



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**April 16, 2009
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The Hopewell School continues to educate children in Nakuru, Kenya, thanks in part to the work of SOAR Kenya, a nonprofit organization.

Waunakee area residents Don and Mary Hoffman of SOAR Kenya updated the Waunakee Rotary Club on its projects at the April 9 meeting.

Don got involved with the Hopewell School in 2006 after meeting a few teachers and a Rotarian who were helping with the effort. The Hopewell School provides secondary education to children of families without the means to pay for a high school education. Don himself had lived in Nakuru during his work with the Peace Corps in 1970-1971.

He visited Nakuru again in 2006 and decided he wanted to build a new school for Hopewell. He and his wife with another couple formed the nonprofit organization Schools Orphans and Relief (SOAR) Kenya.

Don's last trip to Nakuru was in January, and he saw the well treatment system that the Waunakee Rotary Club helped to fund at work. The well previously had high levels of fluoride, which is now filtered out. It serves about 1,000 people.

SOAR has wanted the school to be self-supporting with income earned from crops. The school has since bought adjacent land and rents another two acres. Don said one of the goals is to irrigate the land so that three vegetable crops can be grown per year.

Other projects have resulted in a new roof for the school and a shipment of supplies for a new library. Among the 33,000 pounds of supplies were chairs, books, medical supplies, chalk boards, a wheelchair and crutches. Don said the shipping was hard to coordinate. The supplies took six months to reach the school, and the cost came to between \$13,000 and \$14,000. Now SOAR Kenya is reeval-

uating what is worth sending, Don said. The organization is looking for vocational school supplies, so that students can learn woodworking and sewing. While an academic education is important, it is equally important that students graduate with employable skills.

Don said the new library has a capacity of 600 and was built for a cost of \$16,000.

The school has also recently had a new girls' latrine built after the previous one collapsed.

Another project is collecting water into tanks from eaves troughs around the school buildings.

Rotary donated \$500 toward SOAR Kenya in January, and the organization used the funds to buy uniforms for the students. Don said the children believe if they get an education, life will improve.

"Kids always feel better when they're running around with their school uniforms on," Don said.

The current ongoing projects are the agricultural irrigation system; the water tank; new latrines for the boys; and supplies for vocational training, Don said.

Other items:

- The club voted to honor Paul and Rita Volley of Ace Hardware with the Business Person of the Year Award at the Waunakee Community Awards Banquet. That's coming up April 26.

- Phil Willems said the Rotary Club sold 138 Super Raffle tickets, more than any other Waunakee service organization. Rotary will receive \$1,084 in proceeds to benefit charities chosen by the club, and another \$1,084 from the club's ticket sales will go toward Super Raffle projects. Phil also thanked Shelley Moffatt for trimming the rose bushes at the Rotary Plaza beside the Village Hall.

- Joy McMerty said the Easter Egg

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Calendar of Events:

- April 26, Community Awards Banquet, Rex's Innkeeper, cocktails, 5:30 p.m, dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- May 1-3, District Conference in Wis. Rapids
- May 12, Safety Seat Check

hunt went well, with about 300 children looking for eggs. She thanked club members for their help and President Dan Statz for donning the Bucky Badger suit.

•Lynne Spielman urged club members to donate to Rotary International through the Every Rotarian Every Year campaign and distributed forms. If you didn't make the meeting, see her for a form. These funds come back to Rotary Club projects through grants such as those funding for the micro-lending project in Nigeria and the Rotary Walk.

Guests: None

Visiting Rotarians:

Birthdays: April 16, Paul Gilbertson.

Anniversaries: April 22, Kathy and Mark Cefalu.

Prayers: April 16, Leonard Allen; April 23, Pat Durden.

Programs: April 16, Dave May, InfantSEE program; April 23, T. Wall, Highlands of Bishops Bay; April 30, Marie Zorn, exchange student.

Greeters: April 16, Al Dassow and Lori Derauf; April 23, Pat Durden and Fritz Durst; April 30, Rex Endres and Gary Epping.