## November is Rotary Foundation Month



It's the time to celebrate the wonderful work of our Foundation, a good time to reflect on the wonderful programs we support and on how we can

continue to make these programs a success.

Explore the activities of our charity. With your support, our Foundation sponsors and makes possible a broad range of Educational and Humanitarian programs: Polio Eradication, Rotary Peace Fellowships, Vocational Training Teams, and District & Global Matching Grants to name a few. These programs are the lifeblood of Rotary, creating peace and understanding through the lives touched by the programs.

Our contributions to The Rotary Foundation fund and fuel these Rotary programs. A contribution to the Foundation is one of the best investments you can make with nearly 100% going to Rotary programs that save and change lives.

I encourage each of you to learn more about The Rotary Foundation and consider how you and your club can help. Make a contribution to continue saving and changing lives. And, challenge all of your members to be an EREY member.

To learn more about The Rotary Foundation, click here.

To learn more about Rotary District Foundation 6950 in action and an array of grant programs, click here.

Take a look at how Charity Navigator evaluates and rates The Rotary Founda-

tion.

Read more about The Rotary Foundation elsewhere in this newsletter from our District Polio Chair, Mike Fitzgerald.

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Michael Caruso and John T. Capps: wow, what a trip those two are. They captivated the audience and kept them in spellbinding attention. If you were one of the almost 600 people who attended the event, then I don't need to say anything else. If you weren't, then you missed one great Rotary affair. The stories, lessons, personal development and dynamic presentations were quite frankly, OUTSTANDING!

Thanks to all who helped make this possible including General Manager, "PDG Jamie Mick", behind the scenes guru and social media master "John Litton", Public Relations Managers, "Tina Shelton" and "Tekoa Bean", Webmaster extraordinaire "Perry Bean" Pinellas County Coordinator "DGN Mike Chapman", social advisor "Brenda Wendt" and all the hard working Area Governors and folks who chipped in to make those three nights a huge success.

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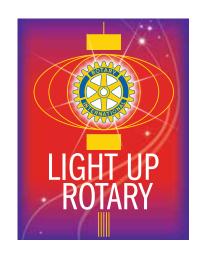
The District Governor official clubs visits are complete! Thanks to all members for your support and generosity. Thanks also to the Presidents and Area Governors. All the visits were most enjoyable, enlightening and I thank each club for their graciousness.

All of your thoughts & ideas duly noted, in fact, I can't reinforce enough the value of getting together to share ideas, to share workload, and to share in Rotary activities & events. It's a given fact that Rotarians acting together are much more powerful and effective than acting alone

Now, let's continue with "Every One Bring One".



# **BRING**





Janet Waddell presenting a check to Phi Nguyen, 5th Grade Teacher at M.K. Rawlings Elementary



Principal Katherine Wickett, Laura Shader, Vicki Nicholson & Barbara Sellers with Rotarian Phil England.

#### Supporting Local Teachers

Each week, the Pinellas Park Rotary has a speaker at their luncheon meeting. Instead of presenting the speaker with a pen or a cup or some small token of appreciation, a \$25 check is presented, in the speaker's name, to a teacher at one of the local Pinellas Park Elementary Schools. This small donation is meant to support the teacher and his or her needs in the classroom and can be used to purchase needed supplies in support of their teaching and to enhance the students' learning. So far this year, six teachers have received this award.



Phil England attended a Bobcat Assembly and presented a check to three teachers at his Alma Mater, Cross Bayou Elementary.



Don Vauiso presenting a check to Brittany Antesberger, 2nd Grade teacher at Pinellas Park Elementary



Janet Waddell presenting a check to Lori-Ann DiPenta, 5th grade teacher at M.K. Rawlings Elementary.

# District Governor 2014-2015: Edward "Ted" Johnston 352-795-2200 • erjohnston@embarqmail.com

District Governor Elect Will Miller (Largo) H 727-581-2452 novaeng@tampabay.rr.com

District Governor Nominee Mike Chapman (Dunedin North) mjchapman3290rotary@gmail.com

District Secretary Brenda Wendt (Crystal River) O/H 352-249-7302 wendt3@gate.net

District Treasurer Kristine Bigelow (New Port Richey) O 727-846-9111 kristine@jkbigelow.com

District Rotary Foundation Chair Carl Treleaven, PDG O 727-388-3511 ctreleaven.rotary@gmail.com

Membership Chair Jamie Mick (Holiday) O 727-642-8041 jmick@tbpm.net Public Relations Co-Chair Tina Shelton (Trinity) H/O 727-376-6665 tinashelton@tampabay.rr.com

Public Relations Co-Chair Tekoa Bean (Port Richey) C 727-743-1541 tekoz.bean@yahoo.com

District Trainer Tom Feeney III (Homosassa Springs) C 352-201-2520 tfeeney@chronicleonline.com

District Sergeant at Arms Paul Friedlander (Trinity) C 727-641-0575 pauljay1@tampabay.rr.com

Assistant Governor Area 1 CJ Crooks M 727-218-2120 cjcrooks@live.com

Assistant Governor Area 2 Bruce Sobut O 727-517-2449 IRB\_rotary@gulfcoastsolutions.biz Assistant Governor Area 3 Mel Sams IV O 727-465-6767 Mlsrotary6950@gmail.com

Assistant Governor Area 4 Robert Memoli (Seven Springs) O 727-372-6611 mmteam31@yahoo.com

Assistant Governor Area 5 Mike Mira M 813-469-0243 miraent12@yahoo.com

Assistant Governor Area 6 Perry Bean C 727-207-2090 Epbean3@aol.com

Assistant Governor Area 7 Karen Van Sickle C 352-279-1530 broker.karen@gmail.com

Assistant Governor Area 8 Eloy Nunez H 352-419-4006 elnuez@tampabay.rr.com

#### Hello District 6950,

My time in Edinburgh is going by quickly. Each day is a new adventure, and each day is a wonderful opportunity. I still cannot believe I am in Scotland! My host club, The Rotary Club of Portobello, and my host counselor, Stuart Watkins, have been extremely welcoming. They are a small club, but they support a variety of different projects internationally and locally. I attend their meetings weekly. I have been doing a lot of different activities since I've been here. I have at least two Rotary events/meetings I go to weekly these events have included a flash mob for End Polio Now, a treasure hunt, and a



village fair. I have also been speaking to the other Rotary Clubs about my life. There are a total of five Rotary Scholars in Edinburgh- two from the United States, two from Japan, and one from New Zealand.

At the end of September, I had the opportunity to attend Rotary LINK weekend in Cardiff, Wales. This is a weekend for Rotary scholars and we also had a Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference. It was great to meet the other scholars; I even got to meet the other two scholars from District 6950! It was great weekend. I have also joined the Rotaract Club of Edinburgh. They are a smaller club, but they do a lot of activities. I look forward to participating in more events with them.

My program is very diverse. There are a total of sixteen of us, and we come from eight different countries. It is really great hearing their perspectives on Education in their countries. It is a difficult program, but that is why it is one of the top 20 universities in the world. If it were easy, they would not be one of the best. I continue to try my best especially by attending every workshop the university offers to make the most of this educational experience.

Each day, I cannot be thankful enough for this opportunity. This weather will take quite a while to get used to, but the people I have met and the experiences I have had are absolutely unbelievable. Thank you District 6950 for your belief in me. As always, follow my blog at www.living-the-edinburgh-dream.tumblr.com

Until Next Time, Ally Vincent



#### DISTRICT CALENDAR

Saturday, November 8, 11am
Tarpon Rotary Fishing Social
(Raindate November 15, 2014)
11am – 4pm
Embarking on the Gulf Star from
Tarpon Springs
It will be a great time of year to
catch Grouper, Grunts, or Sea
Bass. • \$68 per person
Join us for Fishing and FUN!!!!
Please contact
Conan Raitt to register!
conan@unbehagenadvisors.com

#### Saturday, November 8, 6pm The Gala - Special Guest Mayor Rick Kriseman

Magnusun Hotel Marina Cove 6800 Sunshine Skyway Lane St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Saturday, November 8, 6pm Battle of the Bands www.stpetebattle.com

Saturday, November 15, 6pm Dunedin Beer Olympics 349 Main St. Dunedin

November 18 to November 23 Rotary Institute 2014 for Zones 33-34 in Asheville, NC Catch the Fire -LIGHT UP RO-TARY www.RIZones33-34.org

Wednesday, December 3, 4:30pm Weeki Wachee Springs - Cleanup Spring

6131 Commercial Way Weeki Wachee, FL 34606

Friday, December 5, 7pm
Death by Chocolate
Largo Cultrual Center at Largo
Central Park
105 Central Park Drive, Largo

### Polio - Where we were, where we are and Ebola

Rotarians around the world observed World Polio Day on October 24th. Polio

is a preventable disease that cripples or kills its victims, mainly children. Along with our partners, over the past 35 years we've reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide since the first Rotary project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

Today there are only three countries that are considered endemic; they have never stopped

the indigenous wild polio transmission. The countries are Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

Outbreaks in non-endemic counties have been compared to grass fire. It flares up but can be handled. The worst flare up last year was Somalia, which had been polio-free for 6 years. A new outbreak started in April 2013, after the disease was "imported" by travelers, with 194 cases reported in 2013. Fortunately, this year, there have only been 4 new cases.

The good news is that as of World Polio Day, there have been only 6 cases of polio in Nigeria, and the country has gone three months without a newly reported case, the first time that has ever happened.

Pakistan is the real problem now. The Taliban bans polio vaccinations and has killed 30 workers since July 2012. An estimated 250,000 kids have not been vaccinated in the tribal areas. In 2012 they only had 58 cases and 93 last year, but this year the number of cases has skyrocketed to 210. That compares to only 37 cases elsewhere in the entire world. The real obstacle is politics: the Taliban are cynically holding polio eradication hostage: they say polio is not

killing their children, drones are doing it; stop the drones and we can vacci-

nate. Counter measures are in place but we need access to all the children to end polio. If the political problem is solved, we can end polio... our success in India proves it.

In 2009 India had 741 cases, the most in the world. In 2010 the number of cases was reduced to only 42, then to only 1 case in 2011. The country was certi-

fied "polio free" earlier this year.

India overcame huge challenges:

- Population of 172 million children to inoculate 2 times a year
- 2. Population Density In Kapur, for example, 107 people living within a 30 square yard plot of land in shanties, literally taking sleeping shifts around the clock
- 3. Unsanitary Conditions Open sewers including the rivers
- 4. Impure Drinking Water
- Malnourishment Vaccines do not work as well
- 6. Diarrhea Vaccine goes through too fast

The eradication of polio in India was the result of a massive collaborative effort between state governments and the national government. Close partnerships involving UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation helped make the difference. We're confident that the same can happen in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

#### **Ebola and Polio**

The recent ebola outbreak in West Africa is complicating our polio eradication efforts. Ebola is deadly and an immediate threat of an outbreak deserves an immediate and aggressive response. When someone is infected by the Ebola virus it is very apparent. It is a horrible disease that kills a majority of its victims. It is hard to get in that it requires close contact with the carrier.

The polio virus does not work the same way. It spreads quickly and almost invisibly as only about 10% of the victims show noticeable signs of paralysis. By the time someone notices we can have a major outbreak. Fortunately, there is an effective vaccine, but the effects are irreversible.

Polio is an airplane ride away, even from the United States. Brazil has had no transmission of wild polio for 25 years, but in March 2014, wild polio virus was collected from sewage samples in the state of São Paulo, Brazil. The genetic sequence indicated that it came from a polio outbreak in Equatorial Guinea. This demonstrates why we need to continue to immunize areas that have no polio. Moreover, it's why we can't stop until the disease is wiped from the face of the Earth.

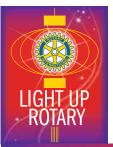
#### **Donate Now**

For as little as 60 cents, a child can be vaccinated against polio for life.

Your donation now works even harder. From 2013 to 2018, every US dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will become three dollars, thanks to a 2-to-1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Please consider making a donation today, and help finish the job we started some 35 years ago.

#### The Governor's Newsletter



Scott Post, editor

Suncoast Printing • 3601 Grand Boulevard • New Port Richey, FL 34652

E-mail news to: RotaryNews6950@gmail.com

Please send text as word documents and photos as jpgs

Deadline: November 20, 2014 for next issue

#### HALLOWEEN NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN



Seminole Lake Rotarians enjoyed their regularly scheduled breakfast meeting at Freedom Square with members in full Halloween regalia. Pictured are Rotarian Jessica Petot and Paul Turner.

The Club meets at Freedom Square Roskamp Auditorium every Friday at 7:15 AM. For more information contact Gene Stern at 727 369-1512 or gene.stern@LFG.com

One Profits Most
Serves Best..
Service A bove Self



Wesley Chapel club members at Rotary Leadership Institute in Trinity.

#### Rotary Club Geminole Lake-Osceola Bigh Gtudents of the Month

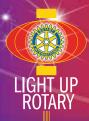
On Friday October 17, Principal Michael Bohnet introduced the students of the month to the Rotary Club of Seminole Lake at their regular Friday morning meeting at Freedom Square.

Molly Carpenter has a GPA of 4.8519 while also being a member of the varsity track and swim teams. She tutors math and science but also a member of the Academic Team. Molly has attained virtually every academic accolade and is the founding president of the Do Something Club and plans to study natural science and then medical school with a future stint in Doctors without Borders.



Austin Klein has a GPA of 4.7593 while participating with the varsity track, soccer and cross country teams. He has membership in most of the honor societies and the academic team. Austin volunteers with food pantries and local hospitals. He has been a delegate to Boys State and currently Senior Class VP. Austin plans to attend a state school and eventually medical school with a specialty of being a pediatric orthopedist.

Pictured (L-R): Principal Bohnet, Molly Carpenter, Austin Klein, Club President Doug Meyer



#### The Governor's Newsletter

Issue 5 • November 2014

#### District 6950 Attendance & Club Meeting Location for September 2014

#### Meeting locations have been updated.

Please refer to this list when checking on club meeting days and locations.						
Club	Members 6/30/14	Members Current	Average Attend %	Meeting Location		
Belleair	35	32	63	Thu. Noon - Belleair Country Club (25 Belleview Rd.)		
Brooksville	31	30	97	Tue. Noon - Brooksville Country Club (23446 Links Drive)		
Central Citrus County	25	26	61	Wed. 7:30am -Tuscany on the Meadows, Quality Inn State 486		
Central Pinellas	15	16	89	Tue. 5:45pm - Liberty Lanes Bowling (Largo)		
Clearwater	99	99	60	Wed. 12:15pm - Belleair Country Club		
Clearwater Beach	22	24	65	Thu. 12:15pm - Carlouel Yacht & Beach Club (Clearwater Beach)		
Clearwater East	33	33	75	Fri. Noon - St. Petersburg College (2465 Drew Street, ES Building room 111 Clearwater, FL 33765)		
Crystal River	51	52	70	Mon. 12:15pm - Plantation Inn and Golf Resort		
Crystal River-Kings Bay	62	62	75	Wed. 12:15pm - Seminole Club (3rd St., Crystal River)		
Dade City	38	40	72	Mon. Noon - Kafe Kokopelli (Citrus Room- 37940 Live Oak Avenue Dade City)		
Dade City Sunrise	17	17	98	Thu. 7:00am- The Hampton Inn (13215 US Hwy 301, Dade City, FL 33525)		
Dunedin	47	50	84	Tue. 12:15pm - Church of Good Shepherd (629 Edgewater Drive, Dunedin)		
Dunedin North	50	51	74	Wed. 7:30am - Dunedin Country Club (1050 Palm Blvd.)		
Dunedin Waterside	19	22	65	Wed. 6:30pm -Sea Sea Riders (221 Main Street Dunedin, FL 34698)		
East Lake Sunrise	15	15	87	Thu. 7:30am - Daddy's Grill (Third Thursday meeting at various locations from 6:30-7:30 pm)		
Gulf Beaches	38	41	60	Tue. 12:15pm - Treasure Island Yacht & Tennis Club (400 Treasure Island Causeway, Treasure Island)		
Holiday	50	51	74	Tue. Noon - IHOP (U.S. Hwy. 19, New Port Rickey)		
Homosassa Springs	19	19	63	Thu. 7am - Luigi's (4538 Suncoast Blvd US19)		
Hudson	14	15	85	Thu. Noon - CARES Enrichment Center (12417 Clock Tower Pkwy. Hudson, Bayonet Pt.)		
Indian Rocks Beach	31	31	79	Wed. 7:15am Jimmy Guana's Restaurant, Holiday Inn Harborside (401 2nd St.)		
Inverness	64	61	66	Tue. Noon - Inverness Golf and Country Club (Inverness)		
	35	36	70	Mon. Noon - Alfano's Restaurant (Clearwater)		
Largo New Port Richey	132	136	80	Wed. 12:15pm - Spartan Manor (6121 Massachusetts Avenue)		
Oldsmar/East Lake	14	150	1	Thu. 12:15pm - Flamestone Grill (4009 Tampa Rd)		
Palm Harbor	23	23	63	Wed. 12:15pm - Leo's Italian Grill (Palm Harbor)		
Pinellas Park	30	30	74			
	27	29	84	Thu. 12:15pm - Banquet Masters (8100 Park Blvd.)		
Port Richey				Fri. Noon - Argento's		
Rotary E-Club of SE USA	30	31 14	57	Anytime at www.rotaryeclub34.org Fri. 7:30am - Safety Harbor Spa (105 N Bayshore Dr.)		
Safety Harbor			79			
San Antonio	14	14	80	Tue. 6:30pm - Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club (St. Rd. 52)		
Seminole	66	65	73	Wed. 12:15pm - Lake Seminole Golf & Country Club (6100 Augusta Blvd.)		
Seminole Lake	29	28	66	Fri. 7:15am - Freedom Square Seminole, Roskamp Auditorium		
Seven Springs	47	45	77	Thu. 7:30am - Seven Springs Country Club (3535 Trophy Blvd.)		
Spring Hill	13	12	93	Thu. 7:45am - IHOP Restaurant (US19)		
Spring Hill Central	21	22	54	Thu. 12:15pm at Silverthorn Country Club (Brooksville)		
St. Petersburg	98	96	68	Fri. Noon - Orange Blossom Catering (220 4th St. N)		
St. Petersburg Mid-Town	15	15	53	Wed. Noon - Sylvia's (642 22nd Street South St. Petersburg 33712)		
St. Petersburg Sunrise	29	28	76	Tue. 7:45 am - St. Petersburg Yacht Club (11 Central Ave)		
St. Petersburg Sunset	23	27	62	Thu. 6:00 pm - The Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront (333 First St. south St. Petersburg)		
St. Petersburg West	31	32	67	Wed. 7:45am - Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club (400 Island Causeway, Treasure Island)		
Sugarmill Woods-Citrus County	25	27	98	Tue. 5:00pm - Sugarmill Woods Country Club (Homosassa)		
Tarpon Springs	81	83	80	Thu. 12:15pm - Tarpon Springs Yacht Club (350 S. Spring Blvd.)		
Trinity	77	79	67	Fri. 12:15pm - Heritage Springs Country Club		
Wesley Chapel	89	87	65	Wed. 12:15pm - Ciao! Italian Bistro (Wiregrass)		
Wesley Chapel Sunrise	20	20	76	Fri. 7:15am - Quail Hollow Golf		
Zephyrhills	50	46	59	Thu. 12:15pm - Zephyrhills Rotary Youth building (Shepard Park)		
Zephyrhills Daybreak	27	25	76	Wed. 7:00am - First United Methodist Church (38635 Fifth Ave, Zephyrhills)		

Welcome to our new, returning and transferring Rotarians!

#### October 2014

Brooksville

Hammett, Janine

**Central Pinellas** 

Vargas, Fintan

Clearwater

Clifford, Robert W.

**Crystal River-Kings Bay** 

Casey, Emily Merrill, Dale

**Dunedin North** 

Vislocky, Thomas

**Dunedin Waterside** 

Alexander, Nicole McClelland, Terri

Hudson

Milner, Jerry Trotter, Sally

**New Port Richey** Grey, Jeffrey M.

Palm Harbor

Price, Nicholas

Pinellas Park

Alchin, Harry

Seven Springs

Farmer, Shelley

Spring Hill Central

Sabatino, Denise Schrecongost, Zima

Tremmel, James

St. Petersburg

Johnson, Danny Mesa, Elena Miller, Joshua T.

Roth, Janice

Trinity

Colón, Amanda

Wesley Chapel

Armas, Nicole Luzod, Ryan Riordan, Shawn Todd, Gregg Wilson, Eric





# Rotary Leadership Institute - Sunshine Division CRUISE December 10-14, 2015

Sunshine Division

Book Online at rlicruise.psltravel.com

Come join us for 5 days/4 nights on the big, beautiful Royal Caribbean *Independence of the Seas* as we sail to Cozumel, Mexico. On the way there and back, while at sea, participate in two full RLI sessions. Class sessions include RLI Parts 1 and 2, 2 and 3 or Part 3 and the new 2014-15 RLI Graduate Course which is focused entirely on The Rotary Foundation! Or, just relax and enjoy the experience and fellowship of cruising with a couple hundred Rotarians from Georgia, Florida and the entire Caribbean; all Districts from the Sunshine Division (Zone 34) and even beyond! There will also be organized social events for Rotarians and we will have our own section in the main dining room each night for dinner.

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions in various parts of the world. Two-thirds of all Districts in the Rotary world conduct RLI programs in their districts. RLI is not an official program of Rotary International and is not under its control. Participating in RLI provides not only a stronger education and connection to Rotary, but will enable you to see more of a leadership role in your club, district and community.

The registration fee for the RLI sessions will be \$45.00 per Part (day), which is less than half the normal fee. RLI registration is separate from the cruise fare and must be completed at www.rlitraining.org same as any other RLI session registration. For more information about RLI at sea, contact Randy Rawiszer, RLI Sunshine Division Chairman, at rotarytailor@aol.com.

The costs listed below include the cruise fare, taxes, fees, port charges and gratuities. In addition, they include full use of the conference facilities on the ship. There are no additional upcharges or fees added for the group. If you need a pre-cruise hotel night in Fort Lauderdale, a block of hotel rooms are available on a first come first serve basis. They will include airport shuttles, cruiseport shuttles, parking for the cruise duration and breakfast. Prices will vary by hotel. Book early for best cabin selection. Contact PSL Travel for more information.

Cabin Type	Cost Per Person *	Insurance
Junior Suite	\$736.66	\$59.00
Balcony	\$536.66	\$29.00
Ocean View	\$436.66	\$29.00
Promenade View	\$406.66	\$29.00
Inside	\$386.66	\$29.00

\*Prices are based on Double Occupancy and includes cruise, taxes, fees, port charges and gratuities. Deposit is \$200 per cabin with final payment due 8/10/2015. Pricing is based on availability and subject to change until deposited. Cancellations after 4/13 will incur a \$50 fee. Cancellations after 6/13 will incur a \$100 fee. Cancellations after 8/13 will incur a \$200 fee. No refunds after 9/1. Price does not include RLI Course Fees. Register at www.rlitraining.org.

4 Night RLI Western Caribbean Cruise
Ship Name: Independence of the Seas
Destination: Caribbean
Departure Port: Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Port of Call: Cozumel, Mexico
Sail Date: Dec 10, 2015

To book your cabin today or for more information call:



Steve Leichner
Travel Consultant
PSL Travel
908-346-0140
steve@psltravel.com
rlicruise.psltravel.com

# THE ROTARY CLUB of DUNEDIN WATERSIDE

**PRESENTS** 



THE

# DUNEDIN BEER OLYMPICS











## WHAT?

WHEN?

**HOW MUCH?** 

Grab a few friends and compete in events like Flip Cup, Beer Pong, Cornhole and more for fun & prizes all over downtown Dunedin!

2-5 people per team please.

November \$20 In Advance 15th 6-10 PM

**Registration from** 6-7PM at The Boxcar (Main St./Pinellas Trail) \$25 Day Of

Purchase at The Boxcar on the day of the event from 6-7pm.

(Includes 1 free beer per venue)

PRESENTED BY THE ROTARY CLUB of DUNEDIN WATERSIDE



Purchase Tickets

WWW.DUNEDINWATERSIDE.COM

UNUSED BEER TICKETS ARE NON-REDEEMABLE AND CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID AFTER THE EVENT NO-SHOWS / LATE ARRIVALS



# What Rotary means to me

There is a library in the Southside of Belize which is to provide an outlet for children; an orphanage in Pakistan to provide a home for orphans; the lyngbya cleanup in United States waters to make waters clean; and the eradication of polio worldwide – all relate because of Rotary.

Most people are surprised when I tell them that I have been involved with Rotary International for about eight years. I usually get the question "How at the age of 22 have you been involved with an organisation for that long?"

I joined the Interact Club (Rotary Club for high school students) in 2006 and I felt like I belonged and was making a difference in the world. At my undergraduate university, Saint Leo University, the Rotaract Club (Rotarians ages 18-30) was becoming an established club. I instantly became a member because I wanted to engage in service with people who had similar goals. While being involved with the Rotaract Club, I became a leader. I would never have become the leader I am today if it was not for Rotary being a part of my life.

So why did I choose Rotary? Rotary is a worldwide service organisation. Well what does that mean? That means that I have had the opportunity to work with Rotarians in Belize and the opportunity to communicate with Rotaractors in Pakistan. I am a part of the Rotary family, and I am instantly welcomed like family. Being in Rotary means having a family all over the world, even if you have never met them



Ally volunteering at The Shack, a non profit organisation for underprivileged families in West Virginia, USA.

#### by Ally Vincent from Crystal River, Florida, United States

before. Being in Rotary means having people believe and encourage you. Being in Rotary means you can make a difference in the world.

I have loved Rotary long before my journey to Scotland, but I would not be here if it were not for Rotary. I am currently a Rotary Global Grant Scholar for the 2014-2015 year from Crystal River, Florida, United States.

I am studying at the University of Edinburgh to receive my MSc in Special and Inclusive Education. This opportunity has been very humbling and surreal. If it were not for Rotary, I would not have made it here. Rotary not only provided the funds for me to have such an amazing opportunity, but it was Rotary that also provided me with enthusiasm and support every step of the way.

Individuals in my home district spent hour upon hour perfecting my application, listening to what I had to say and what I hope to accomplish. When I arrived in Edinburgh, it solidified my views on the advantageous attributes of being a Rotary scholar. I was welcomed by the Rotary Club of Portobello with smiles and excitement. They are always willing to commit time to help me with whatever I may need help with.

So Why Rotary? You should stop asking yourself "Why Rotary?" and start asking yourself "Why NOT Rotary?"