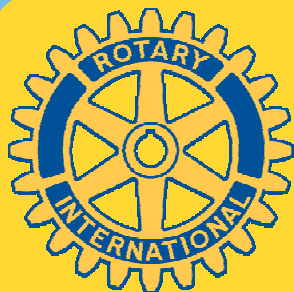




Orphan Train Chronicles

Volume 1, Issue 3

September 2010



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How about your club, school or church?

Become an Orphan Train Conductor now!

Contact the Orphan Train Project to obtain an orphanage, schedule a speaker or both!

Children are waiting for your help!

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ORPHAN TRAIN PROJECT REPORT 2009-2010 ROTARY YEAR

Presentations

The year was highlighted by presentation opportunities in Colorado. In September, Jeannine Desautels and Ed Fink, accompanied by their spouses, traveled to Denver at the invitation of Orphan Train friend Steve Werner. There the team was given an opportunity to tell the Orphan Train story to 26 people (mostly Rotarians), many of whom already had relationships with orphanages around the world. We talked, among other things, on how we might work together. The audience members, in turn, were given their opportunity to share their own inspiring stories. In May, 2010, at the invitation of District Governor Mike Oldham of District 5450, Ed Fink was invited back to Colorado to speak at the District Conference in Fort Collins. The talk was seemingly well received, and many took brochures as they exited the presentation. While at the conference an invitation to present again on the District's E-Club site was received. Ed hopes to follow-up on this invitation.

While visiting Colorado in May, Steve Werner sponsored a luncheon in Denver for people interested in learning more about the Orphan Train Project. About a dozen people were in attendance.

Members of the club distributed brochures at a booth at our own District 6250 Conference in May.

Other talks given during the year included Ed Fink at an event held at Middleton High School on ways for students to get involved in charitable activities and Ed Fink at the Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse (Illinois). Mary Van Hout and Ed Fink presented at Madison West Kiwanis, Jeannine Desautels and Ed Fink at Madison Memorial and Tony Klink and Ed Fink at the Rotary Club of Fitchburg-Verona. Mary Van Hout presented at the Rotary Club of Prairie du Chien. An informal briefing was given to representatives of the University of Wisconsin Student Occupational Therapy Association.

New Relationships

The University of Wisconsin Student Occupational Therapy Association signed on as an Orphan Train conductor organization for Padre Martinho Orphanage in Lima, Peru. The UW group wanted to work with an orphanage for handicapped children. This orphanage came to our attention because of the travels of the Orphan Train team and a project request to the Orphan Train Project from the Rotary Club of San Borja Norte of Peru, with the able assistance of Rotarian Carlos Rioja. The U.W. Student Occupational Therapy Association decided upon the Padre Martinho Orphanage because it involved children for whom they have skills to help. Members of the Association have already met with our contact from Peru and will make a trip there in January, 2011 to personally assess the situation. They are now raising funds to meet the needs of the children. They plan to obtain the necessary therapeutic equipment and devices, and will work with staff onsite to devise and implement a plan of improvement for each child. The Association intends this to be an ongoing operation, well beyond the graduation of the present masters' degree candidates, who sought this match.

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New Relationships cont'...



Participants in the meeting at Ilakov Rut Orphanage in Bulgaria (L to R): Mitko Neknov - OT Intermediary, Mirela Dimitrova - Interact Club of Svishtov, Ivan Todorov - Past President Rotary Club of Svishtov and Rumén Yordanov - President Rotary Club of Svishtov. Participants brought goods donated by Sustainable Engineering of Madison, Wisconsin and their own donations.



Veneta Petkova Interact club Svishtov president talking with Savka Minkova Director of Ilakov Rut Orphanage in Bulgaria

New relationships are always exciting. This year brought several such connections. The Rotary Club of Fitchburg-Verona, a long-time Orphan Train conductor was without an orphanage after the Bulgarian Orphanage at Dogonova closed its doors. Madison scientist Dr. Tony Klink suggested we find a match for a Peruvian orphanage known as Casa Hogar Maria Teresa Camera. Fitchburg-Verona was willing to be matched to this home, whose small number of residents is similar in size to the club size. Club members have pledged a monthly stipend to the orphanage and each member will be matched to a child, for purposes of sending Christmas and birthday cards. A unique Wisconsin touch was the agreement by Sister Carla Harrison, originally from Wisconsin Rapids and now in Peru, to be the Orphan Train Intermediary.

The Rotary Club of Sandusky, Ohio was matched to an orphanage in Granada, West Indies known as the Bel Air Home for Children and Adolescents, Inc. Bel Air is home to 23 girls and 9 boys. The Intermediary will be Peace Corps Volunteer Katie Moran of Sandusky. Her father Jack is a member of the Sandusky Club. This was one of those unique situations in which the Peace Corps Volunteer was asked if her parents belonged to a service club, and she said her father was a Rotarian. Her father sold his club on the opportunity. This was truly an easy match!

The Kiwologoma Orphanage Centre in Uganda was brought to us by National Guard Col. Eric Barr of Virginia. Barr, a former Rotarian with 31 years of military service, plans to join Rotary once again. We understand that he will be joining the Rotary Club of Pentagon-Crystal City (Virginia, USA). Hopefully, Eric will get his new club to be a conductor. He plans on continuing to tell the story of Kiwologoma. Eric is the founder of Economic Development and HIV/AIDS Prevention Organization (EDAPO), which serves the educational and health needs of approximately 618 children, some of which live at the orphanage.

The Madison Memorial High School's Spartan JOOI Team (a junior Optomist Club) and their parent Sauk Trails Optomist Club have agreed to become conductors on the Orphan Train Project, at a yet-to-be-named orphanage, assignment to be accomplished at the start of the next school year.

The Niranjana Orphanage located in Bakrou, Via, Bodhgaya, District Gaya, India has been matched to the Divine Life Renewal Center in Virginia. The founder of the orphanage is Siddhartha Kumar, one of this year's Glenn Koepp Scholars. The home has 20 plus residents, some of whom were brought off the streets by past year donations from Madison West Towne-Middleton Rotarians. Tim Rose, who brought us this orphanage, and a member of the Divine Life Renewal Center, continues to manage this relationship.

The Timothy and Phillip Stains Orphanages in India were brought to us by Rotarian Gary Schultz of the Rotary Club of Evanston - Lighthouse (Illinois). Lighthouse was already involved in an extensive ESL program (on site education teams and Skype teaching by members). Founder and Director David Gnaniah was one of this year's Glenn Koepp Scholars. When we first encountered the Stains Homes, there were three facilities in number. David has recently added two more homes, including a tribal home. The original three homes serve 47 girls and 62 boys.

Conductor Organization Generosity

St. Maria Goretti School in Madison, Wisconsin spends time each year raising funds for its friends at the Santa Maria de Jesus Orphanage in Guatemala. This school year, the children raised \$4,717.31, which was celebrated at an annual all-school ceremony in the Spring. Rotarians Edward Fink and Mary Van Hout represented the Orphan Train Project at the event. The children at both institutions communicated with each other on a personal level as well.

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Conductor Organization Generosity cont'...



Children of Santa Maria de Jesus in Guatemala (St. Maria Goretti School of Madison, Wisconsin - conductor)



Resident of Santa Maria de Jesus in Guatemala



New Luis Amigo Orphanage Building in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala



Visit to Luis Amigo Orphanage in Guatemala by Rotarians of Rotary Clubs of Madison West Towne-Middleton and Prairie du Chien (WI).

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish of Madison, Wisconsin budgeted \$6000 for its work with the Mgolole Orphanage in Tanzania for the past year. In addition, a parishioner spent \$4000 to have the Mooseheart manual translated into Swahili. This was the second expenditure for the same purpose and in the same amount, striving to improve the product. The manuals were used at a seminar in Tanzania at the Salvatorian Institute by students. Staff members from the Mgolole Orphanage as well as staffers from other Tanzanian orphanages and schools participated in the classes. One of the things St. Thomas Aquinas paid for was the travel of Ron Ahrens of Mooseheart to conduct this three day conference. Ron and his wife Michaela, also a Mooseheart team member, paid for her trip, giving the team another teacher for the event. It was attended by 46 people from various institutions and was reportedly well received.

Two people from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish traveled to Tanzania for the three-day conference, including Rotarian Cora Holloway and Lois Bernbeck. Each parishioner and Michaela Ahrens spent about \$3300 for travel and Lodging. Thus, the effort in Tanzania resulted in costs for the parish and others of approximately \$19,900.

The Rotary Club of Madison West Towne-Middleton, Wisconsin is the conductor for Luis Amigo Orphanage in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. This past Rotary year we funded the following for Luis Amigo: \$250 each for 15 girls to attend school, which included \$100 for uniforms (skirts, blouses, PE clothes, sweaters, socks, undies and shoes). School registration, exams and fees plus school supplies added an additional \$150 for the total of \$250 each or \$3750 total. The remaining \$1250 is to be used to hire a teacher to upgrade their computer skills at the Hogar where they have a well stocked computer lab.

The Rotary Club of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin contributed \$500 to their orphanage known as Pillco Mozo in Guatemala. The money paid for art supplies and the services of an art teacher.

The Kiwanis Club of Madison West, Wisconsin, also a conductor for the Pillco Mozo Orphanage in Guatemala donated \$500 to their home.

The University of Wisconsin Student Occupational Therapy Association is busy raising funds for the needs of the handicapped children of the Padre Martinho Orphanage in Lima, Peru.

The Rotaract Club of U.W. Madison has supported the Mashambanzou Care Trust thanks to the facilitation and hard work of Rotarian Rachelle Richardson. The following is her report:

2009 Mashambanzou Care Trust Orphan Train Report

This year we received unmatched support from many sources, especially appreciated due to the economic conditions. Purple Feet Wines LLC again offered to sell us wine at discounted prices in order to use the profits to support Mashambanzou. UW Rotaract continued to be the conductor of Mashambanzou on the Orphan Train, and the students were very involved in fundraising activities throughout the year. Mike Wilson of Rotary of Madison and his wife Pat conducted a wine tasting and sale at their home as part of that Club's Wine Fellowship. Finally, additional funds were raised as a result of the wonderful efforts and generosity of Mary Van Hout of Madison West Towne-Middleton Rotary and her friends Blair and Kitty Tyson.

Continued on next page...

2009 Mashambanzou Care Trust Orphan Train Report cont'...

The following letter was sent out to potential donors in November 2009. It describes how the 2008 donation was used.

Dear, caring friends and wine lovers,

"Cheers! for the Children," our annual fundraiser for the AIDS orphans at Mashambanzou Care Trust in Zimbabwe, is here early this year -- in fact, this week! Due to last year's weather troubles, it's been moved up so that you'll now have your wine before Thanksgiving. (Please order by Thursday, Nov. 12.)

A short report

I'm delighted to report that last year's donations were put to direct use helping orphans: "Mahewu," a soy-corn mixture rich in protein was given to orphans attending psycho-social group counseling (often this is their only food for the day).

Some was used to restock a flea market, an income-generating project which assists orphans and their siblings and promotes self-reliance in order to be weaned off the support program.

Finally, one of Mashambanzou's Orphan Outreach partners only supports children up to secondary school level. So our dollars paid tuition and housing for trade schools and university for seven students who excelled in school and would not otherwise have been able to continue their educations. They are studying psychology, business administration, sciences, human resources, accounting, banking and finance, and are the future of their families and their country.

Special this year

This year, Purple Feet Wines has again put together a fine selection of white, red, sparkling and sweet -- for enjoying, entertaining and gifting. Of special note is the return of the Duval Cuvee Paris Champagne in the cobalt bottle embellished in gold by Leroy Neiman's scene of Paris. Also a Smith Woodhouse Port from a classic vintage. Purple Feet selections get rave reviews every year for quality, value and just plain fun quotient. Even better with the 10% discount for orders of 12 bottles or more.

This was an email sent to Mike Wilson of Rotary of Madison, sponsor of a wine tasting event. It shows the totals for fundraising in 2009.

Hi Mike, This was an incredible year for donations! We sent a total of \$3615.21 to Mashambanzou on Monday.

Here's the breakdown:

Downtown Rotary - wine sales	\$332.80
Wine Party fees	\$750.00
Total donation from Downtown	\$1082.80

TEMPO members	\$511.35
MWTM Rotary/private party	\$1287.30 (includes \$850 in cash direct to LCMS)
Rachelle & friends	\$586.76 (includes \$320 in cash to LCMS)
Rotaract (non-wine party)	

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The graduates of the short course taught by Mooseheart staffers and sponsored by St. Thomas Aquinas Parish of Madison, Wisconsin in Tanzania

2009 Mashambanzou Care Trust Orphan Train Report cont'...

This was an email received from Mashambanzou Care Trust showing how our donation would help in 2010.

From: Sr Margaret srmargaret@mashambanzou.co.zw
Subject: Donation received

To: rachelteri@sbcglobal.net
Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 8:52 AM

Dear Rachelle,



Rotarian and St.
Thomas Aquinas
Parishioner Cora
Holloway with
children of Mgolole
Orphanage in
Tanzania

Happy New Year and may you and your family experience all that is wonderful and beautiful during 2010. You are just amazing and I thank you for being along side of me and the people in our care. I am truly inspired by your goodness and generosity. From the way you continue to reach out to the poor, you deserve to be blessed abundantly with all that is good and wholesome. On behalf of Mashambanzou Care Trust, I would like to thank you for your personal and very generous donation of 123.00.USD and on behalf of individual donors 3.600USD. I am pleased to inform you that the money is now in our Bank Account. Mrs Chigwa, Finance Manager, has informed me that the amount donated will be used for Skills Training for orphans who are unable to perform academically. Your commitment to helping orphans and people living with HIV/AIDS in our community is sincerely appreciated. Words are just inadequate to express my gratitude for your selfless dedication, love and support even during these difficult times when the global economy is struggling. We are truly blessed to have your ongoing understanding and support. Once the children/ young adults have the skills then they can move forward and take their place in society independent of Mashambanzou.

Each year, Mashambanzou continues to advance its Mission of providing quality care and support for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the selected high density areas of Harare. Also, we seem to be making progress in empowering the local community to deal with the AIDS pandemic with compassion and dedication.

Currently, we are feeding 17,300, providing Home Based Care to 3,500 patient families, psychosocial support to 2,400 orphans and vulnerable children, Day Care Centre for 60 orphans and Residential Care for 30 patients. We are very much focussed on strengthening the Choose Life awareness and prevention programme as it is the key to having an AIDS free generation. Over the past twenty years we have seen many lives changed for the better. Thank you for being part of the success story.

In particular, the psychosocial support for orphans has enjoyed great success in the past year. A significant number of children coped better with loss and grief, and are now able to deal with the day to day challenges of living without electricity, water and other essentials for living with dignity. Thanks to you, the children have an opportunity to learn, feel safe and thrive both mentally and physically. As you know, a high percentage of them are living with a grandparent, in sub-standard housing where there is very small or no fixed income. In the country, there is a better sense of stability but sadly for the poor there is little change. We provide food, rent subsidies, counselling, school fees, uniforms, exercise books and play materials. The Home Based Care staff see to the medical needs or refer them to other centres for specialized screening and treatment.

Your donation makes it possible to continue those services despite the economic distress we currently find ourselves in. Private donations go far in making up for cuts in our Donor Funding. Frankly, we could not do what we do without caring and generous people such as yourselves. The Goal of Mashambanzou Care Trust is to continue to make a difference in the fight against poverty, HIV and AIDS. With your help we will continue to see improvements and look forward to seeing people fully alive, employed and having a reason to get out of bed each day. Rachelle, thanks again for your generous support of our efforts. We, and those we serve deeply appreciate your generosity.

Thank you and may the love of the Father enfold you, the wisdom of the Son enlighten you, the fire of the Spirit enflame and guide you always. Love and Prayers ~ Sr. Margaret

Respectfully submitted, Rachelle Richardson
June 14, 2010

Conductor Organization Generosity cont'...

CIMCo of Denver, Colorado, lead by the Chris and Kathleen Pelley Family, is the conductor for the Makumbi Orphanage in Zimbabwe. Kathleen, who is the author of several children's books, uses some of the profits from her stories to help fund the orphanage. She reports this year, they were able to send a total of \$2945.00. \$1600 came from Kathleen's book sales, while \$1345 was brought about by a letter to family and friends.



Instructors Ron and Michaela Ahrens of Mooseheart Child City and School of Mooseheart, Illinois

The Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse (Illinois) supports the Timothy and Philip Stains Homes in India. They paid the transportation for David Gnaniah, the Director of the Timothy and Philip Stains Homes in India, to come to the United States to participate in the Glenn Koepp Scholars Program at Mooseheart and in Madison. This is believed to be an expenditure of \$1500 or more. While here, David Gnaniah had an opportunity to speak to his conductor club directly. At the conclusion of the program in Madison, Mr. Gnaniah took the opportunity to travel to churches in Wisconsin and Texas to raise money for his homes, prior to his return home. We don't know how much he raised. The extra travel was not at the expense of the Orphan Train Project.

Rotarian Gary Schultz, who involved the Evanston Lighthouse in his efforts on behalf of the Stains Homes, prior to the involvement of the Orphan Train Project, reports that he and his wife Ruth are paying the college of a student at the home, with a promise from the young man that he will pay it forward to help some other young person. He also reports as follows:

(1) David Gnaniah qualified to take the WESLI training in Madison when he finds a way to return for five weeks (and pay their tuition). He would put his certification to good use by adding a spoken English component to the curriculum in the school he is currently raising funds to begin. This will make his school almost unique in India and insure that outsiders will send their kids there, paying tuition. The tuition, in turn, will pay the cost of running the school and educating his own orphanage kids free (he now has to pay tuition to another school to educate them!)

(2) I went to India in January to begin to work with Rotarian in Districts 3000 and 3212 there to raise funds to bring WESLI trainers to Tamilnadu to teach Indian teachers and business trainers how to use ESL to teach spoken English. They would establish a small institute as well to continue training of Tamils by Tamils on an ongoing basis and this institute would probably be located at the orphanage. I was also able to establish some connections to another organization trying to do the same thing in North India through a Tamil Rotarian on this trip.

(3) Soon I will be taking 17 others and myself to complete the third year of our matching grant spoken English project at the orphanage, and four Tamil teachers will join us to help and learn the methods from us. Our club has raised another \$500 beyond their matching grant contributions to help pay this summer's expenses.

(4) Three club members have committed themselves to ongoing sponsorship of 3 children at \$300 per child per year. In addition, a 4th club member, with his five year old son, are interacting weekly for 30 minutes in English with three children in the orphanage via SKYPE internet voice and camera messaging.

(5) I am also about to begin fundraising for \$15,000 to build two rooms onto the orphanage for American volunteers to stay in if they come for extended weeks or months to tutor the kids in English to keep and expand what we have done so far. This will keep their costs to airfare only. I have several persons ready to go for weeks at a time when the rooms are ready.

(6) I have found a student graduating Northwestern University to take a gap year before medical school to spend a year not only living at the orphanage in the one available room for this purpose and tutoring the kids, but who will work with David's medical clinics in the surrounding villages daytimes when the kids are in school.

(7) One of our volunteers from last summer (she is the one who housed David when he was in Madison for the Orphan Train last summer) will be returning not only to work with us again this summer but to take two weeks in another school for rural poor to introduce that school to spoken English ESL methods.



Jeannine Desautels giving presentation at Colorado Orphan Train Conference

Conductor Organization Generosity cont'...

(8) I may have found an ESL teacher from Wausau, WI to take a group again summer 2011.

Count on hearing more on this in the year to come! ~ Gary

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The Rotary Club of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin provided their orphanage at Kula, Bulgaria with \$5388.52 to increase the power at the orphanage from 6KW to 100KW. The Sun Prairie Club is contributing to the installation of the foundation, building of a generator and the raising and wiring of electric poles. Last year, we reported that Sun Prairie had dispatched funds to Kula, but that did not occur. Therefore, this is not additional money, but the same donation as reported last year, but this time with more accuracy and knowing that we made sure the funds were dispatched.

The Divine Life Renewal Center, Virginia hosted Siddhartha Kumar at the conclusion of his time at Mooseheart and Madison. They report that he was able to raise \$1000 for his Niranjana Home in India. Siddhartha was brought to Virginia from Madison by Niranjana's Orphan Train conductor group, i.e. the Divine Life Renewal Center and local contact Tim Rose at no additional expense to the Orphan Train Project. However, it should be noted that Siddhartha's trip to the States, as a Glenn Koepp Scholar, gave him the opportunity to accept the invitation to make the shorter trip to Virginia and meet his conductor group in person. Tim Rose, our contact at the Divine Life Renewal Center and a nursing student at the University of Virginia, reports that he is putting together a team of student nurses to go to India to serve the poor near Siddhartha's orphanage.

Glenn Koepp Scholars

This year we hosted two Glenn Koepp Scholars, Siddhartha Kumar (Suman) and David Gnaniah, two orphanage directors from India. Both men spent two weeks at Mooseheart, training as if they were to be new staff members. This was followed by several days in Madison, where they saw many child-related operations. Rotarians and others generously hosted these men in their homes and their travel about the City. Mooseheart, once again, generously provided the training and room and board for our guests, without charge to the Orphan Train Project. Mooseheart has been a very generous partner in our program. David and Siddhartha were our 21st and 22nd Scholars. Each of the guests was given a plaque acknowledging their status as Glenn Koepp Scholars.

Orphan Train Travel and Medical Mission Abroad

During this past Rotary year, our team visited orphanages we serve in Guatemala, to include Santa Maria de Jesus in Mazatenango and Luis Amigo in Quetzaltenango. While there, the team consisting of Madison West Towne-Middleton Rotarians Mary Van Hout, Jeannine Desautels, Dean Ryerson, Leo Edelstein, and Enrique Gandara and Prairie du Chien Rotarian Michael Douglass created a medical mission to serve the poor population living near Mr. Gandara's Guatemalan Ranch. The team was joined by local dentists recruited by Mr. Gandara. The team saw 300 patients.

Odds and Ends

The Orphan Train Project moved its website to Club Wizard. This was done for a number of reasons, including the fact that the club was already working with Club Wizard with its own website. Unfortunately, the club made a move to another service about the same time. We were unaware of this move. However, it should not be a problem, and we are better served by Club Wizard's format than our old one.

We may receive additional material from conductors about this year's activities. We will update or amend as needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Fink
Orphan Train Project-Chairman



"Glenn Koepp Scholars" from India, Siddhartha Kumar and David Gnaniah with Diane and Ed Fink



Little Bakers of Casa Hogar María Teresa Cámara in Peru, whose OT conductor is the Rotary Club of Fitchburg-Verona