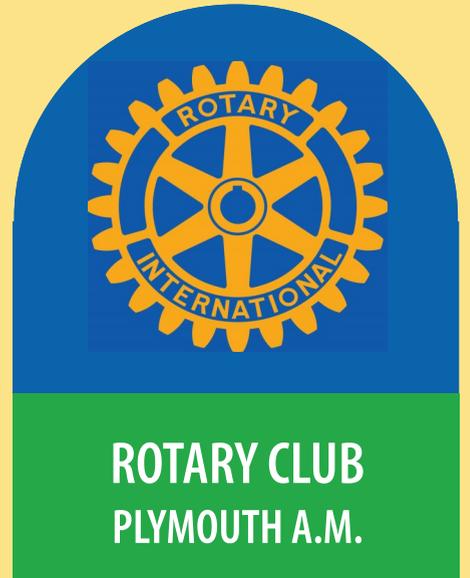


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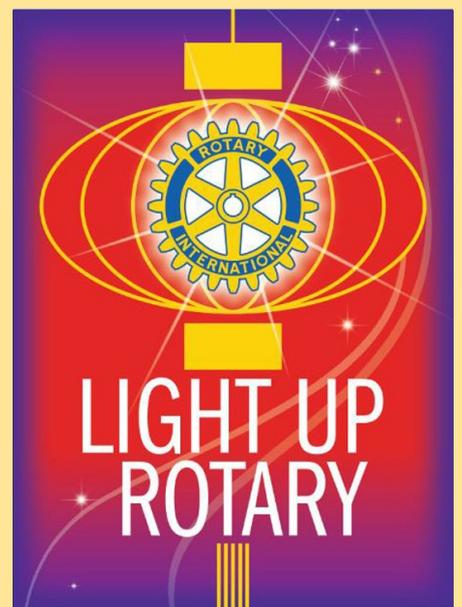
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Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.



Members Joe White, Barb Sobotta, Audrey Mistor, Judy Wernette, Tim Higgins, Sam Kennedy, Tim Patino, Phyllis Pulty-Bendrey, Leslie Greeneisen, Kate Rosevear, and Jeanne Knopf DeRoche. Not pictured: Beth Stewart, Ray Maloni, Dick Schmidt, Nick Schultz, Geff Phillips, Frank Lerchenmuller, Joanne Lamar, Tom Sweeney

Who the heck is the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.?

In short, we are your neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our community and around the world.

The community of Plymouth is unique in that we have two Rotary organizations: the Noon club and our club. The A.M. club meets at 7A.M. every Tuesday morning at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Like the old US Army adage said “We get more done by 9am than others accomplish all day.” Our sunrise meeting time allows our members to meet for breakfast and start our Rotary mission prior to heading to work, which is helpful for community minded business persons and retirees.

What makes us different?

Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable. The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. has a mission to positively impact our local, regional, and international communities by mobilizing a high-caliber volunteer force that energetically gives of its collective time to support a variety of causes.

Ok...but what does that mean in real-world terminology?

That means you will find us offering help throughout the year in a variety of ways: lending a hand at the Opportunity House, a community residence for developmentally disabled adults; providing crucial financial scholarships for Plymouth area students who have overcome specific life challenges to attend college; serving a Holiday Dinner for our local senior citizens; delivering playground equipment to Tanger Center, a Plymouth-Canton Special Education Center; filling thousands of bags of breakfast cereal at Forgotten Harvest; and even building a school for children on the other side of the world in Ghana, West Africa.

The best part is that, in changing other people’s lives, the lives that are changed the most are our own. Yes...it can be a challenge for our small club to plan and execute various fundraising events like “Bowling For Scholars,” our “Hearts of Plymouth Celebrity Wait” dinner and our annual Fall Festival Spaghetti Dinner. However, once we see the smiles on children’s faces as they experience a new playground or enjoy a tearful thank-you hug from a parent who needed help to send their child to college, then we understand why we show up at 7A.M. every Tuesday morning.

Our club has won numerous awards and shared a lot of laughs but that really is not all that important. What is important is that if you are still wondering “Who the heck is the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.?”, then stop by 774 North Sheldon Rd. at 7A.M. any Tuesday and you may find out that we are a lot like you.

2014-2015

President 2014-15 Judy Wernette

President 2015-16 Leslie Greeneisen

Secretary Geff Phillips

Treasurer Jeanne Knopf DeRoche

Past President Sam Kennedy

Foundation Chair Nick Schultz

For more information:

www.plymouthrotaryam.org

plymouthrotaryam@gmail.com

734-451-2112 (Beth) or 734-455-5810 (Kate)

Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets every

Tuesday from 7:00 am - 8:15 am

at the

Plymouth Community Arts Council

774 N. Sheldon Rd. at Junction St.

Plymouth, MI 48170

Good Morning Plymouth!

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., Michigan. Our club was formed in 1997 and this year we are celebrating our 17th anniversary! It is truly an honor to serve our community and club as President for 2014 – 2015. I'm a proud Rotarian and take this honorable position to heart. I'm proud of what our club has accomplished and hope to build upon the legacy that we have left on our community. Our club is an International Service Organization comprised of local leaders, business owners and professionals from all vocations. Through the Rotary community, we can exchange ideas and build lifelong friendships with like-minded people. We can take advantage of the resources and activities available through our club, district, and Rotary International, to make our experience with Rotary both rewarding and fun.



"It is better to light a single candle than to sit and curse the darkness."

That one line sums up the way we in Rotary approach the problems of the world. There is so much difficulty. There are so many people who need help. Many people look at this and say, "There is nothing I can do." So they do nothing -- and nothing changes.

But this is not the Rotary way. The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one candle, you light one candle -- and so do 1.2 million other Rotarians. Together, we can do so much more than we could ever do alone. Together, we can light up the world.

Light Up Rotary is Rotary International's theme for this year, but it's more than just a theme. It's how we in Rotary see the world and our role in it. We believe that no one should sit alone in the darkness. Instead, we can come together to *Light Up Rotary*. This is our goal -- and I invite you to visit our club, or one of the many other Rotary clubs in our surrounding communities, to discover how you can become part of a group of people that have set out to see how they can make a difference in the world and to *Light Up Rotary!*

When you advertise with us here in *Possibilities* and when you support our advertisers, you join us in *Lighting Up Rotary!* For this, we say "Thank You."

Maybe you have a "big idea" and could use some help. We'd love to meet you and hear what you are thinking. Join us on any Tuesday morning

at 7:00 AM for a great breakfast at the Plymouth Community Arts Council on Sheldon Road at Junction. No reservations needed. We look forward to seeing you.

Respectfully yours in "*Service above Self*"

Judy M. Wernette
President 2014-15
Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.

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EditorBeth Stewart

AdvertisingKate Rosevear

LayoutLeslie Greeneisen

Contributors Judy Wernette,
Jeanne Knopf DeRoche, Sam Kennedy, Ted Barker

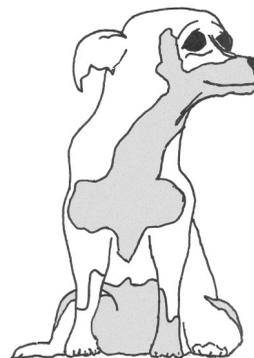
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Miracles Do Happen....

In years past, most of the proceeds from the Rotary Spaghetti Dinner were earmarked for the construction of what has become known as *The Miracle League of Plymouth Baseball Field*. Back in 2008-2009, inspired by their work with the youngsters at Tanger Center, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. members started talking about building a "Field of Dreams" behind Tanger. After a great deal of research and negotiation, this evolved into a *Miracle League Field*, the original brainchild of Rotarians in Conyers, Georgia. It was decided that the field should be more centrally located on Plymouth-Canton school property in downtown Plymouth. By late 2010, nearly \$1 million dollars had been raised by Rotary A.M. Club members with the extremely generous support of community members and foundations around the State of Michigan. In 2011, that "Field of Dreams", once the Club's great dream, became a reality.

The *Miracle League of Plymouth* is in its fourth season of providing hundreds of excited young athletes with an opportunity to play baseball. It now operates completely under its own direction and is independent of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. As promised, the *Miracle League* field now serves as a baseball field for players who participate in spite of their wheelchairs, crutches or other mobility issues and for those with visual and hearing impairments, autism and other special needs. On occasion, the field is made available to other groups with limitations, particularly disabled Veterans.

Known as Bilkie Field, the *Miracle League* diamond is located behind Central Middle School, on Theodore Street between Main Street and Farmer. Games are played every Saturday between 10AM and 2:30PM. The 2014 season ends on October 4th. Volunteers and "Buddies" are always needed.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is proud to have been a part of this *Miracle* just off Main Street.

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Santa & Mrs. Claus with local Rotarians and Seniors, 2013

Serving our Seniors

Each year the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. rings in the holidays by hosting a free holiday party at the Cultural Center for over 175 seniors in our community. This party, complete with full dinner, terrific entertainment, holiday gifts and prizes and more is a highlight for many in our community who might otherwise be alone during the holidays. We thank the Schultz Family Foundation and the Wilcox Foundation for funding this wonderful gathering. We also thank our great Rotary Interact students from the high school who help serve and get everyone into the holiday spirit!



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Holiday Pops with The Phil

Thur., Dec. 11, 2014 • 6:00 & 8:00 pm
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Sun., Jan. 11, 2015 • 2:00 pm
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From Motown to Mamma Mia: Sensational '60s & '70s

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Rotary volunteers get ready to help with Christmas Shopping at the Salvation Army.

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So... why did we win an award for donating toilet paper??

Our Rotary A.M. Club helps support the great work of our local Salvation Army which serves families in need throughout the Plymouth, Canton and Belleville communities. Each month our club members help stock the shelves of the SA with toilet paper and other toiletry items that families desperately need but cannot purchase with food stamps. In addition to the TP, our club contributes hundreds of notebooks every year for the student backpack drive and we work on food distribution each Thanksgiving. For these efforts in 2012-13, we received the 3rd place Rotary District Hugh Archer Award for a "unique" Community Service. If you would like more information or to contribute to the wonderful work of our local Salvation Army, please visit www.misalplymouth.org.



Sam Kennedy, past president, with an award-winning monthly collection of toilet paper.

**Please Come Join Us....
For a day or for a lifetime.**

Our club is proof that there is strength even in small numbers. Add your strength to ours!

www.plymouthrotaryam.org
plymouthrotaryam@gmail.com



This is one of three outdoor interactive musical playground pieces that the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. has acquired for Tanger Center.

Tanger Center

The Plymouth-Canton School District operates a special program at Tanger Center that serves the needs of infants and young children with developmental disabilities from birth through six years of age. The focus of service is on the child as a member of the family unit, and intervention is multidisciplinary in nature. A variety of professionals (including teachers, speech and language therapists, occupational and physical therapists,

school nurse, psychologist, and social worker) provide services in the school and/or home setting. The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. supports programs for children with special needs and has been proud to support the wonderful teachers and staff at Tanger Center for the past 14 years.

Our club hosts the school's annual Holiday Party for students and their families, complete with dinner, arts and crafts and a visit from Santa Claus. Several years ago we built a Sensory Motor workout room for student therapy. Over the course of the past 5 years we have added several pieces of unique playground equipment especially designed and constructed for children with special needs. Our club supports this great program through funds raised at the Spaghetti Dinner, individual donations and grants from Rotary District 6400, and donations from individuals and other community foundations.

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New living room at Plymouth Opportunity House

Lighting Up... Plymouth Opportunity House

When Denise King, Executive director of Opportunity House, told us about the 1970's vintage furniture in the living room of the Plymouth Opportunity House (POH), home to 14 adults with developmental disabilities, we went to work. Morning Rotarians have been friends of POH for many years. Residents have participated in our "Bowling for Scholars" event; every Tuesday A.M. we share part of our delicious, *Jeff Zak Catered* breakfast with the residents; we have cleaned out their basement and tidied up their yard.

For this project, however, we needed skills and money to get the job done. Thanks to grants from our Rotary District 6400 and the Community Foundation of Plymouth, along with a generous gift from a family in the community and our own fundraising efforts, we had enough money to purchase new furniture, a new computer and the paint and supplies to give the living room/ community room a complete make-over!

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, several Rotarians gathered to put our painting skills to the test. Luckily, Tom Sweeney (Sweeney Painting), a club member, coached us because much coaching was needed! By mid-afternoon, the transformation was obvious. Today, the new furniture has been delivered, new artwork hung on the walls and the residents of POH have moved out of the 1970's.

In early May, Rotarians of District 6400 gathered at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island to celebrate the accomplishments of the 48 Rotary Clubs in the district. There, to our President Sam Kennedy's surprise, our club was awarded the top **Hugh Archer Award** for the best new Community Service Project in the District for our work with the Plymouth Opportunity House!

So, to our friends at POH, we love you and hope to be working together on another project soon.



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Changing Lives... The Future Begins with Education

Ask any A.M. Rotarian: What is your best day in Rotary? Most will tell you that it's Scholarship Presentation Day in mid-June each year. With recent graduates, their parents, grandparents, and best friends in attendance, we get to recognize a select group of young adults who have truly triumphed over adversity in order to graduate high school. Now we are helping them take their next great step along the road to success: starting their college or vocational school education. At the end of the morning, bursting with pride and full of hope for the future, there's nary a dry eye in the room.

Consistent with our focus on assisting those who face unique or special challenges, our scholarship program seeks to recognize high school graduates who have overcome real challenges in their quest for an education. Of course, the ability to succeed academically matters! We, however, are equally concerned with a youngster's demonstrated ability to persevere and succeed despite obstacles. We seek out individuals who have displayed courage, spirit and creativity in order to graduate and be accepted into college or a trade school. Also, they must have demonstrated an appreciation of others and commitment to their community. Many have overcome personal illness or injury; some were born with physical, mental or emotional challenges; others have risen above family issues, serious financial and other hardships. Sometimes they have triumphed over challenges of their own making; oftentimes they have succeeded despite circumstances well beyond their control.

Working closely with the counselors at Starkweather Academy (Alternative High School) and the PCEP (Park), this year we were able to identify and award a total of eleven scholarships ranging from \$750.00 to \$1,500.00 to these promising young people. For some, our scholarship is part of a collection of scholarships, large and small which, together, will enable them to pursue their academic dreams at four year colleges and universities like Michigan State, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, and Wayne County Community College. For those who have elected to go to Schoolcraft College, our \$750 to \$1500 scholarships will virtually assure the payment of their tuition for one or two full years. So long as they keep their grades up, Schoolcraft will match up to a certain dollar amount in their second year.

In addition to our Club's program, this year we were pleased to partner with the Rotary Club of Plymouth (the Noon Rotary) in the presentation of one vocational scholarship for \$500.00.



Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. Scholarship winners included Morgan Birman, Sarah Hunt, Cailyn Jordan, Kendall Owens, Blake Woolner, Lane Woolner, Kristen Maretti, Jennafer Dyess, Alicia Fowler, Jamie Gajewski, and Bilal Mahmood. Recipients are shown with Judy Wernett, President of the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., and Ted Barker, Chair of the Scholarship Committee.



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Rotary Rebels Ride for Vets

Sunday, October 12, 2014

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For more information or to register, visit
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16th Annual Senior Dinner

Sunday, December 7, 2014

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Plymouth Cultural Center

Tickets are required

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6th Annual Bowling For Scholars

Thursday, February 26, 2014

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3rd Annual Hearts of Plymouth Celebrity Wait Dinner

Friday, April 24, 2014

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Lighting Up the Lives of Those Who Serve....

*Adapted and Excerpted in Part from The Huffington Post
of 8/01/2014...*

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) - Before shipping out for Iraq, Army Sgt. Trevor Blumberg of Canton Twp. asked his father to do two things if he didn't return: Look after his puppy, Scrappy, and "take care of my guys."

Blumberg, a 22-year-old paratrooper known to his guys in the storied 82nd Airborne as "Blum," had already served his country in Afghanistan and South Korea. He was killed days after deploying to Iraq by a roadside bomb that tore through his Humvee.

In the decade since his death, Trevor's dad Terry, a Vietnam Veteran, and his mother Jan, a retired principal from Inkster schools, have dutifully honored their son's wishes. They have used Trevor's death benefits and insurance money to build a 3,500 sq. ft. home on 12 acres in northern Michigan. Their 3-bedroom home doubles as their retirement residence and as a year-round B & B Retreat for those who defend their country.

Located near Rogers City, the home is off a dirt road and nestled in trees. Since it opened in 2011, "Blum's Landing" has hosted more than 30 active duty military and veterans and their friends and families. All are welcome to stay for free for up to 5 days. Guests eat, rest and play alongside the Blumbergs and 12 year old Scrappy.

Terry Blumberg says the loss of their son is "never going to stop hurting" but he and his wife take satisfaction in knowing they are doing what Trevor would have wanted by hosting those who shared his mission. He says the retreat's woodsy setting is perfect for the veterans who stay there to decompress. The Blumbergs are always on the lookout for new recruits to stay at "Blum's Landing".

With support from our biker friends, our Rotary Club plans to raise funds to help the Blumbergs defray some of the costs of the veterans' stays and to help build two cabins for disabled veterans.

For more information about "Blum's Landing" please visit www.blumslanding.org.



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Lighting up our Rotary world with TWO very special awards!

In May, 2014 the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. was recognized by Rotary District 6400 with two prestigious awards: **The Hugh Archer Award**, given to the club with the best new community service project each year, and **The Frank Devlin Award**, given to the club with the most exemplary on-going Rotary public image program.

To understand this recognition, one should first note that District 6400 is unique in the Rotary world. It is comprised of 48 separate clubs in SE Michigan, USA and SW Ontario, Canada. This district has the most living Past District Governors in the world; it is among the most active districts in the world; it raises the most money and enjoys the most engaged leadership of any of the over 500 Rotary Districts in the world.

To be considered for any District Award in this District is, as Plymouth A.M. Club member Jeanne Knopf DeRoche says, "a big deal"; to win two of the three District Annual Awards is extraordinary!

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. was recognized with the **Hugh Archer Award** for their work in 2013-14 with Opportunity House in Plymouth, including refreshing their living/community/dining area and

purchasing new furniture as well as sharing their tasty breakfast bounty nearly every Tuesday morning. This is the fourth time this club has won this award for Community Service, being honored in 1998-99, 2000-2001, and 2011-12.

Each year, a specially appointed group of PR professionals from the USA and Canada meets to review public relations and public image materials from numerous Rotary clubs in the District. This year, they presented the **Frank Devlin Award** for outstanding public relations effort to the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. in recognition of their 2013-2014 *Possibilities* booklet. This publication is mailed to 10,000 households and businesses in the Plymouth community and distributed at Rotary A.M. events throughout the year, continually promoting the works of Rotary.



Judy Wernette, Jeanne Knopf DeRoche, Sam Kennedy, Leslie Greeneisen and Phyllis Pulty display the awards.



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What is Rotary Youth Exchange...?

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is for high school aged students who are interested in living and studying abroad for one year. Its goal is to promote the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace at the person-to-person level.

RYE is an opportunity for students to learn a new culture and language, to be an ambassador, and to make friends for a lifetime. It's a year of adventure. Our returned students call it "*The best year of my life.*"

It is not a vacation...instead it's a cultural and academic exchange that lasts a full school year (11-12 months). While on exchange, students have the opportunity to learn the language and culture of their host country. They attend local schools, are hosted by families and are supported by a local Rotary club and Rotary-appointed counselor. They also receive support from Rotarians here in the USA/Canada.

RYE provides students between the ages of 16 and 18 the opportunity of a lifetime! Each year, about 250 students apply through their local Rotary Clubs. Students generally apply in August and September to go on Exchange the following year. Once accepted, outbound students and their parents are guided through months of orientation and information about the country of their Exchange year.

Canada and U.S. Rotary Clubs exchange with over 40 countries. When applying, students indicate which countries interest them the most. Due to the nature of our program, we cannot guarantee placement in a specific country.



20 Exchange students living in our district from around the world attended the 2014 Rotary District Conference

Rotary Youth Exchange is one of the largest, oldest and most respected Youth Exchange Programs in the world. The key reasons to consider Rotary include: Orientation/training process before leaving home; hosted by a Rotary Club and Host Families in the Host Country; activities with Rotary/Rotarians; and low cost because everyone is a volunteer.

To qualify, students must be in the top half of their class and be between 16 and 18 1/2 years old at the time of departure (August, 2015). A member of the family does not need to belong to Rotary in order to be eligible.

For more information, visit www.csrve.org or contact Jeanne Knopf DeRoche, Youth Exchange Chair for the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. at jeanneknopferoche@hotmail.com.

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**From the Hearts of Plymouth.....
To the Children of Ghana**

For the past two years, the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. has dreamt of building the first elementary school in Guo, Ghana. Now that dream is almost a reality, and the "Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. MI - Elementary School" will soon open in this small village in western Africa!

Because of the remote location of Guo (14 hour drive from the capital of Accra), the school is being built entirely by the villagers. The site has been prepared, mud bricks have been made by hand and dried in the sun, and the building is being raised with love and care of the families whose children will no longer have to walk 2 miles each way to the next village for school.

This school, this dream, has been made possible because of a matching grant from Rotary District 6400 and the annual "Celebrity Wait" Dinner events sponsored by our Rotary Club. The District 6400 funds will be used for desks, white boards and supplies. The building itself is being paid for with funds raised through our "Celebrity Wait" Dinners and other sources.

needs and help them purchase the supplies for their new school.

The club's plan is to return to Ghana each November to assist with the school's upkeep and to provide teacher support. We would love to have you join us! If you are interested in being on a Rotary team that travels to Ghana, please contact Jeanne Knopf DeRoche at 734-455-4343.

To donate to our school by credit card or check, find us at www.plymouthamrotaryfoundation.org. The children of Ghana thank you!



Young residents of Guo, Ghana, eagerly await their new Rotary-funded school



Beth Stewart, Exec. Director of Michigan Philharmonic, is a celebrity waiter

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It's an evening of laughter generated by our guest celebrity waiters, great music by the Tabasco Cats, incredible food from our creative caterer, awesome auction items and, of course, inspiration. The next "Celebrity Wait" will take place at the VFW Post 6695 on April 24, 2015. Details will be available at www.plymouthamrotaryfoundation.org starting in January 2015.

In November, 2014, club member Jeanne Knopf DeRoche will be traveling to Ghana for the school ribbon cutting ceremony. Jeanne will spend two weeks getting to know the teachers and students. She will meet with the villagers to discuss their ongoing



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Rotary, along with our partners, has reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Polio (poliomyelitis) mainly strikes children under 5 years of age.

- One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis. Among those paralyzed, 5% to 10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.
- Polio cases have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350,000 cases per year then, to 128 reported cases from January through July of 2014. The reduction is the result of the global effort to eradicate the disease.
- In 2014, only 3 countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan) remain polio-endemic, down from more than 125 countries in 1988.

Rotarians from Plymouth A.M. have joined thousands of others around the world to help immunize more than 2 billion children against polio in 122 countries. For as little as 60 cents, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life.

Once polio is eradicated, the world can celebrate the delivery of a major global public good that will benefit all people equally, no matter where they live. Economic modeling has found that the eradication of polio will save at least US \$40–50 billion over the next 20 years, mostly in low-income countries. Most importantly, success will mean that no child or their family will ever again suffer the terrible effects of life long polio-paralysis.

You can help.! Visit <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/end-polio> to find out how!



Jeanne Knopf DeRoche and Fred DeRoche (dec.) celebrate the imminent victory over Polio

Light Up Rotary

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

If you would like to help us help others by making a contribution, please do so through our non-profit 501-c-3 Foundation.

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