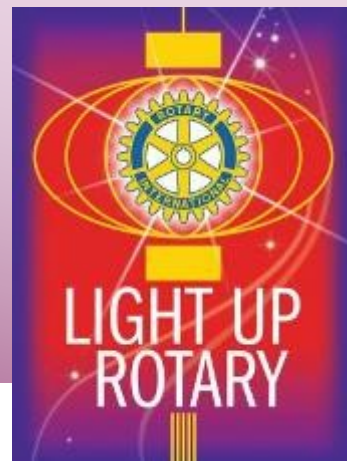


# District 6900 news

Shining a Light on Our Impact

ISSUE 4 October 2014



## The Future of Rotary

During a recent visit to the Rotary Club of Camilla I was invited to visit the Mitchell Baker Service Center. The center is led by Director Ginna, a Camilla Rotarian, who allowed me the opportunity to stop by for a tour before I headed home for the weekend. Under her direction and the support of many Rotarians both from Camilla and Pelham, this facility serves as a day program that works with over 100 adults faced with developmental challenges.

As we stood in the long corridor leading to the various classrooms, Ginna shared with me several stories about her clients as well as the overwhelming individual and community support they receive. While listening to her tell of the impact the center has on her clients I took notice of the standard "industrial" colors on the walls of this long entryway. They just didn't seem to match the love and joy on the faces of both the employees and clients that I had met.

Later that evening after I arrived home, I shared the story of my visit with my 13-year-old daughter Mikayla. We were painting her bedroom with bright new colors as we talked and decided that these very colors would be the perfect welcome in the halls of the Service Center. As Mikayla's enthusiasm grew, so did mine. She began to think bigger – expressing how this could be a project that we could do in a variety of different places and

how she could get her friends to help. She suddenly announced, "And we will call it Happy Hallways!" Talk about a proud moment.

This conversation set me on a course of thinking about how we as Rotarians are able to help influence not only our own kids, but also those in our local schools and communities. Through our support of Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, GRSP, Laws of Life Essay Contest, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, scholarship programs and so much more, we encourage our youth to participate and we foster their creativity and desire to serve others. Simply put, we teach them a life of Service Above Self.

Two weeks after my initial visit to Camilla, I was back in the neighborhood and made an unannounced visit to the Service Center. I told Ginna of our idea for Happy Hallways and asked if the Center could be our first to paint. Fortunately she loved the project and we both were beaming like kids when I left.

It was then I realized that maybe the youth we work with have a thing or two to teach us as well.



District Governor  
Alicia Michael

Yours in Rotary Service,

DG Alicia



## Tracking DG Alicia's Travels

This captures DG Alicia's schedule and some key district dates. You can also view the calendar on the website.

### October

- 1 Vinings
- 2 Atlanta Airport
- 3 Decatur
- 6 Buckhead
- 8 Emory Druid Hills
- 6 Forsyth Monroe
- 14 Bainbridge
- 15 Cairo
- 16 Thomasville
- 19 RunDunwoody
- 20 Coweta Fayette
- 21 North Columbus
- 23 Blakely
- 24 **World Polio Day**

### October (cont'd)

- 25 **Newsletter Deadline**
- 28 Dougherty County
- 30 Quitman

### November

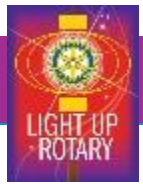
- 3 Atlanta
- 4 Moultrie
- 5 South DeKalb
- 11 Cuthbert
- 15 **RLI - Carrollton - see [www.rlitraining.org](http://www.rlitraining.org)**
- 18 Carrollton
- 19 Carrollton Dawnbreakers



Shining a Light  
World Polio  
Day: Oct. 24

For World Polio Day, add your voice and spread the word that we are "this close" (99%!) to ending polio. Watch a live global event: <http://ow.ly/A7OKy>

District Conference: April 23 - 26, 2015



DG Alicia Celebrates the Fellowship and Mission Possible Attitude of District 6900



AG Alicia with Robert Kellum Jr., a 50-year Rotarian. Congratulations to Robert!



Above: Interactors at Campbell High School (sponsored by Vinings Rotary) present DG Alicia with their RADD banner; below AG Candace Klein, Decatur President Peter and Alicia.



DG Alicia with Stone Mountain Rotary Club President Chris Brand.



With Atlanta Rotarian and portrait artist Ross Rossin.



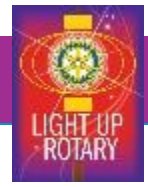
Shining a Light  
World Polio Day  
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Harris County Rotarians delivering dictionaries to third graders and lighting up Rotary





# The Rotary Foundation - Making a Difference in People’s Lives

By Ray McKemie, District Foundation Committee Chair

The Foundation's grants and programs are funded through voluntary contributions from Rotarians and others who believe in its mission. Our donations demonstrate our commitment to “doing good in the world.” Donors may direct their gifts to three main funds: the **Annual Fund**, which supports the Foundation’s humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs worldwide; the **Endowment Fund**, which provides an endowment; and the **PolioPlus Fund**. **THANK YOU!!** – for your support.

## The Annual Fund

The Annual Fund is the primary source of support for The Rotary Foundation (TRF) grants and programs each year. Your generous support funds local and international projects that advance The Rotary Foundation’s mission. All contributions to the fund are spent on quality Rotary- led projects.

### Annual Fund Donor Recognition Levels

Every Rotarian, Every Year Club	A club in which every member makes a contribution, and the average per capita contribution of the club is at least \$100 per
TRF Sustaining Member Club	A club in which every member makes a contribution of at least a \$100 contribution
Paul Harris Fellow	A member who has donated at least \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation (TRF)
Paul Harris Society Member	A Rotarian who agrees to donate \$1000 per year to TRF every year
Major Donor	A Rotarian who has donated at least \$10,000 to TRF
Arch C. Klumph Society	Rotarians who have donated at least \$250,000 each to TRF

Donors can direct their Annual Fund gift to **SHARE**, the **World Fund**, or an **Area of Focus**.

Our District requests that donors designate their gifts to **Annual Fund - SHARE** because it is the only Annual Fund designation that generates funding for the District Designated Fund (DDF).

This is important because at the end of each Rotary year, 50% of each district's contributions to the **Annual Fund -- SHARE --** is credited to their District Designated Fund (DDF); the other 50% goes to the World Fund. The Rotary Foundation has a unique funding cycle that invests donations for programs three years after they’re received. The earnings from these investments are used to fund administrative and fund development costs. After three years, the 50% that is credited to DDF is returned to the District to pay for Foundation activities that we choose to participate in such as District Grants.

## The Endowment Fund

Contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested to preserve and grow the principle, only a portion of the earnings generated are used currently to support Foundation activities supporting Rotary’s highest priorities, including global and packaged grants, PolioPlus and the Rotary Peace Centers.

The Foundation has set a goal of \$1 billion in Endowment Fund assets by 2025, ensuring its capacity to meet future needs. The opportunities in many countries include:

- ◆ Bequest commitments
- ◆ Life insurance
- ◆ Marketable securities
- ◆ Real estate
- ◆ Charitable trusts or annuities

### Endowment Fund Recognition Opportunities

Level	For a gift of at least ...
Benefactor	\$1,000
Bequest Society	\$10,000
Major Donor	\$10,000
Arch C. Klumph Society	\$250,000

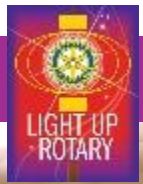
**World Fund** contributions provide the Foundation’s portion of funding for approved Global Grants and other program support. These funds are available to all Rotary Districts for the matching portion of global grants and for packaged grants.

## POLIOPLUS

Rotary’s top priority is polio eradication. The Trustees have asked each district to support Rotary’s commitment and to encourage all Rotarians to participate in PolioPlus activities. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.2 billion to global polio eradications. Money that is contributed to the PolioPlus Fund is used solely for the purpose of achieving the worldwide eradication of polio, and funds will be needed until that goal is achieved.

Please evaluate how you might help Our Foundation to continue doing good in the world with your time, your talents, and your resources. And act to share those with people in need in your community, in our state, and around the world. Together we can make a difference!

## SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR IMPACT ...



### Fall Interact Conferences - WOW!

On Saturday, September 27 the District hosted its annual Fall Conference for the Interact Clubs in the northern part of the district. There were 86 Rotarians, Interact Faculty Sponsors, Rotaractors, and Interactors in attendance on the campus of Southern Polytechnic State University, located in Marietta.

Participants represented the following clubs: SPSU Rotaract, Atlanta Rotaract, Crabapple Middle School, Alpharetta High School, North Springs High School, Kennesaw Mountain High School, Dunwoody High School, Roswell High School, Pope High School, Riverwood International Charter School, Mount Vernon Presbyterian High School, The Cottage School, Marietta High School, Cambridge High School, South Cobb High School, and Independence High School. The participants were welcomed by DG Alicia Michael, and participated in three breakout sessions, including an Liaison and Advisor track. Brian Ortiz-Moreno, AT&T, served as the lunchtime keynote speaker and gave a well-received, life-changing presentation on behalf of Rotarians Against Distracted Drivers (RADD). Rotarian Roger Wise, Jr., made a special presentation to those in attendance on behalf of Lt. Governor Casey Cagle. Special thanks to all those who participated and presented, especially DG Alicia Michael, Jim Squire, Pamela Wall, Becky Stone, Valerie Trotter, Roger Wise, Jr., and the Atlanta Rotaract Club.



Shining a Light  
**South Interact Conference:  
October 25**

The Southern Interact Fall Conference will be Saturday, October 25th at the Plaza Restaurant Conference Room in Thomasville. Please contact District Chair George Keeling for more information on this upcoming event!

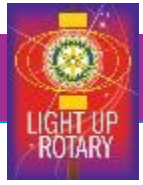
### The Georgia Rotary Clubs' Laws of Life Essay Contest . . . Best Character Education Program in the Nation?

The Georgia Rotary Clubs' Laws of Life Essay Contest is the largest essay contest in North America, reaching more students than any other Rotary program in our state. Last year, 52 high schools participated in this Rotary-branded character education program, and more than 41,000 Georgia students wrote a Laws of Life essay. For 2014-2015, **more than 65 schools** have already registered to be part of this contest. This contest changes thousands of students' lives for the better each and every year, and builds key Rotary-school ties.

Georgia educator Dr. Sandra Grant recently said, "The Laws of Life contest has been the best character education avenue for students that I know of in the nation. I know that every effort made to help students will not only benefit them, but our nation and world as well. Your organization must be commended for your commitment to character education, to the lives and future of our children."

**Want to learn more?** A publication with student essays and additional information for Rotary Clubs can be found on the 6900 district website (<https://www.rotary6900.org/page/16>) and on the contest's website ([www.georgialawsoflife.org](http://www.georgialawsoflife.org)). Information on Rotary club, corporate, foundation, and individual sponsorships is available. Your sponsorships and donations make this contest possible. You may contact Buckhead Rotarian and Georgia Laws of Life Executive Director **Susan Mason** at [georgialawsoflife@gmail.com](mailto:georgialawsoflife@gmail.com), or get in touch with a 6900 District Rotarian who serves on the contest's statewide Board of Directors: **Stephanie Windham** (Griffin R.C., and Laws of Life Board Chair), **Kristen Albritton** (Lamar County RC), **Dr. Carol Bradshaw** (Columbus RC), **Rick Barnes** (Coweta-Fayette RC), **Angie Duprey** (Dunwoody RC), **George Grenade** (Griffin RC), **Mike Irvin** (Muscogee RC), **Ed Outlaw** (Peachtree City RC), **Gordon Owens** (Roswell RC), or **George Stewart** (Dunwoody RC).





## District 6900 Hosts Literacy Summit

**Literacy @ work "Faces of Possibilities"  
February 21, 2015 @ Clayton State University**

Local GA Rotary Clubs encouraged to invite Community Advocates to participate at the 2015 Literacy Workshop & Fair ! See attached application form (clubs encouraged to display, promote &/or find literacy projects ideas for local & international opportunities).

*Door Prizes (Clubs/groups volunteer to donate items for drawings)*

Early Bird Registration - January 21, 2015

Follow us each month for more information or contact

*Fran Farias, Literacy Summit Chair*

[rotaryfran96@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryfran96@gmail.com)

## Dragon Boats Support Breast Cancer Survivor Network



In September, the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual International Festival & Dragon Boat race. The purpose of the event is to raise money for, and awareness of, the Breast Cancer Survivors' Network. This year we had 34 teams compete for awards and bragging rights.

In addition to the participants and volunteers, hundreds of people came to watch and enjoy the event. Along with lots of music, the festivities offered exposure to various Oriental cultures, food, art and entertainment from such faraway countries as Japan, China, India, and the Philippines. Entertainment for kids featured arts and crafts, inflatables, human water balls and a balloon artist.

If you might be interested in holding such a fun event, please contact J.D. Holmes at [jdholmes140@aol.com](mailto:jdholmes140@aol.com).

## Georgia Rotary Student Program: Make Friends for Life

*By Lynn Clarke, District 6900 GRSP Chair*

*On behalf of Your District 6900 GRSP students and trustees for the 2014-15 Rotary year!*

By now, I hope you have met your GRSP student. If you are a host family, I know that you have had some wonderful experiences with them. You may have even had the pleasure already of seeing your student present to your club. Please get to know your student and offer to take them to ball games, on a golf outing, dinner with your family or just hanging out on a Saturday afternoon watching SEC football. You will find that most of them enjoy being with American families as much, if not more than with their friends at school. Offer to let them use your washing machine and dryer. Remember when you were in school and had to use the community washing machine and put all your clothes in the washing machine in hot water and your white socks came out pink? Remember how great it was to get that letter from home? --- back in the day, that is.



*GRSP student Johan Appelros, Sweden, with Lynn Clarke*

My children grew up having GRSP students visit on weekends. They learned not to be intimidated by people from another country. They learned about other cultures that they could never have learned about with just a textbook. I have learned so much from the students that I have hosted and that I have been trustee for. You get to know a lot about people when you drive them seven hours to a student weekend and then back again.

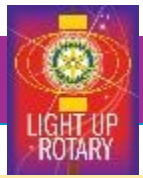
I have a carpool in my Rotary club that picks up our student from school to attend our meetings. Our carpoolers now have better attendance because they look forward to driving the student to the meeting. Our GRSP student has better attendance than some of our Rotarians. Our student sits at a different table every week, so that he can speak to different Rotarians. I remember when no one wanted to sit with the student because they were afraid they wouldn't be able to understand what they said. Now, our student is "one of the boys".

All of this is to say – get to know your student. If your club is not currently hosting a student, ask another club if their student can visit your club. Rotarians are giving people and they won't mind their



## Shining a Light GRSP Student Newsletter

Thanks to Mark Chapman, GRSP student from Australia (sponsored by Vinings, Marietta Metro and North Cobb, for inspiring the current GRSP class to share their learnings, experiences, accomplishments and impressions in a student newsletter. The link for their September newsletter accompanied the link to this newsletter.



## Engage Your Community For A Hands-Up In Literacy!

While Rotarians respond to the needs of so many around the world, Rotary Clubs can join forces with their community to make a dramatic difference for adults and generations of children right in our own back yard. The immigrant population is growing worldwide and the reality is: we need to ensure the best possible functionality in our society for each and every person we can reach.

District 6900 has a daunting reputation globally for work in literacy through Souns. It is a "Never say no!" approach because we know we are able to make a real and measurable difference. Now, let's put that know-how to work in our district.

### Anticipated Results

We teach children (with their parents) or adults how to read English. Your time, your talents, and your passion armed with a few tools can make a difference for so many! It takes so little to impact your community, our district, for years to come.

Also, this does not require a teaching background or speaking a language other than English.

### Steps Forward

1. Each club (or group of clubs) needs to locate an **immigrant population in the community.**
2. **Consider a once-a-week or twice-a-month class for an hour where volunteer community members** (a great membership opportunity) and club members offer a free literacy workshop for members of the targeted population. This takes two people for each session, and can draw from a body of volunteers trained in Souns. A morning session works best for mothers and their young children (0-36 months); an evening session works best for adults. Keep in mind that teaching an adult to read cascades into that adult teaching his or her children to read. Family literacy is the best approach.
3. **Locate a convenient training space**, easily accessible by the targeted population. There is often a community center or a library.
4. **Community contacts are important.** Building trust is critical. This project may take more time (not more effort) than you expect to get started, but the return is beyond measure.
5. **Souns training needs to be arranged and initially takes two hours.** It is so simple, yet simple means forgetting much of what you already know...that is the hard part. Support for the work is readily available, and follow-up trainings will also be arranged.

This does not require a teaching background. Also, it does not require speaking a language other than English.

### Project Needs

- ◆ Souns materials that stay with club - \$200 (min) to \$1000 (max)
- ◆ Free training in "how-to-do-this"
- ◆ Commitment of two people (from a pool of trained volunteers) to an hour once a week or once every two weeks

## International RYLA Opportunity: November 24 to 28

District 3051 in India is organizing an international RYLA gathering with Rotary Club of Gandhinagar as host club.

### iRYLA Facts:

**Dates:** 24 to 28 November 2014

**Age:** 18 to 27 Years

**Venue:** Entrepreneurs Development Institute (EDI)

**Theme:** Be the Change to Light up the World

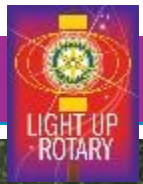
**Focus:** Education | Environment | Entrepreneurship | Health

This will be a distinct International RYLA with 400 participants including 150 International Youths from all over world. We have received confirmations from participants from **United Kingdom, Slovakia, Spain, Netherlands, Nepal, Germany, Italy, France, Sweden, Canada & USA.**

If you are interested in this opportunity for someone you know, contact District Youth Services Chair Jim Squire.



Ross Henderson of the **Vinings Rotary Club** presents the club's Hero Award to Cobb County Police Officer C.A. Vill for his superior service to the police department, especially in the apprehending of two drug subjects. During the altercation, Officer Vill was shot five times but survived to call in backup which led to a massive manhunt and the capture of the two individuals. Officer Vill was also praised for his excellence work ethic and record with the Cobb County Police Department second only to his commanding officer. Vill was also given many gifts by members of the Rotary Club. Pictured with Ross is Officer Vill, his wife Stephanie, and outgoing Rotary President Traci Newman.



## Join Milton-Windward Golf FUNdraiser Oct. 22!

On Wednesday, October 22, **Milton-Windward Rotary Club** will be hosting their annual Charity Golf Tournament. The setting is Bear's Best in Suwanee, designed by Jack Nicklaus, representing the best 18 holes from extraordinary courses worldwide. Why did we decide to host the event at this Championship Club? For every Hole represented at Bears Best, there is a Rotary Club in that country. Event Chair and President Elect, Trey Tompkins, knows that a well attended event is vital since the funds raised will impact the upcoming year's Charity budget.

Join us on October 22 to play an engaging game of golf with some big hearted individuals for a dynamic community cause. LIGHT UP Rotary by committing to attend this event, or if you can't play, consider donating green fees and sponsoring "First Responders" from the City of Milton. Who would guess that by swinging a club you could be promoting peace and international understanding, too!

**For more information or to register for the October 22, 2014 (10 AM Shotgun start) Rotary Club of Milton-Windward Charity Golf Tournament, contact Trey Tompkins at [Trey@adminamerica.com](mailto:Trey@adminamerica.com)**

## Join the RunDunwoody Team Challenge: Oct. 19

As part of one of the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody's** signature fundraisers—and in the spirit of good-natured community fun, *RunDunwoody* 2014 presents the TEAM Challenge. This year's team competition theme is "Brightening the Community". RunDunwoody will award two special challenge awards for registered teams that best portray how they Brighten The Community. Learn more about the challenge and the race at [rundunwoody.net](http://rundunwoody.net).



## Race for the Kids

The **Rotary Club of Vinings** held its 5K race recently and raised over \$100,000 for the Vinings Rotary Charity Fund, the Calvary Children's Home of West Cobb, and the Good Samaritan Health Center of Atlanta. Over 1500 runners and volunteers participated in this year's race which was a pre-qualifier for the July 4th Peachtree Road race. The race began on top of Mt Wilkinson in front of major sponsor Printpack's building, and finished through the back entrance of The Lovett School. Lauren Blankenship was the overall women's winner with a time of 17:22.71, and Lance Harden was the overall men's winner with a time of 15:03.80.

## Golf Fundraiser Supports Service Above Self

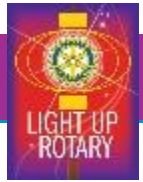
The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** held its annual golf fundraiser on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Trophy Club of Atlanta.

A 90% chance of rain was predicted for that date, and it rained in nearby Sandy Springs for most of the day. Although rain was heavy within a mile or two of the venue, and there was a bit of "Scottish mist" from time to time, the golfers enjoyed a dry course for the entire event. It was a minor miracle for a major good cause.

Fisher Funeral Care was the sole Gold sponsor. Silver sponsorships were contributed by Cunningham & Associates; Horizon Staffing; A-R-T & Associates; J. Smith Lanier & Company, and Southeast Dental transitions. Rev. John Strickland delivered the invocation. The RCNA thanks all who participated in the venue.



*North Atlanta's GRSP Student - Peigidh (Peggy) Savage - from Edinburgh Scotland - joined the day's festivities.*



**Coweta Cars Raise Service Dollars**



The

**Rotary Club of Coweta Fayette** held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chassis For Charity Car Show in Newnan on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event was a success - they had 86 participants who ended up coming from North and South Georgia, Alabama, and of course locally. Once again, the Club broke their record - raising over \$8,000. The 20-member club hosted well over 200 visitors during the day who came to not only see the cars and have their faces painted by Dusty the Clown. Over \$1,000 in Raffle prizes were given out during the day and had a successful 50/50 raffle too. Families and participants enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship, fun, food, dancing and trivia with DJ Jamie Eubanks and stopping by the Rotary tent for balloons. The Newnan High School Drama Club came and assisted the club during the day, which was a hit! They could not have done this without their amazing partners – Southtowne, UBS Financial Services, Inc. – Alpharetta, Malinda Shelley of Harry Norman Realtors, Sam Morris – State Farm, Bank of North Georgia, Talbot State Bank, Senoia Coffee and Café, Campbell’s Customs and Healthy Life Chiropractic.

**Stone Mountain Rotary “Scouting for Shoes”**

The **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** has partnered with the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and ShoeBox Recycling on a “Scouting for Shoes” drive. Each week, club members are asked to bring gently used, re-wearable shoes to donate. ShoeBox Recycling will pay the Girl Scouts 50¢ for each pound of shoes collected. Every pair of shoes recycled will live happily on someone else’s feet. In fact, one of the most exciting parts to the program is the opportunity for members to meet their SoleMates or the future owners of their shoes by placing a note securely inside the shoes they plan to recycle. **For details on the program, and for a list of acceptable types of shoes, go to [GSGA Scouting for Shoes](#).**



**AIDS and Human Trafficking ... in your Neighborhood!**



To the Rotary Clubs in District 6900 ... it’s time to schedule **AIDS - Human Trafficking** education programs in your middle and high schools.

Did you know that Georgia was 4th highest in the nation for the total number of new diagnoses of HIV infection?

That Atlanta is ranked #1 for sex trafficking, and there are an average of 300 acts of sexual exploitation of children in Georgia every day?

Since 1998 **Rotary District 6900** in alliance with **AID Atlanta** has been offering AIDS Education programs to Georgia’s Middle and High School students. This program introduces HIV-infected young adults to teens and provides a realistic, frank and powerful discussion about HIV contraction and how it has affected these people’s lives. This is an abstinence based program and does not promote “safe sex.” It is meant to get the attention of teens to help them realize that HIV/AIDS can happen to them.



Now we are also going to introduce our audiences to the dangers of child sex trafficking, a related serious threat that faces our children today. They need to recognize the risks involved and know how to protect themselves! [EndHTNow.com](http://EndHTNow.com)

**Here is how you can schedule an assembly for your local middle or high school.**

**Schedule now for programs beginning on January 1, 2015.**



- Contact your District 6900 Rotary Coordinator. If you don’t have current contact information, email Dotty Toney at [toneydot@me.com](mailto:toneydot@me.com).
- Your Coordinator will email you a simple fillable form for AID Atlanta which can be completed by you and by the school. You will get all further instructions as well.
- Rotary clubs should budget between \$250 and \$300 for each program. This pays for the stipend and mileage of the presenters. For clubs more than 100 miles from AID Atlanta headquarters, accommodations for a meal and overnight stay also need to be made.
- Thank you for your support! It’s all about our kids!

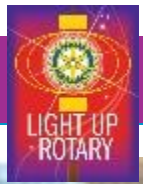
**Strengthening Rotary Relationships**

**Bremen Rotarians** started a tradition of meeting outside the regular meeting once a month several years ago and the tradition continues. We call it “Rotary After



Hours”. Normally, Rotarians and their friends meet at a local restaurant, but occasionally a Rotarian will open up their home. This month Bremen Rotary President Dennis Cowart cooked steaks on the grill for the club. We all watched the sunset, as we pigged out on the biggest steaks we had ever seen. Dennis is not only a good president, but an excellent griller!! We like to think that we are a very social club, so we also have a hiking club with tee-shirts and the whole 9 yards. This is fairly new, but we hope to make this a tradition for our club, as well. We participated as a team in “Get Healthy West Georgia” last year. No, we did not lose the most weight, but a couple of our members were right up there with the exercise portion of the competition.





## Remembering 9-11 Heroes

### Rotary Club of Johns Creek - North Fulton

The Rotary Club of Johns Creek – North Fulton held a Patriot Day commemoration on Sept. 11 at the Newtown Park Amphitheater in Johns Creek. Attendees heard from two keynote speakers, Johns Creek Police Chief Ed Densmore and Johns Creek Fire Chief Jeff Hogan, who spoke of their 9/11 experiences and also praised the work of first responders.

The club honored local police officers and firefighters during the event, and raised almost \$500 at the event for the Johns Creek Public Safety Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides funding and resources for programs for local police and fire personnel.



Rotarian Glenn Spears emceed the 9/11 commemoration event.



### Rotary Club of Griffin

At its September 11 meeting, **Rotary Club of Griffin** President Jeff Jacobs presented a Club donation to Veteran Ricky Todd in support of a proposed monument memorializing those from Spalding County who have given their lives in the Global War On Terror. The monument will cost about \$30,000 and is targeted to be dedicated in Griffin Memorial Park on Memorial Day 2015. Also present for the presentation were Rotarian Jim King, Rotarian Philip Smith, and Allan Imes of the Organizing Committee. Tom Moore (right) played Taps in remembrance of the 2,977 people who lost their lives in the 9-11 terrorist attacks.



(left) Global War on Terror Monument Organizing Committee, including Griffin Rotarians Philip Smith and Jim King

## Decatur Youth Camp as Counselors to Lithuanian Youth

This summer, the **Decatur Rotary Club** collaborated with the Vilnius Rotary Club and Lithuanian Rotary District 1462 in sponsoring four Decatur-area students to attend Camp Vasara near Vilnius, Lithuania. This special camp focuses on dealing with the post-traumatic stress disorder that is prevalent among Lithuanian young people. The Decatur-area students worked as counselors with Lithuanian high school and university students.

This collaborative effort was spearheaded by Decatur Rotary Club member, Barbara Tedrow, with advice from fellow member Harl Pike, whose ministerial work had taken him to Lithuania for many years. Tedrow is an educator whose family roots are from Lithuania and she is currently doing research on Lithuanian culture with a Lithuanian academic.

“This service learning project ties together the study of community issues, personal objectives, appropriate and relevant action, and the project’s impact on the community and the individual volunteer,” Tedrow explained. Tedrow’s husband, Bill Boley, is a professional photographer and his photographs chronicle this amazing experience.

Camp Vasara (Vasara means “summer” in Lithuanian) provides a family-style summer experience for Lithuanian children from underprivileged backgrounds. The camp is provided entirely through contributions and volunteers from many countries, with assistance from the Vilnius International Rotary Club and Lithuanian Rotary District 1462. The children attending are chosen by Lithuanian social service agencies. Many of these children are connected to foster care systems, are from single-parent families, or are suffering from prolonged effects of post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of state-sanctioned terrorism. They heard from well-known speakers whose topics in sports, cooking, cultural arts, dancing and other subjects, focused on building confidence and a personal vision within the students.

