

CROSSROADS

Orrville Rotary

CLUB #1488 • CHARTERED 5/26/23 • P.O. BOX 282 • ORRVILLE, OH 44667

July 22, 2008

**Meeting located at
Dunlap Community Hospital**

Program today- Nadine Landaw presents a program concerning the Alice Noble Ice Arena

Greeter- Jon Ritchie

Last Meeting: Leslie Picot presented a program concerning literacy and new technology that is available at the Orrville Public Library. There are new audio books that require a battery and earphones that can be placed around the neck to listen to in the car, work, or while doing household chores. She explained that there were also books available for download on the website. She completed the program with a few selections of books.

Upcoming Meetings

- July 29:** Jon Ritchie presents
Greeter- Ken Vansickle
- August 5:** District Governor's Visit
Meeting will be held at Mennonite Mutual
Greeter- Tony Rohrer
- August 12:** Tony Rohrer presents
Greeter- Becky Jewell
- August 19:** Becky Jewell presents
Greeter- Steve Flack
- August 26:** Steve Flack presents
Greeter- Lynn Horner

July Birthdays



Don Smart	07-07
Sally Perry	07-08
Tom Troyer	07-24

Friendship Meals will be this Thursday

We need more volunteers!



July 24, 2008:

Sally Perry Leslie Picot
Amberly Wolf

Neighboring Clubs Meeting Dates

- Wooster** – Monday at 12:00 p.m. at the Wooster YMCA, 680 Woodland Avenue
- Rittman** – Thursday at 12:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 211 N. Metzger Avenue.
- Dalton** – Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 204 W. Main Street.

News from the Rotary website

www.rotary.org

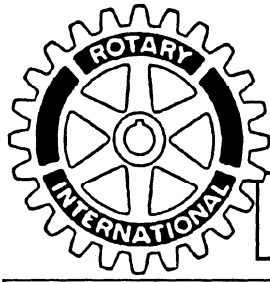
New library brings Internet to Haitian community

By Arnold R. Grahl
Rotary International News -- 17 July 2008



The Internet has come to a small island off the coast of Haiti thanks to an international Rotary club effort and an [Interact](#) fundraiser.

Three Rotary clubs -- Port-au-Prince, Haiti; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Skidaway Island, Savannah, Georgia, USA -- and the Commonwealth School Interact Club of San Juan partnered to fund construction of a library in Matenwa on the island of La Gonave, Haiti. A Rotary Foundation [Matching Grant](#) helped furnish the library with laptops, books, and furniture.



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The library adds on to the Matenwa Community Learning Center. *Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of San Juan, Puerto Rico.*

Even though the island has no electricity or running water, solar panels on the library roof power laptops, which connect to the Internet through satellite.

Every week, 236 students at the adjacent Matenwa Community Learning Center use the library, which also serves as a resource for La Gonave's more than 7,000 residents, who live in extreme poverty.

"We were looking for a project where we could build relationships," explains Wells Hood, of the Skidaway Island club. "This was a great opportunity for us to make a lasting legacy."

Hood paid a visit to San Juan in 2005-06, during which he and then-San Juan club president John Richardson hit it off, discovering their clubs had much in common.

"We outlined a multicountry strategy that identified Haiti as one of five countries where we wished to make an impact," Richardson said.

Caribbean focus

After two other projects together in the Caribbean, the clubs turned their focus to Matenwa. The San Juan club had previous community service experience in Haiti, and

the Interact club it sponsors holds a fundraiser for Haiti each year, which the club matches. The Interact members collected more than US\$7,000 in 2006-07.

About that time, Richardson met Chris Low, co-director of the Matenwa Community Learning Center, who explained her community's desire to build a library. The Port-au-Prince Rotary club served as host club for a \$13,500 Matching Grant to equip it.

"Wells and I complemented each other enormously," Richardson says. "He was able to outline the strategy, while I put together the grant."

Members of the project team made a site inspection and certification visit in November.

"From the moment we set foot in Port-au-Prince to the second we boarded our returning flight, I had the opportunity to meet Haitians, Rotarians, humanists, and leaders from all walks of life," Richardson says. "It was the sense of dignity, pride, and purpose that the people of Matenwa shared with us that really stood out. My life is forever changed as a result of this experience."

The clubs are hoping the library will serve as a model for other schools on La Gonave.