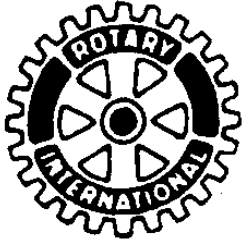


Check our web site – <http://waunakeerotary.org>



Waunakee Rotary Club

Oct. 27, 2005
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Young people from Waunakee's First Presbyterian Church grabbed the opportunity to make a difference in poverty-stricken Mexico this summer.

Youth pastor Robby Olson told Waunakee Rotarians Oct. 20 that 45 young people and 20 adults journeyed to the Tijuana area last July to build four homes.

It was Robby's 13th such mission trip, so he knew the drill. But most of the young people had never done serious construction and had never seen such poverty.

"The poverty is not right," Robby said. "The suffering of these people is terrible. We had an opportunity to make a difference."

Most of the roads in that area are dirt. Electricity is available – on a kind of serve-yourself basis in which people connect their own wires to the transmission lines and string them directly to their homes. Kids attend school until about the third or fourth grades and then go to work.

Families get by on \$70 to \$90 a week.

Robby said that houses are often shacks cobbled together from scraps of plywood, cardboard and sometimes discarded garage doors.

The Waunakee youth group worked with Amor Ministries, based in San Diego, to buy the building materials locally and to arrange with local pastors who would get the new houses. During the eight days, the young people built four small houses on 11-foot by 22-foot cement slabs – about the size of a one-car garage. The walls are framed with 2x4s, wrapped in baling wire, layered with tarpaper and chicken wire and finished with stucco. The structure is a big step

up for many families of five to seven people, Robby said.

During their stay, the Waunakee young people lived in tents, sat around a campfire each night and spent some quiet time reading the Bible. During the days, they worked on the houses, and worked incredibly hard, Robby said.

The house is just part of an outreach to the impoverished families. The local church ministers to the families before and after the construction missions.

"It's not just the house," Robby said.

But the house is important. It gives the family a chance to break the cycle of poverty, perhaps to use their scarce money to send a kid to school for a couple more years.

Other items:

- Kathy Palet received a distinguished service award for her work on the golf outing. The outing raised about \$4,500.

- The club is looking for new ideas to liven up the Santa at the Depot event. Let Greg Garton know if you want to help or if you have ideas. Same goes for Super Bowl Sunday.

Guests: Lily King, guest of Neil King; Katie Kunz, guest of Neil King; Mike Ripp, guest of Roman Ripp; Kim Langfeld, guest of Larry Felsheim.

Visiting Rotarians: None.

Birthdays: Oct. 29, Lori Derauf, Nov. 2, Carlyn Hensen.

Anniversaries: Oct. 30, Amy Gile-Enge and John Enge; Nov. 1, Neil and Lily King.

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Calendar of Events:

Oct. 29, district training

January, Holiday party

Jan. 22, bowling

Prayers: Oct. 27, Larry Felsheim;
Nov. 3, Susan Vergeront.

Programs: Oct. 27, Rick Baas on Social Security Reform; Nov. 3, club assembly, Nov. 10, Jeremi Suri, UW professor on Pearl Harbor attack; Nov. 17, ???; Nov. 24, Thanksgiving, NO MEETING; Dec. 1, club assembly.

Greeters: Oct. 27, Jim Steffenhagen and Sandy Taylor; Nov. 3, Don Tierney and Jon Townley; Nov. 10, Jim Tubbs and Susan Vergeront; Nov. 17, Mary Weber and Kim Wilde.

Inadequate thoughts...

- "Football games turn on things that are done by players."

—sportscaster Willie Miller.

- "I desire what is good. Therefore, everyone who does not agree with me is a traitor."

—George III of England

- "May be harmful if swallowed."

—Warning label on a shipment of hammers

- "Concealed weapon charges filed against nude dancer."

—headline in a La Mesa, Calif., newspaper