

G O D M O R N I N G !

Thursday, October 27, 2011

"Culture is Us!"



Housing Development Corporation of Southwest Florida

The Housing Development Corporation of SW Florida (HDC) exists to ensure that all residents of Southwest Florida have access to affordable, safe housing.

Its primary goals are to expand opportunities available to very low, low and moderate income citizens and to raise the economic, educational and social levels of SW Florida residents.

HDC is a HUD-approved 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization serving Southwest Florida. Its services include very low, low and moderate income housing assistance to purchase a home, Fair Housing outreach and Homebuyer Education, credit and foreclosure counseling, and money management workshops. The majority of their services are free to the community.

2011-2012 Annual Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

Brooks Insurance Company
Cummings & Lockwood
Dr. Tom Hale
Hill Barth & King, LLC
Moorings Park

Bronze Sponsor

The "Wizdumb" Table

Our thanks to

TIB Bank for being the lead sponsor of the All-Star Football Classic in 2010.



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October is Vocational Service Month

Attendance Last Meeting

Members Present:	76	78.22%		
Makeups:	3			
Visiting Rotarians:	2		Winter Pigeons:	1
Guests of Members:	7		Student Guests/Parents:	0

Did you make up?

Guest Speaker

Next Week: Mick Moore, 1st week of Rotary Foundation month

Last Meeting: Tim Richardson, Operations Manager, City of Naples, Airport Authority

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member	Birthday	Age
Uli Altvater	November 2	57
Wil Ward	October 27	57

Member	Wedding Anv.	Years
John Clough	October 28	11

Member	Club Anv.	Years
Bill Meek	October 30	14

Distinguished Rotarians

Rotarian	Honored
Doug Baird	Sept. 30, 2010
Heather Milner	Apr. 23, 2009
Lois Kluberanz	Jun. 5, 2008

Rotarian of the Year 2011

John Clapper



100% Paul Harris Fellows or Sustaining Members



Egyptian club discovers the power of microlending

If your Rotary club is stuck in a rut when it comes to vocational service, it's not alone.

Sometimes dubbed the "forgotten Avenue of Service," vocational service can be difficult for clubs to understand and implement.

Nijad K. Al Atassi, past governor of District 2450 (parts of Africa, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Georgia) felt strongly enough about vocational service to make it a districtwide priority.

"Vocational service is important because it enhances values and faith in ethics," says Al Atassi, a member of the Rotary Club of Adliya, Bahrain.

The Rotary Club of Alexandria Sporting, Egypt, rose to the challenge by focusing on microcredit loans, literacy classes, and a sewing workshop to meet the needs of low-income community members, helping women in particular to start businesses and learn useful work skills.

Microcredit loans

"We gave loans to deprived women supporting large families," says past club president Heba Kabel. Club members made loans of about US\$85 to 20 entrepreneurs to launch small food or cleaning businesses. The loans were paid back in installments over the course of a year, and the money was then loaned out again -- turning the club's initial investment of about \$1,700 into a sustainable microcredit program.

The club also financed literacy classes, helping 75 women learn to read and write, and a sewing lab, which drew 45 women to sewing lessons every month.

Kabel notes that the club put a priority on efforts that would help community members increase their chances of finding a job.

"We made a big bazaar at the end of the year and sold their products," Kabel says, explaining that the proceeds went to the women.

Kabel, a Barclays Bank employee, also tapped into her own vocational skills by offering free lessons in financial literacy to several women whom club members had met through the vocational service initiatives. The financial advice helped the women make informed decisions about their new incomes, teaching them to allocate some for savings and giving them a better chance of sustaining their small businesses.



Rotarians Adel el Nokali, Heba Kabel, and Magdy Samaha visit with a beneficiary of a microcredit program run by the Rotary Club of Alexandria Sporting, Egypt. The woman used her small loan to build a kiosk where she sells biscuits and cakes.

(con't at right)

Upcoming Rotary Events

October 28th - Dictionary Day
8:30 am - Avalon Elementary

November 4th - Seminole Indian
Casino Night in Immokalee

November 11th - Sunset & Suds
"5K Evening Fun Run"



December 7, 2011
Palmetto Ridge High School

Model projects

Each October, Rotarians are encouraged to focus on the Avenue of Vocational Service. For this year's celebration, Rotary International collected model vocational service project submissions from 2010-11 district governors. In addition to the Rotary Club of Alexandria Sporting's microcredit program, other model projects include:

- The Rotary Club of Mt. Vernon, Missouri, USA, conducted a job skills workshop for unemployed residents, giving participants tools for interviews and job searches. Each participant left with a résumé and a list of employment opportunities.
- Members of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad, Bangladesh, India, provided artificial limbs to 20 people with disabilities through a local rehabilitation center and worked with community businesses to help the recipients find work.
- The Rotary Club of Cheltenham Sunrise, Gloucestershire, England, invited more than 280 secondary school students and teachers to attend a two-day educational forum on environmentally conscious careers. Leaders of government, nongovernmental organizations, and industries shared tips on how they've implemented green innovations to improve business.