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RCM Creates New Inclusion, Racial Equity & Jobs Committee

By Kent Lovern

Our region has many assets that others do not. We all know, however, that one shortcoming of our community is the separation of many of our residents based on race and economic class. Too many of our fellow Milwaukeeans are disconnected from our economic marketplace. Despite a number of efforts underway right now, the gap remains too wide and, if not addressed, will prevent us from reaching our full potential as a community.

For several months now, the board of directors has been discussing how we can help connect economic opportunities to more of our residents, and last week we voted to make this a formal priority of our club. I am pleased to chair the resulting new committee: Inclusion, Racial Equity & Jobs.



Kent Lovern announces the formation of the Inclusion, Racial Equity & Jobs committee at Rotary on January 20th.

The people who comprise the membership of our club are uniquely positioned to make a difference in this area. We have club members who are willing and ready to train and hire good workers and members who have workers anxious to find good jobs. Our hope is to bring to bear our collective resources and influence to develop an impactful strategy that leverages greater economic connectivity in our region.

The first meeting of the Inclusion, Racial Equity and Jobs committee was Tuesday, January 27th. If you are interested in learning more about the committee, please contact me or the Rotary office. ☺

Partners in Education Launches New Speaker Series

Rotary's Partners in Education (PIE) committee kicked off a new year with a brand new monthly speaker series designed to inform and inspire Rotarians about issues in education. At each PIE committee meeting, held the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am, the committee will be hosting a special speaker.



JoAnn Weishan and Dave Baum, chairs of the Partners in Education Committee

"My commitment as a Partners in Education committee co-chair is not only to encourage Rotarians to volunteer in our partner schools, but also to educate our committee on the issues and ideas that affect our students and education in the city of Milwaukee and beyond," says JoAnn Weishan, "The speaker series is a way to bring current information to our members on the factors that affect learning and innovative ideas in education."

In January, PIE members heard from Tim Grove, Chief Clinical Officer for SaintA, a national leader in trauma informed care that advances foster care, education and mental health services. Those present raved about Tim's presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences – read more on page 2 of this newsletter.

On February 3rd, PIE will host two guests from Cardinal Stritch to continue the discussion on how to become more effective in their work with students at Rotary's partner schools, Brown Street Academy and Oliver Wendell Holmes. The group will hear from Jennifer Fontanini, Associate Dean in Cardinal Stritch University's School of Education, and Clavon Byrd, assistant professor and head of the undergraduate teacher education program.

PIE welcomes all Rotarians to join them on February 3rd or at any PIE committee meeting going forward. Feel free to "just show up," or contact PIE chairs Dave Baum and JoAnn Weishan for more information. PIE would also welcome new volunteers in our partner schools at any time during the school year! ☺

Trauma Informed Care: What advances in brain science tell us about Milwaukee's future

By Tim Grove, Chief Clinical Officer, SaintA

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study has been called one of the greatest public health discoveries of all time, a remarkable label for a study that many people have never heard of. The study asked over 17,000 middle class adults in California about adverse childhood experiences; physical & sexual abuse, divorce, emotional neglect, loss of a parent due to divorce or incarceration and parental drug abuse. The results stunned the researchers on three levels:

1. that ACEs occurred as often as they did (67% reported at least one ACE; 26% reported 3 or more)
2. when one ACE occurs, 2 or more ACEs are also present 87% of the time (ACEs rarely occur in isolation)
3. there is a strong association between ACE scores and a myriad of health, mental health and other outcomes (an ACE score of 6 or more decreases life expectancy by 20 years compared to an ACE score of 0)

The ACE research has created a groundswell in many systems and is often paired with cutting edge brain science that teaches all of us about how we can collectively maximize the strengths and talents of our children or diminish them. This potent combination offers perspective on the true effect of overwhelming, frequent, unmitigated stress and what it means for our children, the families and systems they interact with and our communities.

Many experts offer that teaching everyone about what it means to be Trauma Informed is one of the core strategies to both prevent and mitigate the effects of adversity. The core elements of a trauma informed approach include:

1. Appreciating the prevalence of adversity
2. Appreciating the impact of adversity and trauma
3. Understanding how appreciating prevalence and impact can shift perspective and thereby change how we care, educate and develop human potential
4. Prioritizing the ability for individuals to regulate their response to the world, maximizing their capacity to respond positively to stress/frustration and opportunity

5. Ensuring that individuals have the access and skills they need to create and live in relationally rich communities
6. Connecting people to their chosen sense of purpose or reason to be – connections and attributes that create meaning and significance in their lives
7. Prioritizing the role of caregivers (parents, foster parents, teachers, helping professionals) who are charged with creating context and opportunity for our communities children and recognizing that the well being of children is directly connected to the capacity of their caregivers

While the challenge is significant, so is the current momentum to rise up and address it. Much is happening right here in Milwaukee and Wisconsin to help communities and systems of care become Trauma Informed and foster resiliency. As David Brooks recently wrote, perhaps ACEs can be the unifying frame that brings people together and compels them to action in the interest of stronger kids, families and communities. 🌀

More Resources

- To read the full Adverse Childhood Experiences study, go to www.acestudy.org.
- You can find more information about the SaintA approach to Trauma Informed Care at www.sainta.org under “Trauma Informed Care,” including the seven essential ingredients referenced in this article.
- A resource on the intersection between ACE research and brain science is Harvard's Center on the Developing Child: www.developingchild.harvard.edu.
- Finally, David Brooks' 2012 piece on ACE, titled “The Psych Approach,” can be found in the *New York Times* opinion pages

PHOTO gallery



Peter Feigin of the Milwaukee Bucks spoke to Rotary and the Press Club in January, then took questions from the press after the luncheon in front of Rotary's new media backdrop.



A group of Rotarians and Rotary partners spoke to MANDI jurors at Brown Street Academy on January 13th.



Jackie Herd-Barber and Barbara Velez attended a pre-holiday celebration at Brown Street Academy.



Paul Brophy spoke to Rotary in January on "Improving Milwaukee"

Update on Joyabaj Water Filtration Project

As part of Rotary's water filter project in Joyabaj, Guatemala, Engineers Without Borders students are conducting training with various women's groups to help them understand the importance of health and hygiene. The training will occur in the following sectors of Joyabaj, which are serviced by the water filter project: La Libertad, La Democracia and La Feria.

On January 15th, a group consisting of Peace Corps volunteers, Engineers Without Borders students, and local hospital representatives facilitated a training with 65 women aged 30 or older from Barrio La Libertad. They covered topics of the municipal filter projects, water sources in the pueblo, proper methods of water purification, and healthy hygiene habits. All participants received a calendar with good health and hygiene practices portrayed in pictorial fashion for each month of the year – a “constant reminder” to those who went through the training. A similar activity is planned for La Democracia on February 2nd. 🌞



Photos of training in Barrio La Libertad courtesy of Engineers Without Borders.

Scholar Corner

Each month in the WAVES, get to know an RCM Scholar in our new feature, the “Scholar Corner!”



Jasmine Bray

Senior at Mount Mary University

Majoring in Early Childhood/ Middle Childhood Education

Mentors: Paula Penebaker and Mike Koepke

WAVES: What has been one of your biggest challenges?

Jasmine: Time management was one of my biggest challenges. Trying to balance classes, family demands and social life made for challenging decision-making. Using school resources and tools such as planners and schedules to organize my time have helped me be successful. I think I have done an outstanding job in school thus far!

WAVES: Tell us “what you want to be when you grow up” and why.

Jasmine: When I was younger, I had my mind set on Nursing. Once I completed my freshman year of college, I decided that nursing was not for me. I used Mt. Mary University's Student Success Center and reached out to my advisors and mentors for guidance. Luckily, I found a major that was the best fit for me: Education. I want to be a Special Education Teacher that works with children with cognitive delays and mental and physical disabilities. Five years from now, I want to have my own Youth Development Center for children and adolescents who have mental illnesses, a place where they can come and express their emotions through creative writing, music and sports.

Jasmine's mentor Paula Penebaker says: I've seen Jasmine blossom from a shy, tight bud to a full, beautiful flower during our mentor/mentee relationship. She has a good head on her shoulders, is an excellent student and a mature and delightful young person with a bright future ahead of her.



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Mark Kannenberg is President of RBP Chemical Technology, Inc. Founded in 1954 and headquartered in Milwaukee, RBP develops and manufactures high performance proprietary chemicals used in the printing, electronics, medical and mining industries. RBP products are manufactured in North America and Asia. Mark's professional background includes significant experience in sales, marketing and operations in an international technology environment. He serves on several corporate, trade association and non-profit Boards of Directors. Mark is a West Point graduate, serving as an Infantry platoon leader and company commander in Vietnam, and Harvard Business School. He and his wife Ginny live in Whitefish Bay while their two daughters are married and live in Chicago. Mark enjoys cycling, golf, reading and travel.

BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed four new members and expressed thanks to the proposer:

Catherine La Fleur
La Fleur Law Offices

Law Practice

Proposer: Janet Protasiewicz

Barry McNulty
We Energies

Public Utility

Proposer: Josh Morby

Allen Sells
Fair Mediation Associates

Consulting - Mediation

Proposer: Dan Fetterley

Saul Winsten
Technical Enterprises, Inc.

Law Practice

Proposer: Bill Durkin

SPEAKER *schedule*

FEBRUARY 3rd - Economist and investment strategist **Clare Zempel** will provide an economic outlook in a program titled, "Economic and Market Outlook 2015-2020: Opportunities and Risks." Mr. Zempel was an economist for major national firms such as Robert W. Baird and U.S. Bank for more than 30 years and is now principal of Zempel Strategic. He holds degrees from the University of Chicago and is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

FEBRUARY 10th - **Kurt Bauer** of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and **Steve Lyons**, spokesperson for the Wisconsin Contractor Coalition, will participate in a forum on "Right to Work" in Wisconsin. This is a joint program with the Milwaukee Press Club will be moderated by Rotarian Dave Haynes of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

FEBRUARY 17th - **Hannah Rosenthal**, CEO and president of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, has spent her career successfully advocating for Jewish causes. She has demonstrated an ability to build relationships within and between communities, creating unique connections with local, national and international influencers. With all that is going on in the world, especially what is happening in Europe, Hannah will discuss anti-Semitism. She has recently been appointed to the U.S.

Commission on International Religious Freedom and will talk about religious freedom at large. As an agent for change, Hannah was responsible for a significant new approach to combating anti-Semitism in her most recent position with the State Department, and successfully led CFW through its transition into an advocacy organization. She is leading the reorganization of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation following the agency's strategic reimagining process.

FEBRUARY 24th - **Mark Mone**, Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, will talk about the University's current and expanding partnerships with area business and community groups. UWM has a rich history of these partnerships and was recently named among the nation's top universities for community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation. The University's School of Freshwater Sciences, School of Public Health, and Innovation Campus in Wauwatosa are uniquely positioned to help propel Milwaukee forward. Chancellor Mone also will discuss how UWM is working with the city, state and region on economic development, addressing the looming talent pipeline shortage, and the impact of the state budget on the UW System and UWM.

Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:

A.D. Robertson Fund for the United Nations

Ten years ago, the family of past president A.D. “Robbie” Robertson created a fund in his honor within the RCM Community Trust - the A.D. Robertson Fund for the United Nations. This fund supports educational programming for Rotarians and the community about the humanitarian and peace building work of the United Nations.

Every year in October, the A.D. Robertson Fund underwrites a U.N. Day Program during a Rotary Club of Milwaukee luncheon. In 2014, Joe Cirincione of Ploughshares Fund spoke about ISIS and Iran in a very highly rated program. Other U.N. Day speakers have included:

- Ellen Laipson, president and CEO of the Stimson Center
- Ambassador David Scheffer
- Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships
- Ambassador Peter W. Galbraith
- Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
- John Prendergast, co-founder of ENOUGH—an international effort to stop genocide



Megan Meyer with Gary C.K. Huang, current president of Rotary International, at Rotary Day at the United Nations 2014.

Many years the A.D. Robertson Fund also underwrites the participation of young people in Rotary Day at the United Nations in New York. In 2014, the fund provided stipends for Rotaract members Bethani Tellstrom and Jenny Hays, along with Rotary Peace Scholarship applicant Megan Meyer.

Megan said, “It was such an incredible experience and I loved engaging Rotarians from around the globe in discussion on issues so important in global public health. The firsthand experience to learn of Rotary’s work in polio eradication and maternal and child health was one you certainly can’t get in a classroom!”



Rotaractors Bethani Tellstrom and Jenny Hays.

Bethani also considered polio discussions to be a highlight of the event, specifically the concept of using Rotary’s polio eradication efforts to help reduce the risk, contact, and spread of Ebola. “It was especially interesting to learn about how the United Nations is taking steps to reduce contraction of the disease while allowing the affected cultures to mourn for their losses in the way that does not take away from their social and religious beliefs,” Bethani said, “The unification of Rotary and the United Nations under this singular element was both beautiful and comforting.” Bethani tells us she was inspired by many elements of the event and took home a new energy for Rotaract.

And just this month, the A.D. Robertson Fund added support for a new United Nations education activity. Keila LaBelle, a sophomore at Franklin High School, requested Rotary’s assistance to attend a Friendship Ambassadors Foundation United Nations Youth Assembly in New York City at the United Nations headquarters. This intensive two day program familiarizes youth with the United Nations and U.N goals, specifically regarding peace and diplomacy, and connects like-minded youth around the globe.

Joan Robertson, wife of the late Robbie Robertson, has continued to be very active in Rotary’s United Nations programs, and RCM is grateful for her support. ☸

