



Message from the President

Newsletter
4th November 2009

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Hi All,

- 1) What a full life Andreas, our guest speaker last week, follows. The achievements he has completed in his lifetime testify to his determination to achieve success in all his endeavours.

In being disabled & confined to a wheelchair he has focused on achieving & carrying on a normal (plus) life & succeeding.

Hand cycling around Australia would have been an awesome task but because of his determination he has completed the cycle & now is looking to Hand Cycle with a partner from Melbourne via Adelaide to Darwin via Uluru & Kakadu, approx 5000 km.

The purpose of the trip will be to raise funds to help children with disabilities to lead extraordinary lives.

- 2) Nov. 4th at the Salisbury Rotary Club meeting there will be an update on the Cambodia project from members who have just returned from Cambodia. Open to all & partners.
- 3) Races at Chinchilla on 7th November for those interested, we have about 6 couples from our club attending.
- 4) Our Social evening will be to see "Eurobeat" on the 3rd of December at the Lyric theatre. Enquiries to Bruce or John.
- 5) 14th Nov. Casino Royal a fund raising night for Beefbank put on by Rotary Club of Woolloongabba 3 pm to midnight.
- 6) Check on the net at Shelterbox & follow the destination of our last funded Shelter Box. Number AUS6334.
- 7) Election of office bearers this month - Andrew will be in touch.

News & Rotary News – At Home and Abroad

New coats for children

By Ryan Hyland

Rotary International News -- 30 October 2009

As another U.S. winter approaches, Rotarian Richard Sanford and his Pennsylvania-based nonprofit organization, Operation Warm, are gearing up to provide low-income children with the proper apparel to survive the bitter cold.

In 1998, Sanford, a member of the Rotary Club of Longwood, read a local newspaper article about children suffering in cold weather while waiting for their school bus because they lacked winter coats.

Angered but also inspired, he decided to take action, launching Operation Warm, which works with manufacturers to provide high-quality unused coats to underprivileged children across the United States.

"I couldn't understand how something like this could happen. It broke my heart to see kids freeze they didn't have warm-enough coats," recalls Sanford, the organization's CEO and chair.

Through funds donated by private and corporate partners, Operation Warm collaborates with manufacturers to develop sizes and styles for boys and girls, then distributes the coats to needy children.

For the organization's first project in 1998, Sanford purchased 58 coats with his own money from a department store. He and members of his Rotary club distributed the coats to children in a low income Philadelphia neighborhood. Since then, Operation Warm has provided more than 500,000 new coats to children in 26 states.



Rotary continues to play a crucial role in expanding the fundraising for and distribution of coats, says Sanford. About 60 clubs in the United States have worked directly with Operation Warm, providing more than 25,000 new coats to children.

"Rotary has been phenomenal in our success," says Sanford. "This project truly represents what Rotary is all about: assisting the disadvantaged in our communities."

Kim Fremont Fortunato, president of the organization and a member of the Rotary Club of Wilmington, Delaware, says the quality of the coats is a key difference between [Operation Warm](#) and many other coat drives. "Most of the children we help have never owned a new coat," says Fortunato. "We believe it improves their self-esteem. But most important, the coats we distribute will keep kids warm." Sanford says the organization has found many willing partners because people can relate to the children's plight.

"All around us there are poor children in this country who need assistance," he says. "It's our responsibility to help those who can't help themselves. Seeing the kids' smiles and excitement when they put on their new coats is an incredible experience. This is an enormously powerful project."

Upcoming Events

14th Nov	Casino Royale Charity Event - 755 Stanley St, Woolloongabba. Contact - Woolloongabba@rotary963.org or 0430755045 (Minh)	

Rosters

Duty	4 th November
Chair	Nick Curry
Duty Officer	Neville Blomeley
Fellowship Officer	Stephen Chiang
Vocational or Rotary Talk	Geoff Williams
International Toast	Graeme Stratford
Guest Speaker	

ROTARY GRACE
 Lord, make us more thankful for what we have received;
 Make us more content with what we have;
 And make us more mindful of others who are in need.