

# Reach Within to Embrace Humanity by District Governor Chuck Hanson August 1, 2011

For the first four months of the Rotary year, our District Governor is visiting each of the 60 Rotary Clubs in our District 6250. And with a District that covers the southwestern third of the state from Chippewa Falls in the north to Prairie du Chien in the southwest to Lake Mills in the east, **Chuck Hanson** is putting on lots of miles.

At today's meeting we had the opportunity to meet Governor Chuck and to hear his inspiring message entitled "*Reach Within to Embrace Humanity*".



To underscore the need for acceptance and understanding, Chuck began by presenting some eye-opening statistics on our world population, including:

- 86% are not American (North, Central and South)
- 70% are non-Caucasians
- 70% are non-Christians
- 11% are homosexuals
- 6% possess 59% of all wealth... all from the USA.
- 80% live in poverty.
- 50% suffer from hunger and malnutrition, and
- 70% are illiterate.

Chuck went on to illustrate our good fortune by pointing out that huge numbers in our world community suffer from ill health, have experienced wars, torture or starvation, do not have the freedom to worship, and do not have the basics of food, clothes and shelter.

Chuck pointed out that as Rotarians, we care about others and have chosen to give of our time and money to serve others. Whatever our passion, there is a way to use Rotary to realize it.

"Service Above Self" could be our theme every year, but for 2011-12, Rotary International



From left: **Sara Antonson**, Club President; **Mandi Wurtzel**, Outbound Exchange Student to Finland; and **Chuck Hanson**, District 6250 Governor

## Mandy Wurtzel Outbound to Finland

Joining us at today's meeting was **Mandi Wurtzel**, our Club's 2011-12 outbound exchange student to Finland. Mandi will be leaving next Saturday (August 6) to begin an adventure that is sure to change her life.

Mandi thanked our Club for giving her this opportunity, shared some information about her host Club and host family, and provided a tray of chocolate chip cookies that she intends to bake when she arrives in Finland. Apparently chocolate chips are a novelty in the Finish diet.

Mandi intends to stay in touch with our Club via her blog and other social media.

Have a wonderful time Mandi.

President **Kalyan Banerjeeit**, from India, is urging us all to "Reach Within to Embrace Humanity". The motivation and determination to serve comes from within, and if we embrace this theme, we can all find ways to serve humanity.

Chuck then used the famous Iditarod dogsled race as a metaphor for how Rotary and Rotarians can be successful in serving others... by charting the course (setting goals and objectives), preparing for the race (training and planning), and running the race (with strong clubs that embrace change).

At our District 6250, the 2011-12 goals include to:

- Enhance our public image and awareness through a District Ethics Initiative, through the use of social media, and by enhancing Rotary's public image.
- Focus on and increase humanitarian service by emphasizing The Rotary Foundation's Annual Programs Fund and the Polio Eradication, multi-Club projects, and Group Study Exchange.
- Support and strengthen clubs through better leadership development, membership development and retention, and the continuation of Club Visioning.

Chuck challenged us as a Club and as individual Rotarians by saying "Don't be afraid to fail; be afraid not to try". Rotary is a remarkable organization. It looks at all the chaos in the world, and while others want to make a lot of noise, Rotary wants to solve problems. Rotary cares about character and has an innate desire to serve others.

Chuck concluded with a quote from RI President Banerjeeit, "You must be the change you wish to see in world". And finally he invited us to attend the 2012 District Conference in LaCrosse, June 8 and 9, to "celebrate what's right in the world".

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