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**ROTARY MONTH
MEMBERSHIP &
EXTENSION**

ENGAGE
ROTARY



CHANGE
LIVES

EDITORIAL

By Stephen Bredenkamp

VOLUNTEERISM

When viewing all the complexities and consequences of poverty, one of the issues I face at Rotary as a “capitalist with a conscience” is the problem of knowing whether your projects are really helping. Certainly the immediate beneficiary is being helped, but at what cost to the wider community? These thoughts were highlighted in an article I saw on Bloomberg News, originally printed in Conde Nast Traveller: -Is Volunteerism More Feel-Good Than Do-Good? by Dorinda Elliott - Jul 5, 2013. [<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-05/is-voluntourism-more-feel-good-than-do-good-.html>]

The article has valuable lessons for all on helping the community to help itself. Some excerpts from the article:-

Since the massive earthquake that hit Haiti in January 2010, killing many of her friends and neighbours and more than 250,000 others across the country, Castel has lived in a sweltering tent—every time it rains, water pours through the roof and turns the floor to mud. I am sifting gravel under a broiling sun in Léogâne, 20 miles west of Port-au-Prince, with 11 other American volunteers. We are under the auspices of the Fuller Center for Housing’s Global Builders project, which constructs homes for the needy. (Its founder, Millard Fuller, established Habitat for Humanity.) Each of us has paid \$950, \$400 of which pays for building materials and a Haitian construction team, with the rest going toward our food and dorm accommodations. Working with Grace International, a Haitian Baptist non-profit, Fuller has helped build 13 two-family homes.

At the Grace/Fuller project, though, I am wrestling with the subtle social implications of volunteering. I am heartened by the fact that the Haitian homeowners and we Americans are working side by side. But to my alarm, I learn that the construction work stops each time the Americans depart because of lack of funds—leaving the Haitians waiting around until another group of “saviors” arrives.

These are kind, generous people. So why do I feel uncomfortable? Something is nagging at me, but I can’t quite put my finger on it.

Grace manager Jeune points to a “failed project” down the road, where an American church insisted on building houses next to the church it had partnered with, without addressing the community’s poverty. The houses went up, the volunteers went home, Haitian families moved in, but the residents—with no jobs, little education, and no professional skills—continued to beg for food. “The houses didn’t really change anything,” says Jeune.

While most residents in the Grace/Fuller village don’t have jobs either, the project provides some business training, hygiene education, and a tiny loan program. ***Lesson one: Make sure the project is sustainable and somehow addresses the underlying problem—usually poverty.***

I also hear examples of volunteer programs that imposed themselves—and their values—on the locals, rather than partnering with the community in a way that showed respect for and interest in it. David Diggs, who founded Beyond Borders to fight child slavery in Haiti,

eventually stopped bringing volunteers. "The saddest part for me was seeing how it felt for people in the community to have foreigners come in and ignore the cultural riches. The volunteers saw themselves as rescuing people," he says. **Lesson two: Confirm that the project you join is a true partner with the community and not out to "save" it.**

Long (Scott Long, whose Mission E4 runs an orphanage) forbids volunteers from giving anything away and controls their contact to avoid creating problems. One example: His volunteers disrupted a church community just by being there. After a souvenir shop owner started chatting up the foreign visitors at church, they began to buy trinkets at his shop. When other souvenir sellers figured out how he was getting so much business, they made sure to attend the church too, until the congregation practically doubled in size. "The entire church service became a charade," Long says. **Lesson three: Ensure the project promotes cross-cultural understanding.**

I know that the houses Grace is building could go up without my carpentry skills, but I also know that I am making a real contribution, however small it may be. But not all projects allow participants to do so. Nestora says she visited a turtle conservation program in Costa Rica last year in which local experts walked alongside volunteers, pointing out turtles so the foreigners could "count" them. "The idiocy!" she says. **Lesson four: Check that the project does more than make travellers feel good about themselves.**

In perhaps the worst case, a project can actually create divisions within the community. Diggs saw an American church group open a new school with a meals program. When tuition-paying families moved their children to the new school, the government school, which had been struggling to improve services, had to work even harder for funding. "Good community programs were undermined by the church's compassion and generosity," says Diggs, adding that partnering with the existing school system is a better approach. **Lesson five: Go with a program that has an established track record to minimize chances that the project will make the problem worse.**

A reminder for all Rotarians as we meet and help those less fortunate!

MEETING OF 18 July 2013

ATTENDANCE

Membership:	24
Present:	18
Make Ups:	3
Apologies:	3
Attendance:	75%

Guests: Neda O'Donovan and Anna Bosch from BottomUp, Justin Schonegevel and Ryan Selvaggio, Chantel and Abigail from Retreat Rotaract.

Attendance to Biffy 082 468 7504 or aecon.e@mweb.co.za.

Roche opened the meeting obviously rather hungry and calling for grace up front. Jackie toasted SA and Nelson Mandela. Alan toasted RI and clubs in Egypt who have been "under fire".

Karen welcomed all the young folk visiting and Graham thought that should include him. They were all welcomed with a warm Wynberg welcome. Karen wished those that had just had their birthdays on Monday and reminded Graham that he had an anniversary coming up. Apparently Valda has hurt her hand and is looking for a sit-on-mower. Karen also encouraged everyone to help paint at Victoria Hospital next Sat in lieu of their 67 mins for Mandela Day. The Board meeting will be on Wed 24th. 31 July will be the Retreat Induction with invitations to follow. 1 Aug will be a business meeting. 8 Aug DG Vyy and Kromboom RC will be visiting. 22 Aug will be an additional meeting with Laura addressing the club on her return and providing all her news.

SLOTS

Mike: enquired where the Retreat Induction would be – Southfield Methodist Church. Subs are due and coming in and some have made arrangements. But as dues have just been paid, Mike asked members to make their contributions.

Pam: asked all members to please come and paint at Victoria Hospital on 27 March. Pam is sending around a list. Please list if you are available to help. The more helpers, the quicker it will go.

GUEST SPEAKERS

The first guest speaker of the evening was Mervyn telling us all about his great joy he experienced at St Josephs College when he met up with Neda and Anna. Then he gave us the impressive CV's of Neda and Anna.

Neda and Anna work on a system called WordWorks. This is a bridging programme to bring the kids up to speed with the others in the class using props, games and in their home language – often Afrikaans. They have seen a huge increase in the self-esteem of the children.

Volunteers are paid R20 per session which is sometimes controversial but also keeps their interest up.

Graham thanked Neda and Anna for their informative talk and wished them well.

What a lively meeting. Go FUN club.

PROGRAMME

July 2013	Committee: van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz-Gleave
24 July	Board Meeting
27 July	Christmas in July
31 July	Retreat Rotaract induction
August 2013	Committee: Knight, Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Orsmond, van Eeden
1 August	Business meeting
8 August	Visit by DG Vyv Deacon
9-11 August	Rotaract Conference at Langebaan
15 August	Lesley Gittings, Canadian Ambassadorial scholar on HIV/Aids and Malawi
22 August	Laura Heathfield, report back on Ambassadorial year & Proms hand-overs
29 August	Social & JK Nickell (and wife Kat), Ambassadorial scholar from Dallas, Texas

DUTY ROSTER

DUTY	1 August	8 August	15 August	22 August	29 August
Sergeant	Schreiber	Barnard	Todd	Cleveland	SOCIAL
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	
Wynpress Editorial	Gowdy	Hovstad	Howard	Jackson	
Minutes for Wynpress	Wetmore	Cleveland	Danckwerts	Wetmore	
Compilation of Wynpress	Danckwerts	Wetmore	Cleveland	Danckwerts	
Door Duty	Bredenkamp	Gowdy	Hovstad	Williams	
Grace	Bird	Bredenkamp	Gowdy	Hovstad	
Loyal Toast	Barnard	Bird	Bredenkamp	Gowdy	
International Toast	Danckwerts	Barnard	Bird	Bredenkamp	
Speaker Introduction	N/A		Van Eeden	Van Wyk	
Speaker Thanks	N/A		Vivian	Barnard	

JACKPOT

Looking for the 3♥, and Stephen only managed to find the J♦. The swindle grows. The attendance prize was won by Aubrey.

PRESIDENT'S QUOTES:

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'.

'It always seems impossible until it's done'

'Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies' – *all from Nelson Mandela*

TAILPIECE (for Bev!!)

Why I Like Retirement !

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Two hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

And, my very favorite....

QUESTION: What do you do all week?

Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING..... Saturday & Sunday, I rest.

SERENITY

**These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says,
'For fast relief.'**

**The nice thing about being senile is
you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them.**

**Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman:
'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked...
She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'**

**I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement,
new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes.
I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine,
take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to
blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation;
hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.
Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.**

**I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's
permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.
I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors.
I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by
the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.**

**An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and
told her preacher she had two final requests.
First, she wanted to be cremated, and second,
she wanted her ashes scattered over Wal-Mart
'Wal-Mart?' the preacher exclaimed. Why Wal-Mart?
'Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week'**

THE SENILITY PRAYER :

**Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the
difference.**

Always Remember This:

**You don't stop laughing because you grow old,
You grow old because you stop laughing!**