

Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary Club Supports Local & International Efforts This Spring

Bentonville, AR – “Have you ever seen someone holding a sign on the side of the street? Have you ever thought...what got them there?” Those were the thought provoking questions 18 year old Chloe Seal asked the local Rotary group at the beginning of her presentation about her newly formed 501c3 organization, 3 bags in 2 days. Rotary program Leader Connie Kelley introduced this young, but passionate founder of “3 bags in 2 days”. Miss Seal with the help of two friends started this seven-month-old project, whose mission is to provide bags of basic necessities to those living in poverty.



As for the interesting name given to it, Chloe enthusiastically begins the story, "It started out with just one cookie. I was at work one day when a man came in with a gift card. He bought his food and after looking around for a place to sit, he seemed uncomfortable and went outside and sat on the ground. I felt the need to show him kindness and spent a dollar on a cookie for him. I went outside to where he was sitting and gave it to him, surprised by how thankful he responded.

After I left work I called Ashley shared my story. We both felt in our hearts that they needed to do something more for others that were homeless. So we went to Wal-Mart and both spent \$50 of our own money to make 10 bags.

The first weekend we were able to give 3 Bags away in 2 Days. At that moment we knew there was a huge need and something needed to be done. We started to write Face book notes about the project and how people could do this as well. 3 Bags in 2 days just stuck with everyone and that is where we got our name!"

These three young women and friends have already given 546 bags to homeless people in Haiti, Pakistan, and NWA. Many individuals, organizations, and companies have joined with Chloe to provide bags of personal necessities for homeless men and women, who are everywhere, e.g., the group found that 592 Northwest Arkansas students are homeless. Everyone can get involved, Chloe said. A gift of \$100 fills 10 bags. Wal-Mart donated 500 of the bags. The goal is to build lasting relationships through giving these bags to those who need help and to restore hope to homeless people in NWA and around the world.

So, the Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary has offered to help these young women in their mission and get the word out! For more information on this local organization, go to www.3bagsin2days.com.

International Club to Club Program. On the international scene, the Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary Club has for the past three years cooperated with the Delicias Mexico Rotary Club, and the Women of Mother Teresa to provide approximately twenty-

two vocational scholarships for students 15-17 years old to attend the Delicias Vocational School. These students will receive two years of training so that they can become certified and gainfully employed in Mexico as nursing aids, accounts, electricians, or auto mechanics.

Jim Rinella, president of the Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary Club, said, "Our Rotary Club may be small, but our international impact with projects like this can be life changing. We are proud to partner with the Delicias Rotary Club on this project."

Bill Powell, International Committee Chair of the same Rotary Club remarked, "This is the third year we have worked on this international project. We are very pleased to reach out into the small town of Delecias and provide an opportunity for young men and women to learn skills to allow them to support their own families."

Lida Arhaund of Bella Vista and a recently naturalized U.S. Citizen said, "It is so wonderful that Rotary truly believes in service above self. Their generosity prompted Rotarians in Delecias to work with the Sisters of Mother Theresa to open doors of employment to the deserving youth in this town where I was raised decades ago." Some of the students who the Rotary Club sponsored in prior years are already helping support their own families and have even been able to pay the tuition for their siblings to complete vocational school training.



Above are the Mexico partners who with the help of our local Bentonville/Bella Vista Daybreak Rotary provide scholarships for Mexican students to complete training at Delicias Vocational School. Left to right: Edgar Loya (international Committee), Rosendo Garcia a member of the Delicias Rotary Club and his mother Carmen S. de Gracia (of Mother Teresa), Argelia Silva de Leos (Mother Teresa Treasury), Herminia Gutierrez (Mother Teresa President), Cristina Prieto (Mother Teresa Secretary), Fernando Huereca (Delicias Rotary President), Cuahutemoc Garcia (Former International Committee).