

Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England

Newsletter 9, January 2014

ROTARY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
of
GREATER NEW ENGLAND
— est. 2013 —



Message from our President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Nearly one year has passed since we started to assemble our Board and create a monthly newsletter. Looking ahead, we recently decided that our inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Rotary District 7260 conference in Baltimore on May 10, 2014. I would like to encourage you to fill out this survey (www.raagne.com/agm2014) so we can learn if you are interested in attending this meeting (your response is not binding). It is the only physical meeting that this Association has so far and it only takes place once a year. Hence, it is a very special event and you will get the chance to meet other Alumni and Rotarians from all over. Personally, I am really looking forward to it and hope to see as many members as possible. If you have any ideas about what we should include at our AGM, please send me or Nicky Bell (AGM chair; nicky.bell@gmail.com) your suggestions. If you would like to suggest a project that you think is worth supporting, please do that ASAP. We hope to highlight our first project in the next newsletter (www.raagne.com/committees).

In this newsletter, we provide you with our first video Alumni Spotlight, details on medical initiatives in the United States and Bolivia, and an overview of the tremendous progress India has made in eradicating Polio with the support of the Rotary Foundation.

Christopher Uschnig,



RAAGNE President Christopher Uschnig
christopher.uschnig@gmail.com

Alumni Spotlight **VIDEO** with Elizabeth Powers, from Development Chair Nicky Bell

See the video at the link below!

<http://www.raagne.com/elizabeth-powers/>

Few young professionals can claim the mantle of “social entrepreneur” as aptly as Boston-based Rotary alumna Liz Powers. After graduating from Harvard College with honors in 2010, Liz received the prestigious Pforzheimer Postgraduate Public Service Grant to develop free art groups with homeless and low-income women in Cambridge. Liz is the founder of [City Heart](#), an annual art show and sale that empowers 70 homeless and low-income artists. In order to act as a year-round support to artists in art therapy programs, Liz and her brother Spencer recently co-founded a social enterprise called [ArtLifting](#), which was recently featured in the [Boston Globe](#). She also established the [LIFT Bike Project](#), an “earn-a-bike” program for low-income individuals in Boston which earned her the “Unsung Heroine Award” in the Massachusetts State House.

In 2011, she was awarded a Global Grant from the Downtown Boston Rotary Club to pursue a master’s in Interdisciplinary Creative Practices at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. While a Global Grant Scholar, she produced a documentary called [“Settling on Movement,”](#) which follows Edinburgh artist Gavin on his journey from homelessness to a new flat. She also created “Arts in Action”, a large art show featuring paintings, photos, woodwork, singing, acting, and cooking from homeless and low-income individuals.



Rotary Alumni Elizabeth Powers

Details on the NICView Rotary Project at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, from RAAGNE Consultant Ph.D. Ron Goodenow

The NICView-Rotary project in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in Worcester, which serves Central Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, has been successfully completed.

Multiple Rotary Clubs in District 7910 spearheaded the project, which was carried out under the leadership of Roy Balfour of the Shrewsbury Rotary Club, and a team that included Ron and other Rotarians. This was a year-long effort to fund 49 web cameras, one for each incubator, in the unit directed by Professor Alan Picarello of the UMass Medical School. Since the cameras were installed there have been 17,000 logins from relatives in 200 Massachusetts Towns, 47 US states, 30 countries, and five continents (including many military family members). Even two Rotarian grandfathers (who helped with club donations) benefited from these cameras. Sometimes our Rotary good works even help Rotarians.



The program has permitted parents, family and friends to have live 24/7 views of their newborns, and has been of enormous benefit to participating clubs. They have put together new coalitions of business, Rotaract, philanthropic and community members and, in several cases, created significant increases in club membership due to the enthusiasm participation creates. Interest in the project is now coming in from around the world, and the potential for expanding to other hospitals here and abroad is increasing, while planning is under way for new phases. The project partners would welcome an opportunity to answer

questions, form new relationships and provide and opportunities for RAAGNE members to reach out into the world of healthcare. For much more information, including contacts, personal testimony, good Rotarian stories, photos and the presentation given to the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon go to the website Ron edits: <http://www/nicviewrotary.org>.



Free Health Clinic in Bolivia Rain Forest Serves 40,000 people – information from Membership Chair Daniella Rabino

As part of the Loyola University Global Health Fellowship, Maura Treschas has been helping to run the Centro Medico Humberto Parra, a free health clinic in the eastern rain forest of Bolivia serving 40,000 people in extreme poverty. When her young sisters heard about the health concerns affecting children that lack access to basic oral health, they helped their school begin a drive for toothbrushes.



Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England

Newsletter 9, January 2014

The health situation in Bolivia is so desperate that small elementary school partners can provide a strong contribution, the only free health clinic for the region.

There are many ways this project can benefit from partners, drives, and/or projects. They are looking for community drives to collect items like condoms, and a project to purchase new medical equipment.

Please get in touch directly to get involved. You can reach Maura Tresch, Clinic Coordinator at mtresch@lumc.edu and explore online at: <http://centromedicohumbertoparra.org>



Celebrating three years without polio in India - details from Service Chair Chloe Heung

India has come a long way in the fight against polio. In 2002, it had a mini-outbreak of 1,600 polio cases. But with the hard work of local and international communities, Rotarians and the India government, the last case reported was on 13 January 2011. Today India has achieved the milestone of being polio free for three years, setting the stage for polio-free certification of the entire Southeast Asia region by the World Health Organization.

However, the work does not stop here. Rotarians in India are now sharing their best practices with their counterparts in Pakistan. One of the most effective measures the Indian Rotary clubs took was to obtain the support of influential religious leaders in the country's Islamic communities. In the past, there were rumors and misinformation about the polio vaccination program and parents were afraid to send

their children to get vaccinated. Rotarians in Pakistan hope to replicate the success in India and put Pakistan on the polio-free map.

There are only three countries that still struggle with polio: Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. We are VERY CLOSE. To support Rotary's Polio Campaign, please visit End Polio Now, <http://www.endpolio.org/>

To learn more about the campaign in India, access the sight below and read the NYT interview with PolioPlus Committee chair Deepak Kapur.

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/india-celebrates-three-years-without-polio>



Rotary clubs in India celebrated the country's polio-free status by illuminating famous landmarks: Bottom: India Gate, Delhi; Top: The Air India building in Mumbai

ROTARY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
of
GREATER NEW ENGLAND

— est. 2013 —



RAAGNE First Annual General Meeting

will be held together
with the District 7260 Conference

Sat, 10th May 2014
2 pm – 5 pm
Hilton Hotel
Baltimore

401 West Pratt Street, MD 21201

Agenda:

- » Election of New Board Members,
- » Planning the Future of RAAGNE,
- » Networking Opportunities,
- » and additional activities
throughout the day.

To receive more information, go to
www.raagne.com/agm2014



www.raagne.com

www.facebook.com/RotaryGreaterNewEngland