

## RCM Scholars and Mentors Connect at Scholarship Brunch

By Liz Keuler

On January 4th, our RCM scholars gathered with their parents and mentors at the Pfister for brunch to connect and share lessons and experiences from the last semester.

Markesha Parker, a senior at UW-Platteville planning to graduate in December with an industrial engineering degree, was one of our first class of scholarship students. Markesha provided the “keynote” address at the brunch, and told the crowd it was through hard work and dedication, along with “the endless help of the Rotary Club and the tremendous support and love from her mentors,” that she was able to share her experiences as a successful student. Markesha’s three key lessons were:

1. Never give up.
2. Get involved on campus.
3. Study, study, study.

Truly, Markesha has taken to heart the advice of her mentors!



RCM Scholar Markesha Parker speaks at a Scholarship Brunch.

After brunch and Markesha’s words, scholars split off into smaller groups for discussion, as did groups of parents and mentors. Groups were provided with questions focused on the mentor-scholar relationship, and after discussion reported back to the larger group.

Parents and mentors agreed to the importance of working

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## Arboretum a MANDI Award Finalist

In December, the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum was named a finalist for the Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation (MANDI) - “the Oscars of the Community Development World.” Sponsored by U.S. Bank, in partnership with LISC Milwaukee, the MANDIs recognize individuals, organizations, and corporations who are improving conditions in Milwaukee’s central city neighborhoods.

The Arboretum was nominated for the Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award, which recognizes a public space that helps build the community. Other finalists include Three Bridges Park and Journey House Packers Football Stadium.



MANDI jurors on a snowy walk in the Arboretum during the site visit.

On January 17th, 12 jurors visited the Arboretum for a 45 minute program on the history of the project and its community benefits. Jurors watched the video produced by Midland Video for the Arboretum opening, then heard from project partner and beneficiaries, including President Kathie and Urban Ecology Center Executive Director Ken Leinbach. Finally, jurors took a snowy walk through the arch to the top of the hill to see the beauty of the Arboretum firsthand.

Winners will be announced at a gala on Wednesday, April 9th, at the Pfister Hotel - all Rotarians are encouraged to attend! Tickets will be on sale soon. Contact the Rotary office for more information. ☺

## Rotaracters Attend 2013 Rotary Day at the United Nations

*By Jennifer Hays, Rotaract Milwaukee*

I have never been more proud to be a part of Rotaract than I was on Saturday, November 2nd. Thanks to the generous support of a stipend provided by the A.D. Robertson Fund for the United Nations, a fund within the RCM Community Trust, I was able to travel to New York City to attend Rotary Day at the United Nations. Prior to attending UN Day, I knew that Rotary had done great things to promote peace, global health, and economic development around the world, but my experience at the UN helped me to better understand the profound impact of these Rotary initiatives. Rotary's areas of focus closely align with the UN's Millennium Development Goals, providing a strong framework for collaboration. For instance, both organizations are working to fight disease, and Rotary's extensive work to eradicate polio has helped the UN towards its goals.

One of the highlights of the program was the engaging and inspiring keynote speech delivered by Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson. Mr. Eliasson was a former Rotary Youth Exchange student, so he has unique insight into the relationship between Rotary and the UN, which dates back to the founding of the United Nations in 1945. Secretary Eliasson specifically thanked Rotary for its efforts to provide polio vaccines to people around the world. He said that in the recent past, polio cases have been limited to three countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria. Unfortunately, the disease is now spreading to Syria and Somalia due to extreme instability in those countries, creating new challenges for Rotary's campaign to end polio. The UN's peace-keeping work in Syria and Somalia will be essential to ensuring



Rotaracters Casey Lura, Emily Garcia and Jennifer Hays, who attended the 2013 Rotary Day at the United Nations.

that the disease does not spread further. Secretary Eliasson also noted that going forward, the UN will focus on eradicating extreme poverty (people living on less than \$1 per day) worldwide by 2030. This speech helped me realize that despite all that has been accomplished, there is still much work that needs to be done to truly promote peace, global health, and economic development on a worldwide basis.

After the keynote speech, I attended some of the UN Day Youth Program sessions. The room was full of energy and enthusiasm, and there was a strong focus on connecting to each other using social media and other tools to build movements that will impact global health and development. I look forward to being a part of Rotary's continued effort to make the world a better place for all people. 🌐

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## RCM Supports Philippine Disaster Relief

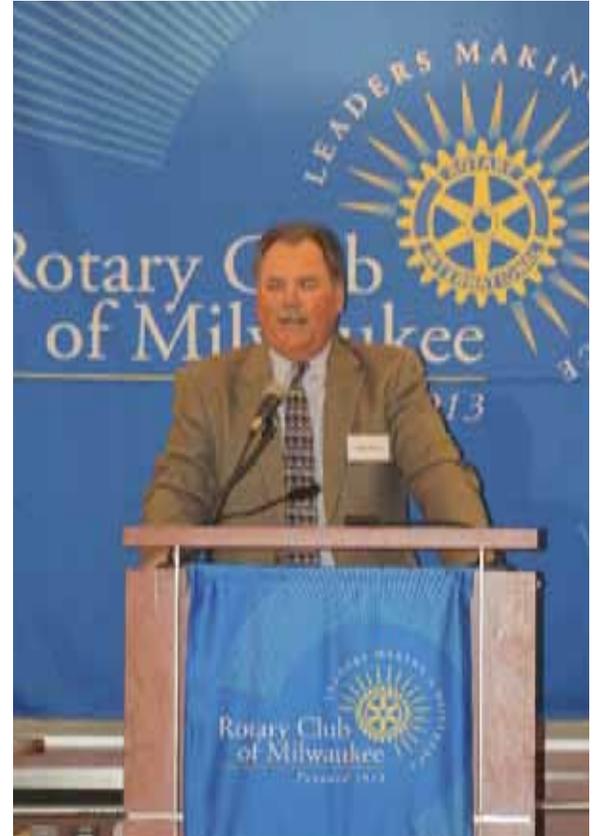
On November 8, 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, touted to be the strongest storm ever to hit land in history, swept through Central Philippines completely damaging homes, schools and other infrastructures, and killing nearly 6,000 people and displacing some 4 million. Hardest hit were the provinces of Samar and Leyte, including significant damages and casualties in Western Visayas and Central Visayas. Rotary International has created an entity known as Help & Assistance for Rotary Philippine Districts to rehabilitate or reconstruct schools that were

either damaged or completely destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan in order to restore, if not improve their condition so that they can provide again a more conducive learning environment for children. It may also undertake the construction of new schools in newly created campuses designated by government authorities to replace those in danger zones that need to be abandoned. RCM has authorized a grant to \$2,000 to Help & Assistance for Rotary Philippine Districts. You can find more info at <http://rotaryhelps-philippines.org/rebuilding-schools>. 🌐

# PHOTO gallery



Ken Leinbach, executive director of the Urban Ecology Center (far left) spoke to MANDI jurors about the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. More info on page 1.



On the "eve" of the Sochi Winter Olympics, Mike Plant, President of the US Speedskating Board, spoke to Rotary about speedskating.



Returning favorite Mike Knetter, President and CEO of the University of Wisconsin Foundation, kicked off 2014 with an economic forecast.



Christina Steder and Janet Protasiewicz at the January Networking Hour at Great Lakes Distillery.

## Thank You RCM Rotating Sponsors!

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee thanks our 2014 Rotating sponsors. Rotating sponsors receive a banner ad on the Rotary website, a rotating logo slide in our Tuesday pre-meeting slide show, and a link on the Business Connect. For more information, contact the Rotary office.

We have three new sponsors in 2014:

**Andrus Intellectual Property Law, LLP** - Dan Fetterley and George Solveson

**Bottom Line Marketing & Public Relations** - Jeffrey Remsik

**Zilber Ltd** - Steve Chevalier, Susan Lloyd and Mike Mervis

We also thank our seven returning sponsors:

**Concentra** - Maja Jurisic

**Marquette University** - Bob Deahl, Dave Murphy and Jeff Snell

**The Pfister Hotel** - Paul Ohm

**Stowell Associates Select Staff** - Valerie Stefanich

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee** - Pat Borger, David Buck, Chukuka Enwemeka and Joan Prince

**We Energies** - Dean Schultzbank, Thelma Sias and Rick White

**Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek** - Don Daugherty, Ed Heiser, Fred Muth and Tim Posnanski

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## RCM Scholars and Mentors Connect at Scholarship Brunch *continued from page 1*

together in support of the students, recognizing that it can “take a village.” We all want the same thing—a college degree for our students.

Our 19 scholars are starting their Spring 2014 semester at 10

Wisconsin colleges and universities (and one at Georgetown!). They are studying engineering, criminal justice, nursing, biology, political science, marketing, public policy, education, psychology, and more. To get involved with the RCM Scholarship program, contact RCM Scholarship chairs Eric Isbister or Jon Dehlinger. ☺

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## SPEAKER *schedule*

**FEBRUARY 4th - Dan Keegan**, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Art Museum, and **Dave Drent**, Executive Director of the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, will discuss upcoming plans for their organizations.

**FEBRUARY 11th** - Rotarian **Mike Paddock**, Senior Program Manager at CH2M HILL, will discuss Engineers Without Borders' significant Guatemala water project, which is funded by the Philip W. Orth Family Fund, a fund within the RCM Community Trust, the JM Kohler Family Foundation, and a Rotary International global grant.

**FEBRUARY 18th** - Washington continues to disrupt manufacturers' efforts to strengthen the economy and create jobs. But, beneath this uncertainty is pent-up optimism. Low-cost energy in the United States and improving economic conditions abroad are giving manufacturers hope that a lasting recovery is in reach—if only policymakers in Washington seize this opportunity to enact

pro-growth policies. National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) President and CEO **Jay Timmons** will discuss the unique opportunities and challenges facing the manufacturing economy and the solutions that will unleash manufacturers' economic might in Wisconsin and nationwide. Timmons will focus on trade, energy, workforce and other key policies needed from Washington to improve manufacturing competitiveness in 2014 and beyond.

**FEBRUARY 25th** - In his 4th season as the Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, **Mark Clements'** artistic choices have brought new vitality to the Rep's 3 stages. Box Office revenues have increased by 20%, and new patrons are walking through the doors to experience these exceptional productions. Simultaneously, The Rep's Education Program has also expanded its offerings to serve 244 schools. Mark will share his artistic vision for The Rep and his desire to promote Milwaukee as an artistic destination.

# WELCOME *new members*



## **Chris Corley**

*Corley Real Estate  
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For the past six years, Chris Corley served as the realtor and head of sales for the luxurious BreakWater Condominiums. A transplant to Milwaukee, Chris learned early that to be successful he had to become an expert in the downtown market. Self-made and extremely motivated, his professional career began in men's fashion in the mid-90's. Presently, he owns and operates Corley Real Estate out of a beautiful office on Erie Street. A member of the Yacht Club, and now the Rotary Club, Chris eagerly continues to submerge himself in all that is the pride of Milwaukee.



## **Linda Graebner-Smith**

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Managing Director  
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A returning member, Linda is Managing Director for Wisconsin's location of Ajilon Professional Staffing, Accounting Principals, and Parker+Lynch. A seasoned retain-search recruiter, she has worked in the industry since 1998. Previously, Linda was president and owner of CoCreate Consulting. She served on boards for The Women's Center of Waukesha and Redeemer UCC in Sussex. She co-chaired RCM's Membership Experience Committee until 4 years ago. Linda was also co-founder of the Interfaith Earth Network for SE Wisconsin. Linda and her husband, Fred Smith, have a grown daughter named Becky. Linda enjoys kayaking, hiking, biking, gourmet cooking, gardening, plays the violin, and is a voracious reader.



## **Candace Hennessy**

*Curative Care Network  
President and CEO  
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Milwaukee, WI 53226  
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Candace Hennessy PhD, RN, is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Curative Care Network. Candace joined Curative with 35 years of experience in health care and a reputation for successfully leading large teams of health care professionals with a focus on excellent care and outcomes. Prior to joining Curative, Candace was an Executive Vice President for Aurora Health Care and President and Chief Clinical Officer for Aurora Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin. Candace is committed to lifelong learning, having served as a professor at Marquette University and Carroll University.



## **Ajay Singh**

*K. Singh & Associates, Inc.  
Staff Engineer, Partner  
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(262) 821-1171*

Ajay is a staff engineer and owner of K. Singh & Associates, Inc. (KSA) located in Wauwatosa. KSA is a Civil, Environmental, and Transportation engineering consulting firm with over 40 professional staff members. Ajay's parents started KSA in 1987. He has worked there since he was 13 years old serving in various roles ranging from intern to marketing assistant to engineer. Ajay grew up volunteering in Milwaukee and attended Marquette University High School. He has a degree in civil engineering from Northwestern University. Having been recently engaged, Ajay's spare time is currently occupied with wedding planning, but normally he enjoys playing pick-up basketball or working towards his goal of learning Hindi.

## BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

*At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed one new member and expressed thanks to the proposer:*

**Nereus Dooley**  
**Doubleberry Design & Development**  
Information Technology - Web Design  
*Proposer: Craig Harper*

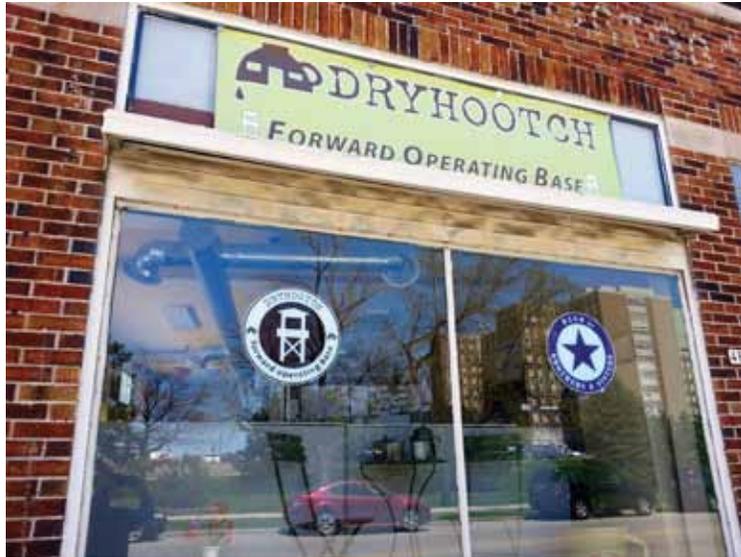
## Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:

### *Dryhootch*

Just down the hall from the Rotary office in the War Memorial are the headquarters of Dryhootch, a veterans support organization that provides a substance-free social place for veterans, assistance with employment, housing and education, as well as peer mentoring and support groups.

Dryhootch has received two recent grants from the RCM Community Trust: \$800 for general support in 2012, and a recent grant of \$1,000 to facilitate the purchase of three computers for the National Avenue Dryhootch location.

George Whyte, the Military Service Support Committee's liaison to Dryhootch, said that after meeting with the executive director and touring a Dryhootch facility, "the committee felt that supporting Dryhootch fit very well with the Committee's mission. Accordingly, a contribution was made to assist Dryhootch in the important services it provides to veterans."



The National Avenue location of Dryhootch, currently being remodeled with help from the RCM Community Trust.

Dryhootch was founded in 2008 and began by selling coffee out of a tent at the "Reclaiming Our Heritage" military re-enactment event held on the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center

grounds. The next year, Dryhootch received a Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program Development grant from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dryhootch purchased and converted a truck to serve as a mobile coffee and outreach platform at community events and began offering peer mentor training and programming.



Dryhootch opened its permanent coffee house on Brady Street in 2010 as a place for veterans to connect. The coffee shop model is based on Veteran Support Organizations from earlier generations, which were typically built around Posts with bars and taverns. Given the link between PTSD and alcoholism and drug addiction,

Dryhootch saw a need for a supportive, social healing space that was alcohol-free. At Dryhootch, veterans can learn about programs available to them to aid in their transition home, while enjoying the support of those who have navigated the path home before them.

In 2012, Dryhootch opened their National Avenue location across from the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. Dryhootch is currently remodeling the location and will host an open house at end of February.

"With many of our military coming home from our wars in the middle east, our services have been overwhelmed," says Dryhootch executive director Bob Curry. "Note that only 7% of veterans are able to use services at the VA, and claims take an average of 600 days for a decision. So our Dryhootch location across from the VA has had to double its space to handle their needs and new programs. We'd like to thank the Milwaukee Rotary for their donation to enable us to provide computers for our veterans to file for claims, hunt for jobs, create resumes, and more." ☺