



## Waunakee Rotary Club

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Waunakee Rotary Club members who traveled to Haiti as part of the Haiti Outreach program told the club of their trip at the club's Feb. 21 meeting.

Tom Reis described the trip with the help of a Power Point presentation. Joining Tom from the Waunakee club were Joyce Maly, Ben Ballweg, Phil Willems, Dan Muxfeld and Bill Erickson.

Tom explained some of the goals of Haiti Outreach, such as drilling fresh-water wells, supplying repair kits, parts and training and constructing latrines. He said so far the project has brought access to fresh water to over 40,000 residents of the Caribbean country.

Haiti, which is located on an island with the Dominican Republic 500 miles from the tip of Florida, has a population of over 8 million people, who inhabit a space roughly the size of Maryland. The average age is 18, Tom said, and the average life expectancy is only 47 years. Also 80 percent of the population is jobless, he said.

In general, Tom said the people are incredibly poor compared to the average American but seeming just as happy. He said people there are not looking to purchase a second car or fancy gadget, only to survive for another day.

The group stayed in a sort of hunting shack, with cold, running water and electricity only until about 9 p.m.

Tom said every day, beside going to the work site, the group would go on a side trip. For example, one day they went to a local orphanage for three hours. Tom said it was tough, especially with a few of the kids because all they wanted was to be held.

Another day, he said, they hiked Mount Pignon. The scenery was fantastic, Tom said, but it was also neat to

see the swarm of people heading to the market on market day.

Haiti trip centered around the construction of a home for a family selected by a local church. The group helped haul rock, shape it, and mix mortar to construct the walls. Tom explained the relative lack of tools they had to achieve their task. To aid them in construction, all that was available was a shovel, a pick axe, the shell of a gourd, a machete, string and a hand saw.

He said the masons shaped the rock with a machete, a pretty difficult task. In fact, when one of the masons let him try it, he'd throw rocks at Tom when he was doing something wrong since they didn't speak the same language.

But the trip wasn't all hard work, as the group got to interact with the locals, especially the kids. Tom said it seemed like every day the number of children that came by to watch grew. It was enjoyable to play different games with them, including duck, duck, goose and the chicken dance, Tom said.

It was also a big benefit to have Phil and Bill on the trip because they had been there before and people remembered them and the work that they did.

The group also showed photos of the completed 22-by-24 house built for a family of nine.

#### In other news:

- Kim Lengfeld is not resigning from the club, as was reported last week, but she is resigning as treasurer.

- The club will again be awarding two Rotary Youth Leadership Award scholarships to a pair of deserving local high school students. Anyone with recommendations should contact Drew Lawrence.

- Club members also have the opportunity to participate in a Rotary

### OFFICERS

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### DIRECTORS

TOM REIS • LORI DERAUF • BILL ERICKSON

### Calendar of Events:

•Super Raffle, March 12.

exchange early this June in Sweden or can wait for a trip to Turkey in November.

Guests: Donna Axel, tuest of Bill Erickson; Kristine Drinke, Raissa de Souza, guest of Lori Derauf; Jeannette Erickson, guest of Bille Erickson; Ben Ballweg, and Costy and Gabby of Romania, and Dawn and Lee Grubb, guests of Ken Ballweg; Brent Neevel, guest of Roberta Baumann; Jody Greiber, guest of James Chancellor.

Visiting Rotarians: Ron Axel, Hopkins, Minn.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: Feb. 28, Kim Wilde; March 6, Pat Durden; March 13, Msgr. Kramer.

Programs: Feb. 28, Ken Anderson, Project Graduation; March 6, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Feb. 28, Daniel Muxfeld, Ed Niebuhr; March 6, Ted Pertzborn, Ken Pesik; March 13, Bob Pulvermacher, Tom Reis.

### Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.