



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**Oct. 30, 2008
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Jim Raymond, a member of the Edgerton Rotary Club, is working to ensure children in the Philippines receive fun story books to improve their reading and opportunities in life.

Jim was in the Peace Corps serving in the Philippines as a younger man, and that's where he met his wife. In 2000, to celebrate the couple's 25th anniversary, they returned to the Philippines and visited a village where his wife's grandmother lived.

A child began talking to them, and his wife asked her to bring her book so she could read the girl a story.

"She couldn't find one," Jim said.

In the Philippines, people speak three languages – their local language, Philippino and English. Schools teach instruction in English.

"They're learning English and the better the learn it, the better their opportunities are," Jim said.

But children are at a disadvantage because they have no books in English to take home and read.

So Jim and his wife began a book drive and collected 6,000 books to send to the Philippines. He then approached his Edgerton Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Calauag, Philippines, on a larger project. Jim worked with the Edgerton School District, and then the Janesville School District, to broaden the program.

Jim goes into elementary schools in those districts and gives a presentation on the Philippines. He then asks the children if they have books they no longer read or want

that they would like to give away.

Children in the Edgerton and Janesville districts learn a little bit about the Philippines and what it's like to live in a developing country, Jim said.

He teaches them about the county, where Manila is a large city yet many rural areas exist. A huge amount of rice is grown, as Jim describes from his home movies and Power Point presentations.

Children donate the books, and with them, small libraries are created in the Philippines' schools.

During Jim's last visit there, he read to students who don't normally hear English spoken by a native speaker, he said.

The Books to the Philippines project is in motion, and now Jim is looking to expand it. The Waunakee club could work with the Stoughton club to fill a cargo container to send, he said.

The Edgerton and Janesville school district were able to collect and send 16,000 books and a few computers, as well.

Jim said the program currently has a grant from Rotary to fund another shipment.

He will need help to line up meetings with the school districts in Stoughton and Waunakee, and he asked for volunteers.

"The program is educational. It teaches kids about what it's like to live in a foreign country," he said.

Other items:

•Phil Willems said the deadline to get ads in for the Rotary In Lights brochure is this weekend. They can be sent directly to ads@waunakeetribune.com.

•Bill Erickson said the club will

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Calendar of Events:

•Nov. 19, Service Club luncheon.

begin putting up the lights Nov. 15 and getting them ready the week prior. Phil is going away for two weeks, so he could use some help.

Guests: Joy McMerty, guest of Ellen Schaaf; Tom Fendrick, guest of Shelley Moffatt and visiting Rotary from Stoughton.

Birthdays: Nov. 4, Jeremiah Gollon.

Anniversaries: Nov. 1, Neil and Lily King.

Prayers: Oct. 30, Leonard Allen; Nov. 6, Patrick Durden; Nov. 13, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Oct. 30, ??; Nov. 6, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Oct. 30, Danny Miller and Shelley Moffatt; Nov. 6, Richard Murphy, Dan Muxfeld; Nov. 13, Ed Niebuhr, Linda Olson; Danny Paul, Ted Pertzborn.

**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.