

THE PILOT'S WHEEL



VERMILION ROTARY CLUB

P.O. Box 224
Vermilion, OH. 44089

CLUB WEBSITE: vermilionrotary.org
DISTRICT WEBSITE: rotarydistrict6600.org

Birthdays
None this week

Anniversaries
None this week



MOMENT FOR ROTARY

By

Sue Hunt

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded US \$255 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio, bringing the total committed by Rotary and the Gates Foundation to \$555 million. Shortly after meeting with incoming district governors from the four countries where the wild polio virus is endemic - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan - Bill Gates announced the new grant on Wednesday morning at the International Assembly in San Diego, CA. "Rotarians, government leaders, and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment to get us to a point at which polio afflicts only a small number of the world's children," Gates said. "However, complete elimination of the polio virus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication." "We are going to end polio now," affirmed Robert L. Scott, chair of RI's International PolioPlus Committee. In response to the new \$255 million Gates Foundation Grant, Rotary will raise \$100 million in matching funds. In November 2007, RI received a \$100 million Gates Foundation grant, which Rotary committed to match by raising \$100 million. The two Gates Foundation challenge grants now total \$355 million. RI's matching effort in response is called Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge, which must be completed by 30 June 2012.

(continued on page 2)

NEWSLETTER

DATE: January 28th 2009

"MAKE DREAMS REAL"

Today's Speaker

Lt. Rich Labis, Vermilion Police Department

Subject
"Blue Knights"
(police motorcycle group)

PRESIDENT: **Lynn Miggins**
PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON: **Bob Kish**
KEYBOARD: **Judy Somers**
SONG LEADER: **Sid Jordan**
NEWSLETTER: **Bob Kyle**

Last Week:

Joan Samkow, Lorain County Board of Mental Health administrator and Carla Hartman, PATH Coordinator spoke about the homeless in Lorain County and the newly constructed and organized HOPE House. Joan Samkow began by saying that on July 25th 2008, the community came together to recognize the homeless in Lorain County, create awareness and figure out how they could work together to help others. She said the response was nothing but miraculous. The entire event was made possible through the generosity of local individuals and organizations. Over 250 people including homeless, local and state legislators, community leaders and Network agency staff participated. Of these mentioned, Joan said they had over fifty volunteers from Leadership Lorain County, Mental Health Board members, and the community. The meeting

(Continued on page 2)

- Queen of Hearts is worth: \$109.00
- Attendance last meeting: 21 members
- Guests: Walter Glick, Lorain Rotary Club

AMERICA

My Country 'tis of thee,
Sweet Land of Liberty,
Of Thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring.

VERMILION GRACE

Let us pause in the rush of the
fray
And reflect on our duties so high
We confess and exalt Thee today,
We beseech Thee thy care,
God most high.



SMILE

Smile and the world smiles with you
Sing a song,
Don't be weary, just be cheery
All day long.
Whenever your trials
Your troubles and your care
Seem to be more than you can really
bear, so
Smile and the world smiles with you
Sing a song!

HELLO

Hello, Hello, Hello
What a wonderful word hello,
Hello, Hello, Hello
You will hear it wherever you go.
Strangers like your friendship
When you greet them;
So smile and say hello
When you first meet them.
Hello, Hello, Hello,
What a wonderful word Hello!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to you
Anniversary too.
Have a great celebration
Love and Joy all year through

was looking for creative solutions to help get the homeless lives back on track so that each could contribute their skills back to society. Joan gave the group the website for the Lorain County Task Force for the Homeless. www.loraincounty.com/homelesstaskforce/ Joan said, should you see homeless people you think might need assistance, call PATH, a twenty-four hour outreach program for the homeless at 440 541 4029. All of the contributing agencies are listed with phone numbers on the above website. Carla Hartman took over the second part of the talk by explaining the newly constructed Gathering Hope House. Carla said that it was decided that a center needed to be constructed to have a place for people who needed help to come to. It was discussed what the center should look like, where it should be located, and what should actually take place after the center was completed. Not only the Board was involved in the design and decision making process, but also the clients gave their input into the project. The facility houses classes for one to learn about mental illness, it now has annual dinner parties every July and is a place the homeless can come to be trained, and referred to another service agency. The facility is located at 1173 North Ridge Road, E. in Lorain. Carla said the average daily clients to come to the center are from one to six. The ages of the clients have been as old as seventy-three. For more information, please log onto the website listed above. The Club thanks Joan and Carla for taking their valuable time out of the day to explain this very important service to Lorain County.

The \$255 million grant is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest received by Rotary in its 104-year history. Rotary will spend the grant in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is spearheaded by RI and its partners, the world health Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and prevention, and UNICEF. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.

The participation of Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians in Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge remains crucial to its success. Rotary has raised nearly \$73 million toward this amount (\$62 million in Contributions and \$11 million in commitments). Each club is being challenged to organize a public fundraiser annually for the next three years. In October, The Rotary Foundation Trustees approved special Paul Harris Fellow Recognition, which begins 1 July, featuring a certificate with the End Polio Now logo. Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985, with more than \$1.2 billion contributed to the effort. Gates praised Rotary for providing the volunteers, advocates, and donors who have helped bring about a 99 percent decline in the number of polio cases. "The world would not be where it is without Rotary, and it won't get where it needs to go without Rotary," he said. The final hurdle still is ahead, said RI President-elect, John Kenny. This grant shows that the Gates Foundation is just as committed as Rotary to ridding the world of this disease, he said. Gates also shared with the incoming district governors and Rotary leaders a story from his trip to India in November, when he held a nine-month old girl afflicted with polio in his arms in a slum in East Delhi. "She obviously didn't understand why people were poking her legs and looking so serious. But, she'll never be able to kick a ball around, never be able to play hide-and-seek with her friends, because she has polio," Gates said. "As I held Hashmin, I thought, we can end this." We don't know when the last child will be affected. But, we *do* have the vaccines to wipe it out," He said. "Countries *do* have the will to deploy all the tools at their disposal. If we all have the fortitude to see this effort through to the end, then we *will* eradicate polio." In addition, the governments of the United Kingdom and Germany announced they have committed respectively \$150 million and \$130 million to eradicate polio, which will not count toward Rotary's challenge. "Government support is key to polio eradication efforts," said Scott.

Up-coming Programs

Feb 4th Speaker: Dina Bauer
Subject: Happy Feet
Feb 11th Chairperson: Pat Stein