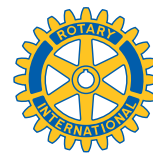


EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

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Last Week Esther turns 40. Should I just end the newsletter with that? :D



Young Paul Harris sprinted in last week.

Ted Crawford hand mentioned to Frank if he could some day do a younger version of Paul Harris. So we still had the hat and glasses, but with gym shorts and no cane.

Frank "Paul Harris" Douglas presented Paul Harris Fellowships last week.

John Bridges has his +4. Terry and Tom got their +5 (they're both sustaining members), Michelle Bechtold was gifted a Fellowship by Terry Emery, Yvette Heryford was gifted by an anonymous donor, and Beth Pent accepted her first from Susan Utterback.



Ashley and Sheb introduced us to the Red Sweater Project, having presented just the day before to a Rotary club in Florida.

Ashley Holmer went to a rural Tanzanian village for a year in 2005 to coaching soccer and teaching. During that year she lived and worked among the Maasai people with no electricity or running water.

Not only had this community never seen a woman playing competitive sports, they'd never seen one in shorts.

She immersed herself in local customs, attended rite of passage ceremonies, and became fluent in Swahili.

By the end of that first year, she was asked to start a school in a nearby community.

Polygamy is common in many villages. So multiple wives means a whole lot of children.

As for education, they have the opposite problem as we do. Teacher truancy is a significant problem there.

It is common for five students and three students to share a pencil. And the school structures are in terrible disrepair.

About 10% of Tanzanian students graduate high school. As of 2008, on a chart of girl students age 19, Tanzania and Niger didn't even register.

Boys begin working at 7th grade and girls start raising families.

But Ashley has noticed the rate of return on educational investment is higher among females than males because girls are more likely to reinvest what they've learned in their own communities.

An educated daughter also gives the mother hope that there is something better out there for their daughters.

"We don't build schools to make ourselves feel good," Ashley says. "We build them because communities ask us to."

In Africa, primary school is subsidized. But secondary school costs \$500 US / year. And when a family's average daily income is \$2.00 a day, there are choices to be made who gets that investment.

Red Sweater Project levels that playing field sending over 400 kids to secondary school every year.



Sheb's grandmother kept chickens and goats in the house. Not for them but for caring for the sick in their community.

Sheb met Ashley during break at school, got involved with Red Sweater Project, and is now its operations manager.

Why red? Because Tanzania has uniform requirements, red symbolizes coming alongside, and it aligns with traditional tribal colors of reds and blues.

Ashley says, "I don't go tell people what to do with their children. That rarely goes well. But opportunity changes lives."