



Vol. 1, No. 2

District 6290 Rotaract Newsletter

April, 2015

Sault Ste. Marie, ON Cadillac Muskegon Baker
Muskegon Community College Grand Valley State University

This is the second installment of the Rotaract District quarterly newsletter that shares information about the Rotaract clubs of District 6290. The Rotaract motto is 'Service Through Fellowship' and members of Rotaract clubs come together on a regular basis to do good in the world, while growing in leadership and professional development.

DISTRICT 6290 Rotaract Leadership

District Governor: Al Bonney

District Governor Elect: Thomas Schmidt

Rotaract District Chair: Steve Osborn

Rotaract Club of Cadillac - Cadillac Rotary club sponsor

Rotaract Advisor: Dan Smith

Rotaract President: Danielle Mahan

Sault Rotaract - Sault Ste Marie, ON Rotary club sponsor

Rotaract Advisor: Hilda Odom

Rotaract President: Megan Wigmore

Rotaract Club of Muskegon Community College-Muskegon &Montague-Whitehall Rotary club sponsors

Rotaract Advisor: Mike Alstrom

Rotaract President: Morgan Schwing

Rotaract Club of Grand Valley State University-Allendale Rotary club sponsor

Rotaract Advisor: Aaron Haight

Rotaract President: Abbey Ballard

Rotaract Club of Muskegon Baker College-Muskegon & Montague-Whitehall Rotary club sponsors

Rotaract Advisor: Linda Meyers

Rotaract Co-President: Danielle Woodring

Rotaract Co-President: Stephanie Stewart

Save the Date for the Second Annual Multidistrict Rotaract Conference

The Rotary clubs of Muskegon & Montague-Whitehall and the Rotaract Club of Muskegon Baker College will host the second annual multidistrict Rotaract conference on Saturday, October 17, 2015. The first multidistrict Rotaract conference was groundbreaking and seeds were planted for what is certain to be a highly informative and wonderful social event you would not want to miss. Stay tuned for details.

Graduation

District 6290 would like to say 'Goodbye' to Grand Valley State University Rotaract President, Abbey Ballard. Abby will be graduating soon and passing the reins over to new leadership. She recently accepted a paid internship with Dematic in Grand Rapids working in the Human Resources department. Abbey served the Rotaract cause with contagious enthusiasm and motivating leadership. We wish her the best and thank her for her outstanding service.

Caitlyn Shead and Dan Noordhoek from the Rotaract Club of Cadillac graduated this quarter. Congratulations to Caitlyn who has earned an Associate's in Administrative Management and to Dan who earned an Associate's in Entrepreneurship.

Welcome to Dan Smith

The Rotaract Club of Cadillac has a new Advisor, Dan Smith. Dan is the Executive Director of the Cadillac Area YMCA. He has been a Rotarian since 2010 and serves on the Cadillac Rotary Board of Directors.

Rotary District Conference

Our district conference is in Traverse City, May 1-3. One of the breakout sessions is about Rotaract in our district and the session is Saturday, May 2 from 11:15 to 12:15. Your participation at this event would be great!

Creative Recruitment Ideas

Danielle Mahan and her club came up with creative and effective ways to recruit new members. The following is Danielle's summary of some recent ideas.

In an effort to grow the Rotaract Club of Cadillac we asked what non-members thought of when they looked at us. We had many visitors tell us that they thought that we were professionals. This excited us so we asked, "Then why don't you join our club?" The students responded with "I don't think I am at your level." This was a huge blow; we are a new group and we never thought we were projecting to the other students that they weren't good enough to join.

As an effort to seem more approachable we have started to have a monthly Social. Last month we arranged it so that any student that came to the Parkview Lanes Bowling Alley with a student ID would get to bowl free and have free rentals shoes. Then the manager gave us a special menu with discounts on food and drink specials. This event had 15 Baker College students attend. Then for the month of March we had a Potluck/Game Night. This was held at the Rotaract Club of Cadillac's President's house and we were able to bring the entire family or

significant other out to have a fun night of games. We played cards, ate great food and had a chance to get to know each other better. This event had 11 people attend. Next month we are working on having a Volleyball night with the Cadillac Interact Club. Recognizing that they are a huge part of Rotaract and Rotary we decided that we would like to make more efforts to be social with them.

Through our efforts to make ourselves more exposed to the student body at Baker College of Cadillac we have recently added 3 new members to our group. I think that sometimes we get so excited about what we can do to give back to the community that we forget to have the fellowship aspect of the club, and I am glad that our club has been making the changes necessary to bring back the fellowship.

Whatcha Been Up 2?

Sault Rotaract President, Megan Wigmore, had this to say about her club's activities over the last quarter:

The biggest news I have is about the success of a project my club undertook at the holidays - to stuff backpacks with hygiene and personal care items for the men at a local men's shelter. Our club raised close to \$4,000 in donations, and was able to pack over 70 backpacks, plus donate several more boxes of hygiene items to the shelter and their food bank for the holidays. The shelter was overwhelmed - these 70 backpacks should last them well into the spring for the men using their services.

While things have been quiet for the first few months of the year, we are looking forward to upcoming Rotaract elections in the next few weeks for the Rotary year starting in July, our members will be volunteering during our sponsor club's annual fundraising Telethon on March 29th, and we're looking forward to a busy spring with a few projects in the planning stages.

The Rotaract Club of Grand Valley State University President, Abbey Ballard, had this to say about her club's activities since January:

Our club has partnered with Allendale's Rotary member, Cork Horvath, for his group Knights of Columbus. They raise money for Allendale high school's Students with Disabilities program. We have helped by collecting money from students on campus for this organization. We did this in October and will be doing this again on Monday, March 23rd. We also have volunteered by working with Grand Valley's Sustainability and Agriculture organization and donated tons of items to the Foster Christmas Party. Last month we made a spaghetti dinner for 50 people at the Grand Rapids Runnicci Hospitality House. This is a place for families with family members in the local hospital to have a nice place to stay during their hard time. This was a super fun event for us! We also formed a team for Relay for Life. We have raised about \$500 and will be having a fun fundraising event on March 21st to raise more money. The event is April 10th and we will be there from 6pm until 6am the next morning. We will be raising money at the event and participating in fun activities at the event. We have just emailed out our applications for e-board positions for next year and will vote for those positions next month.

Here are some of the activities of the very busy Rotaract Club of Baker College-Muskegon:

- *Kid's Food Basket; A handful of Rotaractors volunteer every Friday packing sack suppers
- *Mission for Area People; The Rotaract Club packed 100 Thanksgiving dinners
- *Read Early, Read Often; The second Saturday each month Rotaractors spend 2 hours reading and interacting with children ages 0-36 months
- *Rotary Business Connections; Once a month Rotaractors along with local business individuals and Muskegon Rotary members visit local businesses and learn how they run and got started, and members also network at the events
- *Table events (2 to date raised \$2,000); The Rotaract club holds a table event at the Baker College of Muskegon campus, selling baked goods, crafts, books, and other donated items
- *Three Rotaractors traveled to Honduras this year with members of the Mona Shores Interact Club, Muskegon, Grand Haven, and Whitehall/Montague Rotary Clubs
- *January 27th Rotaract Meeting; DG Al Bonney and DG Elect Tom Schmidt visited the Rotaract Club
- * Muskegon, Grand Haven, Fremont, and Whitehall/Montague Rotary luncheons; members have had the privilege of attending these luncheons
- * Lumberjacks Game; The Rotaract Club attended the game to support the L.C. Walker and Lumberjacks Manager
- * Pop-can drive; on going through the school year, students collect/return cans
- *Sold wristbands; \$1 each, they say "Light up Lives!"
- *Radom Acts of Kindness; Members are encouraged to commit random acts of kindness through the year and share with the club
- *Rotaractor of the Month; A member is selected as "Rotaractor of the Month" each month based off of volunteer hours, meetings and events attended

MultiDistrict Rotaract Project Update

Linda Eastman, Rotaract Advisor from the Rochester Rotary Club, provided an update on the Rotary Literacy Project that will take place in Guatemala May 13, 14, and 15, 2015.

I hope you have had success in your fund-raising efforts for this project.

About the literacy project itself, things are going as planned. Right now I am working on the curriculum and the activities related to each module. I have been in contact with the two presenters in Guatemala, and they are preparing themselves, too. We are in the process of selecting the books. I have sent out invitations to the teachers. I learned that I need to ask permission from the educational authorities to let them have the day off for the workshop, which is no problem. I am also in the process of securing the venue and arranging lodging and transportation for the participants. As recently as last week, I have been visiting Rotary Clubs to raise funds for the book budget.

The Oakland University Rotaract Club set a goal to raise \$300 for this project. They have had a bake sale, sold sweatshirts, and are hosting a fund-raiser at Buffalo Wild Wings on March 23, where they will receive 20% of food and beverage purchases for customers coming in with a special flyer. We distributed those flyers by email to our Rotary Club members and others in the community. We will also put it on Facebook when it gets closer to the date.

The Baker College Rotaract Club had a Yankee Candle sale.

I have been able to raise about \$12,000:

<i>Rochester Rotary Club</i>	<i>\$ 3,000</i>
<i>Clarkston Rotary Club</i>	<i>\$ 3,000</i>
<i>District 6380</i>	<i>\$ 2,500</i>
<i>Mt. Clemens Rotary Club</i>	<i>\$ 2,000</i>
<i>Kitchener, Ontario Rotary Club</i>	<i>\$ 1,200</i>
<i>Warren Rotary Club</i>	<i>\$ 500</i>
<i>West Bloomfield Rotary Club</i>	<i>\$ 100</i>
<i>Sterling Heights Rotary Club</i>	<i>\$ 100</i>
<i>Private Donation</i>	<i>\$ 60</i>
<i>TOTAL TO DATE 3/6/15</i>	<i>\$ 12,760</i>

The goal is \$23,000 and I still believe we can raise that amount. There are a few more Rotary Clubs pending, and I am waiting to hear from Rotary International. The workshop will take place no matter what. The more money we can raise, the more books the teachers will be able to take back to their classrooms. All monies Rotaractors raise will go toward the purchase of books. The books cost an average of \$5.00 apiece.

There are three Guatemalan presenters in addition to me. We are developing the curriculum right now. Topics include:

- Promoting Reading in the Community*
- Library 101*
 - How to set up a successful classroom library*
 - How to care for books*
 - How to help children choose books*
- Strategies to Make Reading Fun*
 - Reading Theater*
 - Puppet Theater*
 - Reading Buddies*
 - Drop Everything and Read*
- Reading Dinámicas to Stimulate and/or Motivate Learning*
- Reading Applied to Emotional Intelligence*
- Reading Applied to National Curriculum Base*

I have been working with a large bookseller firm in Guatemala called Artemis Edinter. Their motto is "Helping those who help." Since that is precisely what we are doing, they have been very generous in their support of this project and have offered to donate books as a match. That will stretch our dollars.

A local community college in Barillas, Huehuetenango has offered the use of one of their large classrooms, which is perfect for what we are doing. It has eight large tables which seat four persons each. Since many of the participants live in very remote areas, some will require lodging and transportation. That is arranged, as is the food and refreshments.

I am pleased with the progress on this project and am super excited as it draws near. I truly believe that this has the potential to make a real impact on the schoolchildren who live in

the far-flung villages in rural Guatemala. Books offer so many possibilities! They teach, motivate, inspire, form, and illuminate minds. Teachers will come away knowing that reading is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in school and in life. This workshop will help children learn to love books.

Please let me know how you have done with your fund-raising efforts. I hope you are having a wonderful school year. If you think your sponsoring Rotary Club would be interested in joining with you in supporting this project, let me know and I will contact the club with the details.

Sincerely,

Linda Eastman, Rochester Rotary Club

Al speaks to the Cadillac Rotaract Club.



District Governor Al Bonney has been a strong supporter of Rotaract during his tenure. Al puts it so eloquently, “The existence of Rotaract is so important to our world. I see Rotaract as a spreading of the ideals and values of Rotary’s Four-Way Test and Service Above Self motto. If we get our young people thinking like Rotarians then we have made a positive change to the world.”

Don’t Forget

It is a distinct honor to achieve the Rotaract Presidential Citation award. The award’s criteria provide an excellent goal direction for all Rotaract clubs. Don’t forget to have these guiding criteria as a part of the year’s Rotaract focus.

It is important to have awareness of what our district Rotaract clubs are doing and to have a source of communication for Rotaract clubs and Rotary advisors. Don’t forget to let me know what is going on with your club so I can include this in next quarter’s newsletter.

There is value to our district having a District Rotaract Committee. If you are interested in being a part of this committee don’t forget to please let me know.