

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ROTAGRAPH

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas

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Editorial

A Season for Giving



Tran Trong

The United Way of America uses “*The Common Good Forecaster*” (www.liveunited.org/forecaster/) to measure the conditions of our society in education, income and health; the building blocks to a good life in this country. Using 1998 as a base year, this index peaked in 2000 at 100.6. By 2006, it had declined to 93.1. Yet the total US charitable giving for 2007 reached an all-time high of \$ 314.5 billion and only suffered a slight dip in 2008.

So is it not so much the lack of giving but how the funding has been focused and the results measured that have made the difference? There’s great news: the new Tarrant County United Way’s focus is exactly on those three important factors: education, income and health plus an important criterion: All impact results

must make a measurable difference in the community.

It’s been proven that the level of education a person achieves by adulthood affects not only his income and his health but also his tendency to commit crimes and be involved in risky behaviors throughout his life. The ability for a family to earn a living wage affects the education of its members and their health. The degree of wellness, in turn, affects a person’s or a family’s ability to pursue education and to earn a decent income. The three factors are interrelated yet they must be focused individually to seek improvement.

The United Way of America has set some ambitious goals: cutting the high school drop out rate in half by

2018; reducing the number of financially unstable families to 18% in the same period; and increasing by one-third the number of healthy people, youth and adults, who avoid risky behaviors.

The Tarrant County United Way is studying these big audacious goals with the help of three Strategic Design Groups of citizen volunteers and experts whose task is to help think through what we need to do locally. While the goals for our community may not be perfectly aligned with the United Way of America goals or quite as audacious, they will certainly be significant. President Tim McKinney will brief Rotarians on the hoped for outcomes and measurements in April 2010 once the design work is completed.

So in this, the giving season of the year, please take a good look at the United Way and remember always to give, advocate and volunteer.

— *Tran Trong*

Program

November 13, 2009

SPEAKER:

Ed Wallace,
Automotive Columnist
Star Telegram

FORT WORTH CLUB

Chairman for the Day:
J.R. Labbe

NEWSCAST: *James Holcomb*

Last Meeting



Bob Gill

District Governor John Miller spoke to us on the theme of "The Future of Rotary Is In *Our* Hands," his slight variation of the slogan appearing on the lapel pin given to each member present. After an introduction by President *Sid Johnston*, and before uttering a word, John received a standing ovation from the members in appreciation of his extensive service to Rotary.

In his opening remarks, John set out the essentials required for a good Rotary club, noted that the Rotary Club of Fort Worth meets all of these qualifications and commended us for our community involvement. He pointed out that the Rotary Club of Fort Worth organized 62 of the 64 clubs comprising our District. Only our own Club and Cleburne were not organized by the Rotary Club of Fort Worth. John then quickly launched into a video presentation summarizing the numerous activities that our

own District 5790 supports. More information on District 5790 activities, including the District's strategic plan, can be found on its excellent website, www.rotary5790.org.

There was a special presentation of checks by *Robert Holt* on behalf of the Club. Cassata High School received \$1,000 to support the Adolescent Literacy and Fundamental of Reading Program, Families for Effective Autism Treatments received \$2,000 to purchase educational materials for the FEAT-NT Resource Center and Library and Breakthrough at Fort Worth Country Day received \$2,000 to support the participation of 170 underserved Fort Worth ISD middle school students for the Breakthrough program. *Barbara Lamsens* of the Parenting Center presented the Blue Badge presentation, Second Readings and the introduction of a new member.

Lewis Wall of Bourland, Wall and Wenzel delivered the invocation. *Cathy Neece Brown* of Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests. Steve Stripling from Anchorage, Alaska was deservedly the long-distance Rotarian for the week. *Gary Grant* of UNT Health Science Center gave us an entertaining newscast.

~ *Bob Gill*,
Tarrant Co. Criminal DA's Office

Next Week's Program

November 20

SPEAKER:
Antonio Leal,
Texas Ranger Senior Captain,
DPS

Chairman of the Day:
Dan Earl Duggan

ROTARIAN: Gyna Bivens

ROTARIAN: Tonya Veasey

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Friday's Speaker Personals



Ed Wallace

Fort Worth resident Ed Wallace is a recipient of the Gerald R. Loeb Award for business journalism, given by the G. and R. Loeb Foundation, and is a member of the American Historical Society. His column leads the *Star-Telegram's* "Sunday Drive" section. He reviews new cars every Friday morning at 7:15 on Fox Four's *Good Day*, contributes articles to BusinessWeek Online and hosts the top-rated talk show *Wheels* Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 570 KLIF.

Years of Service:

Ben Baker, 45 Years

Tom Wright, 34 Years

Mike Baylor, 29 Years

David Dubois wonders, "do our children ever really leave home for good? Our 26 year old son moved home for a year and now is in grad school out west. Our 25 year old daughter is moving home from Dallas in December and our TCU Senior graduates in May. Now I know why my wife suggested that we get a larger house in Fort Worth than I thought we needed. It is great to have them around though." And *David* is just now learning about the most effective phrase in a marriage, "Yes, dear?" *Marlene Beckman* is the new chairman of ABCD, Associated Businesses of the Cultural District. Debra and *Dan Barrett* just returned from two weeks in Paris (France, not Texas) with a small side trip to Caen in Normandy. "Wonderful weather, wonderful traveling companion, wonderful time." And that's without going to Paris, Texas! *Susan Blue* recently received the Gold-Headed Cane Award from the Tarrant County Medical Society, elected by her peers as their mentor in terms of leadership, scientific practice of medicine, and ethical practice, etc. The Society represents over 2,000 of the 3,000 physicians in Tarrant County. This honor is the highest that one can receive as a physician in Tarrant County. And now that the Medical Society building is completed at the

corner of Hemphill and Pennsylvania (you should drive by and see it) and her six-year role as chair of that project is over, *Susan* is on the Mayor's Advisory Council for the Homeless. *Ames Fender* is celebrating 20 years in business and looking forward to 20 more.

~Robert Fernandez

Make-Up Attendance

Fort Worth East — 11.02.09 — Emil Friberg

Western Fort Worth — 11.03.09 — Clem Constantine
Harry Knudsen

ROTARIAN: Joan Trew

ROTARIAN: Bo Soderbergh

ROTARIAN: Nina Petty

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What is a VET?



Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg, or perhaps another sort of inner steel. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

So...what is a vet?

It is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating 2 gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

It is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

It is the POW who went away one person and came back another, or didn't come back at all.

It is the parade riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and metals with a prosthetic hand.

It is the three anonymous heroes in the Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National

Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes.

It is the person bagging groceries at the supermarket who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wished all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

It is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being, a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have ever been awarded.

~Father Denis Edward O'Brien,
USMC

ROTAGRAPH

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Dennis Shingleton	Bo Soderbergh
Kathryn Thompson	Tran Trong
Doug White	

ROTAGRAPH

Drew Martin Editor

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Robert Gleason Last Meeting
Paula Parrish Advertising
Betty Harvey Personals
Pat Dohoney New Members
Drew Martin Editorials

End of Year Giving

As you begin your year-end giving, the Rotary Club's board of directors hopes that you will include the Rotary Children's Fund and the Endowment Fund of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth in your charitable budget. With your help, we are able to help organizations such as Communities in Schools, Families for Effective Autism Treatments, The Women's Center, Cassata High School, Hugworks, The Learning Center of North Texas and Break-through at Fort Worth Country Day School.

Donations may be made in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one also. This Club has a rich history of helping to make life better for those in our community. Your generosity and service make this possible.