



DISTRICT AND INTERNATIONAL HAPPENINGS

LETTER FROM A RYLA STUDENT

Ever wonder if RYLA is worth it? Following are excerpts from a letter from Jordan Lippincott, a RYLA student sponsored by Escalon Sunrise Rotary:

“Thank you very much for selecting me to attend RYLA 2008. This camp is so much more than I ever imagined and the skills that I learned at camp were extremely valuable. In granting me scholarship to RYLA you have not only benefited me by increasing my leadership skills, but you have also built upon my qualities of teamwork and brotherhood.” He went on to describe some of the workings of the camp and the speakers, all of which he found inspirational. He concluded with:

“This camp has helped shape me in so many ways and will continue to inspire me throughout the rest of my life as I continue to interact with the people who participated in the camp with me. I am very thankful for the chance to experience first-hand what RYLA truly is. Rotary is an amazing organization if it can achieve all these goals in four days and help so many young kids like become better humanitarians. Thank you again for the scholarship to the camp and the chance to participate in a life changing experience.”



CLINICS AND CONSTRUCTION-SILVER ANNIVERSARY

For the last 25 years, a group of service clubs and medical professionals has traveled to Mexicali and partnered with the Calafia Rotary Club of Mexicali, in humanitarian projects.



On March 28th, thirty seven volunteers joined their hosts to perform five medical clinics and to rebuild and refurbish the Progreso School, 15 miles southwest of Mexicali.

Dr. Tom Mihok, OD, Oakdale Lions, and his team of thirteen volunteers, examined 140 patients and dispensed 70 pairs of glasses at the eye clinic. Groveland’s Dr. Jose’ Bustos, assisted by university dental students, performed extractions, fillings, and application of 157 fluoride treatments in the mobile dental unit provided by the University. Dr. Ted Mihok, DPM, examined 80 patients and performed minor surgeries as needed in the foot clinic. The general medical examination clinic was staffed by Dr. Antonio Garcia, assisted by volunteers from the Calafia Rotarios. Dr. Nadia Rosales, MD, assisted by two medical volunteers from Alameda, performed female cancer screenings in a new mobile medical unit built by five Rotary clubs in the USA and the Calafia Rotary Club. The non-medical portion of this mission included demolition work, rebuilding and refurbishing of an elementary school by a team of eleven workers. A 20x20 storage building was built and the entire school was painted with 80 gallons of donated paint. Playground equipment was donated and installed at the Casa Hogar Emanuel Orphanage, and clothes and toys were given to the children there. 115 computers and equipment and 35 cases of Spanish/English books were donated to various schools. Medical equipment and supplies went to the local hospital, and ambulance equipment went to the San Felipe Red Cross and Baja Rescue.

Service clubs represented on this mission by volunteers and/or donations of money, goods and services, include Oakdale Lions, Alameda Breakfast Lions, Groveland Soroptimists, Groveland Kiwanis, and the Rotary Clubs of Groveland, Twain Harte, Oakdale Sunrise, Oakdale, Manteca, Riverbank, Calafia and the Calafia Interact Club. John Brunk, Groveland Rotary, coordinated the mission for his 25th year of international service. Many other individuals and businesses donated items and the monetary value of the goods and services provided to those in need south of the border totaled over \$100,000 US. But the smiles and expressions of gratitude by the recipients of the medical services and goods were invaluable.