

Rotary District 5450 Interact Newsletter

A Publication of the District 5450
Interact Committee



Volume 1, Issue 1

Golden High School Interact Wins Ron Prascher Award

Golden High School was awarded the coveted District Interact Award at the District Conference in Vail on April 28. The award is presented annually to the District 5450 Interact Club that has most successfully accomplished meaningful service projects, developed leadership skills, and maintained strong student participation during the school year. Golden was selected from the nine applications that were submitted. The other applications received were from Aurora Central, Boulder Community-based Interact Club, Highlands Ranch, Littleton Community-based Interact Club, Panther Mountain, Peak-to-Peak, Ranum, and Thomas Jefferson.

Among the Golden club's volunteer work:

Serving dinner for the homeless through the Interfaith Hospitality Network six times a year. Serving dinner for the homeless at the Denver Rescue Mission once a week. Raking leaves at local elderly homes. Serving ice cream to the elderly at Golden Ponds every Saturday.

Other accomplishments (not a complete list):

Raised \$1000 for the Table Mountain Animal Center by selling food at school forensics tournaments. Raised \$500 for the Jefferson County Action Center by selling food at the school Homecoming Carnival and raking leaves. Raised \$250 for the Denver Rescue Mission by holding a rose and bake sale on Valentine's Day. Held a school wide coat drive to donate coats to a Denver organization. Collected sixty coats. Collected items to create soldier care packages for the soldiers in Iraq. Sent eight boxes of goods overseas.

The President of the Golden Interact Club is Hannah Goedert, the faculty advisor is Tracy Hamm, and the Rotary Advisor is Frank Darrow. Congratulations to all of you for a terrific year!

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Interact at a glance:

- **Interactors - 242,926**
- **Clubs - 10,562**
- **Countries - 139**

Kristen Schiesswohl Receives the District Governor's Youth Award

At the Rotary District 5450 Conference in Vail on April 28, 2006, Kristen Schiesswohl was awarded the District Governor's Discretionary Youth Award from District Governor Norris Hermsmeyer. Kristen is a member of the Interact Club of Evergreen.

An active Interactor for the past four years and a participant at RYLA, Kristen serves as secretary for her 70-member Interact club and as chair of the 30-member Denver Health Committee. She took the lead in coordinating the Rotary Interact District Holiday Party for the Denver Health Pediatric Unit which involved nine Interact clubs, 80 high school Interactors, 44 families and over 100 children and provided food, table decorations, games, prizes, music and Holiday joy for all the families. In her quest to become a teacher specializing in International Communication, she is part of a Literacy Coaching Program at Evergreen High School. She will leave in the fall for a year as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Sweden and upon her return she hopes to attend Colby College in Maine. Congratulations, Kristen!

District 5450 Interact Committee

The 2006-2007 District 5450 Interact Committee members are:

Bill Fernow Troy Graham Ed Hills Ty Melton Marty Slyter Nancy Taoka

Incoming Officer Data Forms Due

Each Interact Club should submit the "Incoming Interact Officer Data Form" to Rotary International by **June 30, 2006**. This form can be found on page 45 of the *Interact Handbook*. A simpler alternative is available online at http://www.rotary.org/programs/interact/resources/contact_form.html. The online form requires the information for either the incoming club president or the club advisor. Submission of this form will allow Rotary International to update their records of active clubs and give each Interact Club the opportunity to select to be included in the annual **Interact Correspondence Exchange List**.

The Interact Correspondence Exchange List. This list is produced by Rotary International for two reasons: (1) to facilitate communication between Interact members, and (2) to strengthen the international element of the Interact program. Interact clubs and districts are encouraged to use this list to share ideas and opinions about current issues pertaining to youth, or to organize international projects such as cultural exchanges or service activities.

Interact Newsletter Inaugural Issue



The Rotary District 5450 Interact Newsletter is established with this inaugural issue. The newsletter has been developed by the District Interact Committee as a vehicle to improve communications between and among the District Interact Clubs and to keep the Rotary Clubs and the District staff informed of the activities of the various Interact Clubs in the District.

This newsletter will be distributed periodically to the Interact Clubs, sponsoring Rotary Clubs, Interact Faculty Advisors, and Rotary Interact Coordinators. The intent is to provide information related to scheduled District Interact projects, information about various Interact Club activities, photos of Interact activities, and other information important to everyone involved in Interact.

All District Interact Clubs are encouraged to submit input to the Newsletter Editor. Suggested items are photos of club activities, articles describing projects undertaken, and any other information that would be of interest to other Interact Clubs or District 5450 personnel. Input can be submitted electronically to Bill Fernow at wfernow@comcast.net or by snail mail to 5610 Irish Pat Murphy Drive, Parker, CO 80134.

Interact Resources and Information

There are number of sources of information and resources available to district Interact clubs. Here are a few:

Interact Posters and Interact brochures can be obtained from the District Interact Committee Chair. Contact Bill Fernow at wfernow@comcast.net or (303) 805-5039. These are also available online at <http://www.rotary.org/programs/interact/resources/merchandise.html> along with

the Interact Handbook and membership ID cards.

The Interact e-Newsletter is electronically distributed monthly by Rotary International. It is designed to keep you informed of the latest Interact developments worldwide and provide information and resources to enhance your Interact program. You can subscribe at <http://rotary.org/programs/interact>.

District Interact information is available on the District 5450 website -

<http://www.rotary5450.org/>, scroll down under "people". Although currently in need of updating, this site should be useful in the future.

Interact Reaches Out

What do you do if you're a teenager and discover the hardships fellow students face at Ravour School in far off Kenya? You learn that public education was offered just two years ago and how the school grew from 200 to 1,175 students with no increase in staff. You hear stories of how water-borne diseases keep an average of 20% of the students out of school every day and there are 200 orphans attending whose parents died of AIDS and Malaria and how many of them come to school hungry. You see pictures of outdoor classrooms filled

with 80 students sitting three abreast on makeshift benches. And finally, you find out that the only water available for drinking, hand-washing, cleaning and cooking is what the students bring to school and what is found in a polluted pond.

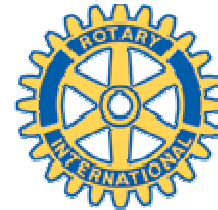
If you are a member of the Boulder, Evergreen, Peak to Peak or Longmont's St. Vrain Valley Interact Club, you respond. You reach out by raising money (\$1,000 from each club) and partnering with Rotary Clubs from Longmont and the Arvada Sun-

rise Club on a Matching Grant that will provide water for drinking, cleaning, hand-washing stations, an irrigation system to raise food for hungry orphans, and community water outlets that will greatly reduce water-borne diseases. You don't stop there. You meet together to brainstorm more ways to help. You start writing to the students, collecting books and school supplies, join the Rotary committee that will follow through on the grant and generate publicity.

A Publication of the District 5450 Interact Committee



Interact activities at the district level provide opportunities for joint projects between Interact clubs, training of new club officers, sharing ideas for strengthening club service, and promoting Interact extension to new areas. The district Interact committee is dedicated to publicizing the Interact program and promoting the organization of new Interact clubs. The committee offers assistance to clubs by sponsoring Interact district meetings and providing leadership training for Interact club officers and others.



SERVICE Above Self

Interact Committee Schedule/Planning

The District Interact Committee responsibilities will be assumed by the incoming committee members at the beginning of Rotary Year 2006-2007 in July. However, since Past Committee Chairman Ty Melton has agreed to continue serving on the committee and the other members are also hold-overs from the previous year, there will be a great deal of continuity. Not surprisingly, it is hoped that the successes of the past year will continue this year.

The initial meeting of the 2006-2007 committee will be held before the start of the new school year at a mutually agreed-upon time and date.

The leadership training session for the incoming Interact club officers will be held in September.

The Holiday Party for the Denver Health Center will be continued this year in December. This annual event has been a huge success in the past with over 100 past pediatric patients receiving presents and having a great time.

There are hopes for a Spring event for the district Interact clubs. Last year, tentative plans were made but never came to fruition. The committee will discuss this and any other ideas for district activities.

As the committee firms up the schedule, it will be distributed in several ways: in this newsletter, on the district website, and via email communications.



Start planning your schedule for the year!