



# District 6490 Rotary Newsletter December 2010



## Merry Christmas

### 2000 Olympic gold medalist a featured speaker at District Conf.

Earlier this year, one of the featured speakers at the Rotary District Conference on April 15-16 in Uptown Normal was inducted as a Distinguished



Rulon Gardner

Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

That alone is enough reason to want to see this man.

But all it takes is a look at his biography to see why he is such a sought-after motivational speaker.

His name is Rulon Gardner.

He is the guy who:

1. Was impaled by an arrow in a show-and-tell in grammar school.
2. Had a toe amputated because of frost bite after being stranded on a snowmobile trip.
3. Was hit by a car while riding his motorcycle.
4. Was in an airplane that crashed into Lake Powell and then had to swim in 44-degree water for more than an hour.
5. Has suffered from a learning disability.

You could call him a survivor.

But he is much more than that.

His resume continues:

- 1.. All-state in both football and wrestling in high school.
2. Wyoming state high school heavy-weight wrestling champion in 1989.
3. As a sophomore at Ricks College, he won the NCJAA national heavyweight wrestling championship to earn a scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
4. Earned All-American honors in wrestling at UofN-L.
5. Won a gold medal in the 2000 Summer Olympics when he defeated Russian Aleksandr Karelin, who had been undefeated in 13 years.
6. In 2001 he became the only American to ever win both a World and Olympic title in Grego-Roman wrestling.
7. Was a three-time U.S. wrestling champion (1995, 1997 and 2001).
8. Won a gold medal in the 2001 World Wrestling Championships.
9. Was named U.S. Olympic Male Athlete of the year and U.S. Olympic Committee Sportsman of the Year in 2001.
10. Was World Cup Champion in wrestling in 1996.
11. Now works with disadvantaged children.

It is obvious to see why he was inducted

as a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame just this year.

He has often attributed his strength to physical labor he performed on his family's dairy farm.



Gardner at the Olympics

And now you also know why Gardner's accomplishments motivate our District 6490 governor, Ray Ropp, a dairy farmer for life.

# Milk Rotary



## For All It's Worth

### What's Inside?

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| From the governor's desk .....       | 2  |
| Moooooove that bell.....             | 2  |
| B-N Sunrise donates \$17,000 .....   | 3  |
| Litchfield recognition.....          | 3  |
| Paris awards on character.....       | 4  |
| Auction items still needed .....     | 4  |
| Charleston recognizes '96 PH.....    | 4  |
| Danville honors John Alexander....   | 5  |
| Monticello Interact donates.....     | 5  |
| Champaign area dictionaries.....     | 6  |
| Limited RYLA scholarships.....       | 6  |
| Mattoon hears exchange student...7   |    |
| Fairbury words to wise.....          | 7  |
| Rotarian Action Groups.....          | 7  |
| Bloomington raises \$10,000.....     | 8  |
| Rantoul stuffs the truck.....        | 8  |
| Rotary Foundation series finale..... | 9  |
| C-U Sunrise member remembered...9    |    |
| Bay St. Louis thanks Dist. 6490....  | 10 |
| Polio donations hit \$171,000.....   | 10 |
| Rotary Project Safaris new.....      | 11 |
| Normal club works for Nigeria.....   | 12 |
| Secretary's October report.....      | 13 |

# Moouooooove that bell!

By Marcia Dennis  
Secretary, District 6490

DG Ray Ropp has challenged our district to repeat a tradition started in 1966-67 when his father, Clarence R. Ropp, was district governor.

At that time, a cow bell (pictured at right) was to be passed among all the clubs in the district. PDG C. Ropp hoped that the bell would encourage visits to other clubs in order to spark new ideas and better friendships.

DG Ray Ropp would like to do the same. He announced this idea to everyone during his club visits.

The bell has started its journey and has been to Pontiac, Fairbury and the Bloomington/Normal area, to name a few clubs.

Let's make sure it makes it all the way around the district before the District Conference on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The bell will be brought to your club by a visiting Rotarian. The bell should be delivered in a White Rotary bag with



the emblem "Service Above Self". Inside the bag is the old cow bell and a map of our district. The various clubs have been circled in red. Once you've had the bell, please put an X through the red circle for your club. Then have someone from your club carry it to another club visit.

Here's to the Cow Bell Express!

## From the governor's desk

Well, the Illini are bowl eligible, miracles never cease to happen. Cardinal and Cub fans came out of the woodwork this year to attend the Cardinal -Rotary literacy day at Busch Stadium on Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>. Rotarians from District 6490 purchased enough tickets to generate over \$20,000 to be used for literacy by participating Rotary clubs. That \$20,000 will be distributed on a per- ticket- sold basis. The highest dollar value generated the preceding 6 years was \$6,200. What a terrific effort and

our kids and grandkids are the beneficiaries! It was a great day -- except the Cubs won.

December is here and the 2010-2011 Rotary year is nearly half over -- "hard to believe". May the Christmas spirit of giving be reflected in your support of the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus. I just heard that there was a new outbreak of polio in the Congo -- an area considered

polio free. We must not let polio raise its evil head and be allowed to spread. Clubs in our district have initiated over 40 projects around the world in the last 2-3 years with matching grant funds from the Rotary Foundation. The more support we give, the more we get in return for our humanitarian efforts.

I want to congratulate the Interact clubs of Litchfield sponsored by Litchfield Rotary, University High School sponsored by Bloomington/Normal Sunset Rotary and St. Thomas Moore High School sponsored by Champaign West Rotary for their significant contributions to Polio Plus as recognized by Rotary International. The following Rotary Clubs in District 6490 have exceeded Rotary's goal for club Polio Plus contributions :Bloomington/Normal Sunset, Champaign West, Charleston, Decatur Monday noon, Effingham noon, Effingham Sunrise, Litchfield, Monticello and Urbana. Congratulations on a job well done.

It's time to start thinking about attending the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans May 21-25 and the District Conference in Normal April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Rulon Gardner Olympic Gold Medal wrestler and John Wright, two nationally known motivational speakers will highlight the conference, speaking Friday night and Sat. night, respectively. You won't want to miss them. This conference promises to be a lot of fun and still provide valuable information and opportunities for all in attendance. More to come in future newsletters.

As we approach Christmas, may we live our lives by following the blueprint Christ has provided for us. Have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and successful New Year.

DG Ray



DG Ray Ropp

**Registration fees**  
**Before Dec. 15**  
**\$300**  
**After Dec. 15**  
**\$340**

## Rotary International District 6490 Newsletter

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# Food bank gets \$17,000 from B-N Sunrise

The Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary hosted the Second Annual Brats & Bags fundraising event on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> on the square in downtown Bloomington.

The Sunrise club served up more than 1,600 lunches and signed up 80 bags teams in an event that allowed the club to donate \$17,000 to Midwest Food Bank.

Hundreds of people joined together on the square to enjoy the beautiful weather, music, camaraderie, and picnic-style brat lunches during the lunch portion of the event. Lunch delivery was also made possible with the help of local volunteers. After lunches were served, the downtown area was transformed into an 80-team bags tournament that took place late afternoon.

The bags tournament attracted teams from all over Central Illinois, and as far away as Ohio and Kentucky. The tournament champions were team "Vandever," with "40 Apart" taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and "HP Tool" taking 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event was a huge success with the support of generous local sponsors, and a team effort from the Sunrise club members.



The Annual Brats & Bags event has allowed the club to donate over \$32,000 to Midwest Food Bank over 2 years. The date for the Third Annual Brats & Bags event is September 16, 2011.

### About Midwest Food Bank:

Midwest Food Bank is a faith-based, non-denominational, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. It was started in 2003 when the David Kieser family began providing food to those in need out of a building on their family farm. MFB began by serving about 10 food pantries in McLean County. Today, the food bank serves approximately 500 organizations across the



Midwest. These days, the food distributed by MFB each month reaches more than 100,000 mouths and is valued at more than \$1 million.

By utilizing a committed army of volunteers, nearly all monetary contributions made to the food bank go directly toward program expenses. MFB has a small staff, and operations would not be possible without assistance from hundreds of committed volunteers and donations of food from food manufacturers, distributors, grocers, community and organizational food drives, and from individual donations of both food and money.

# Litchfield club and its Interact recognized by district governor

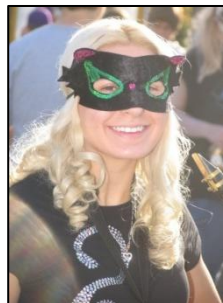
District Governor Ray Ropp made a special presentation to the Litchfield High School Rotary Interact clubs leadership. The presentation was in recognition of the Interact's ongoing activities, with special note concerning their Pennies for Polio fundraising campaign of 2009.

In addition to Pennies for Polio, Interact has raised funds by selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts, cleaned downtown windows following homecoming, raised donations for Coats for Kids, donations for the Montgomery County Cancer Association, and 2-penny wars at the High School.

The Interact club also assisted local Rotarians in organizing the annual Halloween Parade in downtown Litchfield. The governor praised the leadership for their "Service above Self" work ethic.



Interact President Elizabeth Kelly, at right, helped other Interact members on the Rotary float during the 2010 Halloween parade.



Litchfield Interact leadership was recognized by DG Ray Ropp, right. From left are Madison Williams, Interact President Elizabeth Kelly, teacher/sponsor Dan Martin, Katie Starks and Katie Stewart.

DG Ropp presented Litchfield Rotary President Les Mitkos with banner for



club ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in per capita giving for District 6490

# Paris club's scholarships based on character

By Sarah Schmidt  
Paris Beacon News

While the majority of scholarships out there are given out based on need, scholarship or athletics, the Rotary Club of Paris is introducing another kind of basis for awarding scholarships - character.

At the (Oct. 25) Rotary meeting, seniors Kaitlyn Johnson and Luke Randolph were honored as two of the planned 16 students honored by the Rotary Club as displaying the qualities looked for in Rotary Club members. Earlier this October, Millie Arp and Ethan Mason were the students chosen.

"What I wanted to do was recognize high school students working toward a scholarship and who exemplify the characteristics of a good Rotarian," said Rotary Club President Kim Stewart. "They may not be the top students or athletes, but they have the characteristics to be a future Rotarian."

Stewart said that the seniors are chosen by a committee of teachers at Paris Cooperative High School. Each month, a

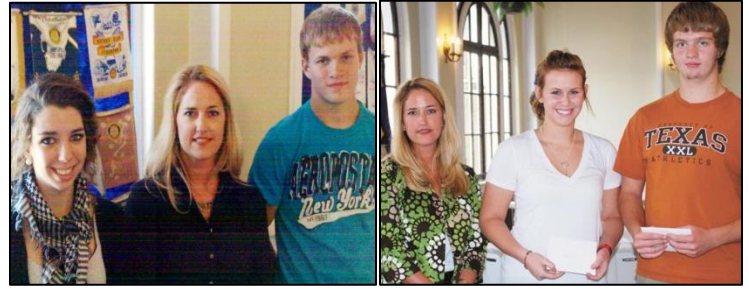
boy and a girl are chosen by the committee to attend a lunch with the Rotary Club and receive a gift card. Students must display characteristics of a Rotarian, such as "Service Above Self" and a desire to use their academic career in the best interest of others.

At the end of the school year, when teachers will have selected 16 students from the senior class, each student will have the opportunity to write an essay on a topic chosen by the Rotary Club. The student with the chosen essay will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Rotary.

Even the 15 students who don't receive the scholarship can place the honor on their resume, Stewart said.

"It's just something different," said Stewart. "We had dropped the scholarship program for the last four or five years. We wanted Rotary to partner with the school."

Johnson is involved in varsity basketball, student council, Key Club, subDebs, and the National Honors Society. She's also the person



Paris Rotary Club President Kim Stewart posed with four seniors recently honored by her club. Millie Arp and Ethan Mason are in picture at left; Kaitlyn Johnson and Luke Randolph are in picture at right.

who helped coordinate all the parade entrants and floats for this year's Honeybee Festival. She is considering attending Lake Land College for their dental hygiene program after high school.

Randolph is involved in varsity football, teenage Republicans, Chemistry Club, FFA, 4-H, and the National Honors Society. After high school, he is considering a church mission for two years, followed by attending a college for anesthesiology.

Stewart recognized both students at the latest Rotary meeting, reading aloud some of the comments from the panel of

teachers who selected them.

"I have Luke in AP Calculus, and he's a good student," wrote in one teacher. "He's always prepared, he's very quiet. He has a quick sense of humor, but never carries a joke too far. He is one of the most trustworthy students."

"Kaitlyn is a very mature young lady, respected by her peers," wrote in one teacher. "She always wears a smile. I will miss her as she heads off to college."

(Reprinted with permission of the Paris Beacon News)

## Auction items, theme baskets still needed for the District Conference on April 15-16

Just a reminder.....The District Conference is being held in Uptown Normal at the new Marriott Hotel on April 15 & 16, 2011.

We want each club to bring a commemorative basket to be auctioned off at the conference.

Or perhaps you could donate an item or service to help raise money for the RI Foundation.

Here's an idea: How about



putting together a basket featuring stores & businesses from your club/city?

Start thinking about this within your clubs and we'll keep sending ideas.

Look for the basket icon in each month's newsletter, until March for details, and start planning your donation.

Questions? E-mail Marcia Dennis at mldenni@ilstu.edu.

*We learn from children....*

*A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoomed past.*

*Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties.*

*"They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck."*

*A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."*



Here are many of the faces behind the planning for District 6490's annual District Conference on April 15 and 16 at the Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Uptown Normal. The guy at the far right in the back row is John Bishop, president of the Normal Rotary Club and chair of the District Conference Planning Committee. (Photo by Meng Horng, Bloomington Rotary Club)

## Monticello Interact Club donates to the Polio Fund

By Diana Wilkin  
Youth Leadership Chair  
Monticello Rotary Club

The Monticello Interact Club presented Rotary with a **\$150** contribution on November 10th.

This money will be given to Rotary's End Polio Fund. The Interact Club raised this money at the Monticello Celebration in September by providing face paintings and temporary tattoos to children.

The club is committed to helping with other International projects. They are currently working on various fundraising so that they may make a contribution to the Heifer Project and assist with ending hunger in impoverished countries.

The Monticello Rotary Club is very thankful for the dedication of the Interact Club members and their contribution.

*Dec. 27*

*deadline*

*for January*

*newsletter*

### Dates to Remember

**March 11-12:** Land of Lincoln PETS.

**April 15-17:** RYLA, 4-H Camp at Monticello.

**April 15-16:** Annual District Conference at Marriott Hotel, Normal.

**May 21-25** – RI International Convention in New Orleans.

## John Alexander is Danville Rotary Club's Vocational Service Person of the Year

By Amy Marchant  
Chair, Danville Rotary Club's Vocational Service Person Award Committee

Each year, the Danville Rotary Club invites all members of the community to nominate local individuals who best demonstrate fulfillment of the Rotary Club's value of service to society. Nominees are selected who demonstrate outstanding achievement in their vocation by encouraging high ethical standards for themselves and others and by dignifying that vocation as an opportunity to serve society.

The Vocational Service Award Committee of the Danville Rotary Club then selects one individual from the nominee's list to be presented with the Vocational Service Winner of the Year Award.

This year, we are proud to announce that the winner is John Alexander, executive director of the YMCA of Danville, IL.

John Alexander has been the Executive Director of the YMCA since 2001. He also happens to be a member of the Danville Sunrise Rotary Club and is chair of District 6490's World Community Service Committee.



John Alexander

John formerly served for 28 years in the independent insurance agency business.

Our Vocational Service Award Winner of the Year, John Alexander, has received numerous nominations from the community. Excerpts from the nomination forms describe John best:

"John exemplifies the mission statement of the YMCA as he lives out his own per-

sonal life. His commitment to a life of Christianity, youth and healthy lifestyles make him a perfect fit for the vocation he has chosen, John continues to lead by example."

"John has earned his respect by living and working with everyone else's best interest at heart. Just listening to him, you can tell his heart is with the kids at the Y and his mission remains to give them every opportunity to reach higher and higher in this challenging world."

"John exemplifies the personal characteristics of honesty, loyalty, humility and integrity, which are key when leading the youth in our area."

The Danville Rotary Club is proud to add John Alexander to the list of Vocational Service Award Winners.

## 1996 honor for Cindy Harris comes at Charleston's November 2 meeting

November was Rotary International Foundation month and recognized among its programs the Paul Harris Award, which was established in 1957 for \$1,000 donations to the Rotary International Foundation.

At the Nov. 2 meeting of the Charleston Rotary Club, Cindy Roberts was recognized for a Paul Harris Award that she earned in 1996 while a member of the Lake Arrowhead Rotary Club in California. (From the club's eBulletin)

## C-U area Rotary clubs give dictionaries to 1,600 students

By Karen Tow  
Secretary and PP C-U Illini  
After Five

More than 1,600 third-grade students in Champaign County public schools received new dictionaries in November from members of C-U Illini After Five and the other Rotary clubs in Champaign, Urbana and Savoy. Rotarians contributed nearly \$3,000 to purchase the dictionaries and then personally delivered the books to every third grader in all the public schools.

In addition to a dictionary, every child also received a special bookplate from Illini After Five Rotary with a space for the child's name. Students also learned about Rotary's commitment to help all children read well.

In 2007, the C-U Illini After 5 Rotary Club began by distributing dictionaries to each third grader in the Champaign and Urbana public schools. Since that time, the project has been expanded to include all third-graders in every school district in the entire county.

"Many of our students do not

have books of their own at home, and this was a great gift to them. Your club's dedication to ... promoting literacy in our community is very much appreciated," said Arthur R Culver, Superintendent of Champaign Unit #4, after Rotarians first distributed dictionaries in October, 2007.

"Thanks for the dictionary. Now I can look up the words I don't know." "They are small and can easily fit on my desk." "I like the America bit at the back." "This will be the first time I will have a dictionary all to myself! I will use it every day!" These comments were taken from hundreds of thank-you letters that students wrote to thank Rotary for their individual dictionaries.

"Physical books are important because not all children have access to computers at home or in the classroom. The students' excitement when they receive the books is palpable," said George Johnston, president of the C-U Illini After Five Rotary Club.

"Each year, Rotarians carry out thousands of projects



worldwide to improve literacy. We wanted to do something on the local level to help improve student literacy and this seemed like something we could ac-



complish, if we stretched. We are very pleased to have had an impact on the lives of our students," said Karen Tow, past president of the club.

This year the Mahomet Rotary Club will distribute to third-graders in Mahomet. C-U Illini After Five thanks the

Rotary Clubs of Champaign, Urbana, Champaign West, C-U Sunrise, Savoy and Rantoul for their contributions to enable hundreds of third graders to have dictionaries they can use and keep as their own.

## Limited RYLA scholarships available for non-sponsored youth

By PDG Chris Scherer  
District Chair of Rotaract,  
Interact and Early Act  
Committee

Does your club support Rotary's new fifth avenue of service "New Generations"? If not, why not?

New Generations Services recognizes the positive changes implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities, involvement in community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

One of Rotary's New Generations programs is RYLA. Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), in District 6490, is for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors and is scheduled for April 15-17 at 4-H Memorial Camp near Monticello

Is the reason you have not supported RYLA in the last couple of years because it costs \$165 to send a kid to RYLA camp?

The Council of Past District Governors has sought partnerships to sponsor scholarships to RYLA Camp. We ask that you contact your local high school and tell them about our

RYLA program. Ask the school administration to select, or help your club select, a sophomore who has genuine leadership skills potential and then go to the district web site and fill out the Scholarship Application.

To find the application go to "Rotary6490.org"

Click on "RYLA" along the left bar.

Then click on "Downloads." There you will find a camp application, a medical form, a U of I release form, and new this year, a scholarship application form. If your club is sponsoring the young person they should fill out the regis-

tration form, medical and release form. If your club is not sponsoring the young person, ask that the kid fill out the scholarship application and the medical and U of I release forms.

Send the completed forms to Tina Manuel at 2 Village Road, Mansfield, IL 61854 no later than March 25. We will announce the scholarship winners April 1 and will notify the youth and their parents.

Questions may be addressed to Tina Manuel at manuella@mchsi.com or PDG Chris Scherer at schercom@aol.com.

# Mattoon exchange student gives Rotarians a taste of Denmark

By Larry Nichols  
Mattoon Rotary Club newsletter editor

Debbie Albin introduced (the Mattoon Rotary Club's) program...Hannah Snow reporting on her year-long Rotary student exchange in Denmark.

She began with a greeting in Danish to give us a flavor of how she was greeted in Denmark when she arrived.

After a year, she now understands 4 of the 5 dialects in Denmark. She understands that Denmark is the second most peaceful, and the least corrupt nation in Europe. She also indicated it is the happiest place on Earth, although she didn't know how that was measured.

Hannah found that prices were double or quadruple the U.S. prices. However, wages were also proportionately higher.

Denmark is known for Legos, Hans Christian Anderson and Blue Tooth technology. Hannah also talked about the climate, political parties, traditional meals and holidays. Denmark is one of the more progressive countries in Europe.

Rotary meetings are a different experience in Denmark. Club members are all men. Evening meetings last three hours and always have pickled herring before the meal (tried twice by Hannah and never again). It seems meeting topics are always budget related. Schnapps are served for happy meeting occasions and usually a card game follows the meeting.

Students begin their year with an Intro camp, which helps acclimate the students to Denmark. The



Hannah Snow, fourth from right and below, provided pictures from her year as a Mattoon Exchange Student in Denmark.

District Conference always has traditional events such as pole climbing and axe throwing. Hannah had a great time with



her three host families and lived in towns from 200 to 15,000 just outside of Denmark's second largest city. In response to the Haitian earthquake, all 150 exchange students gave up their monthly stipend to purchase Shelterboxes for the relief effort. This encouraged a similar response in other countries.

Hannah also had the opportunity to visit other sites in Europe, including Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Venice, Verona, Pisa, Monte Carlo, Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels. Her experiences were once in a lifetime and she will always value the friends she made during this exchange. She thanked our club for the opportunity

for this journey.  
(From the Mattoon Rotary Club's Nov. 18 newsletter)

## Rotarian Action Groups geared toward areas of expertise

Rotarian Action Groups conduct hands-on, international service projects that advance the Object of Rotary. They are autonomous, international groups organized by committed Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses and Rotaractors who have expertise in and a passion for a particular type of service.

### How to get involved

If your club needs help with a service project, consider contacting a Rotarian Action Group with expertise in the appropriate area. If you have a personal interest in a particular issue, consider joining a group.

### How to organize a new Rotarian Action Group

Forming a new Rotarian Action Group requires time, long-term planning and a commitment to establishing an effective international network of Rotarians who share your vision. Prospective Rotarian Action Groups must be prepared to conduct service projects around the world, with at least 100 members representing at least 10 countries and three Rotary zones.

While Rotarian Action Groups operate independently of Rotary International, they must receive official recognition from the RI Board of Directors and function in accordance with Rotary policy. If you are interested in organizing a Rotarian Action Group, please contact RI staff for guidance.

## Good Talk Nine Ways

You're in conversations all day, but have you thought about what separates the good ones from the bad ones?

Researchers found nine factors that make conversations sources of information and power rather than frustration:

1. Showing mutual respect.
2. Allowing enough time to both speak and reflect on what is said.
3. Listening even while disagreeing.
4. Judging arguments but accepting people.
5. Preserving the relationship beyond the conversation.
6. Exploring questions that matter.
7. Creating shared, mutually evolved meanings.
8. Learning something new or important.
9. Strengthening mutual commitment to the work to be done.

Adapted from 'Powerful Conversations,' Phil Harkins

(Source: Fairbury Rotary Club's newsletter, 'The Cornpicker')

# Bloomington raises \$10,000 in a month for Nepal project

By Lisa Boehm

Co-chair, International Service Committee

Bloomington Rotary Club

This journey began in the fall of 2009, after I attended a Rotary Foundation seminar and learned more about the World Community Service projects. I was interested in seeing how our Bloomington club could partner with another club that already had an international service project established. This led me to Eric Luedtke (Past President Mahomet club), our District Governor Trainer (and member of the World Community Service Committee), who had already established a relationship with the Dillibazar Rotary club in Katmandu and chaired the Mahomet Nepal service project. The project works with Ketaaketi (non-rotary based German group) that targets schools, orphanages and group homes that relate to women and children that have been or are slaves or sex slaves (huge problem in Nepal). I had an immediate reaction to this project and felt a connection when learning more about it.

After speaking with my fellow co-chair (Alex Calvert) of the International Service Committee, we decided it was important to have Eric come and speak to our club. After hearing his presentation in July 2010, we were really excited to get our Bloomington club on board with the Nepal project. Then, in early September of this year President Warren Kistner and I had the pleasure of meeting Anneli-Sofia Racker (founder of Ketaaketi), along with our District Governor Ray Ropp. The story of how/why Ketaaketi was created is such an inspiration.

Part of this project's concept is to help the parents with some micro-financing to learn a trade/skill in order for the children to be able to go to school (because the only income they have is from selling their children). This is a caste system and these individuals are dolate – the poorest of the poor. The schools are free, but the parents have to participate in the training in order for the children to go to school and the only way they get the micro-finance is if the kids are in school.

Along the way, our district decided to adopt the Nepal project. However, the Bloomington Club still wanted to have



AG Eric Luedtke, at left, was on hand to help celebrate Bloomington club raising \$10,000 in a raffle for one of Eric's pet projects in Nepal. Others pictured from left are Co-Chairs Alex Calvert and Lisa Boehm surrounding President Warren Kistner. (Photo by Meng Horng)

a larger roll and conduct our own fundraiser. Therefore, we proceeded with the raffle during the month of October, with the idea that 30-days of service could equal \$15,000 (150 tickets at \$100 a piece). A few statistics help drive our efforts:

-- The U.S. State Department estimates that between 600-800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year.

-- 80% are women and girls (most for sexual exploitation).

-- Many humanitarian issues have been addressed over the last decade, but sex slavery has actually worsened.

In Nepal this is a significant problem, and we know that many studies have shown that educating girls is the best way to fight poverty.

The \$10,000 raised for work being done in Nepal will go to toward:

1. Water filtration system (\$1000) - priceless
2. Micro-financing for women (\$3000) – approx. 20-40 families seed money for an independent existence
3. Instructors/Teachers (\$3000) – approx. 3 teachers for a year
4. Tuition/Social classes for kids (\$3000) – approx. 180 kids for a year

On Nov. 11, we celebrated meeting our goal and raising money for a great cause with traditional Nepalese food, dress and music. Matt Parsons was the lucky \$5K raffle drawing winner.

The best part -- knowing that we as Rotarians have worked to Build Communities and Bridge Continents. Thank you again to all who participated and helped make this happen!

## Rantoul club, Interact 'Stuff the Truck'

By Fred Randall

Rantoul Rotary Club

Members of the Rotary Club of Rantoul and the Interact Club at Rantoul Twp. High School braved cold and fog to ask County Market patrons to help them "Stuff the Truck" by donating food to the Community Service Center Food Pantry in Rantoul.

For five hours, beginning at 8:00 a.m., Interact members gave handbills about the event to patrons entering the store, and the Rotarians received food and money donations from patrons leaving the store.

The amount of donations obtained was impressive: the pickup truck to be "stuffed" was almost overflowing with grocery bags,

and \$151 was donated. Many patrons donated "Fall Harvest Help the Hungry" bags being sold in County Market.

The Rotary Club has supported the CSC Food Pantry for many years. As club members enter each meeting, they must donate either money or a food item for the Food Pantry. The Rotary Club has sponsored the Interact Club for many years, and Interact members often attend the Club's meetings.

Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Individual Rotary clubs sponsor and provide support and guidance to



Interact clubs, which are self-governing and self-supporting. Almost 200,000 young people are involved in the more than 10,700 Interact clubs in 109 countries and geographical areas.

# A C-U Sunrise Rotarian made a difference

Champaign-Urbana Sunrise member Chuck Reifsteck shared with us some comments by Rotarian Joseph Katali Matovu, past president of the Rotary club of Mityana, Uganda, to parents, teachers and pupils of Gema Primary School at the recognition and dedication of Rotary work in the Gema-Miseebe community on Nov. 14.

Here are excerpts from his speech:

“This invitation is not only humbling but also a testimony that Rotary and Rotarians are making a profound and lasting difference in the lives of many people around the world.”

He noted that Rotary’s involvement with Gema Primary School started in 2004 with a visit by Rotarian Kakoma, who had several meetings with Mr. Matovu and others with the intention of cooperating on a number of development projects at this school.

“I would like to salute the efforts of all these people and many others around the world for their support, commitment and dedication to helping this school reach this milestone. With the support of Rotary International through its humanitarian programmes, Rotarians, parents, local and international leaders and persons of goodwill, we have been able to register these successes:

1. All the children now study under proper buildings instead of trees. Many thanks to the parents for this self-help effort.
2. A Borehole was constructed at the school
3. The school has sufficient stock of text books for all the children.
4. Two computers were

## *Professor Ibrahim Kokoma of the Champaign-Urbana Sunrise Rotary Club died last year, but his memory will live forever in Mityana, Uganda.*

secured.

5. A generator was secured.
6. All the teachers trained on computer applications.
7. A four-stance latrine was constructed for the girls.
8. A water harvesting system was constructed at the school collecting a combined total of 16,000 litres of water.
9. Furniture catering for close to 300 pupils was secured.
10. The surrounding community was availed with a water harvesting system with a combined capacity of 60,000 litres of water.
11. A borehole at the health centre was constructed.
12. Two shallow wells were reconstructed and equipped with new pumps.
13. The pupils were provided with 340 mountain bicycles.

“These achievements were made possible with support of many people and many Rotary clubs around the world,” he noted, specifically citing the Champaign-Urbana Sunrise Rotary Club.

“It is sad that the late Prof. Ibrahim Kakoma is not here today to celebrate with us these achievements. Nonetheless, allow me to dedicate this success to his name for it is his vision that we have been able to get this far. ...”

“We faced many challenges, but in Rotary, we learn that team work and cooperation is key in overcoming any challenges particularly in development initiatives.”

He asked his audience to reflect on a number of questions, including: “Is it possible for this community to produce another Prof. Kakoma, Rtn Kaliisa etc. who will lead once

again? Or are we going to continue lamenting and reminiscing over what it would have been had so and so not passed on?”

Such questions, he said, “should form the hallmark of our relationships, actions and thoughts. We will not find angels, only mortal men, let us support and build each other rather than tearing one another apart.”

Rotarian Matovu cited a number of actions, including food security. “It is a shame that we cannot grow enough food to feed our children. Hence, they come to school hungry, stay at school hungry and then we expect them to perform well!”

Other needed actions, he said, include:

1. We urgently need to take charge of our development agenda. Any outside support should complement our efforts. Now that Rotary has donated desks to this school, do we have any plans of acquiring more from contributions by the parents of this school?
2. Is it responsible for us parents to send our children to school without basic needs such as uniforms, books, pens/pencils, shoes etc? All these items may cost about 20,000/= a term! Translated in productive activities, you will only sell about 15kgms of unprocessed coffee or one piglet of one month, or three bunches of bananas, or ¼ sack of cassava, or ¼ sack of sweet potatoes. It is really possible to improve the welfare of our children with just a little effort!
3. No one is responsible for our development agenda. Singing

political slogans, blaming and slandering others and waiting for change in leadership will never solve our problems. We must make a personal decision to take charge of our lives and provide better opportunities for ourselves and our children. 4. There are no short cuts to development. We have to do our part with the zeal of a missionary. We owe it to the next generation to pass on a better world than the one we inherited from our forefathers. For we are not heirs but rather trustees of this community and this world.

To the pupils of this school, he added, “Your success is our success, but your failure is your failure.”

To the teachers: “You have been entrusted with a noble duty. To turn out these children the way they should be. Anything short of that counts as your personal failure. Teach them, guide them, love them, and discipline them. Give them your best.”

And to the school management, parents and the wider community, he noted: “We are in this together; we are a team. Development is a communal effort. We must pull together in the same direction. Everyone brings a brick. My experience is that even broken bricks are needed in building. So even those people who do not measure to our expectations should be listened to. With each brick and as we say in Rotary, we shall be able to build better, bigger and bolder communities.

“Once again, I thank you. Rotary will continue to work with this school and this community to help realize our common good. But always remember, as parents, leaders, pupils and teachers of this school, you must always be in charge of your development.”

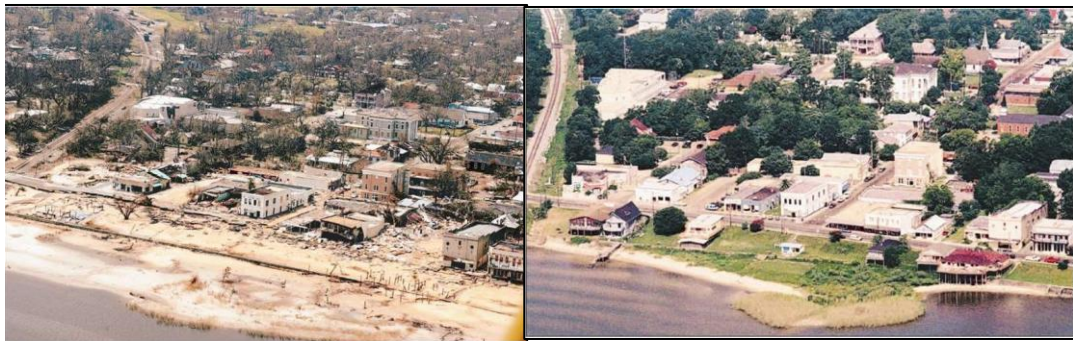
## The two faces of Bay St. Louis, MS. – After Katrina, and today

Katrina's hurricane victims in Bay St. Louis, MS., haven't forgotten the people who helped rebuild their community, including our District 6490, which spent close to \$10,000 for the rebuilding and sent some 6 work teams to help with reconstruction.

PDG Dick Wagner, who was district governor in 2007-08 and directed much of our district's contribution, received the following letter last month from Bob Warner, past governor of Bay St. Louis' District 6150.

"I am writing to say "Thank You" to everyone who has contributed to the completion of The Bay St Louis Community Hall. The project is slated for completion this month.

"The dedication will be held in January, 2011. Details to follow soon.



"It has also become apparent that TRF does not share with all partners that grants are approved. So for those who are not aware MG Grant 73186 is approved. In the final analysis this grant is supported by US districts from 6040, 6060, 6080,6110,6150 ,6170,6190, 6200, 6460, 6490,6510, 6560, 6580, 6670,6690, 6710 ,6740,6760, 6780, 6800,6820,6840 (host dis-

trict),6860, and 6880.

"Non US Districts include 1090 (England), 1710 & 1720 (France),3160 & 3201 (India), 3280 (Bangladesh), 3360 (Thailand), 3470 (Taiwan), 4200 (Mexico), 4845 (Paraguay), and 7020 (Jamaica-International Partner).

"Non US Rotary Clubs include RC Ferney-Voltaire, France; RC Cochin Midtown,India; RC Western Pampang, Philippines; RC Mengo, Uganda, and RC Pi-

netown, South Africa.

"As you know this project was adopted by the 2007-2008 district governor class from the 2 Mid-America zones. We are very appreciative of all our fellow Rotarians from abroad who have supported this project...

"On behalf of the people of Bay St. Louis, Hancock County USA and the Rotary Club of Bay St. Louis--  
THANK YOU !!!!"

## District 6490 Rotarians have raised \$171,000 for \$200 million challenge

*By Les Mitkos*

*District 6490 Polio Chair*

Recently, I had the privilege of interviewing a polio survivor. She was a victim of polio in the early 40's when an outbreak hit St. Louis area. She talked about the many surgeries she had as a small child, which she was forced to endure; physical therapies and the great pain that went with all treatment plans. She was taken from home at age four and underwent special physical treatment under the care of Sister Kenny in Minnesota. She is now sixty-seven and she counts herself as one of the lucky ones who lived. In her words, "I am a lucky one because someone cared." She still wears a brace on her legs and lives with pain, but is alive because "someone cared" enough to intervene into the life of a small child.

I asked her if she was aware of the efforts made by

Rotary International to eradicate polio from the world. I asked her if she was aware of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation challenge to Rotary. She answered "yes" to both questions. I asked her how she felt about the eradication efforts and what she felt towards individual Rotarians who take part in this challenge. She answered: "Anyone who takes part in this eradication effort is an Angel of God's love and healing. They carry in their hearts His mercy and compassion. God bless them!

Now the rest of the story:

As of 31 October, Rotarians have raised about \$152 million for Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge.

As of 30 November, Rotarians in District 6490 have raised \$171,004.31 for Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge. \$161,004.31 has come from contribution made by clubs

and districts. Outstanding! Your personal gifts have directly supported the immunizations campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

I received this message recently: At least 97 people have died in a recent outbreak of polio in the Republic of the Congo. Rotary is providing a total of \$500,000 in emergency grants for immediate polio immunization efforts throughout the country.

As Rotarians we must remember that as long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.

Now the December 2010 Challenge to all Rotarians and clubs in District 6490. I would ask you to generate

\$20,000+ or about \$400 per club (53 clubs in D6490) as new monies over and above our normal gifts to put District 6490 over the \$200,000 mark. Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradication of this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all. As for my family, we have been blessed with six healthy children and six grandchildren. I am planning to give to this challenge \$10 per child, raising new monies of \$120 over and above our normal gifts in their names. I invite you to join me in this challenge. Remember, we are Angels of God's love and healing and we carry mercy and compassion in our hearts.

Club treasurers; please keep me informed about your clubs' donations for polio in the month of December 2010 at (ljmjr55@hotmail.com).

# Three parts to District Rotary Foundation structure

By Surinder Sethi  
 Director Foundation & International Service

How is our district's foundation structured?

Our district is very active in all TRF programs. We are mostly structured consistent with TRF's fundraising and fund spending programs. Please see the attached organizational chart. The District Rotary Foundation Structure is divided in 3 parts:

**a. Administration** which consists of Alumni of the

Foundation. TRF Educational Programs have a way of forging bonds between alumni and Rotarians that can last a lifetime. Former Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary World Peace Fellows, and Group Study Exchange team members are often interested in joining a Rotary club, or a Foundation alumni

## Last of four-part series about Rotary Foundation

association. These members of the Alumni share their experiences and provide suggestions to make TRF programs even better.

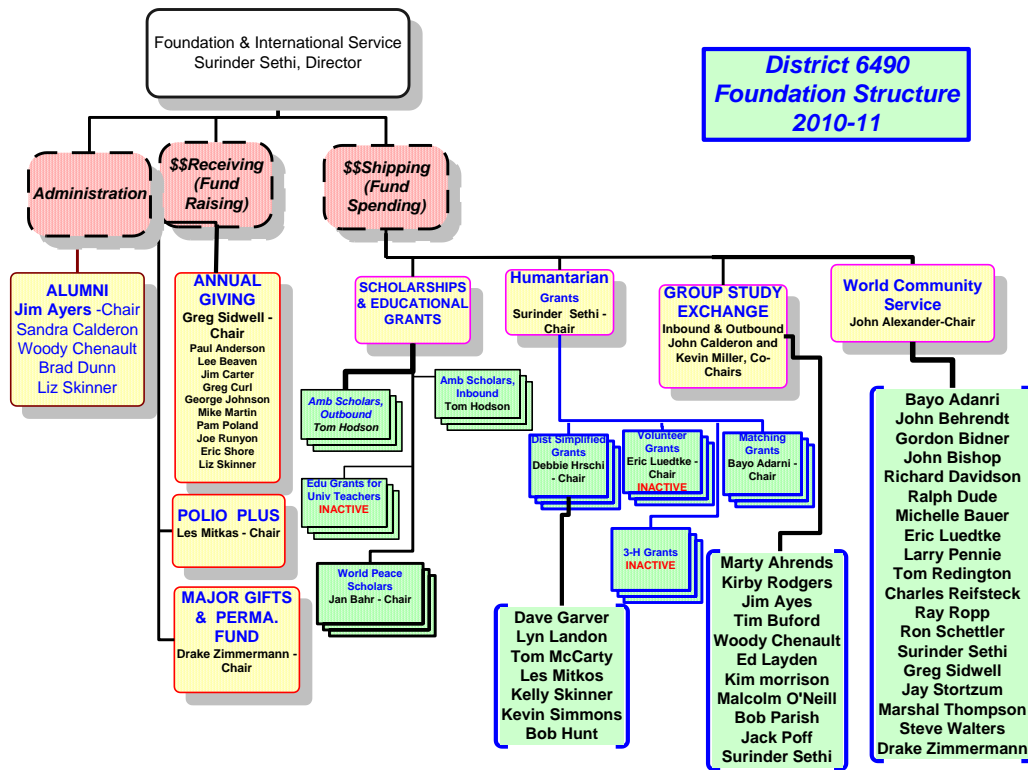
**b. Fundraising side:** consisting of Programs and committees to raise funds for the Foundation. This part consists of three committees:

Annual Giving, Polio Plus fund and Major Gifts and permanent fund.

**c. Fund Spending** side committees that work on Educational and Humanitarian programs of the Foundation. Educational program committees are: Various scholarship & educational

grants as shown and Group Study Exchange. Humanitarian committees are District Simplified Grants, Matching Grants, 3H (Health, Hunger and Humanity) Grants and Volunteer Grants.

World Community Committee promotes international service activities by encouraging, educating and assisting clubs in identifying international community service projects; developing contacts with Rotary clubs in other countries, and assisting clubs in obtaining matching grants



for WCS projects. Works with the club project sponsors to review grant applications to verify that they are complete and comply with The Rotary Foundation requirements before submission to TRF

## Visits to international Rotary projects object of Rotary Project Safaris program

Greetings from Evanston. We are writing to draw your attention to an exciting new presidential initiative being supported by the 2010-11 Reach Out to Africa Committee, Rotary Project Safaris.

Rotary Project Safaris are short trips on which Rotarians visit Rotary projects in countries other than their own. These can take place anywhere in the world, including, but by no means limited to Africa.

This unique experience enables Rotarians to view and evaluate a variety of Rotary projects for the purpose of encouraging support for these projects upon their return home. It also connects Rotarians more closely with one another, providing a won-

derful opportunity for relationship-building and collaboration.

As Friendship Exchange and World Community Service district chairs, you are already familiar with the value of friendship, fellowship and partnership, and are therefore ideally suited to (Continued on Page 12)

## Normal club coordinates grant through district for Nigeria school

By Bayo Adanri

Normal Rotary Club

The Ilesa Rotary Club (District 9125 formerly 9130) and the Normal Rotary Club in collaboration with Districts 6490, 6460, and 6060 recently completed a project funded under Matching Grant #68315 for the supply of state-of-the-art science laboratory equipment, computers and library books to Iwoye-Jesa Grammar School in Oriade Local Government of Osun State Nigeria.

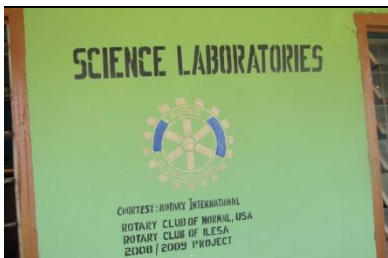
Iwoye-Jesa Grammar School is a public school established in 1976. The school had fairly well equipped science laboratories until a brief merger with a neighboring high school; the merger led to the removal of the science equipment which was not returned after the merger failed.

The objective of this project is to provide opportunities for the students to develop interest in science and to promote computer literacy among the students.

The project cost is \$23,888. The Rotary Foundation award was in the amount of \$11,394 matching contributions from the Ilesa Rotary Club, \$200; Normal Rotary Club, \$2,000; District 6060, \$3,397; District 6460, \$3,397; and District 6490, \$3,500.

The terms of the grant included, but are not limited to, the coordination of the project internationally by the Normal Rotary Club and local coordination of the project by the Rotary Club of Ilesa.

The Rotary Club of Ilesa (Host Partner Rotary Club)



was responsible for the implementation of the project and assisted in the renovation of the laboratories.

According to one of the reports submitted to Rotary International, seven Rotarians actively participated in the project.

The Normal Rotary Club assisted with writing of the grant application and for raising the matching funds. There were 15 Rotarians from the club and the three districts that participated in the fundraiser and or grant writing.

The project implementation was monitored by email, telephone and a couple of visits to the project site by Bayo Adanri of the Normal Rotary club.

On Oct. 27, 2009, the project was commissioned by District Governor Mustapha, who donated two ceiling fans to the computer lab. The project received participation from the community and the students have been levied N300.00 (equivalent of \$2) per semester to help maintain the equipment.

The project impact on the beneficiaries includes the student access to qualitative science education and computer technology, enlighten and promote Rotary in the school and community and draw government attention to the challenges of public secondary schools and the need for computer literacy.

The project impact on the Rotary Club of Ilesa includes stronger connection and relationship with international Rotary Club and Districts and increased Rotary visibility in the



community. The project is sustainable and complements other Rotary projects in the area. Equipment purchased with the grant is being maintained with local expertise.

The project has provided the student and the community the tools that they will need to help themselves.

The project impact on Rotary and humanity in general is that it help promote

world peace and understanding as well as build a long lasting relationship between the clubs and districts involved.

Video extracts from the project presentation/comm.-issioning is available for club programs or you may contact Bayo Adanri at bayoadanri@pvc-inc.net to schedule a club program.



### Second fest in Bloomington

The Bloomington Rotary Club and Second Presbyterian Church, where the club meets, sponsored its second annual Thanksgiving fest for developmentally challenged clients of local social service agencies. (Photo by Meng Horng)

| Club Name             | NOT     | MEMBERSHIP   |          |     |     |         | ATTENDANCE |         |        |            |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------|----------|-----|-----|---------|------------|---------|--------|------------|
|                       | RE-PORT | Member Count |          | Oct | YTD |         | %          |         | YTD    |            |
|                       | NG      | 7/1/10       | 10/31/10 | +/- | +/- | %       | Last Year  | Oct.    | YTD    | TO RI      |
| Arcola Sunrise        |         | 30           | 29       | 0   | -1  | -3.33%  | 72.67%     | 75.75%  | 75.75% | \$1,475.   |
| Arthur                |         | 24           | 23       | 0   | -1  | -4.17%  | 69.58%     | 71.00%  | 73.50% | 0          |
| Atlanta               |         | 18           | 19       | 1   | 1   | 5.56%   | 66.33%     | 77.77%  | 71.94% | \$100      |
| Bloomington           |         | 83           | 80       | 3   | -3  | -3.61%  | 64.93%     | 74.20%  | 74.79% | \$1,450    |
| B-N Sunrise           |         | 92           | 92       | 1   | 0   | 0%      | 68.00%     | 83.00%  | 72.25% | \$1,575    |
| B-N Sunset            |         | 22           | 23       | 0   | 1   | 4.55%   | 83.08%     | 74.00%  | 75.25% | \$1,492    |
| Blue Mound            |         | 13           | 10       | 1   | -3  | 0%      | 75.68%     | 83.30%  | 75.28% | \$400      |
| Casey                 |         | 13           | 13       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 63.07%     | 56.00%  | 27.00% | 0          |
| Champaign             | NR      | 166          | -        | -   | -   | -       | 65.46%     | -       | -      | \$2,025    |
| Champaign West        |         | 153          | 155      | 1   | 2   | 1.31%   | 78.36%     | 80.32%  | 79.89% | \$9,208    |
| C-U Sunrise           |         | 46           | 48       | 3   | 2   | 4.35%   | 77.07%     | 84.60%  | 81.30% | \$1,449    |
| Charleston            |         | 76           | 76       | 1   | 0   | 0%      | 55.75%     | 69.00%  | 60.75% | \$450      |
| Clinton               |         | 37           | 35       | 1   | -2  | -5.41%  | 62.03%     | 67.20%  | 66.38% | \$3,575    |
| C-U Illini After 5    |         | 18           | 19       | 1   | 1   | 5.56%   | 93.17%     | 96.00%  | 98.40% | \$3,620    |
| Danville              |         | 112          | 102      | 0   | -10 | -8.93%  | 52.42%     | 52.00%  | 50.75% | \$4,350    |
| Danville Downtown     | NR      | 0            | -        | -   | -   | -       | -          | -       | -      | 0          |
| Danville Sunrise      |         | 27           | 24       | 1   | -3  | -11.11% | 63.25%     | 60.00%  | 60.00% | \$1,000    |
| Decatur               |         | 125          | 124      | 0   | -1  | -.80%   | 37.85%     | 38.16%  | 36.71% | \$4,180.02 |
| Decatur Metropolitan  |         | 13           | 12       | 0   | -1  | -7.69%  | 58.17%     | 45.75%  | 58.51% | \$399      |
| Effingham Noon        |         | 104          | 103      | -2  | -11 | -.96%   | 50.42%     | 51.00%  | 49.75% | 0          |
| Effingham Sunrise     |         | 59           | 61       | 0   | 2   | 3.39%   | 65.52%     | 69.67%  | 67.09% | \$350      |
| Eureka                | NR      | 0            | -        | -   | -   | -       | 42.00%     | -       | -      | \$700      |
| Fairbury              |         | 42           | 41       | 0   | -1  | -2.38%  | 62.23%     | 56.03%  | 59.41% | \$200      |
| Forsyth Sunrise       |         | 14           | 15       | 0   | 1   | 7.14%   | 85.58%     | 85.00%  | 86.25% | \$100      |
| Gibson City           |         | 28           | 28       | -2  | 0   | 0%      | 44.83%     | 44.00%  | 43.13% | \$563.87   |
| Gilman                |         | 15           | 15       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 81.42%     | 75.00%  | 79.50% | \$1,950    |
| Hillsboro             |         | 28           | 28       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 41.67%     | 38.00%  | 41.50% | 0          |
| Hoopeston             |         | 19           | 18       | 0   | -1  | -1%     | 61.66%     | 61.11%  | 57.81% | \$605      |
| Lincoln               |         | 61           | 61       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 70.35%     | 70.69%  | 72.56% | \$6,680    |
| Litchfield            | NR      | 29           | -        | -   | -   | -       | 75.42%     | -       | -      | \$2,286    |
| Mahomet               |         | 28           | 29       | 0   | 1   | 3.57%   | 82.15%     | 90.902% | 87.30% | \$3,925.40 |
| Marshall              | NR      | 22           | -        | -   | -   | -       | 74.75%     | -       | -      | \$150      |
| Mattoon               |         | 71           | 63       | 0   | -8  | -11.27% | 65.41%     | 53.91%  | 52.27% | \$735.98   |
| Met.-Germantown Hills |         | 28           | 30       | -1  | 2   | 7.14%   | 68.60%     | 66.67%  | 76.01% | \$250      |
| Monticello            |         | 80           | 82       | 0   | 2   | 2.5%    | 68.68%     | 71.43%  | 71.00% | \$450      |
| Mount Pulaski         |         | 12           | 11       | 0   | -1  | -8.33%  | 55.75%     | 48.00%  | 52.75% | 0          |
| Newton                | NR      | 38           | -        | -   | -   | -       | 65.75%     | -       | -      | \$1,443    |
| Nokomis               |         | 14           | 12       | 1   | -2  | -14.29% | 68.67%     | 75.00%  | 78.75% | 0          |
| Normal                |         | 87           | 86       | -2  | 1   | -1.15%  | 72.67%     | 74.00%  | 70.75% | \$8,980    |
| Pana                  |         | 19           | 19       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 60.02%     | 64.47%  | 65.85% | 00         |
| Paris                 | NR      | 40           | -        | -   | -   | -       | -          | -       | -      | \$75       |
| Paxton                |         | 20           | 20       | 0   | -   | -       | 53.73%     | 53.00%  | 54.75% | \$375      |
| Pontiac               |         | 42           | 42       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 62.63%     | 69.00%  | 63.00% | \$2,624    |
| Rantoul               |         | 38           | 40       | 1   | 2   | 5.26%   | 64.57%     | 59.78%  | 64.26% | 0          |
| Roanoke               |         | 19           | 20       | -   | 1   | 0%      | 70.50%     | 81.00%  | 76.50% | 0          |
| Robinson              |         | 19           | 19       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 62.42%     | 52.78%  | 53.57% | 0          |
| Savoy                 |         | 33           | 30       | -1  | -3  | 0%      | 78.41%     | 80.00%  | 75.00% | 0          |
| Shelbyville           |         | 33           | 34       | 0   | 1   | 3.03%   | 72.67%     | 59.00%  | 71.50% | \$1,000    |
| Sullivan              |         | 34           | 34       | 0   | 0   | 0%      | 54.92%     | 54.00%  | 57.25% | 0          |
| Tuscola               |         | 38           | 37       | 0   | -1  | -2.63%  | 72.42%     | 74.00%  | 70.75% | 0          |
| Urbana                |         | 95           | 98       | 0   | 3   | 3.16%   | 52.86%     | 51.00%  | 54.90% | \$5,534    |
| Vandalia              |         | 40           | 40       | 1   | 0   | 0%      | 64.42%     | 66.00%  | 67.50% | \$930      |
| Villa Grove           | NR      | 21           | -        | -   | -   | -       | -          | -       | -      | 0          |

\$76,655.27

# District Secretary's October Report

## New Rotarians Reported

Champaign West  
Martin Pitman  
Danville Sunrise  
Hank Anderson

## Safaris

*(Continued from Page 10)*  
embrace and promote the Rotary Project Safaris to clubs and districts. For details on Rotary Project Safaris, please review the guidelines on the RI website.

Consider becoming a safari organizer and posting your idea for a Rotary Project Safari on a brand new website recently featured in the Reach Out to Africa Committee's October newsletter, RotaryTrips.org, created by a Rotarian to facilitate information sharing on available safaris. This website can serve as a fantastic resource for those interested both participating in and leading safaris.

We encourage you to coordinate with one another and seek out opportunities to establish international Project Safaris. Please feel free to use your district chair directories to make contact with your counterparts in other districts and encourage Rotarians in your district to consider participating in this unique opportunity.