



FEBRUARY 25, 2010

# Spokesman

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD SOUTHEAST

## TOP STORY

### Rotary Focus on Haiti Relief

By Ryan Hyland

*Rotary International News -- 22 January 2010*

Rotary clubs and districts worldwide are mobilizing resources to deliver urgently needed relief to the millions affected by Haiti's devastating earthquake.

District 7020, which includes Haiti, has flown in 70 planes filled with more than 60,000 pounds of medical equipment and supplies into the cities of Pignon and Port-de-Paix to bypass logistical problems in the hard-hit capital of Port-au-Prince.

The United Nations estimates that more than half of the buildings in the capital have collapsed. About 200,000 people are dead and millions more homeless.

"Rotary had an incredible infrastructure established before the quake, which has made our relief efforts very effective," says Dick McCombe, past district governor and Haiti liaison chair. "We're flying in supplies through backdoor channels and doing things a lot of agencies can't do."

The district's Haiti Task Force, set up two years ago to administer all financial aid to the nation, is working with local clubs to deliver aid to Port-au-Prince and those who have taken refuge in the countryside.

McCombe says Rotary was in a good position to help in Haiti, with 33 projects already underway to provide water, sanitation, medical care, and education.

"We changed from teaching children how to read to saving their lives," says McCombe.

Clubs in the district have raised about US\$1 million for short- and long-term recovery.

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## COMMITTEE HUB

### World Community Service Committee's Disbursements YTD

Southeast's WCS Committee, which is hosting the raffle/auction at today's meeting, has been hard at work determining the recipients of this year's WCS funding. Already, the committee, with approval from the board, has sent \$2500 to the Convoy of Hope's efforts in Haiti and \$2000 to Yachana Technical High School in Mondana, Ecuador.



## CALENDAR

### Looking Ahead

- 3/9 Rotary Board Meeting
- 3/16 New Member Orientation
- 4/7 Leadership Education Training Seminar
- 4/13 Rotary Board Meeting
- 4/15 Joint Rotary Club Meeting at the University Plaza Convention Center

### Today's Agenda

- World Community Service Raffle Ticket Sales
- Invocation: Brad Bodenhausen
- Announcements
- Rotaract Update
- Program: World Community Service Raffle/Auction



### Four Way Test

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

"Rotarians are incredibly generous and are doing what needs to be done," says McCombe. "We are setting aside some of these contributions for long-term recovery."

Rotarian Claude Surena, head of the Haiti Task Force and president of the Haitian Medical Association, is sheltering more than 100 injured people in his damaged home in Port-au-Prince. His house has become a makeshift hospital and medical distribution center. Within the next two weeks, McCombe says, a barge will be hired to transport 20 to 30 tons of clothes, blankets, folding beds, and other items to Haiti from Nassau, Bahamas.

### **ShelterBox responds**

ShelterBox has already delivered more than 7,000 containers to Haiti, with thousands more scheduled to be deployed.

"This is the largest, quickest, and most complex deployment in our history," says John Leach, head of operations for ShelterBox. "We organized across four countries to get ShelterBoxes to the people of Haiti quickly."

Each box contains a tent that houses 10 people as well as a stove, blankets, and other essential items.

Doctors have been using supplies from the containers to treat the injured. Hospitals in the capital city are using the tents to provide emergency shelter for postoperative patients.

"There's hundreds of thousands of people that are injured. The walking wounded are everywhere," says Mark Pearson, one of three ShelterBox response team members in Haiti. "People are getting taken to hospital now, eight, nine days later."

The Rotary Foundation has established the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, a donor advised fund primarily for U.S. Rotarians who want to donate toward recovery efforts. The fund has raised more than \$500,000 so far.

## **RECOGNIZING ROTARIANS**

### **March Birthdays**

Mar 1 Brad Cantwell  
Mar 3 Lori Barnes  
Mar 5 Jim Roebuck  
Mar 6 Bill Saddler  
Mar 7 Barbara Lucks  
Mar 8 Jerry Brierly  
Mar 10 Andy Dalton  
Mar 10 Hallie Sale  
Mar 11 Shawn Harris  
Mar 11 Mike Pearl  
Mar 12 Heather Ramsey  
Mar 13 Ted Andrews  
Mar 19 Jerry Cash  
Mar 19 Dawn Hiles  
Mar 23 Cindy Howell  
Mar 25 Bill Luckfield  
Mar 26 Tom Slaughter  
Mar 31 Steve Brooks

## **WORDS AND INSIGHT**

### **Accuracy**

There was a knock at the door. It was a small boy, about six years old. Something of his had found its way into my garage, he said, and he wanted it back. Upon opening the garage door, I noticed two additions: a baseball and a broken window sporting a baseball-sized hole. "How do you suppose this ball got in here?" I asked the boy. Taking one look at the ball, one look at the window, and one look at me, the boy exclaimed, "Wow! I must have thrown it right through that hole!"

## **SOUTHEAST SNIPPETS**

### **Looking Back**

### **It's been Five Years since the Tsunami**

Shortly after the tsunami hit on December 26, 2004, the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast responded by giving \$1000 from the World Community Service fund to the Convoy of Hope and \$1000 to a WCS project in RI District 3150 for a long-term livelihood assistance project to support fishermen affected by the tsunami.

### **Are You a Paul Harris Fellow?**

In Southeast Rotary, we expect our members, as part of a worldwide service organization focused on furthering world peace and understanding, to participate in supporting the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. For a donation (one-time or multi-year) of \$1000, you will be named a Paul Harris Fellow. Rotarians who are already Paul Harris Fellows are encouraged to honor others (non-Rotarians welcome!) by naming them Paul Harris Fellows.

Soon, the Southeast's Foundation Committee will hold a reception for Southeast's Paul Harris Fellows members (and their spouses if they are PHFs). The reception will be held at the home of Bob Beine. We will be taking R.S.V.P.s over the next few weeks.

If you're not a PHF, then you'll miss a great party. There is no cost for the event, which is from 7:00-9:30 p.m.