



The Rotary Reader

Post Office Box 892

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Presidential Citation Award Winner – 18th Consecutive Year

The Rotary Club of Fort Walton Beach

Board of Directors

President:

Jan Pooley

Vice-President:

Roger Peadro

Secretary:

Kathy Pritchard

Treasurer:

Debbie Bodensine

Past President:

Scott Smith

Committee Chair

Membership:

Julie Orr

Services Projects:

Aaron Webber

Rotary Foundation:

Jody Henderson

Public Relations:

Michele Nicholson

Club Administration:

Chuck Landers

New Generations:

Debbie Bodensine

Sergeant at Arms:

Ted Litschauer/Jack Yeiser

Bulletin

Aaron Webber

Scholarship, Inc.:

Natalie Simpson

Executive Secretary

Lorrageia Jackson

executivesecreary@fortwaltonrotary.org



It took a village

The Rotarian - August 2012

By Stephen Yafa

Seated in a circle of men, women, and children at the base of a sprawling fig tree in the remote Ugandan village of Oduworo, Rotarians Steve and Vicky Wallace are asking the villagers about their needs. At least a thousand people have come together at this "meeting tree," and agree that everyone wants clean water, better food, medical care, and vocational training, especially for the young.

If you were to sit in on this gathering in 2009 and gaze at the healthy, animated villagers, it would be hard to envision the despair, disease, and near starvation they had endured. The Wallaces know about the deprivations in detail. Without the couple's persistence, ingenuity, and caring, those conditions would still plague the village, a loose assemblage of huts spread over several miles of caked dirt, six hours by car from Kampala.

The journey that led Steve and Vicky to Oduworo began in northern Nigeria. The Wallaces – members of the Rotary Club of Lake Elsinore, Calif., USA, and Rotary Foundation Major Donors – learned about polio eradication work there when they attended the RI Convention in Chicago in 2005. A Nigerian Rotarian, captured on video, described the plight of the disease's victims in the country. "We're going," Vicky declared. The Wallaces had rarely traveled outside the United States, and never to Africa. What they soon experienced as members of a polio immunization team would change their lives. "We were not ready for it in any way," Vicky recalls. "Polio sufferers crawling in the dirt, children digging through garbage for something to eat." When they returned to their sunny California suburb, they stayed home for four days and revised their plans for the future.

"At the time," explains Steve, the 2011-12 governor of District 5330, "I owned a business and was under contract to the Walt Disney Company, building props for the rides at Disneyland. Vicky and I both knew I had to quit. We knew we were going to downsize our lives and do humanitarian service from then on."

Two years later, in 2007, the District 5330 multiyear project committee asked the Wallaces to get the district involved in an international service effort. There was a single stipulation: They had to choose a village that had never received any outside help.

The Wallaces had never heard of Oduworo. They sent out a slew of emails to Rotarians around the globe, and one response, from the Rotary Club of Kampala-West, offered a compelling description of this village of about 2,500 inhabitants. Kampala-West club member Sam Bwaya assured them that Oduworo needed help but had never received aid from any humanitarian group or government agency. After seeing five other potential project sites in four countries, the couple traveled there. "This was the only village that didn't have its hand out, asking for money, when we first visited," Steve remembers. "Even in the face of starvation, one man stepped forward and presented us with a live chicken to thank us for showing up."

The men, women, and children the Wallaces encountered were sick, malnourished, and so lethargic, Vicky says, "they just sat there all day with their heads in their hands." Malaria was rampant. The villagers existed on scraps of food and drank from a contaminated water supply – shallow holes with muddy water, which they shared with animals, and where they also washed their laundry and bathed. The nearest potable water source was 2 miles away on foot. They had no farming tools and no livestock. An elder explained that 25 years earlier, a neighboring tribe had raided Oduworo, killed scores of resisting adult villagers, and stolen all the village's cows. Ten years later, Oduworo was raided again, this time by the Lord's Resistance Army, for child soldiers. Many people fled, and the village still had not recovered. Anyone who knew how to raise crops either had been killed or had run off. The Wallaces learned that the survivors of Oduworo called their home "the forgotten village."

Read the rest of this article in the July issue of The Rotarian

This Day in History

On this day in 1961, amusement park lovers "head for the thrills" as Six Flags Over Texas, the first park in the Six Flags chain, opens in Arlington, Texas.

On this day in 1498, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sets foot on the South American mainland for the first time, at the Paria Peninsula in present-day Venezuela. Thinking it an island, he christened it Isla Santa and claimed it for Spain.

On this day in 1981, MTV: Music Television goes on the air for the first time ever, with the words "Ladies and gentlemen, rock and roll." The Buggles' "Video Killed the Radio Star" was the first music video to air on the new cable television channel, which initially was available only to households in parts of New Jersey.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AND EVENTS

- August 8 Scholarship Inc. - Rotary Nursing Scholarship Presentations
 August 15 Jan Pooley - 2013 Club Initiatives

Educational Programs

Rotary has a long tradition of fostering peace and international understanding through education.

Since 1947, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships have given more than 41,000 men and women the opportunity to study abroad. Although the program will come to an end in 2013, new scholarship opportunities through the Foundation's district and global grants will give Rotarians greater flexibility to sponsor scholars.

Rotary Peace Centers offer a master's degree in international relations, sustainable development, peace studies, and conflict resolution, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict studies.

Rotarians with Birthdays this Week

Brian Page

Rotarians with Anniversaries this Month

Joe Brewster Sallie Hardy Bill Howard
Scott Smith Russ Youngblood



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

THE ROTARY 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?



Rotary Roster

Anderson, Robert SM
CPA

Arthur, Jack PHF SM
Insurance

Bass, James SM
Funeral Director

Bennett, Nitsi (19) PHF X *
Non-Profit Administration

Bodenstine, Debbie PHF SM X
Economic Development

Brewster, Joseph PHF SM
Cable Television

Brutt, Frank PHF SM
County Planning

Butcher, Tom
Honorary Member

Cagle, Kevin SM
Office Machines

Chalker, Gerry (5) PHF SM *
Pension Administration

Clark, Jason (2) SM
Insurance

Corbin, Andy PHF SM X *
Electronics Mfg.

Curry, Jim PHF SM **
Government Management

Davis, James (33) PHF SM *
Public Utilities

Dorris, George PHF SM
Dentistry

JT Edwards SM
Retail Owner

Ekedahl, Brian SM
Social Services

Empson, Dan
Honorary

Fallin, Ralph (31) PHF SM X *
Dairy Products

Foster, William PHF SM X *
Attorney

Fowner, Bob (2) PHF SM
Association Manager

Gavin, Clifton
Attorney

Gilligan, Tony (17) PHF SM
Government Contractor

Grissom, Ron SM
Utilities

Grubbs, Haydon PHF SM
Education

Hamilton, Chad PHF SM
CPA

Hardy, Sallie PHF SM
Commercial Properties

Hayes, Tom PHF SM
Financial Services

Henderson, Jody PHF SM *
Accounting/Auditing

Henley, Mitzi (4) SM
Retail Shopping Center

Hooton, Jeff (5) SM
Commercial Lending

Howard, William PHF
Real Estate-General

Johnson, Chris PHF *
CPA Retired

Johnson, Johnny (40) PHF SM X*
Banking

Kedroski, Cristie SM
Foundation Development

Kunkel, Richard SM
Education

LaBlanc, Ross SM
CPA

Landers, Chuck PHF SM
CPA

Leonard, Tony PHF SM **
Retail/Musical Instruments

Linn, John PHF SM
Kitchens-Retail

Litschauer, Ted SM
Public Safety

Lowrey, Tom PHF *
Stockbroker

Mattern, Jamey PHF SM
Architect

Macdonald, David SM PHF **
Shopping Center Mgr

McDonald, J.R. SM
Aerospace Marketing

McNabb, Julie (1) SM
Developmental Disabilities

Meyer, Joe SM
Retail/Computers

Miller, David O. (10) PHF SM
Developmental Disabilities

Monroe, Jason SM
Communications

Morgan, John PHF SM *
Computer Engineer

Morgan, Matthew SM
Electrical Engineer

Nelson, Dan PHF SM
Restaurant/Fast Food

Nicholson, Michele SM
Communications

Orr, Julie (1) SM
Personnel Staffing

Page, Brian SM
Tax Attorney

Palmer, Charlie SM
Real Estate Development

Peadro, Roger PHF SM
Pastor

Plummer, Mary PHF SM
Real Estate Sales

Poff, Lyndon (3) PHF X SM
Paint & Body Shop

Pooley, Jan (6) PHF SM X
Department Store

Potts, Charlie PHF SM *
Jeweler

Pritchard, Kathy PHF SM
Commercial Banking

Pryor, Fred PHF SM *
Utility Service-Gas

Rahe, Ted (36) PHF SM *
Property Management

Richburg, Bob PHF SM X
College Administration

Ricketts, Dusty SM
News Media

Rollins, Joe SM
Compliance Services

Shaw, Susan SM
Fund Raising

Shelley, Eulice PHF SM *
Moving & Storage

Simpson, Natalie SM
Legislative

Smith, Pete PHF SM *
Appraiser

Smith, Scott PHF SM *
Chiropractor

Smith, Whitney SM
Attorney

Stearns, Allan (21) PHF SM *
Travel Agent

Stevens, Rick (4) PHF SM X *
Surge Suppression Systems

Stokes, Randy PHF SM *
Architecture

Tibbetts, Alexis SM
Schools

Tinsley, Kent SM
Commercial Banking

Tinsley, Herb PHF SM X *
Savings & Loan Mgmt.

Townsend, Forrest PHF SM X *
Veterinarian

Trigg, Brian SM
Program Analyst

Trum, Alex PHF SM
Orthodontist Retired

Turpin, Matt SM
CPA

Vaughan, John PHF SM
Past Service

Watson, Yonge (1) PHF SM *
Real Estate

Weaver, John SM
Youth Organization Mgmt.

Webber, Aaron (2) SM
Condo Management

West, Charles PHF SM
Investment Broker

Williamson, Ken PHF SM *
Retired

Woo, Jean PHF SM
Dentist

WrightReynolds, Mike (1) PHF SM
Photography

Yeiser, Jack PHF SM
Mortgage Broker

Youngblood, Russ PHF SM **
Psychologist

PHF: Paul Harris Fellows
SM: PH Sustaining Members
* FWB Club Past Presidents
** Past President Other Clubs
X FWB Rotarian of the Year

Members in purple are recognized as achieving perfect attendance as of the end of the previous year (June 30th)

Members in blue font are on a leave of absence.

Don't forget that you can make up a missed meeting at a neighboring club. They include:

Crestview: Wednesday noon, Ryan's

Destin: Tuesday 7:15 a.m. Rutherford's at Regatta Bay

DeFuniak Springs: Wednesday 12:00 p.m., McLain's Family Steakhouse

Mid-Bay: Wednesday 7 a.m., Bluewater Bay Golf Club
Navarre: Thursday noon, Tuscan Grill at Hidden Creek

Niceville: Thursday noon, OWC Bld. K

South Walton: Thursday 7:30 a.m., Embassy Suites