



Boulder City Sunrise Rotary

"Service Above Self" - He Profits Most Who Serves Best!

The Rotary Wheel October 09, 2008

**2008 ~ 2009
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293-2472**

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In a Perfect World!

Late in the 1970s Americans began noticing more people sleeping in public places, wandering the streets with their possessions in shopping bags, rooting through garbage bins in search of food or cans, and asking for handouts. By 1981, when Ronald Reagan took office, a small group of activists had given these people a new name—"the homeless"—and had begun to convince the public that their plight was a serious one. Later that year America entered its worst recession in half a century, and the homeless became far more numerous. At that time, many people saw this as a temporary problem that would vanish once the economy recovered, that might have happened, *in a perfect world!* More and different drugs and more alcohol began to enter the picture almost overtaking the joblessness.



In various areas today, homeless persons and their children often need basic survival provisions, medication, food, clothing, blankets and, of course, housing, or at least a place to stay out of the rain, freezing weather or hot sun here in Southern Nevada. Many women and children are homeless, in addition to older people, the depressed and mentally ill, teenage runaways and many people of both genders who have been unemployed for a long time, abandoned by their families, asked to leave their homes and lost status in society. Displaced disaster victims and those fighting for our freedoms in the military also came home and now may live in tents or temporary shelters with minimal subsistence. Those who have been caught up in drugs and alcohol or otherwise what seemed like a hopeless situation are wondering the streets during the daytime and sleeping in the elements under bushes and in doorways at night.

I announced at a recent meeting that Project Homeless Connect to be held October 8 at Cashman field was seeking donations of books. From our *perfect world*, we joked, "Are you looking for books on self improvement, motivation, how bout marketing your business, a recipe book, how to sell real estate or where to invest your money? They will just take the books down the block and sell them for a quarter."

I was humbled to realize that on a Sunday afternoon someone was not able to just pick up a book and sit on the patio or lay in the park and read. And felt sometimes we need to look outside our own beautifully decorated 4 walls. I decided I would put time and thought to support this project. Some of these people were intelligent but just fell on hard times. Reading is a luxury to the homeless, How do you shut off your mind? From *my perfect world*, I wanted to reach inside the life of someone else and extend words of hope that may only be found in a book.

I imagined a homeless and hopeless woman with all the emotions that are real, just like mine, reading a love story about someone who was loved and successful in relationships while leading a nice middle class life and being able to sit down to a nice meal she had prepared herself for her family. I imagined a child, yes there are children on the street and in the shelters, reading the book about Goldie the golden retriever that my granddaughter Taylor just sent me.

Harold and I took 85 books over to be used. I wish I had the day available to help hand books out. I am hoping in a small way to reach someone in a world I am not part of. I think



Visit our website www.bcsr.org Make-Up www.rotaryEclubone.org

Dear Sunrise Rotarians ~

On behalf of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs and Division of Museums and History, we would like to thank you for your recent donation of the club car that you co-purchased for the Nevada State Railroad in Boulder City. It is the goal of this office and board to help make the Railroad Museum in Boulder City something that everyone can be proud of. Therefore, your efforts to support the ongoing programs of the Museum and the Nevada Southern Railway are truly appreciated by everyone involved.

Thanks to your generous community support, our volunteer members can more easily traverse the sprawling Museum site within their new club cart and help alleviate the use of the own personal vehicles.

Michael Fischer, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs.

From the Mailbox



Once again we would like to thank you for allowing our participation in your event!! You held an awesome event again this year! We really appreciate it!

Thanks
Shea & Jason Stephens
Giggles
(\$125 donation)

SHARING ROTARY WITH NEW MEMBERS

Are you aware of the responsibility or obligation most Rotarians fail to perform? Paying their dues? Attending meetings? Contributing to the club service fund? Participating in club events and projects? No-none of these!

Of all the obligations a person accepts when joining a Rotary club the one in which most Rotarians fail is "sharing Rotary." The policies of Rotary International clearly affirm that every individual Rotarian has an "obligation to share Rotary with others and to help extend Rotary through proposing qualified persons for Rotary club membership." It is estimated that less than 30 percent of the members of most Rotary clubs have ever made the effort to propose a new member. Thus, in every club, there are many Rotarians who readily accept the pleasures of being a Rotarian without ever sharing that privilege with another qualified individual.

The Rotary policy on club membership states: "In order for a Rotary club to be fully relevant to its community and responsive to the needs of those in the community, it is important and necessary that the club include in its membership all fully qualified prospective members located within its territory" One merely has to glance through the yellow pages of the local telephone directory to realize that most clubs have not invited qualified members of all businesses and professions into Rotary

Only a Rotarian may propose a customer, neighbor, client, supplier, executive, relative, business associate, professional or other qualified person to join a Rotary club. Have you accepted your obligation to share Rotary? The procedures are very simple, and everyone must know at least one person who should belong to Rotary!



We will be working on a Membership Drive soon!

Take time now to jot down those you think may be prospective members that you would enjoy working with and fellowshiping with. If you would like to be on the Membership Committee to possibly plan a Wine and Cheese event ~ please make it known!