

January 18, 2010

This Week's Program
Bemidji Gymnastics Club – Pam Gregg
Next Week's Program
Lake Bemidji Pond Hockey Classic – Bret & Derek Leach

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DISTRICT 5580 CONFERENCE –

May 13-16, 2010 **Winnipeg, Canada**

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION –

June 20-23, 2010 **Montreal, Quebec**

UPCOMING FEB PROGRAMS

Feb 1	Celebrate Kindness – Warren Larson
Feb 8	Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packet Event – Steve Hostetter
Feb 15	Friends of the Library – Sharon Giesen

RECENT VISITING ROTARIAN

Steve Dekrey, Hong Kong

DRAGON BOAT SPONSORS

Even though the Dragon Boat Festival is 8 months away, the committee is already working hard to make this year another success. They are looking for more major sponsors for the festival. Radio, newspapers, television – what an excellent way to enhance your marketing for this year! Contact **Amy Saeland, Gary Johnson** or **Shelly Geerdes** if you are interested in being a major sponsor.

GSE TEAM FROM JAPAN

As most of you know, Bemidji will be a hub for the inbound GSE Team from Japan. This means we will have the team from April 22 through April 30.

During this time, we will need to provide host homes for the team for six nights. The host stays will be split so each host family would have a team member for three nights. This means we will need 10 host families for the following nights:

April 22, 23, 26 (Thursday, Friday & Monday)

April 28, 29, 30 (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

I encourage all of you to consider hosting one of the five team members. They are all very nice and do speak some English, most very well. Please contact **John Reff, Gary Johnson** or **Evonne McKinzie** should you decide to be a host family. There is not a great deal you need to do with a team member, other than provide them with breakfast and an evening meal. They will be interested in your family and culture. It might also be fun to make arrangements with other host families to meet for dinner or some other activity in the evening.

THE ShelterBox PROGRAM

Since its inception in 2000, ShelterBox has provided shelter and dignity following over 100 disasters in more than 63 countries, bringing the organization to the forefront of international disaster relief. ShelterBox instantly responds to earthquake, volcano, flood, hurricane, cyclone, tsunami or conflict by delivering boxes of aid. In many cases “ShelterBoxes” have made the difference between life and death.

Each “ShelterBox” supplies an extended family of up to 10 people with a tent and lifesaving equipment to use while they are displaced or homeless. The contents are tailored depending on the nature and location of the disaster, with great care taken sourcing every item to ensure it is robust enough to be of lasting value. Highly trained ShelterBox Response Teams distribute boxes on the ground, working closely with local organizations, international aid agencies and Rotary clubs worldwide. The cost of one Shelter Box is \$1,000.

For more information about Shelter Box, you can visit their website at www.shelterbox.org and learn more. There is also information available from the HOME page of the Rotary International Website at www.rotary.org.

EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

ShelterBox is responding to the scenes of destruction in Haiti. A ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) with members David Eby from Tennessee and Wayne Robinson of Georgia from the USA and Mark Pearson from the UK are on their way to Haiti right now. A 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the Caribbean island of Haiti at close to 2200 GMT on Tuesday, January 12. Initial reports state that thousands of people are dead or have been left homeless.

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ROTARY STATISTICS AS OF 6/30/09

Rotary Members: 1,234,527; Clubs: 33,790

Rotaract Members: 178,043; Clubs: 7,741

Interact Members: 278,231; Clubs: 12,097