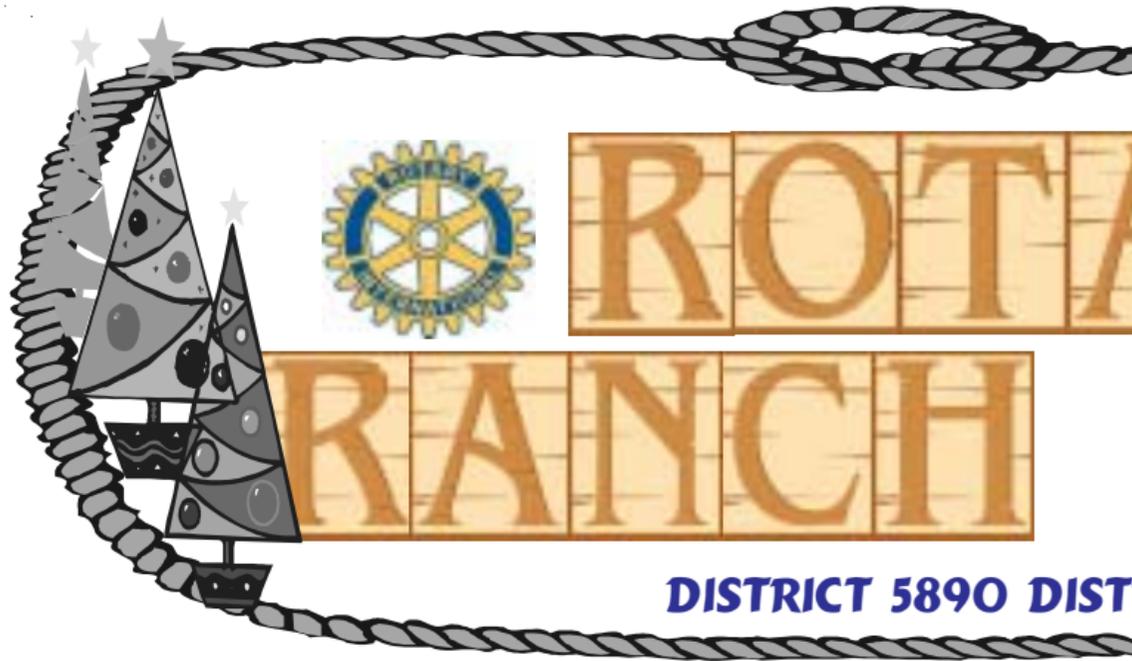


December 2008



# ROTARY RANCH REPORT

DISTRICT 5890 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES...**

*now let's make more! Rhonda Kennedy, DG*



## Rotary Club of Houston Skyline – First Six Months of Service



*Meghan Zimmer*

The Rotary Club of Houston Skyline (RCHS) hit the ground running, and with a mission. This diverse and dynamic club is passionate about community service. They began recruiting members in February of 2008, and started serving their local Houston community in May. "All of our members are interesting in enriching their lives with service of all kinds, and we aim to do just that," said Meghan Zimmer, Service Chair.

Their first service project required meeting very early to help MD Anderson Cancer Center with their annual Sprint for Life Charitable Walk. The next event was attending the Mas Tequilla benefit for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), which demonstrates the diversity of service projects they select. RCHS has partnered with other area Rotary clubs on service projects like Rotary Books for the World, which entailed packing and shipping books to South African school children, helping the Rotary Club of Houston greet guests at the Rotary House in the Texas Medical Center, which serves patients receiving care at MD Anderson Cancer Center and their families, and helping build a house for Habitat for Humanity. All of these projects were completed before the club was even chartered. "Our goal is to bring a fresh face to Rotary, while upholding the Rotary ideal of improving the lives of others through service," said Zimmer.

Once the club was officially chartered by Rotary International in July 2008, the club's service continued as they partnered with Pepperdine University, Baylor University, and the Rotaract Club of Riveroaks for Pepperdine's Step Forward Day, and worked on several Habitat for Humanity houses. "It was such a neat way to bring together our local alumni chapters and Rotary," said Emily Garrison, Secretary and Membership Chair. This fall, they have been busy by assisting in the immunization of school children for Congressman Gene Green's Immunization Day, running in the Bellaire Fall Fun Run, and helping Hurricane Ike victims clean up in the wake of the storm. Most recently, Shirley Ronquillo led the club in its teaming up with Houston's SEARCH, which is dedicated to getting men, women, and children off of the streets and into jobs and affordable housing. Skyline recently held a supplies drive for them, and will adopt a family for the holiday season.



*Emily Garrison*

Having done many different types of events in the greater Houston community, RCHS feels comfortable charting their own course in service. Recently, Duncan Child led the club in successfully applying for a District Simplified Grant to team up with Houston's Urban Harvest to fund and help build a sustainable garden for Port Houston Elementary School. The garden will be used as a classroom teaching tool, as well as a source of nutrition for the children and their families. Additionally, PDG D'Lisa Simmons led the club in its successful Matching Grant application (partnering with the RC of Houston and RC of Galleria Area) for a project in the Philippines that will provide education, mosquito netting and other resources to combat Dengue Fever in the region. Dennis Mosley, Sergeant-at-Arms and Administration Chair, said it well recently, "Skyline is not only bringing in the next great wave of Rotarians and immediately having a profound impact on the communities we have served, but we are having a great time just getting to know such quality, servant-first Houstonians while doing so." The future is certainly bright for this young club, as they continue to pursue local and international projects.



*Dennis Mosley*

## Young Professionals Start Downtown Rotary Club

*By Mauricio Guerrero*

Many people thought Corbett Parker was too young to start a Rotary Club at 27 years old.

But his motivation to serve the community by getting his generation involved in Rotary led him to start the Rotary Club Houston Skyline, where he currently serves as president.

"I knew when I started this club, that in order for Rotary to stay relevant it had to become younger," he says. "In no way are we turning our backs on the clubs that came before us, we're just building upon their success."

The club recently celebrated its official charter from Rotary International the installation of its officers on July 22.

"It was great opportunity to thank everyone who helped us along the way and to show how far we've come in just a short time," he says. RCHS began when Parker returned to Houston from Los Angeles to start his legal career. He wanted to join one of Houston's Rotary clubs following his year as a Rotary Scholar.

"I visited with the other clubs and many of them did want me to join. They liked my energy and wanted me to be a member," he says. Parker's energy and commitment to Rotary gave him the idea to form the Greater Houston Area Rotary Foundation Alumni Association. Parker questioned why his peers were not a part of Rotary. The answers he received varied from meeting times, location of meetings and how there was nothing tailored for young business professionals.

After hearing the response, the idea to start a club resulted in making downtown the home of RCHS.

Parker recruited Ruby Powers, who is member of his alumni association to help him form the new club. He says her passion and hard work was instrumental in



*Corbett Parker*

guiding Parker to move RCHS in the right direction.

Powers says, "I always knew I was going to join Rotary because of my involvement with the organization for the past 15 years. But I never knew that I was going to help start a Rotary Club.

Parker also enlisted help from fellow Rotarians such Jeffery Gray and Michael Barnes giving them an outline of how he wanted the club to be structured. Parker consulted with D'Lisa Simmons, former District 5890 Rotary Governor, as well.

The group met in early January and they began to recruit people for RCHS's first meeting in February.

"We were looking for people of character and those who were invested in serving the community," Parker says.

While the club's goal was to get his generation involved, Parker says there has been a misconception about RCHS being a "young club."

"There's no magic age number," he says, "This club is for the young and the young at heart. Out of our members the ages range from 26 to 55 years old. "It's all to help the future success of Rotary."

*This article is a reprint from  
the Southwest News,  
October 14, 2008*



**Here's Wishing  
Everyone**

**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!**

## Rotary Houston Skyline & Friends Step Forward Day With Habitat for Humanity



### *Helping to Build a Family's Home in Southeast Houston*

Houston (September 6, 2008) – The Rotary Club of Houston Skyline participated in the Houston Chapter of Pepperdine University Alumni and friends' Step Forward Day, a day of collective service. The Rotaract Club of Riveroaks and the Baylor Alumni Network also joined to help make a difference locally through building a family's home in Southeast Houston with Habitat for Humanity.

Over 50 young alumni and Rotary members were involved with the house building in which they put up siding, laid roof tiles, and helped landscape on a very beautiful Saturday morning, then enjoyed some barbecue at nearby restaurant. It was a great opportunity for all the volunteers to meet other servant-minded young business professionals of Houston, burn some calories, and help build shelter for a deserving family. "Bringing a variety of service oriented groups together not only helps strengthen our individual clubs and associations, but will also strengthen the community as a whole," said Corbett Parker, the Pepperdine University Alumni-Houston Chapter President, Rotary Club of Houston Skyline Founder and President, and Baylor University Alum. "It is important to bring strong organizations together in order to serve the community we are all now a part of," said Meghan Zimmer, Baylor Young Grads Houston Director and Rotary of Houston Skyline Service Chair.

Step Forward Day is a yearly, simple yet profound way for the Pepperdine community and others to be a neighbor and to participate in its mission and calling. Over 1,400 alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents and friends gathered to help over 50 non-profit organizations, schools, churches and parks across the country.

During this one day, the Pepperdine community served a collective 4,200 hours (*equivalent to 2 years of work for one person*). For the volunteers, the tradition of Step Forward Day reflects a commitment that lasts beyond this single day of service. It is a great way to end the year right, the chance to make new friends, and prepare oneself to "step forward" for the rest of the year.

## **Holiday Gifts and Fund-raisers**

### **Rotary Club of Harrisburg**

**Brighten up yours or someone else's Holiday Season with a beautiful Poinsettia.**

**\$12.00 each**

The Poinsettia comes in a foil wrappers and are great client gifts or great to decorate your office. Contact Rebecca Maddux for more information.