

Rotary Express



Service Above Self

Rotary Club of Harrisonville - Rotary District 6080 - Club 2368

www.harrisonvillerotary.com

April 14, 2010

Kids passionate about raising pennies to fight polio

By Peter Schmidtke

Rotary International News -- 5 April 2010

Tyler Dorsey (right), chair of the Cleveland Better Home Town Junior Board, meets with secretary Lindsey Hutchinson (left) and treasurer Aida Alonso. With the help of friends, 11-year-old Tyler Dorsey is collecting thousands of pennies to help in Rotary's effort to eradicate polio.

After Tyler heard about a man in Alabama, USA, who had cashed in 1.3 million pennies in 2005 for \$13,000 in paper bills, he set out to surpass that feat and give the money to PolioPlus.

Though the children have not reached the million-penny mark yet, Tyler, Aida Alonso, Lindsey Hutchinson, and Connor Smith presented a check in February for \$1,008.04 to Shane Burr, governor of District 6910 (Georgia), and Gary Moore, district PolioPlus subcommittee chair. They will turn another check over to the district after 30 June and plan on continuing to raise funds for polio eradication after that.



The foursome started collecting pennies in July in memory of Wilford Ash, a local educator who had contracted polio as a child. The friends, members of the Better Home Town Junior Board in Cleveland, Georgia, also plan on selling jigsaw puzzles with historic scenes of Cleveland and donating a portion of the proceeds to PolioPlus.

"I've just always wanted to help people," says Tyler, who said he is excited the pennies are helping more than 1,000 children. It costs as little as 60 cents to protect a child against polio.

"Just thinking about people not being able to walk is a very sad situation," says Aida.

To collect the pennies, the children distributed 20 jars and three plastic tubs among downtown businesses. The White County Fire Department donated a 5-gallon bucket of pennies, and White County Rotarians made contributions and picked up some of the containers.

Tyler learned about Rotary through Maria Jurado-Flynn, president of the Rotary Club of White County and executive director of Cleveland Better Home Town. Tyler's father, a police officer, had introduced him to Jurado-Flynn after Tyler expressed an interest in historic preservation. In addition to revitalizing downtown, Cleveland Better Home Town organizes community events, so Jurado-Flynn asked Tyler, then age nine, to chair an autumn festival. He later received permission to create his own junior board and attended several Rotary club meetings.

On his own initiative, Tyler hosted a food drive last year that netted two truckloads of items and \$1,800, including donations from Rotarians.

"He's really fallen in love with what Rotary does, and I really think it's helped shape who he is becoming," says Jurado-Flynn. "It's going to shape what these kids do for the rest of their lives."

Officers and Board Members 2009 - 2010

President: Jim Clayton
 President Elect Gabe Sweitzer
 Secretary Jill Filer
 Treasurer:..... Helen Budinger
 Sgt-at-Arms:..... Jim Corless
 Director:..... Chuck Weedman
 Director:..... Lynn Laffoon
 Director Jeff Sluder
 Past-President Nancy Shelton

MEETINGS

Wednesdays at noon
 The Branding Iron
 in Landmark Plaza

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

Glen Aversman	4/2
Jon Kling	4/3
Tracy Goff	4/12
RJ Knox	4/13
Gerrilyn Raffety	4/13
Judy Franklin	4/15
Sam Styron	4/19
Stacy Davis	4/25

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy Shelton	4/1
Daryl Bohannon	4/23

4 WAY TEST

Is it the truth?
 Is it fair to all concerned?
 Will it build goodwill and better
 friendships?
 Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 14	Carol Looney
April 21	Larry Ritter
April 28	Nancy Shelton
May 5	Board and Classification
May 12	Jeff Sluder
May 19	Laurence Smith

ADD AN EXTRA PRAYER PLEASE

Barbara Bohannon
 Pattie Stryon
 Cindy Greenwell