



ROTARY CLUB OF APPLETON GUSTO

Service Above Self

June 13, 2017 Upcoming Programs

June 20th, 2017
RIVERVIEW GARDENS
Understanding/responding to sex trafficking
Thought of the Day: Dawn Nowakowski

June 27, 2017
RIVERVIEW GARDENS
Gary Hermsen's induction
Thought of the Day: Amy Flanders

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Membership – 148

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MARY HARP-JIRSCHELE MISSION TRIP REPORT

Mary Harp-Jirschele's mission trip this year went to a village 3,000 feet above sea level in the highest mountains in Nicaragua. The village of Pantasma is a circular valley created by what was thought to be a meteor strike millions of years ago. It is a very poor area, but fertile soil allows for the farming of corn, grain, fruit, and coffee. It is also the site of one of the most famous actions of the civil war between the Sandinista government and the rebel Contras. On October 18, 1983, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force's Task Force launched a surprise attack on the town, overrunning a battalion headquarters, detonating a munitions depot, robbing a state bank, and destroying a police station, a school, and all other government offices and facilities, leaving 47 defenders and residents dead. Today, it is a very needy area and a visit by Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity was very welcome. Thanks, in part to a Rotary World Service grant, 870 people from this incredibly poor and isolated region received eye care. Every day the mission group climbed 3,000 feet up a mountain to Pantasma and then back down at day's end. A 3-hour round-trip. The eye clinic was set up our clinic in a new building that the government had just built for unwed mothers – girls whose families had banished them from home because of their pregnancy. The patients arrived at the clinic early every morning and were very patient as they waited in line for their turn. It's a hurry-up-and-wait society. Minus the hurry-up. There is really NO sense of urgency in a country where most people are unemployed. They have nowhere to hurry up to. Mary shared the story of two interesting patients: "I had a 9-year-old boy come to my station with his grandmother and mother, and the first thing he asked me was "What's your favorite Bible verse?" I was floored! Trouble was, he couldn't see the side of a barn if he had to! His vision was a minus-10, which means he's hurting for certain. We don't carry glasses that strong, and I was worried he would have to leave without a pair. But our first-rate opticians – one of them my sister Marcy – came up with an amazing idea. They found two pair of glasses with a minus-5 prescription, and they broke the lenses out of one pair, and taped the lenses to the other pair, doubling the power. They looked just dreadful, but he didn't care – he COULD SEE! He danced right out of the clinic!" Later that afternoon, "We had a patient who was a minus-19. Now that's legally blind. A friend walked him to our clinic, for miles and miles. He couldn't have done it himself. When I looked at his chart, it said his occupation was a Bible translator. Incredulous, I said, 'How do you read?' And he showed me – he had to hold the Bible up to his eyes, and at a distance of less than 2 inches away, he could see the letters. And then I thought, 'If we don't carry minus-9 glasses like that little boy needed, this guy is really out of luck.' But as luck would have it, we found not one but two pair of minus-19 glasses. A true miracle – especially for that guy." In addition to glasses and sunglasses, the mission group brings other special things like toothbrushes and things for kids – balloons, hair ribbons, crayons, stickers... and my all-time favorite, little flashlights donated by The Mooring Program. They are a big hit! Mary is grateful for the World Service Grant that made a difference in the lives of not just the nearly 900 people served in Nicaragua, but in the lives of all those on the mission trip. "Thanks to the Appleton Rotary Club, there is a little mountaintop area of Nicaragua where you are heroes to them all."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Saturday, June 24th** Riverview Gardens **9-12pm. Please sign-up for a head count!**
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45a5aa2da31-66171>
- Our Annual fundraising event this year, The Community Table Event, will be on **Tuesday, August 15th**. If you have paid for your ticket for the 2016-2017 fiscal year please contact Meghan to let her know if you want these funds donated to our Centennial project or if these funds should go towards your tickets for the event in August. This Community Table Event proceeds will support Polio Plus, Bangladesh Water project or our Centennial Community project.
- Please take a look at our sponsor package that is attached regarding our Community Table Event. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Meghan.
- We have our 2nd annual Rotary Day at the Timber Rattlers scheduled for **Thursday, June 29th**! Game time is 7:05pm and we will all be located on the Home Run Porch. Your ticket to the game will include not only entrance to the game but the Double Play menu as well as two beverages. Pricing and information on the Home Run Porch are available here. Home Run Porch \$25.50 per adult and \$21.50 per child 10 and under. Please RSVP to Meghan by **June 16th**.
- Please welcome 2 new members to our Rotary club, Steve Winter from Rollie Winter and Raj Dugal with Hartford Financial Services Inc. Welcome Steve and Raj!

MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH

Human trafficking is often perceived to be a problem confined to faraway countries. It's not. It occurs every day right here in Outagamie County. Jonathan Cloud will be here to provide a basic understanding of human trafficking, including how it typically happens and its effects on victims. He will also share some of the key early findings about human trafficking in Outagamie County as well as the early successes and future challenges of the countywide strategy funded primarily by the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region to address it.

GUESTS, VISITORS AND MAKE-UPS

Visiting Guests today were Jeff Jirschele, Cindy Sahotsky, John Forster, Mary Ann Forster, Jason Henderson, Steve Polansky and Fred Ohlde with Mary Harp-Jirschele.

There Were No Visiting Rotarians this week

There Were No Make ups this week
