



KIM EMCH SON MINISTRIES

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Milt Lustnauer introduced today's speaker, **Kim Emch**. Kim is with SON Ministries – Serving Our Neighbors. Kim is the founder and Executive Director of SON Ministries. She is a Capital University graduate (Economics) and spent eight years as a corporate management trainer. She has previous non-profit experience working six years with Upper Arlington Lutheran Church.

Kim noted that the defining moment in her move to create SON was on March 14, 2007 when she learned that there were 2,158 children living in poverty in her suburban community of Hilliard. She founded a free summer lunch program that year. Eventually the program grew to a year-round program serving children and families.

Hundreds of neighbors and other volunteers joined the effort and ultimately the Serving Our Neighbors program (SON) was founded. SON officially began its work in 2009 after the work initially began in 2007.

She has learned that there has been a surprising population move in the country. The shift has revolved around poverty. She discussed the fact that city populations (including Columbus) have shifted over time with the wealth of a community origi-

nally in the urban area moving to the suburbs and, over time, moving back to the cities. The population in those cities has reflected this dynamic. Currently, poorer residents are relocating from the city to suburban areas as the wealth returns to the city. Rural areas are not exempt from the influx of poorer residents who have left the cities.

Kim is motivated to help people in this situation – particularly the children.

In a 2005 the Brookings Institution study it was determined that there are more people (children and families) living in poverty in suburban settings than in urban settings in the United States.

While the school free and reduced lunch program is the second best way to feed people in the U.S. (the best way is food stamps), the lunch program stops in the summer. SON steps in to fill this gap with its Summer Lunch Camp. The Summer Lunch Camp program, which originated in the Hilliard school district, has now served 100,000 meals in multiple communities over twelve summers. It has helped children from 46 countries. The camp features recreational programming and special guests. The Summer Lunch Camp has been replicated in 18 other Ohio communities so far.

Helping people out of poverty involves more than food programs. Kim noted that SON creates “refuge spaces” that help children find their way out of poverty. The spaces, or refuges, are places where children can build relationships, receive a hand up and connect with other people. The people who are brought into these spaces are very diverse. While different from one another in many respects they are all potential resources for others.



GREETERS

March 19

Kevin Aschliman
Susan Moffett-Bruce

March 26

Connie Aschinger
Scott McKenzie

April 2

Dan Ralley
Chris Aschinger

REGISTRATION DESK

March 19

Larry McVey
Milt Lustnauer

March 26

John Hansel
John Adams

April 2

Chris Taylor
Tracy Harbold

CALENDAR

March 19 | Scioto CC

Stacie Boord
Shadowbox Live
Host: Johnson

March 26 | Scioto CC

Doug Kridler
Columbus Foundation
Host: DeHays

April 2 | Scioto CC

TBD

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

March 19th
Scioto CC

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



KIM EMCH

SON MINISTRIES



One goal is to build a child's "social equity" – having connections and support which improve their quality of life and help them release their passions. The program has a number of components – including meals, an entrepreneurship experience for the children, English as a second language (ESL), tutoring, preschool, and legal and job help for families.

The "entrepreneurship experience" came about when children in the program were asked for their input about programming that would interest them. The result is a restaurant operation which the children operate – soup to nuts. Kim noted that when the children were asked what they wanted to do they landed on this idea – and not on things such as a trip to Disney World or other such desires.

The ESL initiative also features a full family program. This program was developed following requests from parents who noted that their entire family could benefit from such help. This includes adult English training, teen internships, homework help and tutoring for K-8 students and early childhood literacy for infants and preschoolers. This program now serves 599 people from 32 countries. They come every Tuesday night to Upper Arlington Lutheran church. The crowd includes infants through grandparents. She noted that this past October, on registration night, an entire family from Venezuela signed up for the program – including children, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. It is, in a way, like the United Nations.

The overall focus is on the notion of a "hand up" out of poverty rather than on handouts. Kim noted that a repeating pattern of handouts often leads to dependency which clearly is not the goal.

Last year a Youth Board was created at SON to help with decision making with the adult Board. Youth Board members identified drugs, bullying, eating disorders, etc. as problems. When pressed to say "why" these things were problems they agreed on one reason – they do not think there are enough adults who will take the time to listen to them.

SON program participants come from 22 Franklin County ZIP codes. Currently they serve 749 families, 1,617 children with 1,047 volunteers. Participants come from countries throughout the world.

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The Meeting



Herb Gillen presided at today's meeting. He asked **John Hansel** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. John also shared with us the Rotary "code of conduct" which is not often referred to at club functions.

Kevin Brown asked **Kip Greenhill** to introduce his guest **Michelle Hoyle**. **Jim Nicklaus** introduced fellow Rotarian (Delaware Noon Club) **Scott Cubberly**.

We were reminded that we will return to Scioto Country Club next week and for the foreseeable future.

Herb recognized **Price Finley** and **Chip Knoop** for helping with the all-Ohio Rotary president-elect training.

The club Board meeting originally scheduled for March 11 has been rescheduled for Monday, March 18 due to spring break.

Notes and Announcements



Debbie Johnson distributed flyers about 2019 Fundraiser sponsorship opportunities and auction item donations. The Fundraiser – "Rotary Rocks at the Shadowbox" - is scheduled for May 3 at Shadowbox Live in the Brewery District. Next week's program will feature **Stacie Boord**, Executive Director of Shadowbox Live, at which time we'll begin to get a sense of what to expect at the Fundraiser. Shadowbox Live is the largest non-profit performing theater in the country. She warned us that **Dave Dewey** has part of the entertainment for the evening and that rock-n-roll will be part of the festivities.



Friday, May 3rd, UA Rotary 2019 Fundraiser

Join Upper Arlington Rotary for our biggest party of the year and help raise funds for all of the great work that Rotary does throughout our community and around the world.

It's not too early to start thinking about silent and live auction items and to consider an event sponsorship. Learn more about sponsorship and donating an auction item by downloading our Fundraiser Donation Flier.

For questions about the event and to learn how to get involved, please contact Debbie Johnson at debbiejohnson33@gmail.com.