*Sent to all Members*

August 11, 2024

Dear {%FName%},

Rotary Minutes are provided by District 6220 Governor Roger Utnehmer (Oot-name-er). Please read at club meetings, post in newsletters and include in club social media.

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“This is a Rotary Minute from District Governor Roger Utnehmer (Oot-name-er).

Ukrainian students are being taught, and life-saving surgeries performed, because Rotarians in District 6220 stepped up and provided emergency generators.

Today, the urgent need is for medical supplies. More than 50% of electrical generating power in Ukraine has been destroyed. The Economist Magazine reports in the July 15, 2024 edition, more than 30,000 civilian casualties of war, including 587 children.

More than 6 million Ukrainian citizens have left their home country as refugees and asylum-seekers. Within the country, more than 3.7 million more people have been displaced.

Operating rooms have been moved to hospital basements and school classrooms to underground subway stations.

The co-chair of our District 6220 Ukraine Relief Committee, Sanford DeWitt of the Stevens Point Rotary Club, is responding to the urgent need. He knows from first-hand experience as a Peace Corp volunteer and consultant in Ukraine that conditions are dire. Winter is approaching. Citizens hunker down behind sandbags. Homes and apartment buildings have been destroyed. Hospitals and clinics are running out of supplies.

And here’s where Rotary responds.

Sanford DeWitt works with a Colorado-based non-profit, Project Cure, sending medical supplies and equipment to Ukraine. Each Project CURE package consisted of two large bags of medical supplies valued at more than $2,500.

CURE has a long-standing relationship with Rotary. That means the medical supplies are delivered to those most in need, graft and fraud-free.

The Project CURE packages require payment of $250 in order to obtain more than $2,500 in supplies. And shipping a container of medical supplies through Project CURE to Ukraine costs $30,000.

Sander has found a generous Rotarian who will match contributions to make a shipment from District 6220 possible if we provide $15,000.

I ask that each club consider a donation to sending medical supplies to Ukraine before winter without heat and water risks more lives.

Your personal or club contribution of $500 or $1,000 will earn an automatic match. I have purchased two of the CURE kids in the name of each of my two grandchildren and I am asking them to include a message of hope and concern in each.

Please, when you flip a light switch, turn on a hot shower or send your children or grandchildren off to a safe school, consider sharing your abundance and goodness with those in dire need today in Ukraine. Families are fearing a winter without electricity, water, access to health care and the medical supplies Rotary can provide now.

This is an urgent request to support our District Ukraine Relief effort.

We need to raise a minimum of $15,000 to pay for shipment of a container. We also ask Rotarians to donate for the purchase of Project CURE kids at $250 each.

Sanford can answer specific questions and speak to your club about his vast experience in Ukraine.

Sanford DeWitt
Sanforddewitt@yahoo.com

262-744-2177

Make checks payable to Rotary International District 6220 and send to District Treasurer Scott Knaffla, 1901 W Ridge St., Marquette, MI 49855.

Thank you.  This has been a Rotary Minute…plus a little.”

Roger Utnehmer
Rotary District 6220 PHS Coordinator
District Governor 2024-25
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