



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**April 15, 2010
Vol. 43 No. 34**

Rotarians from District 6250 have shown a great deal of perseverance getting a well dug in San Rafael, Guatemala. First they were able to raise the \$52,000 in grants from Rotary International, the district and their local clubs.

And then, once in San Rafael, they dug fence post holes not once, but twice, for the well site after their first effort was just about erased by heavy machinery.

Waunakee Rotarians Linda Olson and Bill Erickson shared the high-lights of their recent trip to San Rafael at the April 8 club meeting.

Bill said the well project began with 14 clubs in the Madison area that hoped to provide clean water to the village. Kico, who attended the April 8 meeting as well, lives near the well site, and has helped with translation as well as supporting the project.

The idea started with the Rotary International theme for 2008-09 – reducing child mortality. San Rafael is a village of about 180 households with no clean water, Bill said.

Linda said she had never been on a Rotary mission trip and found the experience very gratifying.

“Until you get there and see the people and what your contributions are... when you look in their faces, and they thank you, that was most gratifying,” Linda said.

Once the well project is completed, many children’s lives may be saved with the addition of clean water, she added.

San Rafael is in the coastal plains of Guatemala, about 10 kilometers from the Pacific Coast. Crops such as sugar cane and pineapple are grown there.

On the trip, the Rotarians picked up supplies in Guatemala City the first day and then began digging the fence post holes.

Early the next morning, the group arrived at the work site to find some grading had been done, and the filled holes would need to be dug again. It was a mixed blessing, Bill and Linda said, because the machines had loosened the earth, making the digging a little easier.

About 50 percent of the trip was spent socializing and sightseeing – and visiting local watering holes where chicks at the bar are actually poultry and pigs are the pork kind, Linda said.

The next steps for the well will be building a water storage tower, along with providing equipment for the pumps and treatment, Bill said. The project is on budget, he added.

Other trips are planned. Linda said with the airfare, her traveling costs were about \$900. She informed the club that humanitarian efforts, such as this, may be tax deductible. The Rotarians stayed at Kico’s ranch, which can be seen online at www.kicosranch.com.

In other news:

•Brent Ziegler reported on the funds the board had approved at its meeting, including: \$6,000 for a fourth bridge at Conservancy Park; \$750 for the Red Cross and \$700 for Haiti Outreach, with both going toward efforts in Haiti; \$250 for St. John’s Safety Patrol event; \$500 for Project Linus; \$500 for OccuPaws.

•A co-chair is needed for WaunaFest, Brent said. Dan Statz is the other co-chair and will attend the WaunaFest meetings.

•April 18 is the Community Awards dinner, Phil Willems said. Ken Ballweg will be honored as business person of the year.

•The board also voted in Roxanne Johnson as a membership. Welcome, Roxanne.

•Phil said the board voted to con-

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Calendar of Events:

- April 24, District Assembly in Wisconsin Dells.
- May 1, Rotary Work Day
- May 17, Jachin Jordan Golf Outing at Bishop’s Bay
- May 21, District Conference in LaCrosse.

vey Paul Harris Fellow awards to Bob Arntz and Roberta Baumann.

•Pat Durden has set up a Rotary Page on Facebook. Check it out and click on “join.”

Guests: Derek Fuerstenberg, guest of the club; Craig Chapp, guest of John Cullen; Roman Bukolt, guest of Susan Vergeront; Jonathan Allen, guest of Leonard Allen.

Visiting Rotarians: Enrique R. Gandara, Past District Governor 4250, Guatemala; John Olson, West Towne; Jeaneen O’Rourke, Fitchburg.

Birthdays: April 16, Paul Gilbertson.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: April 15, Susan Vergeront; April 22, Leonard Allen; April 29, Leonard Allen.

Programs: April 15, Don Mayo, Rotary Youth Exchange; April 22, Dan Bowles, Walking the Roman Wall; April 29, Al Arnold, Dean Foundation Reading Clinic; May 6, Club Assembly.

Greeters: April 15, Jim Schmitz and Steve Schlaver; April 22, Gene Smith and Jim Starling; April 29, Dan Statz and Duwayne Statz; May 6, Harriet Statz and Ray Statz.