

I was president of Space Center Rotary for the year 2006-07. On reflection, there are certain highlights that stand out above the others.

- Foremost would be attaining 100% Paul Harris Fellow status. DeLisa Simmons, PDG, had challenged me to have the club become 100% PHF because the home clubs of the past few District Governors had done so. Both she and I knew that these were small clubs where perhaps 10-20 people were required to step up to a PHF, where SCR would need 50-60 people to step up. A goal of this caliber would overshadow many other potential projects and possible ideas, but it was important enough that I was willing to let go of some other goals. I in turn challenged Jerrold DeWease and David Coney, the cognizant director and the Foundation chair, to come up with a plan. They came up with a great plan. Through a combination of new money, SCR contributions, and donation of credits, 54 members became Paul Harris Fellows, a great accomplishment.
- SCR hosted William Boyd, the president of RI, at a reception held in the house of Mike and Rosie Hesse in Nassau Bay. We had some nice wine and cheese, had our photos taken with Bill Boyd, and I placed a Space Station pin in his lapel.
- My term as president was bracketed neatly by three trips:
 - First, attendance at the RI Convention in Copenhagen, Denmark, in June of 2006. This trip was the extension of a trip to attend my son's graduation from Princeton University in New Jersey. My slide show in this section provides more details.
 - Second, participation in the District Conference held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in April 2007. Suzi Howe, DG from SCR, held her convention in this fabulous resort setting and 24 members of SCR were there to support her. SCR received much recognition including the Governor's Cup for best support of The Rotary Foundation, presentation of the 100% Paul Harris Fellow banner, and many others.
 - Third, a mission trip to Bolivia in support of SCR projects in Tarija and Aramasi in June 2007. In Tarija, we were sponsoring a project in partnership with the Tarija-Aranjuez club to provide fresh water to a girl's school of 400 students run by sweet, tiny Dominican nuns that would benefit current students and staff plus potentially thousands of future students. In Aramasi, we were sponsoring the construction of an irrigation dam in partnership with the Cochabamba-Tunari club that would allow cultivation of multiple crop cycles as the most significant change in the local indigenous culture since the Spanish invasion. Irrigation would allow more crops to be grown than the villagers could possibly eat, thereby creating a market for surplus produce in a country plagued by shortages and high food prices. A slide presentation made to the club also in this section provides more details.

A lasting impression would be the many people touched by Rotary. Here are just a few:

- I took a day trip with a Rotarian from Cochabamba and his wife to the town of Tarata, Bolivia. We stopped for lunch along the way at a resort hotel. In talking to the owner, we found out she had been a Rotary Exchange Student to Ithaca, New York, for the best year of her life. She had

encouraged her daughter to do so as well and, of all things, her daughter also ended up in Ithaca, New York. What are the odds on that one?

- I sponsored Hurricane Katrina projects in Gulfport and Pass Christian, Mississippi. In Gulfport, \$5000 went toward a playground in a park was rebuilt with help from a District Simplified Grant to bring a small dose of normalcy to a community severely damaged by winds and storm surge from the eye of Katrina that passed right over the city. In Pass Christian, a \$5000 contribution was made to restart the club meeting on the slab of a former gas station as all the commercial buildings had been destroyed by storm surge.
- SCR hosted a Rotary Exchange Student from Sweden and also a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from Korea studying architecture at the University of Houston. We paid their way to attend the District Conference in Puerto Vallarta, a grand fiesta to highlight the close of their year in America.
- The many people who were given funds by SCR: Engineers without Borders JSC Chapter for a water project in Uganda, Builders without Borders for a water project in Mexico, Mission Outreach Ministries for the bilingual school on the Mexican border, the highly deserving Teachers of the Year, local high school scholarship winners and their families, and many others.

Rotary changes lives by raising expectations. Whether a teacher in a local school or a farmer in the Bolivian Andes, a small check or a small project can improve people's lives. Many people we will never meet have benefitted from funds given by our club. We have succeeded in not only raising their expectations of what is possible; we have also succeeded in raising our own expectations. Rotary changes lives one project at a time.

YIR, Geoff