



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Thanks to the School Supplies for Kids program, at the start of school each year, 15,000 at-need children at 135 Dane County schools receive supplies.

The program was spearheaded by Dave Vogel of Vogel Bros. Building Co., who spoke at the Sept. 10 Waunakee Rotary meeting.

Vogel said initially, Vogel Bros. sponsored a Christmas party for children in the Simpson Street neighborhood. But they heard that so many programs are available around Christmas. The real time of need is just before the school year.

The following August, Vogel Bros. purchased school supplies, and word got around to other neighborhood organizations. Those organizers indicated a need for supplies in their areas, as well, Dave said.

Vogel Bros. discovered that the county team of social workers, Joining Forces for Families, could help identify the number of children who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program – the same children who may lack the resources to purchase school supplies.

Over the years, the cost of the supplies grew. Vogel Bros. garnered donations and the manager of Shopko indicated they could offer supplies at the sale price. Today, over a semi-truckload of supplies is delivered to schools each year.

All donations Vogel Bros. gets go toward purchasing supplies – pencils, crayons, markers, notebooks, binders, folders, erasers and other necessities for students. There are no offices and no executive director, Dave said.

In the lower grades, those supplies would otherwise have to come from the schools themselves.

Dave said a number of children in Dane County qualify for the reduced free lunch program. Most of them are from single-parent homes, where

the annual income is in the \$16,000 range.

The numbers of school supplies purchased are astounding – 119,000 pencils, 3,200 erasers, 1,000 boxes of colored pencils, and the goes on.

“The biggest challenge is we don’t have money to pay for the more expensive items,” Dave said.

Organizers of the School Supplies for Kids program talk to teachers at the various grade levels to see what supplies are needed. Joining Forces for Families provides the numbers of at-need children. Donations are handled through Madison Urban Ministry, allowing all contributions to be tax exempt and tax deductible.

Many businesses make in kind contributions, transporting the supplies and printing solicitation letters to businesses.

The supplies are much appreciated, Dave said.

“It gives those kids that don’t have it some self confidence and the feeling they’re not different,” he said.

Other news:

•Greg Garten reminded the club that the Oktoberfest in Dane is this weekend. The Lake Melvin Yacht Club uses the event to raise funds for area families in need around Christmas time and throughout the year.

•The Sept. 18 rain date for the golf outing was cancelled this year, since the District Governor is scheduled to speak that day. President Dan Statz urged all club members to attend. And it looks like the golf outing will remain cancelled, at least until next year.

•Wauktoberfest is Oct. 4, Dan Muxfeld reminded the club. Many people are signing up to volunteer. They may also want to compete in some of the events – the frau carry, Dachshund dash and beer stein and beer barrel races, to name a few.

OFFICERS

DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT • TOM REIS, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

DAN MUXFELD • BILL ERICKSON

Calendar of Events:

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

•Mick Holm of the Kids Against Hunger program urged Rotarians to volunteer for that event Sept. 21 at the Village Center, when 500 volunteers will package food to nourish people facing starvation.

Guests: Mick Holm, guest of Dan Statz; Todd Scheffler, guest of Tom Reis; Jacque Siller, guest of Greg Garton.

Visiting Rotarians: Bruce Mohs, Downtown.

Birthdays: Sept. 19, Neil Kruschek; Sept. 21, David Kennedy.

Anniversaries: Sept. 20, Neil and Sharon Kruschek; Sept. 22, Rex and Brenda Endres; Sept. 24, James and Sarah Chancellor.

Prayers: Sept. 18, Leonard Allen; Sept. 25, Pat Durden; Oct. 2, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Sept. 18, District Governor; Sept. 25 ???

Greeters: Dave Kruchten and Neil Kruschek; Sept. 25, Craig Larson and Tom Laufenberg; Oct. 2, Drew Lawrence, Michael Lawrence.

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.