



Waunakee Rotary Club

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The Musical Pathways Kindermusik program has begun a foundation in order to implement a number of initiatives to help children and families.

Waunakee Rotarian Betsy Flanagan told the Rotary Club about some of those initiatives and shared her experience in Mumbai, India, where she trained preschool teachers to implement the Kindermusik curriculum.

Kindermusik fosters total child development as instructors work with children from infancy through first grade and their parents. It develops six regions of the brain that deal with language, cognitive and emotional processing, physical development, social development and music – the force that drives these skills.

Through fund raising, Betsy hopes to provide Kindermusik programs to socio-economically disadvantaged children and special needs children, in outreach programs with senior citizens and single parents and offer adopted family classes.

Betsy was chosen to travel to Mumbai, India, by Kindermusik International to train preschool teachers who will then begin Kindermusik programs there. In India, where one-third of the 1 billion people live below the poverty line, Kindermusik could change children's lives, Betsy said.

Betsy worked with Kavita and Uday Mathur, organizers of the preschool Eurokids India, to train and develop curriculum for that country.

Forty-two different languages are spoken in India, and people there say they speak English as the common language. But Betsy found that actually, their knowledge of English is limited. That made the Kindermusik training more chal-

lenging, Betsy said. Betsy rewrote the curriculum to transcend the language barrier and make it easier to learn.

Also, many of the instructors had no music experience, so they had to learn the music basics, as well, Betsy said.

Betsy said in Mumbai, trash is strewn everywhere in the streets where dogs, cows, goats, pigs and crowds of people roam.

Children work to support their families often by begging. There begging is a syndicated business.

But Kindermusik could have an impact on the number of children who currently beg to support their families, Betsy said.

In India, children are taught to do what they are told without questioning their elders.

"There are no choices. Children don't make choices; they are told what to do," Betsy said.

But Kindermusik teaches children to think for themselves and to ask questions. Children may instead opt to go to school, Betsy said.

"This may have an impact on the country," she said about Kindermusik.

Betsy said she is looking for contributions to the Musical Pathways Foundation, whose motto is, "Change Our World, one child, one family at a time."

With the contributions, Musical Pathways will have the means to offer scholarships to local families whose children would benefit from the Kindermusik program.

Other news:

•Greg Garton met a number of the Rotary Exchange students from around the district and said he is looking forward to hosting an event with them all here some time in

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Calendar of Events:

- Oct. 4-5, Wauktoberfest
- Nov. 19, Service Club luncheon.

January.

- The Rotary Walk signs are up and they look very nice.
- Wauktoberfest planning is underway. On Monday at 8 a.m., a group will meet at Rex's before heading to Pardeeville to pick pumpkins for the event. A few more people are needed to volunteer at the Oct. 4-5 Wauktoberfest event.

Guests: Jerry Tierney, guest of Don Tierney.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: Oct. 5, Dan and Kristin Statz; Oct. 7, Betsy Flanagan and Larry Nummerdor.

Prayers: Oct. 2, Susan Vergeront, Oct. 9, Leonard Allen; Oct. 13, Patrick Durden.

Programs: Oct. 2, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Oct. 2, Drew Lawrence, Michael Lawrence; Oct. 9, Bob Lenz and Jim Leonard; Oct. 13, Joyce Maly and Traci Mann.

Make up meetings online

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