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April 2023

Welcome New Members!



There is nothing better that we can celebrate as a club than the induction of new members. Josh Medemblik and Ingrid Sproxtan welcome new members Jo Van Hoogmoed and Joe Cincinnato.

Good Work by the Club!

The club unanimously passed the following 3 motions:

Moved by Charles, seconded by Bill – to donate \$1000 CAD to Shelterbox for emergency relief in Turkey/Syria.

Moved by Charles, seconded by Ed – to donate \$1000 USD to the Rotary Club of Burlington Central in support of their global grant project in Nepal.

Moved by Charles, seconded by Josh – to donate \$1382 CAD to the Rotary Club of Orangeville Foundation.

Important Dates

**June 13th – Doc's Auction!
New Date!!!**

April 19 – Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

**May 6th – 9 to 5PM – District Conference
2023 – The Power of Voices, Royal
Botanical Gardens Burlington**

**May 11 – Lions-Rotary Joint Meeting at
the Senior Centre on Bythia St.
(in lieu of our May 9th club meeting)**

**May 12 – RCO Theatre Night at Theatre
Orangeville!**

May 13th – Let's Make Orangeville Shine!

**May 29 – Soup Sisters are back to STIR
THE POT! Calling all Rotarian souper-
heroes to meet for a dinner out with a
purpose!**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

Bob Burnside – Apr. 12th
Josh Medemblik – Apr. 30th

Happy Anniversary!

Sheri Moir and Paul – Apr. 2nd
Charles McCabe and Stacey – Apr. 12th

Best wishes!



Ribfest Update

One couldn't help but be impressed after attending the March Ribfest meeting all of the work that our members are doing behind the scenes to make this years event a reality. The most urgent thing on the to do list now is for all of our members to recertify their Smart Serve. Please contact Ingrid if you need details.

This guy is a beauty 1. Sergeant at Arms Bill always leading the fun!



Manchichi Project Update – March 2023



From left, Cerro Otoe midwife Silvia Montezuma, Phalarope dir. Dr. Miriam Rittmeyer, Manchichi trainer Bertilia Montezuma and 2 week old baby Kimberly

Manchichi began its “march” forward into Ngabe maternal and child health care 2 years ago on March 17, 2021 with the arrival of Dr. Miriam Rittmeyer and the

hiring of our phenomenal Manchichi team of 4 local women to collect data as a critical part of the Global Grant application process. This also marked the start of training of these women who are now recognized as accomplished midwife mentor/trainers. In addition to the weekly telecommunications with the staff and numerous zoom trainings, this also marks the 6th visit from Miriam to Panama for in person interface with the staff, the midwives in the six communities, and our Rotary Club reps. As well she has carved out time to meet with personnel from the Foundation Nuestra Senora de Camino in San Felix, various governmental personnel (MINSA – health ministry, INAMU- Women’s institute, T.G. Geografic institute, and members of other Rotary Clubs in Panama). No stones left unturned in the effort to move forward a program effecting dramatic changes.

The primary objectives of Miriam’s visit were to evaluate the progress of the midwife training and launch training in health education for the staff to be carried out over the next 12 weeks in the six communities. Joining her in this endeavor was Tatiana Blanco, her Phalarope associate with vast knowledge and experience from her years working in this field in Columbia Health system. They arrived on Saturday, March 11 to Panama and engaged in a productive meeting with Lic. Nivia Rossana, prestigious member of the Panama City Rotary Club (largest in Panama) to discuss ideas related to project continuation and expansion. Nivia continues to be a valuable advocate and advisor. On Sunday they flew to David and drove to San Felix to begin preparations for the trainings of the staff and materials (visual aids) to be used over the succeeding days. By Tuesday the Manchichi contingent were well prepared to begin the training program in the communities. They were joined by 3 members of Boquete Rotary Club, Jeff Flynn (committee chair), Dr. Rod Gottula and Dr. Larry Schmitz (Manchichi committee members), a Rotaract member, Yolanda Castillo, and Donna Robinson with well over 40 years of international experience in maternal health care. The role of these “visitors” was principally to witness, first hand, the brilliant work being done.

Two communities were visited each day: Majagua and Lajero on Tuesday, Cerro Otoe and Hato Pilon on Wednesday, and Chichica and Ola on Thursday. Friday was an office day of wrap up with the staff. Miriam and Tatiana drove to Boquete for a productive strategic planning dinner with Boquete Rotary members and Tommy Guardia institute director (coincidentally in town). Miriam and Tatiana departed on Saturday morning.



Hiking to remote community of Majagua and the ensuing health education classes for community members



The lectures and hands on demonstrations were enthusiastically greeted by the community participants (total of 67 registered in the 6 communities). A quite comprehensive first aid training was taught including CPR, choking, burns, wounds, broken bones, sprains, etc. After trainings, there was time for visiting with the midwives and community members to receive feedback on the Manchichi program. Several young mothers and their babies (prenatal and post-partum care by Manchichi-trained midwives) were in attendance. Over the next few months, the Manchichi staff will be continuing the educational seminars on topics including hypertension, diabetes, diet and other pertinent health topics. As well, this is providing the Manchichi staff and opportunity to gain valuable teaching experience on subjects in which they have been extensively trained.

In June, at the completion of the global grant and trainings, graduations will be held in each of the 6 communities for both the trained midwives and all the community residents completing the health education programs. Members of each of the communities will be invited to celebrate this signature accomplishment of their fellow residents.



Health education classes in Cerro Otoe (Patricia translations to Ngabere)above and Lajero below



A distinct sea change in mindset has occurred with the participating midwives and staff. Before the midwife training program, the focus of the midwives was on labor and delivery (assisting delivery of babies born at home in the villages). The vast majority of babies are now born in the hospital thanks to a new emphasis on prenatal and postpartum care. Expectant mothers arrive at the hospital with midwife provided referral forms displaying all pertinent information about the patient based on months of monitoring with the basic medical equipment and training provided. Despite a lack of program cooperation and coordination from the public health ministry, significant,

vital changes are occurring in that the pregnant moms are arriving at the hospitals in better condition and better prepared; as opposed to risking birth in remote areas and having to be medically evacuated.

Rotaract Yolanda Castillo, below and Rotarian Dr. Larry Schmitz (retired OB/GYN) to right, both well impressed with the training program. Trainer, Silvia Salina, below holding one of the two babies recently born to her villa.



Manchichi staff, from left Florinda Zurdo, Silvia Salina, Patricia Mendoza and Bertilia Montezuma receiving generous donation of baby blankets, hats, and mittens compliments of Rotarian Sylvia Bradley and her friends of the Orangeville, Ontario Rotary Club.

A total of 136 expectant mothers have received prenatal care and 88 healthy babies have been born under the watchful tutelage of Manchichi trained midwives thus far.

Other hallmark data from the project: 227 prenatal care visits (with Manchichi staff present) and innumerable more as the midwives are seeing patients regularly; 70 referrals to hospital, Centro de Salud or Puesto de Salud clinics for conditions including pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes, adolescent (young mom), cesarean previa and less critical yet important symptoms like fever, anemia, infections, edema and premature rupture of membranes.

We salute the efforts of our Manchichi trainers and their midwife students in these communities. Appropriate training, performed in a culturally respectful manner, is making a significant, positive impact in the lives of families in these communities.

Efforts and planning are underway to try ensure that this successful pilot continues to expand in the years ahead. The Manchichi staff is very uniquely suited to implement this program in the ocean of need. This pilot project was an opportunity to not only prove the effectiveness of the project, but develop a highly effective corps of women to replicate the results. It would be tragic to lose the inertia they have initiated. As well, the project has been able to more tightly determine real budget needs to implement in 6 communities.

This Guy is a beauty 2 – There was a full update on Coldest Night of the Year in the March Rotooter but not sure how this photo of our Fearless leader missed the cut!



Rotary Club of Milton Event



7th ANNUAL MILTON ROTARY
DENIM & Diamonds

**Saturday, April 22nd,
2023 - 6:30pm**

Grand Chalet - Grande Room
324 Steeles Ave E, Milton,
Ontario

Beef/chicken and vegetarian buffet
Traditional & Line Dancing

Fun & Entertainment
Cash Bar
Live Band "Groovy Brothers"
Live & Silent Auctions
Line Dancing and regular dancing

Tickets?
Early Bird
Single - \$120 | Table of 8 - \$950
Regular
Single - \$125 | Table of 8 - \$950
Ticket Links in the Description!

Net Proceeds Support
The Rotary Club of Milton
Townsend Smith Foundation
Milton District Hospital Foundation



Your support is deeply appreciated!

This is an exciting time of the Rotary Club of Milton! This is one of our major fundraisers.

Please purchase tickets, promote our event, and encourage your committee members and friends to purchase tickets and come and have fun with us in Milton.

If you can encourage 8 attendees including yourself, as a group, a table could be purchased, reducing the price of the average price of the tickets, as noted in the flier below.

Table of 8:

https://www.paypal.com/webapps/shoppingcart?flowlogging_id=f31553043ca90&mfid=1680092159002_f31553043ca90#/checkout/openButton

Single Ticket:

https://www.paypal.com/webapps/shoppingcart?flowlogging_id=f666587af1313&mfid=1680092392124_f666587af1313#/checkout/openButton