting a picnic at the Rotary Shelter in Lindenwood Park.**



The International Student Picnic, put on by local Rotarians at the Rotary Shelter in Lindenwood Park. The shelter was built by the Fargo Parks District and named in our honor in 2007, after the Universal Playground was completed, seen in the background of the center photo. (See page 6 for more information on the playground.)

Dictionaries to Third Graders

Started in 2009 by the Moorhead Rotary Club, all area Rotary Clubs are now involved in handing out personalized dictionaries out to students in class. In the age of e-readers and online dictionaries, it's amazing to see the expression of joy on a child's face when opening a dictionary and seeing his or her own name inscribed on the inside front cover! Tens of thousands of these personalized dictionaries have been given to area third graders over the last eight years.

Making Music that Saves Lives

Recital with a Cause combines our local and international good works in perfect harmony. Since 2009 all five area Rotary Clubs have collaborated to present "Recital with a Cause," raising more than \$20,000 toward ending polio in the world and supporting youth-related activities with the FM Symphony Orchestra and the FM Youth Symphony Orchestras.



Violinist Patrick Lin accompanied by Amy Mercer.

◆ Rotary International Good Works ◆

PolioPlus: End Polio Now

Rotarians have put more than \$1 billion into the effort to eliminate polio from the face of the Earth, and have already spared an estimated five million children from a lifetime of paralysis. In 1985, Rotary International created PolioPlus, a campaign to eliminate polio across the globe.² When this effort began, there were over a hundred polio-endemic countries in the world and hundreds of thousands of cases diagnosed annually. Today, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are only three polio-endemic countries left: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan – and less than a hundred cases of polio have been diagnosed annually worldwide over the last several years. Now working with WHO, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and dozens of countries and non-governmental organizations, Rotary International is again raising hundreds of millions of dollars and doing tremendous volunteer work in the final, critical push to eradicate this disease from the face of the Earth *forever*.



**“If we all have the
fortitude to see this
effort through to the end, then we
will eradicate polio.”**

— Bill Gates



Rotary International is engaged in a myriad of international good works. For more information on Rotary International's other humanitarian projects, go to:

www.rotary.org.



² Watch this brief, fascinating timeline of polio at the Rotary International website:
<http://www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/polio/timeline/pages/ridefault.aspx>

◆ FM Clubs International Good Works ◆

Guatemalan Projects



The El Dormido Schoolhouse in Guatemala, built by FM Rotarians to replace a school destroyed in 2010 by Pacific Hurricane Agatha.

“Without a school the children simply have no place to go. The void filled by this project and other similar projects is immense.” —Randy Wimmer, Fargo Rotary Club

FM Rotary Clubs' work in Guatemala goes back ten years and exceeds \$200,000 in contributions. Working with Wahpeton Rotary, Dickinson Rotary and 32 other Rotary Clubs in our Rotary District, we have helped build, expand and supply 11 schools, complete nine water projects, install three corn mill grinding machines and construct four emergency medical facilities (one of which is a fire station/paramedic facility on Lake Atitlan that serves as the central paramedic training facility for the entire country of Guatemala).



This beautifully bagged Guatemalan coffee will be sold at a fair market price to fund future school building projects.

More than 70% of the rural population lives in poverty (95% of the wealth in Guatemala is owned by just 16 families) and the 23 different Mayan languages still in use are not discernible to each other, (preventing villages from communicating with even their closest neighbors, much less the outside world) so FM area Rotary clubs have been helping Guatemalan Rotarians build schools in outlying areas

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Projects in India

“Rotary does not ask us to become heroes or do the impossible. Rotary is made up of ordinary people inclined to give selflessly.... It may not be possible to wipe away all the tears of the world, but we surely can try.”

—Ajit Arom, Rotarian from Rajapalayam, India

Fargo/Moorhead Area Rotary Clubs have helped thousands of Indian students enjoy happier, healthier and more study-conducive lives through the wise investment of over \$200,000 in Rotary funds over the last decade. We have helped set up water filtration for ten schools in the Rajapalayam region of Tamil Nadu, India, working closely with Rotarians there, giving children



These desk/bench sets have enabled these and thousands of other students to study much more effectively than when they were sitting on the ground.

and teachers clean drinking water. We financed the building of 643 steel desk and bench sets for students in that same region, who had previously been studying while sitting on dirt floors. Each desk/bench set, seen below, seats four students comfortably. Today there are more than 2,500 Indian students able to study much more effectively, drinking clean water and sitting comfortably.

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Stand Proud



from this...

Fargo/Moorhead Rotarians have raised tens of thousands of dollars to help Congolese polio victims walk again. The Congo was one of the last places on Earth to be moved off the polio-endemic list, and the disease left many victims behind. At a cost of just \$100 per individual, these life-changing leg braces are being manufactured in the Congo by an American, aiding the local economy.



...to this!

The Tanzania and Chad Water Projects

Until recently, the women and children from the Kipanga village in Tanzania and ones you see in these photos from various rural areas of Chad, had to walk long distances over rough terrain, often up and down hills, to get water from a muddy stream, fill their urns with contaminated water, then hike



back to use it for

cooking and drinking. In Tanzania, we financed the drilling of three wells – and although two of the three came up dry, the one that succeeded now provides clean, potable drinking water for the Kipanga village. Our luck was better in Chad, where we financed 15 wells, and because all 15 succeeded, we were able to drill three more, also successful. We are now helping teach hygiene and water use in these villages.



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Join us sometime. Go to fmrotaryclubs.org. Or just drop by:

The FMAM Club meets at 7 am, Thursday, at the Delta by Marriott.

www.facebook.com/FMAMRotary

The Moorhead Rotary Club meets at noon, Tuesday, in the Hjemkomst Center.

www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Home.aspx?cid=1335

The Fargo Rotary Club meets at noon, Wednesday, at the Radisson. www.fargorotary.org

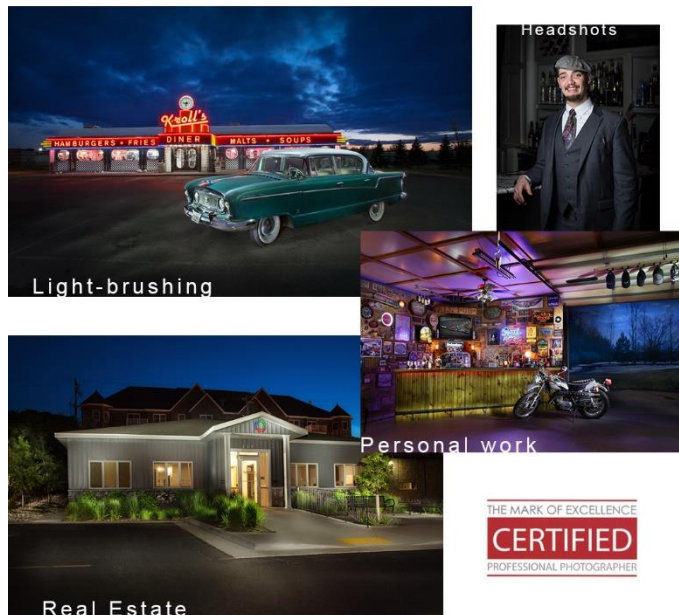
The Fargo West Club meets at noon, Monday, at the Holiday Inn. www.fargowestrotary.org

The FMPM Club meets every Tuesday at 5:15 pm – and the fourth Tuesday of every month is their club orientation meeting, held at Lucky's 13 Pub in Fargo (other nights, location varies).

www.facebook.com/pages/FM-PM-Rotary-Evening-Club/291050024281103

■ ■ ■
DAN FRANCIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Fine Art Commercial Photography



GOOD WORKS!

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for the beautiful cover art.

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