



A Special Trip to the Mayan Families Project

The program for the day was split between a report on a group's recent trip to *Tierra Linda, Guatemala*, to visit the work of *Mayan Families*, www.mayanfamilies.org, and *Steve Sandbo's* report on annual fundraiser developments.

A group of club members visiting Guatemala gained understanding and camaraderie during their trip. Each gave us some insight about his or her experience.

The organization we are working with in this region is *Mayan Families*, a small non-profit group operating in the Highlands of Guatemala. The group lives and works in the Lake Atitlan region and sponsors education and community programs.

Brian Hall (top right) reported at the outset that a contingent is forming to undertake a major project there, but not to the detriment of other programs we support.

Brett Gruss (center, right), a relatively new member of the Club, commented that the trip generated much camaraderie among a diverse group of members of the Club. He was impressed with the *Mayan Families*

experience and mentioned the great opportunity to have an impact with only 30% of the population over 15 years of age being literate.

Dan Roe (bottom right) mentioned that our Club can designate funds for a specific purpose and we can be confident that they would be spent for that purpose and not used for general administrative purposes.

Ginny Barney (below) was impressed that our Club was initiating this project. She mentioned the *Mayan* people are very gracious and the organization, *Mayan Families*, in particular knows how to welcome volunteers and deploy their skills. Some other Americans spend the winter there and share their skills.

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Notes & Announcements

Herb Gillen announced that he is looking for advertising sponsors to help underwrite the costs for a Rotary insert

in the *Upper Arlington News*.

J.D. Dickerson announced the pending deadline to mail pen pal letters.

Bill Mielke is back after surgery and expressed his appreciation for the Club's support.

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Mayan Families (continued)

GINNY also was taken by the women's artistry with beads and weaving. Mayan Families provides microloans to women who start businesses that help support their families.

DAVE DEWEY (below, left) mentioned that the Mayan people are very hardworking and have very few resources. He sees lots of opportunities to help with the elementary

school and clean water needs. He also thinks there is a possible broader coordination with other groups in our community.

BOB LONG (below, center) finished the report of the travelers by mentioning that it helps to step away from our local needs to have a broader perspective. He also thought that we needed a challenge like this to unite

the Club and it was time to make a major commitment.

TIM HALL, (below, right) who was not part of the trip, has been involved with many other medical/dental related projects in Guatemala over the years. He mentioned that the Mayan people do not speak Spanish and the effort to teach Spanish to all the children would be extremely beneficial.



Greeters

March 22
John Gardner and Brett Harper

March 29
Jim Winfree and Bill Adams

April 5
TBA

Registration Desk

March 22
Joe Ray and Brad Frick

March 29
Ted Schindler and Wendell Ellenwood

April 5
Dick Stone and Dick Henry

Calendar

March 22
Debbie Bower, Chair of the Board, and Sue Ralph, Executive Director, Upper Arlington Community Foundation. Host: Mike O'Sullivan

March 29
Joe Bull, Senior VP for Community Engagement & Tom Hof, Chief Philanthropy Officer of The Columbus Zoo: The Effect of New Exhibits in 2010 and What is on the Horizon for Next Year. Host: Linda Ready

April 5
Dublin Jerome Jazz Band. Host: Dee Holcomb

Our Annual Fundraiser



STEVE SANDBO reminded us that the fundraiser will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 at the Woody Hayes Athletic Center. This will give those attending an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes tour of the \$35 million addition to the facility. This is an extraordinary opportunity to invite visitors to see parts of the facility that only recruits are shown. **STEVE** mentioned that there will be six buffet lines and three bars so everything should move along quickly. He also mentioned that we will not be taking consignment items, so 100% of all auction proceeds go to the Club. He encouraged everyone to think of things we spend money on and to request donations from those persons. He also encouraged everyone to R.S.V.P. early because we cannot accommodate last minute sign-ups this year.

The Meeting

Brian Hall, ran the meeting in **Dave McCurdy's** absence.

Milt Lustnauer recognized visiting Rotarians **Tara Grove** (Lancaster) and **Mike Roth** (Cincinnati).

Kip Greenhill introduced his guest, **Emily Greenwald**, the assistant principal at the high school.