



Date: January 28, 2005
To: Assistant Governors, District Leadership Team, Presidents, Secretaries, ICO's
District Committee Chairs, PDGs, District Rotarians
From: Dave Gallagher, District Governor
Subject: Weekly District Update



Rotary District 5220 "Friday Facts"

ROTARY DISTRICT 5220 FRIDAY FACTS Celebrate Rotary

Excitement Mounts For Centennial Gala/Foundation Dinner

It is almost here! We will celebrate Rotary's 100th birthday on Saturday February 12th at the Modesto Centre Plaza. A fantastic evening has been planned with delicious food, wonderful entertainment, a very interesting program, and a great time of fellowship with our District 5220 Family of Rotary. We have a large venue this year and there are still plenty of good seats available. Don't miss this "once in a hundred year opportunity" to "Celebrate Rotary" Please contact Don or Donna Murphy at gala2005@Rotary5220.org or at 209-545-1178 for details. A registration form is also available on our District website at <http://www.rotary5220.org>.

Project HOPE - Eric's Story

Eric Otieno is a young man who lives at Agape Children's Ministry in Kisumu, Kenya. For many years, he has been struggling with an infected leg from a bad burn. He has had several surgeries, but recently the foot had developed a bad ulcer. While visiting Kisumu with the Project Hope team, Dr. Joe Serra examined Eric and told him that he would need to have his leg amputated just above the knee to save his life. Eric accepted this diagnosis readily and knows that now he has a chance for a normal life with an artificial leg.

Dr. Joe had traveled to Nairobi before joining the rest of the group in Kisumu. While visiting friends and colleagues there, he was put in touch with an orthopedic surgeon at Kenyatta Hospital. He shared Eric's story (even before he had met Eric) with this doctor who encouraged Dr. Joe to send Eric to Nairobi for any surgery that might be necessary. When Dr. Joe shared this news with Dan and Patty Schmelzer at Agape, they were thrilled. Soon after the Project Hope team left for home, Eric was taken to Nairobi for the surgery. After several "red tape" delays and after he received several pints of blood, they were told that the surgery would be performed January 21st. Eric was also taken to the Jaipur Foot Project, which is funded by Nairobi South Rotary club. Eric would be able to receive his artificial limb free of charge after healing from the surgery. They told him that he

could even play football if he wanted! We are awaiting news of the surgery at this time.

A few years ago this boy was sitting on a pile of trash in a back alley of Kisumu, his life wasting away. Now, thanks to Agape Children's Ministry, Project Hope, The Rotary Foundation, Dr. Joe and his colleagues in Nairobi, and Rotarians and Rotary Clubs from both the United States and Kenya, Eric now has a wonderful new life ahead of him. He has a second chance to make a life and a future for himself.

[Deadline for District Conference Registration is January 31](#)

Thank you to the more than 400 Rotarians who have registered for the Centennial District Conference in Monterey. I know that many Rotarians are in the habit of registering at the last minute for the Conference. However the deadline to be guaranteed a room at the host hotel is January 31. I would recommend that you do not wait any longer to turn in your registration for this celebration. We have a fantastic package deal that includes 6 meals, 2 days of parking, and 2 nights stay at the beautiful Portola Plaza (formerly called the Monterey Doubletree.) However, that is a very popular destination and the hotel will soon start renting the rooms that we have not reserved to non-Rotarians. We would love to fill the entire hotel with District 5220 Rotarians for this grand celebration. If you wait any longer, we cannot guarantee that you will have a room at the host hotel. Please contact John or Sherri Reusche at Reusche@aol.com or at 209-786-1984 for details.

[Rotary - A Daughters Perspective - by Erin Gallagher](#)

I am sure that as Rotarians you have heard the phrase "Thank You" many times. You have probably heard it in different languages, from many different places and for many different reasons. But I want to say this phrase to you from a different perspective - as a child of a Rotarian. The things you all do - the money that you raise, the trips that you take and the time that you give - have helped more than just the people that you were working to help. My life is a perfect example of this indirect influence. My father has been a Rotarian for many years and truly lives by Rotary's motto "Service Above Self". He has demonstrated this to my sisters and me through his many trips and countless hours spent to help people that do not have the resources that we do. Because of his example, along with my mother's example, we learned the very important qualities of kindness, sympathy, generosity and compassion. I am sure many of you did not have the intentions of influencing your children through your membership in Rotary and active participation in Rotary's projects. But from my own experience now as a teacher I have learned something important about kids: they watch and learn. I am sure your children have watched and learned

from your example of "Service Above Self" just as my sisters and I have, and have wanted to continue living by that motto in their own lives. So, although your children may not have told you this before, I would like to say, on behalf of all of the sons and daughters of Rotarians, "Thank You" for teaching us the meaning of serving others.

Welcome New Rotarians

Please welcome the newest Rotarians in District 5220:

Shanda Smith - Madera (Mike Tekachi)

Tim Quinn - Turlock Sunrise (Lawana Earl)

Jennifer Bethel - Turlock (Sharon Silva)

Project HOPE - A Diary

Please check out the article written by 8 fantastic ladies who were a part of the Project HOPE team at sierramountaintimes.com

David Gallagher

District Governor