



**Corbett Parker (first row, kneeling) and members of the Rotary Club of Houston Skyline, Texas, USA, pitch in on the club's Habitat for Humanity day.**

## Former scholar starts young, diverse club

Just two years after completing his Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship, Corbett Parker, 28, started the diverse Rotary Club of Houston Skyline, Texas, USA.

Parker, who studied in the Netherlands in 2005-06, has long identified with Rotary. "I believe that knowledge calls, ultimately, for a life of service," he says.

After completing law school, Parker took a job as an attorney in downtown Houston, an area underserved by Rotary. When he talked with local Rotarians to see how he could keep Rotary in his life, he saw an opportunity: Bring Rotary back to Houston's downtown area, and attract young professionals who work there.

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Rhonda Kennedy

Chartered in June 2008, the club now has 32 members, who range in age from 23 to 50 and include Latin and African

Americans as well as immigrants from Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, and South America. Five Foundation alumni, including Past District Governor D'Lisa Simmons, also have joined.

Parker, the club's charter president, brings a fresh approach to Rotary club meetings, which take place over cocktails in the evening to accommodate members' work schedules. Club members under age 35 pay lower club dues. Outside meetings, fellowship continues through text messaging and social networking Web sites like Facebook and LinkedIn.

For Parker, Rotary club meetings mean more than a meal and guest speakers. "We get together and talk about each other's lives and how we can go out and make a difference together in a profound way," he says. The club's service projects include collaborating with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

"Corbett is one of those Rotarians who knows what needs to be done and just does it — without having to ask him," says Rhonda Kennedy, past governor of District 5890. "To have more Rotarians like Corbett would be a district governor's dream come true."