

Hillary Hamilton
President 2003-2004

With the RI Theme of *Lend a Hand*, the Club found ways to lend a Hand here in our local community as well as in many countries around the world. We continued and implemented several small funding projects in Seattle that linked to our “International” roots, and built on our diverse membership base to add members with roots in Ethiopia, India and Laos, among others.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE – Building beyond the Scholarship Committee, we developed strong new Vocational Committee under the leadership of Terry Pickering. The committee explored opportunities for involvement, and proposed a new micro credit project partnering with Cascadia Revolving Fund. A grant of \$4,000 was made to subsidize the loan loss reserve requirement for new micro credit loans to childcare providers. The Scholarship Committee, led by Paul Mar, found eight highly qualified students and the club awarded \$1,000 scholarships to each. As the year closed, the Vocational Committee was exploring opportunities to support translation services for workforce development.

COMMUNITY SERVICE – The Club’s efforts this year focused on hands-on service opportunities, led by Committee Chair Quynh Nguyen. Cleaning up the International District, supporting the Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Clinic’s Halloween Run and bell-ringing for the Salvation Army were three hands-on activities. The Club provided mini-grants to a number of local agencies through Sergeant-at-Arms Funds. At Bailey Gatzert, this was a year of transition -- with a new school principal and the emphasis on the WASL tests, the traditional activities of the Giraffe Project and the Book about Me project did not proceed. However, the Club did fund a spring Choir program through the after school program at Gatzert, with support from the Gary Ewing Fund and provide shoes to the Gatzert Track Team.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE – Continuing as Chair for a second year, Donna Wolter led a strong, and growing, committee to new heights. The Club funded a Literacy project in Honduras, continued support for a medical clinic in Cambodia, supported a Girls School in India with funds for property acquisition, and built electronic “bridges” between students in Seattle and Peru with the Bridges to Understanding Program. A matching grant application was formally submitted to RI to provide medical equipment to a children’s hospital in the Russian Far East. A new project to support teacher training in Liberia was begun. The Club also celebrated major accomplishments in the Zimbabwe well-building project, with two brand new wells and two rehabilitated wells now providing water for villagers in Weya.

CLUB SERVICE/MEMBERSHIP – Nine new members were welcomed into the Club, each bringing strengths, skills and commitment. Unfortunately, the Club also lost members due to relocation, lack of commitment, ill health and other reasons. The total membership at year end was 51. Julie Hungar, as Membership Chair, provided leadership to add structure to the recruitment of new members, and Club Service Chair Sally Schultz helped the club celebrate and socialize by creating several social events. Stephanie Ko, as President-Elect, ran a great auction. Mardie Rhodes created a new communications tool, the Quick News Sheet, to keep members up to speed on upcoming events and service opportunities. Thanks to Steve Mayeda, the club enjoyed the occasional newsletter celebrating activities and new members. Terri Nakamura excelled at bringing the Club an array of interesting speakers for another year. Jean Donohue assembled 20 years of reflections and history to create an updated Club History.

FOUNDATION/FUNDRAISING – Reflecting the increasing strength of its membership, Club contributions to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) were up this year, both in terms of total dollars raised (approx. \$5,700) and the percentage of club members contributing. Approximately 58% of members made a donation to TRF, and three members were made new Paul Harris Fellows – Terry Pickering, Jean Donohue and I.

CENTENNIAL YEAR BEGINS – The year-long celebration of Rotary’s centennial got underway in February, 2004. The Club developed a centennial project at Bailey-Gatzert School. The project will create a bilingual lending library for parents, encouraging reading, providing parenting tools, and improving literacy. The Club received funding from Marsh, Inc. to support the project.