



The Spoke

\$2,000 for Moms and Tots



Bobbi and Nancy Ross presented a \$2,000 check for the Moms and Tots Program to **Susan Acuna**, President and CEO of the Literacy Council Gulf Coast.

The Moms & Tots Program focuses on mothers (and other caregivers) and their pre-school aged children. During class, mothers are taught by volunteer tutors, studying basic English language skills. Those who wish to obtain their GED are also taught core subject material. Their children are taught separately, using educational toys and age-appropriate books to learn. At the end of the class, mothers and children are brought together to learn.

Established in 2004 at one location with four mothers and their children, Moms & Tots now operates in eleven locations and served 1,410 mothers and children in 2012-2013. The goal of this program is to empower the mothers by giving them increased communication skills. This enables them to interact with doctors, teachers, and other members within the community. Their toddlers are also taught basic educational skills, to prepare them to enter school at, or above, grade level with their peers. Based on teacher surveys, observations, and assessments, we have determined that 100% of our child graduates have reached this goal. 98% of the mothers expressed their satisfaction with the program.

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Rotary Club of Norman, Oklahoma

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The Rotary Club of Bradenton

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2012-2015

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Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, President; John Mathes, Secretary; Tom Burgess, Treasurer; Fred Partin, Ray Faubion, Stephanie Kissinger, Guy Quinn Trustees

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Bobbi Bird** presided. **Bob Lombardo** delivered the Invocation; **Drew Montez-Clark** led the Pledge of Allegiance; and **Scott Gerrish** recited the 4-Way Test. Fill-in song leader **Jim Dati** led us in singing *Amazing Grace*.

Bobbi's quote-for-the-day was, "Never be late. When you're late what you're saying is that your time is more valuable than the other person's time." Alice Cooper.

Dave Shellenbarger is having knee surgery and **Kathy Fredrickson** is having a hip replacement.

Julie Pedretti, chairman of the *Rotary Has Heart* committee, spoke about the plans for the club's involvement in this campaign.



Committee members are Julie, **Tom Briers**, **Ray Faubion**, and **Kae Moore**. The next event will be participating in packing 500,000 meals for *Holidays Without Hunger* and *Meals of Hope* on December 24th, 9-11 am.

Stephanie Kissenger announced that there will be an election of Board of Director members in December. Please contact Stephanie if you have a nomination.

Steve McIntosh reported that three Bonita Springs schools have been named recipients of the 2013 Five Star School Award, an award that is presented each year to

deserving schools by the Florida Commissioner of Education's Community Involvement Council. This award recognizes schools that have demonstrated exemplary community involvement. The City Council will honor the schools at its the December 4th meeting.

Jon MeLeod, Alternative Fund Raiser, presented the proceeds of last week's contest to Scott Gerrish who picked only 8 winners but had the points tie-breaker.

Bobbi again reminded us of the Boat Parade December 14th. **Gary Murphy** has provided a pontoon boat for the club's entry. The boat will be available for decoration the week before the parade.

Gerry Myers and Bobbi presented **Clara Ann Graham** with a Paul Harris Fellow plus 1



award. Gerry noted she has been an active Rotarian and has faithfully contributed to The Rotary Foundation. In return, Clara Ann presented Bobbi with a flag from Montgomery County, Va. Rotary Club.

Bobbi announced that **John Warfield** has donated \$500 to Shelter Box for the Philippines. **Don Manley** matched that contribution. **Jay Berube** has donated \$2,000 for two boxes.

LAST WEEK'S SPEAKERS

Kae Moore introduced our speakers, **Nancy Ross** and **Sandy Scoggins**. Nancy described our local foundation's mission as to



act as a financial resource for community involvement and assistance. The intention is to focus on education and youth involvement, assistance to the needy and underprivileged, and to provide help with local and international

natural disasters. In addition, the foundation provides financial assistance for civic beautification and community recreation.

Nancy displayed a chart showing the focus of grants was: Education & Literacy 34%, Economic & Community Development 26%; and Maternal & Child Health 14%. The grant distributions have been to Local Project 47%, International 28%, RI programs 14%, and Regional projects 11%.

If you are interested in a grant, prepare a request then submit it to the board which meets monthly. The foundation will give grants of about \$72,000 this year. The foundation, along with the noon club, is committed to \$35,000 of scholarships at Estero High School.

Sandy Scoggins discussed the interaction of the The Rotary Foundation and the District in funding projects and described the World Fund and District Designated Funds and the project scope required for each.

She listed \$1.7 million of projects completed by the club in the last 7 years. The largest project was facilitated by **Wendy Arsenault** and her husband; \$1 million of medical



supplies for Haiti after the earthquake.

Sandy called this, "an absolutely incredible response to the earthquake in Haiti."

Other projects include \$400,000 for clean drinking water in Guatemala, \$120,000 for a water tank for 5 villages, \$50,000 for basic literacy for adults in Boliva. These projects have a partner on the ground in the host country. An example is the Lee County Habitat for Humanity which has a grant from a Polish club partner.

She described the "ThirdThai School Water Project" which will be funded by the club's foundation, District Designated Funds, and the World Fund. There are funding partners from Oregon, Hawaii, Australia, and Japan.

Lombardo Christmas Party
December 7th, 6 pm
3776 Cracker Way
RSVP rjrsmom@comcast.net
or 495-6825



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978, meets every Wednesday at Pelican's Nest Golf Club. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133 or its website www.bonitaspringsrotary.org. **The Spoke**, the Club's official newsletter, is published weekly throughout the year (except when the Club is in recess.) You can reach the Spoke through its email riverchip12-spoke@yahoo.com. Scott Gerrish issue editor.



**"The Fifty-Fifty"
NOW \$1,585
A hopeful Rex Sims
drew the J♣**

to win \$5

**As always..we're
all winners as the
"Fifty-Fifty" helps
keep our club strong
and ready to serve.**

Rotary Sings

O Christmas Tree

**O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
Not only green when summer's here,
But also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging!**

**O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
How richly God has decked thee!
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
How richly God has decked thee!
Thou bidst us true and faithful be,
And trust in God unchangingly.
O Christmas Tree! O Christmas Tree!
How richly God has decked thee!!**



***It's A Birthday
Celebration!***

Greg Holtz Dec 1
Carl Bals Dec 2

Upcoming
Speakers
Today:

**Dr. Wilson
Bradshaw**

FGCU President

**The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.**

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL**
and **BETTER**
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

This Morning's Invocation

Almighty God, by whose grace we have received abundant blessings, by whose love we are embraced, by whose power we are energized for work and service, and in whom we find our ultimate hope, we offer our thanks for all the good things we have experienced in past months, as individuals and as a club.

Keep us from arrogance and unwarranted pride in doing simply what is expected of us as Rotarians.

We are thankful for your sustaining and comforting presence felt by many who have borne burdens and endured heartache.

Continue to minister to all of us in our times of need by giving comfort, strength and hope. Continue also to give us direction and inspiration as we pursue our calling to serve others.

Bless now our togetherness as we enjoy food and fellowship in the context of this Rotary meeting. Amen

