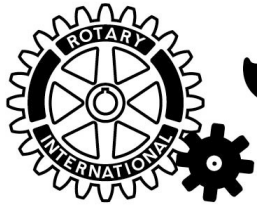


Service Above Self - He Profits Most Who Serves Best



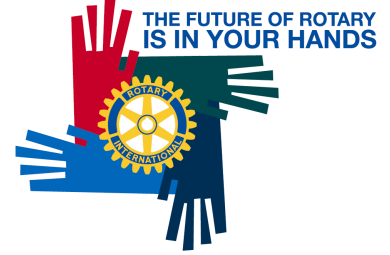
EFFINGHAM 'PINION

(OPINIONS OF THE TIMES)

EFFINGHAM
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Philip R. Coats
Editor

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Getting an Education in Guatemala

25 November 2009

Program Chairman – Art Michels introduced his guest Mary Graham, with the Guatemala Literacy Project. Mary traveled to be with us from Louisville, KY where she works with Cooperative for Education, the non-profit organization that supplies the books for the GLP. GLP is a partnership of CoEd and North American and Guatemalan Rotary Clubs, promoting lifelong reading and writing skills in Guatemala by providing textbooks, library materials and computers to impoverished schools.

Why Guatemala? The country has one of the lowest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere and in some regions nearly two out of every three adults cannot read or write, especially in the rural areas of the country. Most only complete 4 years of school. Reasons include violence, poverty, inequality and lack of education. The country endured a 36-year civil war and has no stable government.

Mary pointed out that the average rural Guatemalan family makes @ \$4/day, equivalent to the price of a grande cup of Starbucks' coffee.

GLP has been in existence for 13 years and has benefited 92,700 students and 10% of all rural Guatemalan secondary schools. In their 2009-2010 report, GLP reported 194 textbook projects, 39 computer centers, 32,885 students using textbooks, 174,306 textbooks in circulation, 14,532 students using computers.

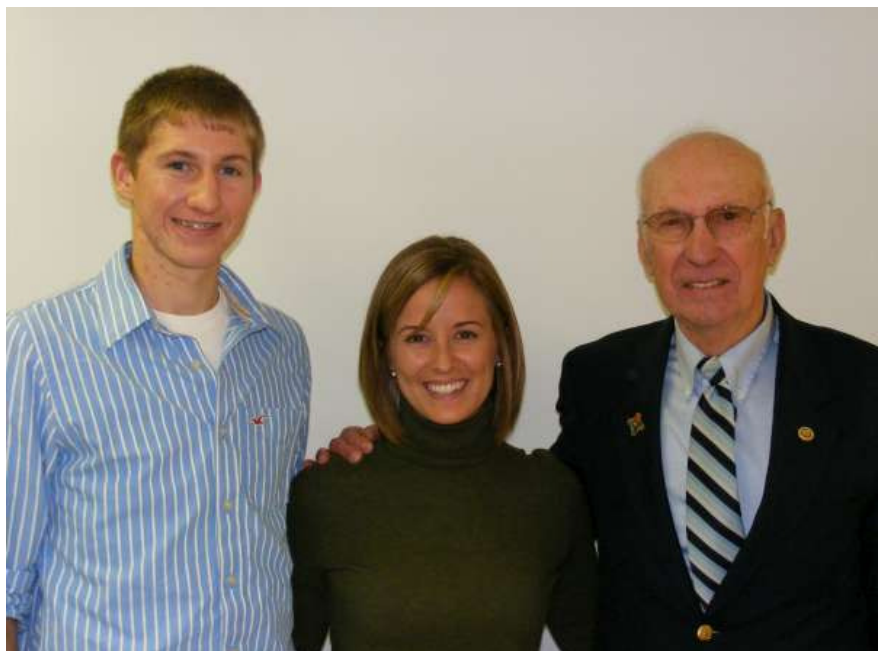
347 Rotary Clubs are contributing to GLP and 162 Rotarians have participated in project tours that are offered twice annually. 100% of the GLP donations go to support of the project.

Provides an opportunity to Rotarians to not just write a check, but to also go and see how their contributions are making a difference. The 5-10 day tours provides an opportunity for Rotarians to interact with the children and families served by CoEd, deliver textbooks and inaugurate new computer centers.

90% of the schools lack textbooks. The GLP provides

DECEMBER 1
CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR
NOON & SUNRISE CLUBS
PLEASE SEE ARTICLE IN
THIS NEWSLETTER.

DECEMBER 2
NO WEDNESDAY
MEETING FOR US AND NO
TUESDAY MEETING FOR
SUNRISE



Student Guest Cody McCollum, Cooperative for Education Representative Mary Graham and Program Chair Arthur Michels

textbooks in four core subjects: math, science, language (generally, Spanish) and social studies.

A revolving fund helps to replace books by having students rent the books for \$1/year. A new textbook costs \$5, so that after 5 students have rented the book, enough funds are available to buy a new textbook. Students show pride in having textbooks available for learning, with a 95% book return rate and a 46% reduction in drop out rates.

GLP's newest project is CORP – Culture of Reading Program. It is a train the trainer program, with teachers learning to create a love of reading by first training the teacher how to read to the child. The program involves reading the story, rewriting the story and then acting out the story.

Computer centers are being created within underprivileged schools to help students gain computer skills and obtain technology-based jobs, which are a key to breaking the cycle of poverty. The computer centers are also self-funding, with students paying a small user fee into a fund to replace computer equipment as it wears out.

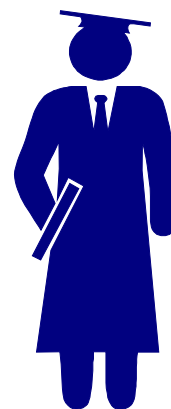
Mary left with tips on how to help the GLP – join a Project Tour, talk about the program to others, make a pledge and help obtain Rotary-matching grants.

Art Michels announced his sponsorship of one of the GLP schools and his ongoing efforts are to help these students go on to complete high school and college to improve their quality of life.

Thank you to Norma Lansing who filled for your quickly departing editor today.

Our Student Guest from Effingham High School

Mike McCollum introduced his son, Cody, a senior at EHS (also son of Penny). Cody is vice president of the senior class, a member of the math club, National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is in the EHS Academic Hall of Fame, been recognized by Society for Academic Achievement, IBCA Basketball Honorable Mention All State and All-Apollo Basketball All Conference Team. Hobbies include basketball, baseball, hunting, four wheel riding, horseback riding and studying – one of 4 EHS seniors with 4.0 GPA. Cody plans to attend Lake Land College on a basketball scholarship and then to a four-year university to study pharmacy.



VISITORS & GUESTS

Our Visitors and Guests

Art Michel's guest was his wife, *Florence*. Gary Ernst was re-introduced – he's our welcome Rotarian from Panama City, Florida. Someone said with the snow flying he'll be taking off with the rest of the snow birds to warm climes.

Opportunities for Service & Other Stuff We Report • You Get Involved

(If a web link does not load, paste it in your browser)

SHELTER BOXES

District Governor Jay Stortzum and his wife, Winnie have requested we pass the plate to collect for the DG spousal Shelter Box project.

President Matt Hirtzel reported we collected another \$100 for the project today.

More detailed information is available: www.shelterboxusa.org.

HELP PLEASE!

Terisa Lingafelter made a call for volunteers to replace Tim Woodall who resigned recently as chairman for the Youth Exchange Program and the Dictionary Project.

Dictionary Project: Teresa is seeking volunteers for each school that will make contact with the school to get number of students and then make arrangements for delivery of