



Greg Comfort, Price Finley, Dave McCurdy and Steve Sandbo

Mayan Families Update

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www.uarotary.org
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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



President Chip introduced speakers **Greg Comfort, Price Finley, Dave McCurdy and District Governor Steve Sandbo** for a discussion and update on the club's involvement with Mayan Families. The organization is a 501c3 located in Guatemala and serves families in need with school sponsorships, medical aid, construction projects, trade schools and feeding programs. Over 40 Upper Arlington Rotary families have travelled to Guatemala to participate, and many more have participated financially.

In 2010, then President McCurdy attended the Rotary International convention in Montreal and left with the belief that UAR could improve upon the existing international service impact our club was making. The program had to be in line with Rotary's multifaceted mission that includes water quality, child education, mother and child health, and disease prevention. After looking all over the world, Guatemala was identified as a place the club could change lives. The country is the 2nd poorest in the western hemisphere and 4th poorest in the world, and its location makes it relatively easily reachable for volunteer opportunities.

Since identifying Mayan Families as the organization we would work with, members of our club have attended 11 official trips which adds up to 820 Rotarian days of service. Our speakers described the village of Tierra Linda, 20 mile wide area that isn't even on a Google map. UAR has helped renovate the existing preschool by shoring up the foundation, erecting a security wall and pouring a pad for a playground area that was previously prone to mud. Importantly, a kitchen was also built for the preschool, and allows the children to have a meal while at school which dramatically improves their ability to learn. A new preschool, funded by UAR, will open soon and accommodate 85 children per year.

The existing preschool is being taken over by growth from the middle school, which will now accommodate approximately 120 students per year. Among the many resources the club provides for the school are laptops and internet as well as a trip for each graduating class to see the capital city of Guatemala City. The students are able to visit the capitol building, the zoo, and for many of them it is their first adventure outside Tierra Linda.

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GREETERS

February 21

Chris Taylor

February 28

Don Leach
Emilie Greenwald

March 7

Telanda Sidari
Carl Rechner

REGISTRATION DESK

February 21

John Hansel
John Adams

February 28

J.D. Dickerson
Dave Dewey

March 7

Andy Livingston
Tom Westfall

CALENDAR

February 21

Jeanette Bradley - The Love Truck
Host: Knoop

February 28

TBA

March 7

TBA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

March 2, 2017

YWCA - 5:30-7:00pm
Contact John Huneck
for more information

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday, March 2nd

Private Tour & Tasting
at Middle West Spirits

Thursday, April 6th

Kick-Off Social for our Annual
Fundraiser at Grandview Cafe

Saturday, May 6th

Annual Rotary Fundraiser
at Huntington Park

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillen.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

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The club has funded 3 water projects to date and is currently evaluating others. A typical project requires obtaining the rights to run pipe across 1 or 2 miles of mountainous land, and providing the material. Community members provide the labor for the project. The impact of having reliable, clean water is tremendous. To date at least 1,540 lives have been impacted by the water projects. Medical support has also been provided to the community in the form of supplies and treatment. An estimated 500 lives have been impacted.

An important focus of the Mayan Families mission has been a trade school. The areas of focus are sewing, carpentry/furniture building, and computer training. To provide further opportunity to the female school trainees the club supports a microloan

program (across the world, men are generally poor risks for microloan programs). To date the program has funded 537 microloans of \$100 to \$200 and has made a significant impact in the lives of the participants.

None of these works would be possible without financial support from our club, and specifically the financial involvement of the members. Every dollar donated by a club member is matched with a dollar from our Foundation. Other sources of financial support are the Annual Dinner pledges paid, District grants, and scholarships funded by UAR members. Nearly \$1,000,000 of support has been directed to the Mayan Families project since 2010!

You can learn more about Mayan Families at www.mayanfamilies.org.

The Meeting

Price Finley gave the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Visiting Rotarians: Doug Gouty of the Downtown Columbus club.

Guests: Jim Winfree introduced Wade Griffin.

Notes and Announcements

President Knoop noted that Sunday's family fun day at Pins Mechanical was a hit with those who attended. He specifically thanked new mother **Megan Horvath** for organizing a fun event with lots of food. In fact we had so much food that many extra pizzas were donated to the Faith Mission. Megan gave birth to Annsley Rose, a 6 pound 4 ounce girl on February 2nd.

Chris Reinhardt announced that he is a grandparent. He recently welcomed granddaughter Grey Roegner Reinhardt, a 5 pound 13 ounce angel.

Jaime Sisto thanks all attendees of last week's roundtable discussion.

President Knoop celebrated Valentine's Day by presenting each lady in attendance with a rose.

