

The Rotary Club of Oakland 2016-2017



For more than 100 years, the Rotary Club of Oakland has served the Oakland community and beyond. Under the leadership of President Linda Boessenecker, the Club, which grew to more than 340 members, continued this tradition of community service. The list below highlights several Club accomplishments during President Linda's term from July 2016 to June 2017.

Youth and Local Service

- With the involvement of 128 Club members, supported 942 students in 44 transitional kindergarten (TK) and combined TK/kindergarten classrooms in Oakland public schools
 - Organized 15 volunteers to assist weekly in classrooms.
 - Awarded each of 44 teachers \$400 to purchase classroom items.
 - Provided \$10,000 grant to Pro Arts to continue TKAP, the arts integration program founded three years ago and now active in 13 classrooms.
 - In collaboration with OUSD and East Bay Asian Youth Center, funded pilot project to improve attendance in four schools.
 - Took 659 students to the Oakland Zoo, 173 students to Children's Fairyland, and 123 students to Chabot Space and Science Center, at no cost to students, parents, or schools.
 - Through the Susie Elkind book giveaway (honoring former Rotary employee and benefactor Susie Elkind), gave away 4490 new books at the end of the school year – five to each student.
- Celebrated the 23rd year of the HOPE (Help Oakland Pupils Excel) program, by hosting past and present program participants. HOPE pairs 7th graders with Rotarian mentors and sets expectations for the students' attendance, grades, and citizenship. Each successful graduating senior receives \$10,000 for post-high school education/ training of his/her choice.
- Conducted the 36th year of the "Enterprise Institute" for 44 sophomores and juniors and nine seniors from local high schools. Guided by 21 Rotarians and supported by one volunteer nurse, the students spent three days in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains, learning business skills, team work, and social responsibility.
- Awarded \$42,000 in Saroni-Lena Scholarships to seven Oakland public high school graduates to attend the four-year college of their choice.
- Collaborated with East Bay College Fund to include Saroni-Lena scholars in the Oakland Promise, adding \$4,000 for each student and formalizing mentor relationships for each student.
- At the offices of Rotarian Jim Bell, hosted a summer financial literacy seminar for local youth and their parents/guardians.
- Sponsored Interact Clubs at four Oakland high schools, enabling local students to experience the joy of community service and friendship.
- Sent six Oakland high school juniors to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award program.
- Conducted service projects with the Weed Warriors at Lake Merritt and the Police Activities League (PAL) camp in the Oakland hills.
- Funded roof repair at the PAL Camp.
- Enabled technology upgrade for Game Theory Academy, teaching under-resourced youth strategic decision-making skills.
- Supported Oakland's "music artist in residence" program at Oakland's Castlemont High School.
- Funded video-camera equipment for Gritty City Youth Repertory Theater for their documentary project and other outreach efforts.
- Supported Cantare Con Vivo's children's choir programs, which help under-served children develop musical skills.
- Funded Stagebridge's residence program at Lincoln Elementary School.
- Facilitated equipment rental and food for the annual Ride for a Reason bike ride, supporting seven Oakland public schools serving over 5,000 students.
- Supported a Center for Elders Independence program that teaches seniors to order groceries online.
- Funded scholarships at Lake Merritt Rowing Club, so low-income youth can develop rowing skills.
- Funded materials for Super Stars Literacy programs in three Oakland public schools.
- Funded instruments for Bay Area Jazz Society program at Frick Middle School.
- Raised a record-breaking \$18,200 at the annual "Feed the Hungry" appeal, which was distributed to nine nonprofits providing food to those in need: Operation Dignity, Bay Area Meals on Wheels, St. Vincent de Paul, First Presbyterian Church, Harbor House, St. Mary's Center, Catholic Worker Food Program, Prescott-Joseph Center, and Alameda County Community Food Bank. (The amount raised included a dollar-for-dollar match by Rotarian Sean Marx and his company, Give Something Back.)

- Through a partnership with Laney College and the City of Oakland, renovated a blighted East Oakland house, supporting skill development by Laney College students and helping a worth local family.
- Partnered with the City of Oakland and Center for Economic Opportunity to continue support of the Ceasefire program, which placed 15 formerly incarcerated felons in jobs.
- Experienced the world of San Quentin through a four-hour tour by the prison's warden.
- Raised funds to support housing and other critical needs of the Oakland artist community, following the devastating December "Ghost Ship" fire.

International Service

- **Columbia** – Funded books for a school of refugee children in the city of Montebello.
- **Columbia** – Supported a project to repair water delivery and purification systems in a suburb of La Plata, affecting 94 families and 200 students.
- **Haiti** – Funded rebuilding of a school that was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew.
- **Burma** – Provided materials, tools and training to build an elementary school in strife-torn community.
- **Peru** – Funded 10-year water filtration systems for high poverty villages.
- **Guatemala** – Through a Rotary global grant, supported a program to train 600 Mayan women in the Saving for Change Methodology, which teaches self-financing and sustainable saving and financing.
- **El Salvador** – Through a Rotary global grant, funded supplies, machines and surgical missions to help 1,200+ children born with congenital heart problems each year.
- **El Salvador** – Through a Rotary global grant, replaced water and sanitation systems at a school in rural community serving 400 children.
- **Sri Lanka** – Through a Rotary global grant, created an entrepreneurship center that will teach local farmers business skills, with the goal of quadrupling their income within three years.
- **Fukuoka** – Continued the Club's tradition of summer student exchange with sister city Fukuoka, arranging for a local East Bay high school student fluent in Japanese to visit Fukokoa and a Fukuoka student fluent in English to visit Oakland.
- **Rotary Foundation** – Raised more than \$43,000 from Club members for The Rotary Foundation, which supports projects focused on the health and welfare of people in need throughout the world.
- **Projects Fair** – Sent Rotarians to the Uniendo America 2017 Project Fair in Honduras and the 2017 Columbia Project Fair in Cartagena; these fairs facilitate service partnerships between Latin American and North American clubs.
- **End Polio Now** -- Thanked each weekly speaker with a donation in his/her honor to "End Polio Now," providing more than 4,000 children with a life free from

a crippling disease, and raised additional funds from Oakland Rotarians to support the ongoing eradication efforts.

Club Service & Fellowship

- Inducted 49 smart, successful, and generous new members into the Club.
- In the fall, held an elegant event for prospective members at the Lake Chalet Seafood Bar and Grill, showcasing the people of Rotary.
- Held a memorable April meeting at City Hall, featuring Mayor Schaaf, City Manager Landreth and Police Chief Kirkpatrick as speakers.
- Held the annual new member cocktail party in May, graciously hosted by Carla and Ken Betts.
- Celebrated the 30th anniversary of Women in Rotary, featuring Rotary's first female president, Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, and recognizing Oakland Rotary's first female members and our Club's role in supporting the inclusion of women in Rotary.
- Continued to manage and build the Oakland Rotary Endowment account, currently at \$3.2 million.
- Raised \$68,000+ at Rotary at the Rotunda, the Club's annual gala fundraiser. The event was appropriately billed as an "Evening of Elegance". Besides a vibrant live auction and successful "Fund a Need", Rotarians and guests enjoyed a video showcasing Oakland Rotary's service (prepared by Rotarian Chris Faber), an entertaining magician, and an impromptu vocal concert by Rotarians Kim Cohn and John Protopappas.
- Raised \$37,000+ in "Bellringers" – \$100 donations to Oakland Rotary Endowment, made during Rotary meetings by members who wish to honor a special person, event or accomplishment.
- Kept the spirit of High Adventure alive with biking, hiking, rock climbing, go-Kart racing, A's baseball, kayaking, rafting, elephant seal watching, and more.
- Toasted one and all at the popular "Cocktails with the President" series, providing Rotarians opportunities to network with each other at a rotating group of local establishments.
- Enjoyed the company of fellow Rotarians at events planned by the Entertainment Committee, including dinners, a bocce tournament and horse racing.
- Sent a delegation of 16 Rotarians, spouses and partners to the 2017 Rotary Convention in Atlanta.

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