

# imagine the possibilities

**Rotary**

Club of Plymouth A.M.



# **ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

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# Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.

## Good Morning, Plymouth!

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.

This year our “breakfast club” is celebrating its 21st year of having fun and fellowship every Tuesday morning, building great and lasting friendships and all the while, Making a Difference in our local community and in the world at large.

We call ourselves “A little but mighty Club”...because we are. At 19 members strong, we already exemplify many of the very things that Rotary worldwide is striving to become.

In his address to the 2017 Rotary International Assembly, current RI President Ian H.S. Riseley of Australia set forth three strategic priorities for Rotary during the 2017-18 Rotary year:

- to support and strengthen our clubs
- to focus and increase our humanitarian service
- to enhance Rotary's public image and awareness

To strengthen our clubs, President Riseley has asked Rotary Clubs in general “...to address two things: gender balance in our membership and the average age of Rotarians.”

Riseley stated that “... in the 28 years since Rotary voted to admit women to membership, the percentage of women in our clubs is only just over 20 percent -- up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, it will take us another three decades to get to where we should be: gender parity, with as many women members in Rotary clubs as men. Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now.”

From Day 1, our Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. has strived for, achieved and maintained gender parity! Of our 19 active members, our current roster boasts 10 women and 9 men.

Regarding average age, President Riseley reminds us “...that Paul Harris was only 36 years of age when he called that first Rotary meeting together in Chicago in 1905. Today, only 5 percent of our reported membership of 1.2 million is under the age of 40.”

Our Club members range in age from mid-20s to mid-70s. Our average age is in the mid-50s. Statistically, this is way better than most Rotary Clubs. While we welcome service minded people of all ages, we find that our early morning meeting is ideal for younger folks who live in Plymouth and work out of town and for busy folks who can't take time away from their work day to attend a more traditional noon hour meeting.

About our second strategic priority, President Riseley says “We have six areas of focus in Rotary. In all of them, one essential element is sustainability. We don't dig wells and walk away. We make sure communities can maintain and repair those wells. If we build a clinic, we make sure that clinic has a way to keep running, without ongoing sup-

port from us. And when it comes to polio, we aren't just working to contain it; we're working to end it.”

Our club has built two schools in northern Ghana, in partnership with many clubs in our District 6400 AND in partnership with Rotary clubs in Accra and Guo, Ghana. We have partnered with the government of Ghana for the long-term sustainability of these schools.

Our third priority is enhancing the public image and awareness of Rotary.

This Possibilities magazine you are reading is our 15th annual publication. We distribute this magazine by first class mail to 10,000 households and businesses in the Plymouth community. Our objective is to get our Rotary message out to our neighbors and to invite you to join us in Rotary: Making A Difference.

Discover for yourself who we are and what we are all about. We meet every Tuesday morning from 7A.M. to 8:15A.M. at PARC, Door 16. Be our guest for a Jeff Zak catered breakfast. No reservations needed. We'd love to meet you.

Judy M. Wernette  
President 2017-2018  
Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.



*Judy M. Wernette*

Please support our sponsors. Thanks to them, we are Rotary: Making a Difference!

## Rotary Serving Humanity

If any story in this magazine piqued your curiosity or touched your heart and you would like to do something about it, please let us know!

You can help us help others by making a contribution through our non-profit 501(c)3 Foundation.  
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For your convenience, you may contribute by contacting us online at [www.rotaryclubplymoutham.org](http://www.rotaryclubplymoutham.org). Click on Rotary AM Foundation and click on Donate.

If you would like to contact us, send an email to  
Kate Rosevear, Foundation Treasurer, at  
[katerotaryam@hotmail.com](mailto:katerotaryam@hotmail.com)



*Members of The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. stand outside door #16 at the PARC, the club's location.*

## Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. 2017/2018 Executive Board

President 2017-18 .....Judy Wernette  
 President Elect for 2018-19.....Dick Schmidt  
 President Nominee for 2019-20 .....Mary Wolfe  
 Secretary.....Mary Wolfe  
 Treasurer.....Jeanne Knopf DeRoche  
 Past President.....Geff Phillips

For more information, please contact

[www.rotaryclubplymoutham.org](http://www.rotaryclubplymoutham.org)

Contact Judy Wernette at 734 277-6227

or Beth Stewart at 734-451-2112

or Kate Rosevear at 734 455-5810

## Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. Foundation 2017/2018 Board of Directors

President	Nick Schultz	June 30, 2018
Vice President	Sam Kennedy	June 30, 2020
Treasurer	Kate Rosevear	June 30, 2018
Secretary	Joe White	June 30, 2019
Trustee	Ted Barker	June 30, 2019
Trustee	Geff Phillips	June 30, 2020
Trustee	Beth Stewart	June 30, 2019

**Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets every  
 Tuesday from 7:00 A.M. - 8:15 A.M.  
 at the  
 Plymouth Arts & Recreation Complex  
 aka (PARC) Door #16  
 650 Church Street  
 Plymouth, MI 48170**

## Fun & Fund-Raising Events Still to Come in 2018 Please Join Us!

**September 8, 2018  
 Annual Spaghetti Dinner  
 4:00—8:00pm  
 During Plymouth's Fall Festival  
 In the Big Tent behind E.G. Nick's**

**December 16, 2018  
 18th Annual Senior Dinner  
 3:00—5:00pm  
 Plymouth Cultural Center**

## imagine the possibilities

**Editor**.....Kate Rosevear  
**Advertising Sales**.....Dick Schmidt,  
 Erin Archambault, Ted Barker, Nick Brandon,  
 Sam Kennedy, Geff Phillips, Kate Rosevear,  
 Barb Sobota, Mary Wolfe  
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To reserve space in the 2019 Possibilities,  
 contact Kate Rosevear at 734 455-5810 or  
[katerotaryam@hotmail.com](mailto:katerotaryam@hotmail.com)



## Making a difference through working with “Kids Coalition Against Hunger”...

The 2018 Greater Plymouth Service Project will host its 3rd Annual Grand Food Packaging Event to benefit the “Kids Coalition Against Hunger” on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 8am to 3pm. The event will take place at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC). Again this year, the Coalition hopes to package 500,000 meals for hungry and needy children.

“Our mission is to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the USA and feed starving children throughout the world,” says Nick Schultz, Chairperson of the event. “We accomplish this by delivering a highly nutritious meal that was developed by food scientists to provide a rich source of easily digestible protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins needed by an undernourished child's body and mind.”

One-third of the 500,000 meals will go to local communities where they are distributed to various food pantries (i.e. food banks, soup kitchens and backpack programs at the schools). Another third will go to over 18 different countries supported by the Kids Coalition Against Hunger. The final third is be stored in the KCAH Michigan warehouse for disaster relief support.

To date, the Coalition has raised 2/3 of the \$70,000 needed to purchase the ingredients for 500,000 kid's meals. Contributions have come from local service clubs



(Rotary, Kiwanis & Lions), the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation of Plymouth, PARC, and numerous churches, businesses and private citizens and family foundations.

According to Chairman Schultz, “Raising the funds is only one part of our work. Our other important task is to bring together a community of workers to do the actual packaging.”

See **KIDS**, page 4

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**KIDS** from page 3

"Many hands make for light and fun work" says Doug Wallace, membership director for the Plymouth Chamber. "At least 1,550 community volunteers are needed. All ages are welcome! Encourage your family, friends and co-workers to join us on Saturday, May 12th at PARC. We need your help!" Sign up at [www.cfplymouth.org/may12](http://www.cfplymouth.org/may12)

Donations for the Greater Plymouth Service Project should be made payable to: Community Foundation of Plymouth-GPSP, P.O. Box 700866, Plymouth, MI 48170. CFP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity and your gift may be tax deductible.

Donate New or Gently Used Children's  
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## Making a difference one “Little Free Library” at a time...

By now you have seen a number of large wooden boxes filled with books scattered about the neighborhoods of Plymouth. These are “Little Free Libraries,” part of a nationwide movement started by one man. In 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, built the first “Library” as a tribute to his mother, a teacher and a book lover. Todd designed a wooden container to look like a one-room schoolhouse, mounted it on a post on his lawn and filled it with books. He invited his neighbors to borrow a book/lend a book and thus share in his mother's passion for reading. His idea spread rapidly and is now a non-profit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. joined the movement in 2016. Past club President Leslie Greeneisen and her daughter Julie decorated three “Little Free Library” boxes. One is placed inside PARC on Church Street; another stands in front of the Community Financial building on Harvey in Plymouth. “Community Financial is proud to be a part of the ‘Little Free Library’ project,” says Plymouth branch manager, Jeff Kuehls. “Together we are building a stronger community, one book at a time.”

Rotarians keep both boxes stocked and refreshed with books appropriate for all ages. Most of the books are pro-



*Rotarians Joe White (l) and Dick Schmidt (r)  
with “Little Free Library” in front of Community Financial.*

vided through gifts to our Rotary Bookhounds Program.

If you are looking to do a “little reading” (pardon the pun), please stop by and borrow a book/lend a book. If you know a place that could use a “Little Free Library,” we have one more available, looking for a new home. Contact Rotarian Geff Phillips [geffphillips@gmail.com](mailto:geffphillips@gmail.com).

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## Making a difference for youngsters in need of a home right here at home...

Recently, we became acquainted with Annette Honstain, founder and CEO of Our Child's Advocate - a foster care support service agency located in Canton, Michigan. OCA serves children in the Foster Care System through adoption assistance, care-giver and foster family training and support and by providing independent living services for those who have aged-out of the system.

We were moved by Annette's own story: raised in the system from early childhood and never finding a "forever home"; aging out of the system at 18; learning to navigate the adult world alone; and putting herself through college and law school. Annette understands first hand where the problems are for many children in the system and is determined to find ways to support them.

According to Annette, "The U.S. foster care system was designed to temporarily protect and nurture children whose parents are unable or unwilling to care for them, until those parents become stronger, healthier and are in a position to provide a safe and loving home for their children. Sadly, too many children end up spending years in 'the system', and moving to and from foster homes, shelters, and residential programs and from one school district to another. Many never feel stable or connected, lacking the family and community ties that are so critical to young adults.

"Statistically, 32% of kids will wait 3 years before becoming adopted; 15,000 children will wait 5 or more years to be adopted; 24,000 young people will age out of the foster care system annually without ever finding their 'Forever Family'."

Our club has dedicated support to Our Child's Advocate. This year we partnered with the Michigan Philharmonic to invite foster care children and families to orchestra concerts plus we held a "super-hero" socks and underwear drive for the kids. At Christmas our club "adopted" 32 of the children in the foster care program, making sure all had presents under the tree.

To learn more about Our Child's Advocate, please visit [www.ourchildsadvocate.org](http://www.ourchildsadvocate.org) and find ways in which you too can support their important work for children in our community.



Annette Honstain



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## Making a difference by serving up Spaghetti for Scholarships...

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is dedicated to helping those who overcome challenges. One way we do this is through support of Starkweather Academy - a school that promotes learning by addressing individual educational goals and preparing high school students to achieve excellence and become successful contributing members of society. We provide scholarships to those Starkweather grads who have demonstrated a determination to succeed despite all obstacles.

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner party is our most important means of raising funds for these scholarships. Our party takes place on the Saturday evening of the annual Plymouth Fall Festival. With our partner E.G. Nick's restaurant providing a large tent, tables and chairs at their Forest Street location, rain or shine we serve up a tasty dinner to hundreds of folks looking for a great meal and a great time. We top off a generous serving of Mamma Mucci's pasta with a great tasting marinara sauce, meatballs, salad, and dinner roll. Our friends at the downtown Plymouth Jimmy John's provide their tasty cookies for dessert. Drive-up service is available.

And what would a real Italian dinner be without great Italian music?

See **SPAGHETTI**, page 8



*Young guest enjoying spaghetti dinner.*



*The Andy Caruso Accordion Trio  
- an annual tradition at our Spaghetti Dinner.*

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Jeffrey W. Schultz, CPA





*Club members Ted Barker (l) and Geff Phillips (r) congratulate 2017 Starkweather Academy Scholarship recipients.*

#### SPAGHETTI from page 7

Starkweather Academy Principal, Kevin Lane, is doing outstanding work with Starkweather students. We are proud to help with scholarships. We also support the Starkweather Champion's program, a unique program that incentivizes students to excel in their studies.

Contact us to become a scholarship sponsor or vol-

unteer to work with us on this fun event. Please join us for a tasty meal and a festive atmosphere at our 2018 Spaghetti Dinner on Sat., Sept. 8 from 4-8pm. Enjoy great food and fun to support the Starkweather Scholars. Dinner Tickets will be available in August. Ask any member of Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. or call 734 455-5810 for tickets.

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## Making A difference in the lives of our local Seniors...

Since our club's founding in 1997, the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. has hosted an annual Christmas party for the senior residents of the Plymouth community. Because the dinner is held in early December, we count on it being cold. For the past two winters, it has been cold and miserable.

This past December 9th, once again, Mother Nature did not fail us. As we were preparing for our 20th Annual Dinner, it began to snow...and snow...and snow. After a blizzard and a near shut-out in 2016, this year we were better prepared. We had advertised that we would serve dinner regardless of weather and that we would provide rides for those who needed them. And so we did. The weather did not hold back the nearly 100 brave souls who attended our fine and festive gathering. Guests feasted on a meal catered by Jeff Zak: chicken with all the traditional holiday trimmings and plenty of Christmas cheer, companionship and the great talents of our master of ceremonies, Geff Phillips.

The afternoon's entertainment included serenading by the East Middle School Singers, delightful hosting by the Junior Honor Society members from West Middle School and the Rotary Interact members from the PCEP high schools, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a rousing sing-along with a terrific Barry Manilow impersonator.

Each guest received a gift and a few went home with the centerpieces.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for our 2018 Senior Dinner on Sunday, December 16th from 3-5pm at the Plymouth Cultural Center on Farmer Street.

This event is FREE to all Plymouth City and Twp. residents over the age of 65, especially those who might not otherwise enjoy a family Christmas celebration. The experience is PRICELESS. Tickets are required. For information or tickets, please contact Rotarian Mary Wolfe at 734-787-7092 or [Mary@TheWolfeAdvantage.com](mailto:Mary@TheWolfeAdvantage.com).



*"Barry Manilow" entertaining at our Senior Dinner*



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*Village ladies of Guo, parading past our recently completed Rotary Early Elementary School with water needed to build our new Rotary Elementary School.*

## **Making a difference by building a second Elementary School in Guo, Ghana...**

In November 2015, fresh from visiting our newly-opened Rotary Clubs of Plymouth-Michigan U.S.A. Early Elementary School in Guo, Ghana, Rotarian Jeanne Knopf-DeRoche approached our club with

yet another “impossible dream”: would we build a new elementary school in Guo?

Convinced by the photos of the 50 year old, dilapidated existing school, we agreed....with the hope

that other clubs in our district would assist us. And so Jeanne set about raising the awareness of our fellow Area 5 Rotarians: the Rotary clubs in Canton, Livonia, Livonia A.M., Northville, Plymouth and our own

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**Wayne Titus, CPA/PFS, AIFA®**  
Rotary District Governor  
2015-2016



*From financial wisdom, better stewardship.<sup>SM</sup>*



club, Plymouth A.M. All agreed to help! Construction began in January, 2017 and the school opened for classes in November, 2017.

Built by the villagers to a plan contributed by architect and A.M. Rotarian Joe White, our new Rotary Area 5 Elementary School houses 150+ students in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. The basic structure and the classrooms are up and paid for. The rest of the facility is a work in progress.

This school is unique for the region because it will have a resource room with a library, an art center and a fully furnished computer lab. These facilities will be used by "our school" and several other schools in the region.

The school still has many needs. See our "wish list" in this booklet's centerfold and with us, imagine the possibilities for Guo.

In November, 2018, another group of Rotarians and friends, led by Dr. Godfrey Bacheyie of Rotary Club of Windsor 1918, will return to Guo to conduct teacher training and distribute the bulk of the school supplies and, hopefully, oversee the completion of the resource room.

We are looking for teachers who are available and able to assist with teacher training, to join our team for two weeks in Guo in November, 2018. If interested, please contact Jeanne Knopf-DeRoche at [jeanneknopfderoche@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanneknopfderoche@hotmail.com).

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# Gifts for the Children of Guo

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## Rotary District 6400 Area 5 Elementary School Guo, Ghana

The Rotary District 6400, Area 5 Elementary School in Guo, Ghana is near completion. Jeanne Knopf-DeRoche, Dr. Godfrey Bacheyie and a team of Rotarians were in Guo in April, 2018 to inspect the school and to officially turn the school over to the Ghanaian Department of Education. While there, they conducted a needs assessment for future teacher training in how to use some of the resource materials we will provide to the school. A team will return in November, 2018 to conduct the training. We are looking for teachers to join us for two weeks. You need not be a Rotarian to apply.



**Rotary Clubs of Canton, Livonia, Livonia A.M., Northville, Plymouth, Plymouth A.M.**

### Classroom Gifts

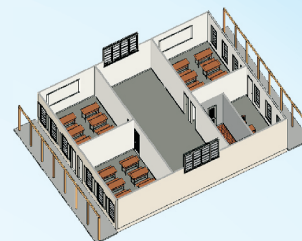
ITEM	DESCRIPTION	NEED	COST USD
Student table	Each classroom has 6 tables with 8 chairs and there are 3 classrooms	18 <b>2 SOLD</b>	\$100 each
Student chair		144 <b>4 SOLD</b>	\$50 each
Teacher desk	One desk in each classroom and one lead teacher desk	4	\$250 each
Teacher chair	Two chairs at each teacher desk	8	\$50 each
Cabinet	Storage cabinet with lock for each classroom	3	\$300 each
Blackboard	Each classroom has a large blackboard in the front of the room	<b>3 SOLD</b>	\$100 each
Classroom student supply box	Each classroom will have a box of student supplies (small chalkboard, chalk, pencils, paper, notebook, etc.)	<b>3 SOLD</b>	\$100 each





## Resource Room Gifts

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	NEED	COST USD
Book Shelf	Plymouth Canton Interact Club is raising the money to purchase the books. 8 book shelves are needed	8	\$100 each
Computer station	Computer stations will be built into the resource room	8 <b>5 SOLD</b>	\$100 each
Student work table	Large work tables with chairs will be in the middle of the resource room for art, computer or literacy projects	<b>6 SOLD</b>	\$250 each
Student chair		48	\$50 each
Cabinet	Storage cabinet with lock for each art supplies	6 <b>1 SOLD</b>	\$300 each
Storage box	Plastic boxes are needed to store educational supplies	15	\$10 each
Storage shelf	There is a storage area off of the resource room where educational materials and books can be kept	8	\$100 each



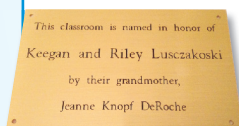
### Area 5 School

- ⇒ 3 Classrooms
- ⇒ Resource room
- ⇒ Lead teacher office
- ⇒ Storage



## Very Special Gift

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	NEED	COST USD
Classroom	Dedicate a classroom or resource room area to a someone special...or perhaps your company would like to make a contribution. A plaque, similar to the one pictured, will be placed in your room. We will contact you for your exact dedication wording. Plus, you will receive a certificate that you can give as a gift or hang on your office wall.	3 classrooms 1 SOLD	\$1,000 each
		Art area SOLD	\$1,000
		Computer Lab	\$1,000
		Library	\$1,000



## Art Supply Gifts Needed

ITEM	NEED	COST USD
Construction paper packets	20	\$10 each
Colored pencils packets	30	\$10 each
Magic markers packets	30	\$10 each
Student scissors (pack of 10)	5	\$20 each
Rulers (pack of 10)	5	\$10 each
Scotch tape (pack of 10)	5	\$20 each
Poster boards (pack of 10)	10	\$20 each
Pencils (pack of 100)	2	\$20 each
Art erasers (pack of 10)	10	\$30 each

## Gift Order Form

ITEMS	AMOUNT	UNIT COST	TOTAL

**Thank you for your gift, With love from the children of Guo**

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**Questions? Contact...Jeanne Knopf DeRoche jeanneknopfderoche@hotmail.com 734-455-4343**

## Making a difference by planting trees for the planet ...

In an address to the 2017 RI Assembly, President Ian H.S. Riseley of Australia connected all of the Rotary priorities into one word: SUSTAINABILITY.

"Today, environmental degradation and climate change threaten us all. They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable, those to whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility.

"The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. It is, and must be, everyone's concern."


President Riseley asked that every Rotray club plant at least one tree for each member by Earth Day, April 22, 2018. "It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring, which is itself most worthwhile. I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility, not only to the people on our planet -- but to the planet itself on which we all live and on which we all depend," said Riseley.

On the 20th of April 2018 our club planted 19 young trees on the campus of New Morning School in Plymouth Township. In accepting our "gifts," Elaine Kennedy, Head of School, had this to say: "Not only will these trees fill a large void in our back campus, they also will provide a valuable, hands-on growing and learning experience for



*Planting 19 beautiful and healthy trees for our planet. Shown left to right, NMS student Zachary Johnson (age 9), Rotarian Kate Kerr, NMS student Carter Johnson (age 6), Founding Head of School, Elaine Kennedy. The trees were contributed by Christensen's Plant Center, owned by Noon Rotarian, Tim Joy.*

our youngsters for years to come. Rotary can trust that we will lovingly tend and nourish these young trees until they reach full, self-sustaining maturity...just as we do our students."




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## Making a difference for children at home and abroad through PCEP Interact...

Since 2008, the PCEP Interact Club has been sponsoring an Annual Peace Summit at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park (PCEP). This year's event was planned for February 9th but was "snowed out" by a blizzard. The Summit went on as planned a month later and was a tremendous success. Nearly 100 high school students from 5 area Interact Clubs came together on March 17th at PCEP to focus on "Building Worldwide Foundations for Children".

Sir Dr. Godfrey Bacheyie, a member of the Rotary Club of Windsor 1918, was the keynote speaker and chief inspiration for the day. Dr. Bacheyie is a native of a small village near Guo, Ghana. As a young boy, he was "found" by a Jesuit priest and singled out for education. He grew up to become a world renowned pediatric surgeon. Dr. Godfrey talked about how important education is to



*Dr. Bacheyie speaks about the importance of education in Ghana.*

all children, including the children and families of far away Guo.

The rest of the agenda for the day was three-fold: to raise funds for school supplies for our new Area 5 Rotary Elementary School in Guo, Ghana; to write personal letters to the children in the Guo school; and to make blankets to be distributed to youngsters in children's hospitals in SE Michigan. All goals were accom-

plished. The students had a great day in community service and in making new friends.

Interact is a program of Rotary International for high school youngsters. There are 281,000 Interact clubs and 850,000 Interactors worldwide. The Interact Club at PCEP has 150+ members who participate in community and international service projects throughout the school year.

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## Making a difference by working to make polio globally "Drop to Zero"...

Seventy years ago, poliomyelitis was an insidious, highly-infectious and virtually incurable disease. During the 1940s and 1950s, it became an annual summer epidemic worldwide. The disease would sweep through whole communities, paralyzing and often killing hundreds of children. Little was known about how polio was contracted and nothing was known about how to prevent it. Swimming pools, beaches, movie theaters, bowling alleys...all were thought to be breeding places for the mysterious virus. Parents around the world lived in real fear of their children becoming victims. So did the children. Some of our club members remember that fear.

In 1954, Dr. Jonas Salk, then a University of Pittsburgh physician, was the first to develop and mass test a vaccine which proved to be effective against polio. Salk's interest in polio grew out of his efforts on a flu vaccine in the 1940s, at the

University of Michigan School of Public Health where he worked alongside his mentor, virologist Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr

In 1960, Dr. Albert Sabin

announced an even more effective oral vaccine. Soon massive vaccination programs swept the country.

See **POLIO**, page 18



*Rotarian Sam Kennedy administering life saving polio vaccine to an infant in Niger, Africa.*

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By the late 1970s there were no more new cases of polio being reported in the US.

By 1980, the undeveloped areas of the world were the only places where polio remained rampant, still killing and disabling children for life.

In 1981 a Rotary project to vaccinate all the children in the Philippines was mounted.

In 1986, that project sparked the vision of Rotarians all over the world to commit to do what was thought to be impossible: to lead the effort to eliminate Polio everywhere on the Earth within 20 years....by the year 2005.

That "impossible task" has taken over 30 years and has cost more than \$5 Billion dollars. However, the end is in sight.

In the summer of 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia, Rotarians from around the world gathered to hear a stunning announcement: new Polio cases caused by the wild poliovirus have decreased by over 99% since 1988. From 1988, the numbers have dropped from an estimated 350,000 new cases annually -- nearly all of them affecting children -- to only 22 reported new cases in 2017. It is estimated that, because of the global effort to eradicate the disease, more than 16 million people have been spared from death or paralysis by polio.

In 2018, Rotary announced its final push to eliminate polio: "Drop to Zero." it is estimated that it will take 3 to



*Sam Kennedy and his new friends in Niger... volunteering with Rotary so that no child ever again loses the use of his or her limb(s) to polio.*



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5 more years and another \$125 million to statistically wipe out every trace of the wild virus. Rotarians have pledged to raise the needed \$125 million.

According to Barry Rassin, RI President Elect, "Polio won't be over until the certifying commission says it's over -- when not one poliovirus has been found, in a river, in a sewer, or in a paralyzed child, for at least three years. Until then, we have to keep doing everything we're doing now. We have to keep immunizing the kids -- 450 million of them every year.

"We have to keep up all the surveillance -- checking communities for paralyzed children, checking water supplies for virus, and maintaining all of the labs, staff, and infrastructure we support now.

"If we stop any of that work -- if we let immunization levels fall, if we take our eyes off the places where the virus can hide -- we risk losing everything. And that's why we need to raise all the money that we've committed -- \$125 million -- to get us all the way to the end."

Two of our Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. members, Sam Kennedy and Jeanne Knopf-DeRoche, have participated in Rotary immunization campaigns in Africa. They tell us that these have been life changing events....for the children and even more so, for themselves.

To become a part of this effort or if you would like to contribute to the Rotary "Drop to Zero" campaign, please contact Sam Kennedy at [skennedy@spi-pcs.com](mailto:skennedy@spi-pcs.com).

**Making a difference: doing far more together than we ever could do alone...**



*In November, 2016, Rotarians from around District 6400 gathered at St. John's Conference Center in Plymouth to present Rotary International with a check for \$2,000,000.*

*The funds were intended to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the RI Foundation...including Rotary's work to eliminate polio once and for all.*

*Shown here celebrating this unprecedented event are, second from right Rotary International President John Germ with Plymouth A.M. Rotarians Sam Kennedy, Judy Wernette and Jeanne Knopf DeRoche.*



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## Making a difference and celebrating 40 years of IPSEP..

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Infant and Preschool Special Education Program (IPSEP) celebrated "40 Years of Stories, 40 Years of Memories" on June 7, 2017. The event drew more than 100 guests to celebrate the students, staff, and families that have made the program such a life-changing experience for countless students in the Plymouth and Canton Communities.

The IPSEP purpose statements are: To find and serve children between the ages of 0-6 who may have special needs; To facilitate preparation for kindergarten through direct intervention and services; and To educate parents about interventions that support their children's abilities.

In keeping with nearly 20 years of involvement, several members of Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. were on hand to enjoy the celebration, volunteering their assistance in set up, food preparation, and clean up after the event.

"Programs like the Infant Preschool Special Education Program...are an important way that we serve the needs of all families in our district," said Monica L. Merritt, P-CCS Superintendent of Schools. "Our district is fortunate to have an excellent IPSEP Program that makes a difference in the lives of our students. As IPSEP celebrates 40 years of service, we are proud to spotlight this program and the tremendous staff that goes above and beyond the call of duty to make it possible."



"Paws" showed up to celebrate IPSEP's 40th birthday.

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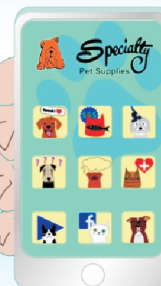
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*"Artist at work" at IPSEP 40th Anniversary party.*



*Rotarian Jeanne Knopf DeRoche gets a thank you heart from one of the children.*



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## Making a difference for IPSEP thanks to Eagles for Children...

Eagles for Children is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting local charities for disadvantaged youth through partnerships with private golf clubs.

The Eagles for Children concept is simple: members come together to donate a minimum of \$2 for every eagle scored by members and their families at their club. Throughout the season, each club accumulates donations for charities of their choice that focus on children in need.

This year Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville joined this new initiative. Thanks to the great golfing skills of their members, during the 2017 season Meadowbrook golfers scored 49 eagles and collected \$43,000 to be awarded to charitable non-profit organizations in their area that focus on helping disadvantaged children.

Thanks to the “eagle eye” of Rotarian Nick Schultz, we were made aware of this program. Acting on behalf of the children at IPSEP, our Club was one of their fortunate recipients. The Eagles grant enabled us to purchase the “Bubble Machine” for IPSEP.



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## Making a difference by shining a light on suicide prevention...

The inaugural event at what is becoming a significant annual national conference, took place at the St John's Conference Center in Plymouth from Nov 9-11, 2017. Dubbed "The Silent Epidemic: A conference on suicide", over 200 people gathered over a period of three days to listen to, interact with and be inspired by some of the best-known national and international experts on suicide prevention. Particular attention was paid to prevention of suicide among children, military veterans, and in the workplace.

The organization that created the event is Kevin's Song, a Michigan charitable organization dedicated to generating public awareness about the causes of suicide, its prevalence in our society and possible preventive measures.

According to Sam Kennedy, Consultant to the organization and member of Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., "Kevin's Song is creating a working community of professionals

and advocates that is rapidly being recognized as an important resource in the metropolitan Detroit area for offering knowledge, hope and healing to individuals, families and communities touched by suicide.

"Kevin's Song is a central hub: the place where people can come to find resources and learn about organizations that are helping us understand the causes of suicide as well as effective methods of preventing it. It is a place where people can find the latest research, read reviews of books on suicide as well as articles by experts in the field, and learn about support groups and activities taking place locally, nationally, and globally."

A cadre of volunteers from Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. served over the three days in a variety of roles: welcoming conferees, attending to speakers and demonstrating the importance of eliminating suicide with a community effort.

The 2018 Conference is in active



*Kevin's Song was created by the parents of Kevin Urso "...in honor of Kevin and to give voice to his memory."*

planning stage. It will take place from November 8-10, 2018 at St. John's Conference Center in Plymouth.

For additional information, please refer to [www.kevinssong.org](http://www.kevinssong.org) or call 313-236-7109.

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