



Waunakee Rotary Club

July 19, 2007
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Mary Dowling of Sharing Resources Worldwide told the Waunakee Rotary Club June 12 how sending medical equipment to countries in need changes the lives of not only individuals, but their communities.

The organization was started in 2002 and currently has a warehouse in Madison where members collect, sort and ship medical equipment. The members also organize medical missions where medical professionals perform surgeries in several countries.

This week alone, shipments were made to three continents.

The organization accepts surplus and recycled medical supplies and ships materials that would otherwise go into landfills, such as surgical gloves, syringes, hospital beds and operating tables.

During one trip, 450 wheelchairs were distributed in Nicaragua at no cost to the families. Mary said parents had no way of getting children out of their homes and often stayed home with their children.

Many hospitals lack supplies, such as sutures. Medical treatments for conditions such as cleft palates, crossed eyes or clubbed feet go untreated because resources are limited to those conditions with highest priority, Mary said.

The numbers are astonishing. For every \$1, \$58 worth of goods can be shipped to a country in need of medical resources.

This year, 16 shipments were made, with 22 last year. That kept 368 tons out of landfills.

But it's more important to think of the effect in human terms, Mary said.

"Wherever you go, you create ripples," she added. By helping one person, that family and community is helped.

For instance, in some countries, sterile gloves are reused several times, which can result in deadly infections after common surgeries.

Sharing Resources Worldwide has a \$150,000 annual budget which is raised through donations and grants, Mary said.

One of the biggest donors of materials has been Owens and Minor in Waunakee.

Mary asked the club to help the organization in networking. She said there is no paid staff.

Other items:

- Lynne Spielman reported that the July 11 senior picnic was well attended and may have set a record.

- A sign-up sheet circulated for Waunafest volunteers.

- Dan Statz announced that the Oktoberfest event will require a lot of effort on behalf of volunteers. It is a kid-friendly event with lots of activities – along with beer for the adults. Ken Ballweg said previously, all proceeds have gone to the Waunakee Community Foundation. This year, they will be split three ways between the Waunakee Rotary, the Waunakee Community Foundation and the Lions Club.

- Bill Erickson reported that Lori Derauf and her kids had helped pack up school supplies to send to Honduras.

OFFICERS

LYNNE SPIELMAN, PRESIDENT • DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
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DIRECTORS

TOM REIS • LORI DERAUF • BILL ERICKSON

Calendar of Events:

July 18, Mallards Game

July 26-29, Waunafest

Oct. 6-7, Oktoberfest

Oct. 14, Rotary Rustic Road Rally

Guests: Jonny Buroker, guest of Ellen Schaff; Shelley Moffatt, guest of Tammy Reefe.

Visiting Rotarians: Kayte Henke, Rocky Mount, N.C.; Jerry Henke, Elm City, N.C.; Matt Wahoske, Downtown Madison.

Birthdays: July 23, Jim Brussell; July 25, Jim Schmitz; July 25, Msgr. Jim Kramer.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: July 19, Leonard Allen; July 26, Kim Wilde.

Programs: July 19, District Governor Mary Kessens; July 26, Ben Hobbins, Lake Resources Group.

Greeters: July 19, Jon Townley, Robert Tucker; July 26, Jim Tubbs, Susan Vergeront.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.