



Waunakee Rotary Club

Oct. 22, 2009
Vol. 43 No. 11

Waunakee families in need have a place to turn, thanks to the Waunakee Neighborhood Connection (WNC), and particularly at Christmas, that organization helps make the holidays a little brighter.

Genna Eaton, one of WNC's founders, described that organization's history and provided some statistics. In December of 2005, Eaton and some of her friends began helping out 12 families in need.

In 2006, the organization found a storefront to house the various donations of clothing, household appliances and toiletries to families in need.

In 2007, WNC volunteers helped to establish the organization as a nonprofit and begin a Web site. At that time, the organization had about 80 clients.

In 2008, the group had its first client meeting, and today, WNC serves 179 clients, Genna said. That means about 500 individuals within those 179 families receive household goods, toiletries and other items from the WNC store.

Genna said the average client is experiencing health issues, has a head of household laid off from his or her job or is facing some other temporary setback. Normally, clients receive WNC services for about 10 months before they move on, she said. On average, about 70 families visit WNC's store per month.

Rotary has been an integral part of WNC, providing funding and support, Genna said.

Now she is hoping that the club or its members' individual families participate in WNC's adopt-a-family program, she said.

WNC developed that program when a third-grade class adopted a

family, and several other classes did the same. WNC obtained lists of wants and needs from its client families, and the classes picked out the gifts. Families remained anonymous. Genna read a letter from one of the families that expressed gratitude not only for toys, but presents like coats, hats, boots and gloves.

Adopt-a-family differs from the area Giving Trees organized by the high school DECA program in that it provides those necessities, as well as fun items.

Genna reminded the club that perhaps the most satisfying part of the holidays comes from giving to others.

And while most of us expect gifts, decorations, trees and holiday meals, that's not the reality for all families in Waunakee.

Other news:

•Phil Willems said he expects the Rotary Lights brochure to be profitable with ad sales faring as well as last year.

•Bill Tygum urged club members to join the club in the Euchre Tournament Nov. 5, noting that so far, only three people had signed up.

•Al Dassow congratulated Gene Smith on obtaining a grant for Rotary from the Alliant Energy Foundation.

Guests: Fr. Mike Tess and Jim Davis, guests of Bill Barlow.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: Oct. 26, Betsy Flanagan.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: Oct. 22, Leonard Allen;

OFFICERS

TOM REIS, PRESIDENT • BRENT ZIEGLER, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

DAN MUXFELD • JOHN CULLEN • LINDA OLSON

Calendar of Events:

- Nov. 5, Euchre tournament at Rex's, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 26, Thanksgiving breakfast
- Dec. 17, Christmas party at Rex's

Oct. 29, Pat Durden; Nov. 5, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Oct. 22, Ben Ballweg on his China experience; Oct. 29, Travis Heiser and Sean Wayne classification talks; Nov. 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Oct. 22, Scott Cochems and John Cullen; Oct. 29, Allan Dassow and Lori Derauf; Nov. 5, Pat Durden and Fritz Durst.

Just for laughs

A seventh grade Biology teacher arranged a demonstration for his class. He took two earth worms and in front of the class he did the following:

He dropped the first worm into a beaker of water where it dropped to the bottom and wriggled about. He dropped the second worm into a beaker of Ethyl alcohol, and it immediately shriveled up and died. He asked the class if anyone knew what this demonstration was intended to show them.

A boy in the second row immediately shot his arm up and said, "If you drink alcohol, you won't have worms."

Make up meetings online

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