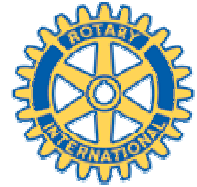


Rotary District 6080 Newsletter

District Governor Don Brackhahn



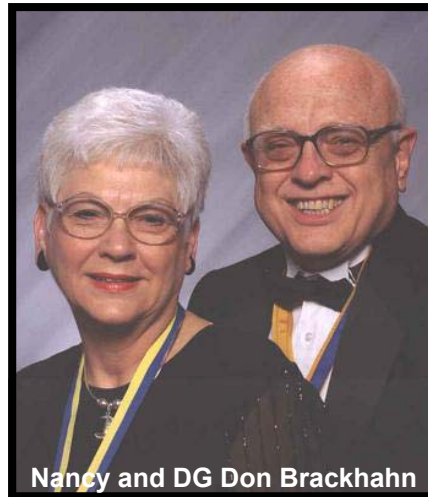
SERVICE Above Self

July, 2005

Vol. 5 No. 1

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Nancy and DG Don Brackhahn

Springfield Rotary Clubs Donate \$70,000.00

Several organizations split the money raised at an annual event held at Bass Pro.

*Story by Jennifer M. Phelps
Springfield News-Leader*

Vera Gibbons will never forget a letter she received four years ago. On a plain piece of notebook paper, a young boy wrote: "You helped keep me and my brother together." *cont. page 2*

Welcome to the first year of the second century of Rotary! My wife Nancy and I have had a great time during July visiting many of our clubs in District 6080. We've been impressed with the diversity of the clubs in our part of Missouri. We have been to large club and small clubs, clubs that have older members and clubs with younger members, clubs that have had mostly Rotarians that have been in Rotary for many years and those made up of fairly new members of Rotary. There are two things that stand out about all the clubs that we've visited- the hospitality (friendliness) of the club members and the members enthusiasm about our Rotary .

Since I have only been to 16 clubs, I'm looking forward to continually being energized by my visits to our other clubs in the district in the next two months. I will try to express what our RI president, Carl Wilhelm Stenhammer, is trying to accomplish this coming year with his Service Above Self Theme and the goals he hopes that we Rotarians will accomplish.

I'm sure that when you received your July issue of the Rotarian when you became even more aware that this month of July is LITERACY MONTH for Rotarians and there are many projects in our world that Rotary and you are involved with to make reading and understanding the written word possible for those less fortunate than you and I.

We do need to continue to make membership in Rotary grow in our clubs so that the ideals and principles of our organization are spread throughout our communities. You'll note that the month of August is Rotary **MEMBERSHIP MONTH**. I hope that I will see many of you at the Membership Seminar on August 13th at the Osage National Golf Course. Many of you will be there to gather ideas about how to recruit new members and retain current members, while others will be there to share their successes in membership growth . But we will all be there to share Rotary with one another and hopefully to bring new members into the Rotary World.

- Don Brackhahn, DG
Service Above Self



Jefferson City Clubs Centennial Park Project

The Missouri Capitol City Rotary Clubs (Jefferson City) recently showed off their Centennial project to DG Don and Nancy Brackhahn. The pocket park is located at the entrance to the old Missouri River Bridge with views of the new bridges, the Missouri River and Missouri's State Capitol Building.

The club's are Jefferson City, Evening, Breakfast and West. The combined effort was dedicated at the July 4th celebration in Jefferson City.

Did you know that

- the DG visit schedule
- the 6080 Directory
- the District Officers
- the 6080 Committee Chairs
- the ability to do attendance
- the forms for Grants
- the GSE/RFE status

and
tons more information
are at www.rotary6080.org?

He went on to say thanks for new clothing, food and a safe place to live. "It made me cry," Gibbons recalled. "It touched me so much."

Gibbons received the letter — now tucked away in a keepsake box — after she and fellow Rotary Club members raised nearly \$6,000 for Springfield's Boys and Girls Town, where the brothers were then living.

The money came from a barbecue festival called Rock'n Ribs, which Springfield's Rotary Club began in 2000 as a way to help increase the service ability of local charities, like Boys and Girls Town.

The event is held at Bass Pro Shops headquarters store and draws approximately 15,000 visitors annually, said Steve Scott, a Rotary Club member since 1978.

Barbeque teams travel from across a six-state area to show off their skills over two days for cash prizes totaling \$5,000. Money raised from admission, food and alcohol sales, as well as sponsorships, is divided equally between chosen charities, ones that collectively supply at least half of the festival's 900 volunteer workers each year.

This year, Springfield's Boys and Girls Town, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks, Good Samaritan Ranch, the Ozarks Trails Council of Boy Scouts of America and Ronald McDonald House Charities split \$70,000 — the most money Rotary Club has raised since the festival's inception.

"Our objective every year ... is to try to increase the number of sponsorships by 20 percent," Scott said. "We increased it 40 percent this year, and that's pretty unbelievable. I'm just thrilled to death."

When Lisa Slavens, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks, heard she'd be receiving a check for \$13,500 she couldn't believe it. With school starting soon, the extra money comes at a sweet time for Slavens. The group sponsors an after-school mentoring program for at-risk youth in 14 Springfield elementary schools.

Last year, the organization helped 254 kids, 90 percent of whom showed an improvement in reading, math or spelling, Slavens said. "It's important to the school that students test well, but the fact that a child can suddenly read better is immeasurable," she added.

As president and chief executive officer of Ronald McDonald House Charities, Bonnie Keller will use her chunk to keep the Care Mobile, otherwise known as the Tooth Truck, rolling along with a full load of supplies. The Tooth Truck provides free dental care to students who qualify for Medicaid or their school's free or reduced lunch program.

Since the truck was first gassed up in July 2002, 10,000 appointments have been scheduled. If those patients had visited traditional dentists, who charge for service, they would have amassed an estimated \$2.2 million in medical bills, said Craig Rechkemmer, Tooth Truck dentist.
