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The future behind the fallen walls

President's Message

The December 2010 issue of *The Rotarian* features John Rezek's interview with Queen Noor, the widow of Jordan's King Hussein. Queen Noor's response to Rezek's final question, "Which humanitarian issues do you think the media overlook the most?", is cause for sober second thought. Certainly it is a response which challenges Rotary to expand our efforts to let the public know what it is we do and the impact of our work. Queen Noor rightly acknowledges "nothing happens overnight", but we also know "Berlin walls" do come down. This outcome is demonstrated in the September 26 official opening ceremony of the Nasrat II School in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, where the ceremony was opened by a female student reciting from the Quran. In Afghanistan in 2001 only boys were able to go to school and now nine years later... another Berlin wall has fallen! This school is thanks to a partnership of Rotarians from Canada, the United States and Afghanistan, the Canadian government, The Rotary Foundation, a dedicated Afghan community, CRCID, and a visionary multi-centered project committee.

Always sensitive to our image, we are pleased to feature CRCID's new logo on all our material. This logo will serve us well as it clearly identifies our Canadian Rotary roots. On the matter of "image", CRCID was very pleased to have a significant presence at the Zone 24/32 Rotary Institute held in London, Ontario, in early November. Opportunity to highlight the Canadian Rotary Centennial Project during a plenary session was appreciated and was

well received by attendees. Additionally, CAO Kevin Webb's presentation to the District Governors Elect and the CRCID display in the House of Friendship attracted significant attention and allowed for useful interaction with Rotarians.

The Zone Institute also provided an opportunity to hold a meeting of the CRCID Board of Directors in our new premises. This allowed Directors to see the offices and meet with staff in their work environment. Our two new staff members, Morgan Shortt (Gender Specialist) and Megan MacLean (Environmental Specialist), are key additions to CRCID staff in view of CIDA's increasing attention to these two aspects of international development. These identified responsibilities are in addition to their major function as Program Officers providing critical support to the eight Program Coordinators.

Our interaction with CIDA is ever changing in terms of staffing and program policy. About the time the Secretariat establishes a good working relationship with the CIDA Program Officer assigned to our file, the individual is transferred or promoted and a new staff member assigned. We currently face this scenario as the person who assumed our file in June will be leaving at the end of December, and so the cycle repeats. Similarly, the Secretariat works diligently to keep abreast of policy nuances so the funded programs function within the guidelines and we can properly inform program planners for the 2013-2016 funding cycle. *Continued on page 2*



*Wishing you
a safe and happy
holiday and joyous
New Year!*

Thank you for your support and generosity the whole year through.



Be a Rotary Speaker See page 3

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CRCID's revised Strategic Plan, thanks to the Strategic Planning Committee, is posted on our website at www.crcid.org. Once revisions to the CRCID Policy Manual are finalized these too will be posted on the website replacing our 2008 version.

Peace is an important aspect of Rotary's focus. As this is a time of joy, peace and love, I close by wishing you and your family the blessings of the season. May 2011 gift you health and happiness.

Warmest Regards,

Peter H. Peters
President, CRCID

The M and M Team

Please join us in welcoming the newest additions to the CRCID team.

Morgan Shortt, hired April 1, 2010, is CRCID's Program Officer/Gender Specialist. She is managing and administering four developing country programs and the Afghanistan Project Public Engagement Campaign, and is CRCID's Gender Specialist. Morgan has disaster relief experience in Sri Lanka working alongside YMCA workers after the December 2004 Tsunami and international development experience in Jamaica managing and helping volunteers renovate a village school.

Megan MacLean, hired October 20, 2010, is CRCID's Program Officer/Environmental Specialist. She is managing and administering four developing country programs, and is CRCID's Environmental Sustainability Specialist. Megan recently graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with a B.A. in the International Relations stream of Political Science and joined the Rotary club of London Hyde Park in February 2010. She also has knowledge and expertise in public relations and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.



Our School is Open!

Speaker Kits make it an easy, fun and rewarding experience to share our story with Canadian Youth! Rotarians Wanted!

Rotary Canada is celebrating its 100th anniversary by building a fully furnished school in Afghanistan for 4,000 girls and boys.

Now it's time to share the story of our school. We want to show how people are helping a struggling community to find its way back to inclusive education and peace.

As a Rotary Speaker, you can help us challenge Canadian Youth in your community schools to learn more about rebuilding efforts in Afghanistan, the new school project, and the 100th anniversary of Rotary in Canada.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) generously matched funds raised by Rotarians, so every single Canadian can feel a part of this World Community Project.



FULL DETAILS ONLINE AT
www.AfghanistanSchool.ca

Click on the "Be a Rotary Speaker" link and fill out the contact form.



When we extend hands of friendship we narrow the distance between us

Rotary in Canada's Afghanistan School

Become a Rotarian Speaker – it's easy!

By Dianne Twynstra,
Administrative Coordinator, CRCID

As a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Strathroy, I recently had the extreme privilege of speaking to three schools in Middlesex County about the "Rotary in Canada" Afghanistan school. This has been a wonderful experience for me and, I believe, for the students.

The first school I visited was East Williams Memorial Public School in Nairn, Ontario. At the time of the presentation, the professional DVD was not yet available, so Morgan Shortt, our Afghanistan School program officer, created a PowerPoint presentation geared more to an elementary school level. I showed the presentation to the entire school, grades JK to 8. The reaction to the presentation from both the students and the teachers was positively overwhelming. Following the presentation, the school's "Service Club", made up of approximately 20 students from grades 3-8, asked for order forms to sell the bracelets. They have sold approximately \$200 worth of bracelets. (The bracelets sell for \$5 each).

Following that presentation, I received a call from the school's principal, Mrs. Bell-McKaig, asking if I would come back to the school on the evening of their Literacy Night to set up a literacy activity relating to the Afghanistan school. Mrs. Bell-McKaig asked me if the singer of the Afghanistan School campaign song, Janie Grand, would be available to come to the event as well. To my



surprise and gratitude, Janie agreed to come to Literacy night and brought her father and twin sister Julie to assist us. Janie agreed to sing the campaign song, "More I want to know" at the kick off of the event and again at the end. Julie and I set up a laptop and had parents and their children sign the Afghanistan school guestbook sending wishes to the children at the school.

To all of our surprise, the Service Club had learned all the words to the campaign song and joined Janie in singing the song (see picture above). It was truly wonderful to see!

Megan MacLean, CRCID's newest program officer, assisted me with the next two school presentations. The first school we visited was SDCI (Strathroy District Collegiate Institute). We presented the professional DVD to a senior geography class. The students became very engaged and had a lot of questions after the presentation. Their teacher was so impressed that she asked us if we could come back in January to present to her next semester's class.



The second school we visited was North Middlesex District High school in Parkhill, Ontario (photo above). We presented the DVD to the entire school, first to the junior students followed by the senior students. Both presentations were very successful – the students, as well as the teachers, showed great interest. We sold several bracelets following the presentation.

Presenting to schools is very simple! Once you make contact with the school and receive permission to come in, the DVD is the presentation. All you have to do is introduce the project and thank the students and teachers at the end. We have even developed speaker notes to assist you!

We need you! We are receiving requests from schools all over Canada for Rotarian speakers. If you are interested in being a speaker, please contact Morgan Shortt at mshortt@crcid.org.





The Ripple Effect Guatemala

The Ripple Effect program seeks to address the roots of poverty by supporting the education of disadvantaged Guatemalan children. Through improving existing school structures, building new educational facilities, and providing other necessary school items, the program aims to remove any barrier to learning. This includes anything from desks, books, school supplies, classroom furnishings and playground equipment to teaching resources, washroom facilities, kitchens, food supplies and access to potable water. Construction on three schools is currently underway, with three more school improvement projects beginning in early 2011.

The award-winning program, founded by the Rotary Club of Winnipeg West, is now directed by the Ripple Effect Committee with involvement from 23 Canadian Rotary Clubs and 19 Rotary Clubs in Guatemala. It has received overwhelming support from local Guatemalan communities and local government who have consistently worked with the program to further improve the education system. The program has also received recognition from CRCID for continued excellence in the area of environmental sustainability.



By providing educational opportunities to disadvantaged children, the program creates a 'ripple effect' to reduce poverty in Guatemala. The program improves the quality of life of children through education. They in turn affect the livelihood of their families, their friends and their community as a whole.

If your club or district is interested in being involved with fundraising or by initiating a project within the Ripple Effect Program, please contact Gord or Debra LeMaistre, Program Coordinators, at glemaistre1@hotmail.com.



Rift Valley Kenya

The goal of the Rift Valley program is to break the cycle of poverty in Kenya's rural communities. By providing direct access for families to potable water year round, this program addresses an important primary human concern and cause of poverty. Kenya's stretch of continuous dry months combined with fluoride-heavy groundwater means that rural families must travel daily, often many miles, to have access to other water resources. Many available water sources are polluted and continually cause sicknesses and fatalities. In addition, the significant time and effort of collecting this water is a heavy burden on families, particularly on the female members.

The Rotary Club of Nakuru, Kenya, developed the original concept to solve the problem of rural potable water access. To collect the water during the rainy months to use during the dry season, women in Kenya are trained on how to construct tanks designed to gather rainwater runoff. These durable 10 cubic meter concrete tanks can store enough rainwater to supply a family for the duration of the dry months.

In addition to supplying the tank materials and training women in their construction, the program provides training in hygiene and sanitation issues. Having the incentive of owning the permanent water tank, recipient families are also involved with improving toilet facilities, opportunities for small business



financing, and planting trees to contribute to preservation of the natural environment.

The program engages community groups made up of local women and men that supervise the construction of 30-35 tanks per month. Hygiene workshops are consistently ongoing, 303 toilet facilities have been improved and over 30,000 trees have been planted since April 2010.

Involvement in this program changes the lives of Kenya's rural poor. For more information on how your club or district can contribute to the success of this program, please contact Program Coordinator John Boot at travelingboot@hotmail.com.

