



D6690

MARCH
2012



DG BRENT'S BRIEFS

Illiteracy – A “Gateway” Problem

The Rotary calendar notes March as Literacy Month, and you may wonder why. Why does Rotary feel that literacy and basic education are so important that it should share a special month, along with such big issues as membership and our Foundation? While we in the U.S. may sometimes take literacy for granted (but shouldn't), illiteracy is rampant throughout most of the world. One statistic I

saw said that over 770 million people worldwide do not function at basic levels of literacy!

While illiteracy and lack of education are bad enough, their larger impact is staggering. Illiteracy is the prime contributor to poverty in the world, with a devastating impact on individuals and entire nations. Countries with high illiteracy rates have a lack of economic development and high unemployment. Repressive and totalitarian governments often flourish in such countries. And these effects are not limited to foreign countries. As you know, I have placed a special emphasis this year on asking our Rotarians to address the hunger problem in your communities. In my research about hunger, I learned how illiteracy and lack of education are closely tied to the issue of hunger. Indeed the cause and effect of illiteracy on hunger is statistically so strong that many social service organizations and ministries that provide food pantries have also undertaken or partnered with organizations to help improve literacy and education in their communities.

When I think of literacy, I think of our dear friend, the late PDG Ram Gawande. Ram was passionate about literacy, as you can tell in his Mission Statement for his year as District Governor which I have included in this newsletter. Having been born in abject poverty in India, Ram viewed education as the key to his success in life. He worked tirelessly to promote literacy both in his native India and here in District 6690. Ram founded a college in India to bring literacy and education to the poorest of the poor in his homeland. He even engineered a Rotary Foundation “reverse” matching grant by which an Indian Rotary District provided school books for an impoverished school system here in District 6690. Ram equated literacy with peace, hope and opportunity and made it his life's mission.

As an international organization Rotary is uniquely positioned to help relieve illiteracy all over the world and provide the hope and opportunity that Ram sought to give. Most of our clubs engage in book and dictionary programs, give scholarships, tutor, and perform other activities designed to enhance literacy in their communities. Our clubs have also engaged in numerous literacy projects overseas, funded by Foundation matching grants. If your club is not doing a literacy project now, I encourage you to consider doing so. You will make a lasting change!

Nearly every club in D6690 has a literacy program in place. If your club doesn't - then get on board!!

Reach Within to
Embrace Humanity



MARCH LITERACY MONTH

- 31st - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny (Byesville)

APRIL MAGAZINE MONTH

- 14th - RYLA 2012 Participant Info DUE
- 19th - After Hours (Newark)
- 21st - DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
- 24th - Spaghetti Dinner (Barnesville)
- 27th - 11th Annual Health Screening (Byesville)
- 28th - Poker & Euchre Tournament (Canal Winchester)

DISTRICT CONFERENCE MAY 18-19

See www.district6690.org for details on these events and to add yours!



Education for Peace

by the late PDG Ram Gawande, M.D.

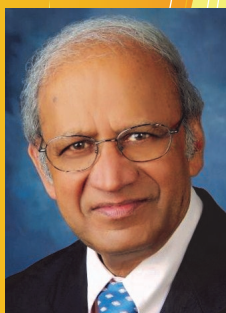
Education is the biggest gift that one can give.

Education is the answer for poverty, hunger, good health and reduction of conflicts, tension, hate crimes and violence. So invest in education for peace.

If you educate a child, he will educate his children- that will flow to the next generation like a river and these will join the ocean of peace.

Education is the key to man's survival and happiness, resulting in harmony in personal life that translates into peace.

Peace is in our hands. All it takes is education.



DOES THIS SERVICE PROJECT FIT YOU?

books4kids2keep

books4kids2keep's purpose is to obtain books and distribute them for free to Columbus' children for their personal enjoyment and ownership. They foster the future success of children by encouraging the development of literacy and a life long love of reading and learning. In doing so, they also give used books additional lives, even beyond the children and schools directly served by the program.

books4kids2keep, a program of Columbus Rotary, was the idea of Rotarian Linda Reese who identified the need, proposed the project and has been the driving force behind the project. Founded in 2002, the program now serves students K-12 in nearly 50 of our city's public schools. The school partners are the

backbone of the program -- usually Librarians or Library Media Specialists -- they plan programming and supervise the "no strings attached" distribution of books.

books4kids2keep further supports reading by providing "mini-grants" to its participating schools. School partners plan book giveaway events, and receive funding for needed supplies and preparation of food. Priority is given to programs that involve family feeding and reading because the program strives to cultivate multi-generational support of reading for students. To learn more, visit the website (www.books4kids2keep.org) and plan to attend the **books4kids2keep** session at the Conference!



D6690 YOUTH EXCHANGE WINS THE GOLD!

I was honored to represent D6690 Youth Exchange at the annual NAYEN Conference (North American Youth Exchange Network) which represents all the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) programs in the USA, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. There were 22 different countries represented at the Conference.

Held in Anchorage, Alaska Feb. 28-to Mar. 3, D6690 RYE Chair Sandy Pyle and I attended numerous seminars and meetings. Presenters included RI Director Ken Grabeau, chair of Programs; Alaska Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell; Kate Hoepfel, RYE Supervisor at RI; and Department of State Rep. James Alexander.

Particularly interesting was a talk about understanding culture by Fr. Michael Oleska PH.D., who works with Native America Alaskans. A Russian Orthodox Priest, Fr. Oleska is married to a native Alaskan and is recognized as an "Elder" by the Alaska Federation of Natives. His speech illustrating recognizing and accommodating cultural differences had the rapt attention of an audience whose passion is sharing culture.

The highlight for D6690 was being presented with a Gold Award, as one of the best RYE Programs in North America. Sandy Pyle accepted the award on behalf of Rotarians in Youth Exchange throughout our district.



At fellowship events, we talked to many amazing Rotarians who work with Youth Exchange as well as people from Rotary International. D5010, our hosts, was until this year the largest district in the world, encompassing Alaska and Siberia. It has since been reduced to "only" Alaska. Their hospitality was warm and welcoming.

Although the weather was frigid and there was four feet of snow, it was an amazing place. Sighting a moose in the hotel parking lot and another on the highway driving home from an

event proved that Anchorage is surrounded by pristine wilderness. Sandy viewed the start of the Iditarod Dog Sled Races Saturday morning.

Working in youth exchange for 13 years, I had talked to many of the people at the conference before.

Having the opportunity to meet them in person gave faces and personalities to voices over the phone and cold e-mails. I walked away with a deep admiration for people who do this program and made many more friends from all over the world and came away with many ideas to improve our program. To paraphrase R.I. Director Ken Grabeau, these are some of the most dedicated Rotarians in the world. - Bill McMurray, D6690 Youth Exchange



THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON: PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR DENNIS COOK (Marietta)

PDG Dennis served as our District Governor in 1999-00. That year, the RI President was Carlo Ravizza of Milan, Italy and the RI theme was: "Act with Consistency, Credibility, Continuity." There were 57 Clubs in our District and he held his conference at the beautiful Lafayette Hotel in Marietta.

As PDG Dennis puts it, "It's difficult to chose just one favorite memory during my year as DG. One that stands out, would be our District Conference, simply because so many of our "new" as well as "old" Rotary friends were gathered in one place. While reminiscing, the thought of seeing Tom Fitzpatrick placing the garter on Carol Garner's thigh is a memory that will forever bring about a chuckle; there couldn't be a greater person than Tom. But we would be remiss not to mention the "beyond excellent" gourmet 8 course meal that was prepared by Jay Callender of the Rotary Club of Granville. And then, of course, the Rotary Club of....."

Dennis has since served as District Secretary/Treasurer and has been an invaluable asset to the District Finance Committee.



WILL YOUR CLUB APPLY FOR A DISTRICT SIMPLIFIED GRANT (DSG) FOR 2012-13?

It's time for Rotary Clubs in D6690 to start thinking about local service projects for their communities – opportunities for club members to volunteer for projects demonstrating **"SERVICE ABOVE SELF!"**

Annually, the District Grants Committee looks forward to the service ideas submitted by D6690 Clubs. We also continually try to improve our process and communication about District Simplified Grants (DSG). We encourage all clubs to submit an application and want as many clubs as possible to benefit from the matching funds. As usual, we anticipate that available funds will be less than the total amount requested.

What is important to note if my club wants a DSG?

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO:

10. Assess the needs of your community and develop a project plan.
9. Submit your final report for your DSG project approved in the prior year.
8. Work with local service providers and/or recipients to assure community involvement and ownership.
7. Promote your project in the local media.
6. Encourage club donations to The Rotary Foundation – these donations return to D6690 three years later as DSG funds. Giving Clubs get priority!
5. Submit your DSG application NO LATER than the deadline! Those received after the deadline are reviewed on a first come basis until funds are all used. (Funds are typically committed with application received by the timeline.)
4. Carefully respond to each question on the DSG application.
3. Do not start your project until you have written approval from the D6690 DSG Committee.
2. Plan your project to fit within the timelines of the DSG grant process (noted below).
1. Clearly explain how your Rotarians will volunteer time to be actively involved in the project.

THINGS NOT TO DO:

- Do not limit your project to raising funds to give to another organization for their project.
- Do not submit a project that directly benefits a Rotarian.
- Do not request DSG to reimburse your club for a project already undertaken or completed.
- Do not apply DSG to the purchase of land or buildings.
- Do not propose a project that targets a building/structure in which individuals live, work or engage in gainful employment.
- Do not apply for DSG funds for salaries, stipends or honorariums for individual(s) working for a cooperating organization.
- Do not use DSG to support the operating or administrative expenses of any organization.
- Do not use DSG funds for international travel.
- Do not use DSG funds for Rotary events such as conferences or anniversary celebrations.
- Do not hesitate to contact the D6690 Grants Chair if you have any question about submitting a DSG application.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

DSG Applications due: Sunday, July 1, 2012

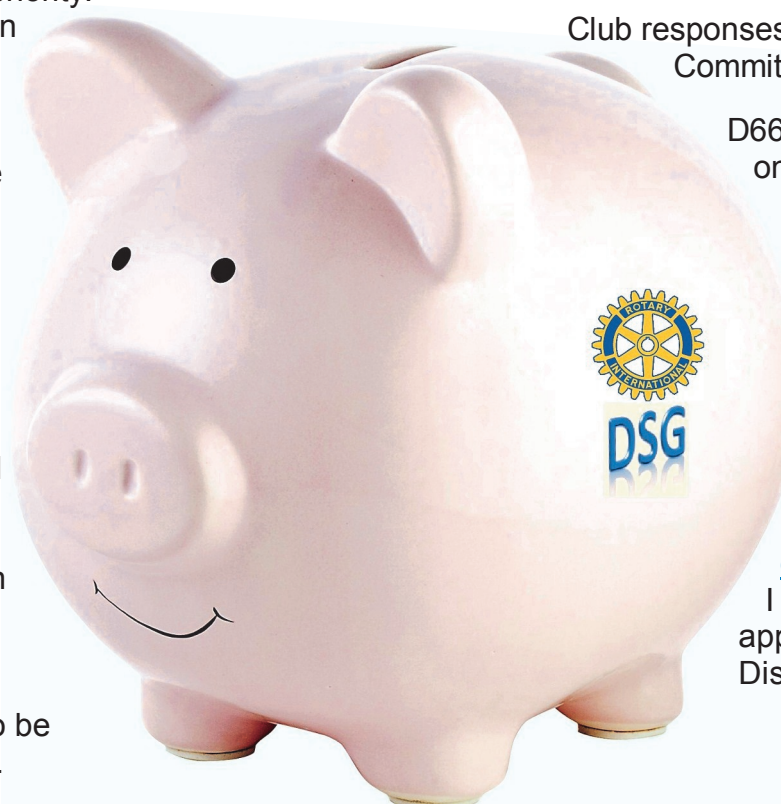
Club responses as requested by D6690 Grants Committee due: Friday, August 3, 2012

D6690 Grants Committee Decision on DSG: Friday, August 10, 2012

DSG Notices sent to Clubs: Friday, August 17, 2012

Watch for the DSG application on the D6690 website SOON and, please call if you have questions: Dana Charlton, D6690 DSG Chair, (614) 563-0788 or dcharlto@columbus.rr.com.

I look forward to receiving your application for a 2012-13 District Simplified Grant!



RAPID CRESCENDO FOR RAFIKI MUSIC PROGRAM

Rev. John Nganga, director of the Rafiki Orphanage in Nairobi Kenya thanks attendees at the Capitol Square club's Music in the Round fundraiser held Feb 25. Not only did the event aim to raise \$10,000 for the orphanage, more than 20 club members traveled to Nairobi this month to start the "Muziki" project. (See attachment for story and photos.) Rev. John will be the keynote speaker on May 18 at the District Conference foundation luncheon. You won't want to miss this amazing man and the exciting story of Rafiki!

RYLA 2012

42 Rotary Clubs from throughout D6690 have chosen to sponsor 75 youth to attend the 2012 RYLA Conference. The upcoming conference will be held July 19 – 21 at Ohio University in Athens.

Sponsoring Clubs are currently in the process of selecting their RYLA participants. Once selected, the youth participant is required to complete the on-line Registration Form and submit it to the RYLA committee by April 14th. Information and links to these forms have been emailed to all participating Rotary Clubs.

We need your promotional items!

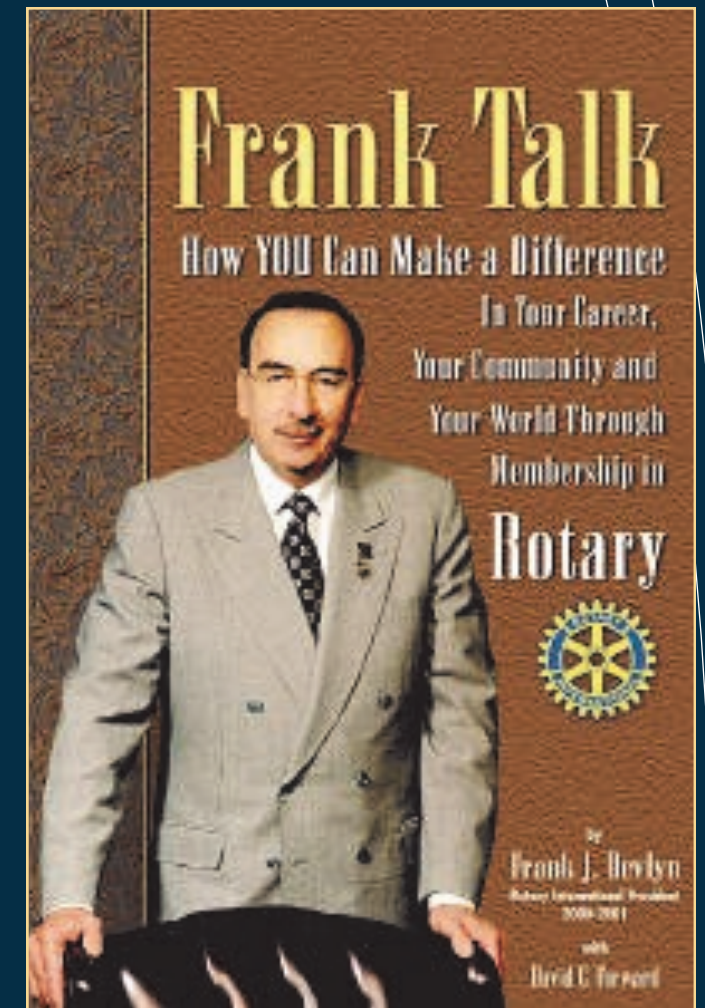
The D6690 RYLA Committee is seeking your donation of miscellaneous promotional items for the youth attendees. Items such as pens, note pads, key-chains, lip balm, toothbrushes, stress balls, Frisbees, or even gift cards – anything with your company name on it is acceptable. These items will be included in each of the students' conference "Swag" bag or given away as prizes. If you have any such items lying around your office and are looking to get rid of them; we're happy to take them off your hands. While we'd appreciate having 75 of the same item so that each youth receives one; we'll accept all donation quantities; even as few as 20 of one item. Anyone willing to donate promotional items for our youth is asked to contact RYLA Co Chairs Roe Mauro or Larry Jenkins at ryla@district6690.org.

Thank you for your continued support of RYLA! - D6690 RYLA Co Chair, Roe Mauro

D6690 ETHICS & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2012

One of the hallmarks of Rotary is to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions. The Granville Rotary Club hosted D6690's annual Ethics and Leadership Conference for area high school sophomores and seniors at the Reese Center on the Newark campus of The Ohio State University on March 21. Rotarians promote an ethical guide called *The Four-Way Test* as a way to practice ethics in daily life and make a difference with tolerance, fairness, respect, compassion and hope. An outstanding line-up of speakers—most of them Rotarians—shared their unique perspectives on the importance of high ethical values in decision-making for their professions and lives. Those excellent presenters were **Ryan Mills**, Park

National Bank, Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager, Granville Office, who presented "*Applying the 4-Way Test in Business & Life.*" **Doug Eastman**, Northwestern Mutual, Financial Advisor, presented "*Finances & Ethics.*" **Tom Bunyard**, WCLT Radio, Inc., General Sales Manager, spoke about "*Broadcast Media & Ethics.*" **Amy Huddleston**, Home Instead Senior Care, Owner, presented "*Small Businesses & Ethics.*" **Neal Bell**, White Rock Media, LLC, President, spoke on "*Social Media & Ethics*" and **Laurel Kennedy**, Denison University, Vice President for Student Development, presented "*Ethics & College Students.*" It was a very well planned and successful event enjoyed by the students, accompanying advisors and Rotarians!



EMBRACE ROTARY

At the 2012 District Conference May 18-19

Don't miss this chance to hear Past RI President Frank Devlyn! He is dynamic, fun and has never met a stranger. Allow Frank to re-excite you and prove to you why you should feel proud to be a Rotarian! Register today to meet him!

REGISTER NOW AT
www.district6690.org



SPECIAL RAFIKI INSERT

Muziki meets Rafiki – The Gift of Music

March, 2012

This March, a group of Rotarians from the Capital Square Rotary Club in Columbus and musicians from Columbus, OH, organized by Kirk Horn, and headlining Jessie Henry and Eric Nassau, made the trek to Rafiki to share the gift of music. Bringing with them the proceeds from the wildly successful "Music in the Round" fundraiser for Rafiki in Columbus, the group arrived at Rafiki ready to get to work. They spent time with the kids on the Rafiki campus, writing songs with them, and rehearsing with the Upendo Choir from Tanzania. It all came together with a collaborative performance at Rafiki on Saturday, March 10, and at the Wida Motel auditorium the next day. Both performances were to "packed houses" and could not have been more fun for the performers and the audiences as well. Dancing and clapping were the norm. All proceeds from the performances benefitted Rafiki. The goal is to establish a Department of Music at Rafiki Academy, providing for a teacher as well as various musical instruments. The teacher has already been identified. Here are some scenes from the Saturday show at Rafiki.

At the Wida Motel the next day many local musicians from the area, organized by Peris Ndungu, joined the Upendo choir, the Rafiki kids, Eric Nassau and Jessie Henry from Columbus. Together they rocked the house!



Rafiki kids recite poetry in perfect unison



Upendo Choir from Tanzania in action



Outdoor stage and tents for the crowd



Columbus, Kenyan, and Tanzanian musicians



Peris Ndungu MC's and sings



Kirk Horn takes a rare break

But it wasn't all rehearsal and performance. There was plenty of time to hang out and get to know the wonderful Rafiki kids. A bonfire on Friday night was used to show the kids how to roast marshmallows.



The Columbus contingent



The music is enjoyed by the crowd



Sticks and Marshmallows- key ingredients



A new kind of treat

SPECIAL RAFIKI INSERT

As if all that were not enough for one weekend, there was a great deal more that happened. As always, we planted trees for the future. I wish I could include pictures of everyone who planted a tree, but, if I did, this update would not fit in anyone's mailbox. So here is just a sample.



Erin Corrigan (Music in the Round)



Michelle Duffill, President, Cap Square Rotary

Also, a major milestone was accomplished: after many twists and turns in the road, *The First Community Church Boys' Dormitory* was finally actually opened. Its first occupants were the Upendo Choir from Tanzania. It is a fine building indeed, and FCC should be rightly proud to have it open for business. This summer, it will briefly be home to all of the kids, while some badly needed renovations happen in the original St. Benedicts Girls' Dorm. By the fall, both dorms will be open.



The FCC Boys' Dorm had its first occupants



Beds and mattresses are in place

Big things have happened since the last update at Rafiki Academy. We opened in January of this year. The classrooms are equipped, we have a principal and teachers hired, and classes are underway for preschool and Forms I and II. Thanks to funding from Columbus Rotary and District 6690, the classrooms are equipped, the computers are in place, and students are learning. We need a bus to gather more students to fill the classes, which will make the school a major income source for Rafiki, and we are hopeful that funding will happen.



The first faculty of Rafiki Academy



The Principal in his office



Computers for the students



Students in their classrooms

We had two groundbreaking ceremonies this weekend. The first was for the *Rafiki John and Joyce Edmundson School of Music* which will share space in the *Bishop & Mrs. George M. Njuguna Memorial Chapel*. Reverend Susan Kyser from Nationwide Children's Hospital, who was inspirational to John Nganga early in Rafiki's history, officiated at the ceremonies.



Rev. Susan Kyser and John Nganga's parents



Columbus Rotarian Ron Kyser breaking ground

SPECIAL RAFIKI INSERT

The second groundbreaking was for the *John Webster Marketplace*. Because the pig business has become unprofitable (lower prices for meat and higher prices for feed) we are converting five pig sties that abut the road to town, into shops: a butchery, a barber shop, a micro-finance office, and others.



Rev. Nganga shows where door will appear



... conveniently located on road to town



Rtn's Ron and Joyce at marketplace ceremony



Sign commemorates the Chapel groundbreaking

As always, *quilts* were brought for kids who are new to Rafiki since our last visit, and these were given to them at the conclusion of the Sunday morning worship service led by Reverend Kyser on the Rafiki Campus. The Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry at First Community Church continues to commit to making a quilt for every new Rafiki kid.



Presentation of the quilts is always a special time for the kids, as well as for us.

All in all it was a very busy time. As always, we remind ourselves that it is really all about the kids. The buildings we build and the programs we start are only the mechanisms that can help us do our real job: providing a safe, secure, supportive environment that can nurture the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual growth of our kids. We'll be back again in this summer to continue working with Dr. Nganga and his amazing ministry.

For more information on Rafiki

Visit us at www.marafikikenyaorphans.org

Terry Davis, March 21, 2012