



Be a gift to the world



# THE SUNRISE REPORTER

Club's Vision Statement:

**Nourishing and impacting lives in our local and international communities.**

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Lincoln Sunrise meets on Tuesday, 7:00—8:00 AM at IHOP, 27th & Superior Street

## How Important is Rotarian's Work Around the World?

Many years ago, in Kolkata, India, R.I. President Ravindran had the chance to meet Mother Teresa. He described her as an incredible woman with an incredible force of personality. When she walked down the street, the crowd parted in front of her like the Red Sea. Yet when you talked to her, if you mentioned the tremendous things she had done, she almost did not engage in this topic at all. By many reports, if you asked her what her greatest achievement was, she would answer, *"I am an expert in cleaning toilets."*

This answer was both humorous and absolutely serious. Mother Teresa's business was caring for others. Toilets had to be cleaned, so she cleaned them. There was no question of a job being beneath her. Helping people who needed help was her work, and there was nothing higher, nothing in the world more important than that.

One day, an elegantly dressed man came to Kolkata looking for Mother Teresa, the nuns who answered the door informed him that she was at the back of the house, cleaning the toilets. They pointed the way, and indeed he found Mother Teresa scrubbing the toilets. She said hello, assumed he was there to volunteer, and began explaining to him how to hold the toilet brush correctly and how not to waste water. Then she put the brush in his hand and left him standing there, in his expensive suit, alone in the lavatory.

Much later, the young man came out, found Mother Teresa again, and said, "I have finished; may I speak with you now?" "Yes, certainly," she said. He took an envelope out of his pocket and said, "Mother Teresa, I am the director of the airline, and here are your tickets. I just wanted to bring them to you personally."

The airline director told this story again and again for the rest of his life. He said those 20 minutes spent cleaning toilets had filled him with the greatest joy he had ever known — because by putting his hands to Mother Teresa's work, he became part of that work. For those 20 minutes he cared for the sick just as she did: ***with his own hands, his own sweat.***

This is exactly the opportunity that Rotary gives each of us. We might not do what Mother Teresa did — give up our lives, our homes, our families, but for 20 minutes, 20 hours, 20 days of the year, we can be like her and make a difference in the world.

We can do the work that others will not with our hands, and our hearts, and our sweat, and our devotion — knowing that what we do is the most important work in the world. We can be a gift to the world by spending just a few minutes helping others.



**Be a gift to the world**

## Growing Local Economies, Supporting Education



**Partnership weaves sustainable loan project in Ecuador** — Rotarians teamed up with a microfinance organization to provide small loans to poor women in the Esmeraldas province of Ecuador, teaching them to sew and bake so they can start or expand businesses. The Rotary Club of Marin Evening, CA, USA, reached out to 64 Rotary clubs in the two countries to raise funds and mobilize local community members for a global grant project.

Most of the global grant, including \$75,000 from The Rotary Foundation, provides seed money for the microloans. It is also buying sewing and baking equipment for a training center established by the Qui-to Occidente, Ecuador, to teach loan recipients vocational skills and basic business management. Club members, along with government and private company educators, have served as trainers.

**Schools + water = education** — Adopt a Village, an independent nonprofit run by Canadian Rotarians, has constructed six schools and additions to another six in remote communities in Laos. The group has also provided almost 2,000 water filters, and built dams and laid pipe to provide clean water.

In Hat Kham, the changes have spawned a cycle of improvement in the residents' standard of living. Adopt a Village installed new toilet facilities for the entire community and a water filter for every house, which helped attract new residents — and made a third room necessary for the schoolhouse.



## Officers 2015-16

President — Minnie Stephens  
President-Elect — William (Bill) Dick  
Secretary — Lee Anne Call  
Treasurer — Dan Chapman  
Foundation Chair — William (Bill) Dick  
Membership Chair —  
Literacy — David Chen  
Humanitarian — Lee Anne Call  
Education — Minnie Stephens  
Public Awareness — Dan Chapman

### Visitors/Guests

### Makeups

## Coffee & Conversation

April 26 — TBA

May 3 — TBA

May 10 — No meeting

May 17 — TBA

### Need a Make Up – here is where you can go in Lincoln

#### Lincoln East Rotary

Meets on Wednesday at 11:45 a.m.  
at Valentinis, 70<sup>th</sup> & Van Dorn Street

#### Lincoln Rotary #14 Downtown Club

Meets on Tuesday at 12:00 Noon  
at the Nebraska Club at 233 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, 20<sup>th</sup> floor

#### Lincoln South Rotary

Meets on Fridays at Noon at  
The Venue, 4111 Pioneer Woods Dr #100

**On the Web:** Go to Rotary.org, then to “Make Up a Meeting.” Complete the form. Rotary International will send our secretary an e-mail crediting you with a makeup.