

Fitz Focus

Volume I

This is the first edition of **Fitz Focus** for the new year. It has been a busy year especially for a new club not quite a year old and in spite of some growing pains we have accomplished a great deal. We hope this news letter will help chronicle the events and happenings of the Aurora Fitzsimmons Rotary Club and that it will help attract new members to our club.

We continue to meet weekly in the 500 Building (the original hospital) in the Fitzsimmons campus at 4:30 PM., on the 1st floor which is really the second floor at the “500 Club” Café. We serve a variety of epicurean delights (trail mix, pistachios, pretzels, miniature candy bars) and vintage sodas and fruit juices to tickle the most sensitive palates. Children and other family members are always welcome.

Presidents Letter February 8, 2005

Fellow Members.

- Wow! 11 months of our “Charter Year” have passed and I look back and see the accomplishments of a long standing Rotary Club, not those of a new club.
- We started quick and have created a name for ourselves both in Aurora and our Rotary District and I am proud of each of you. A few of the highlights of our recent Community
- Service accomplishments include:
 - Filled over 80 Backpacks and donated them to “Pencils for Peace”.
 - Volunteered at “Shots for Tots”.
 - Partnered with the Aurora Gateway Rotary Club in the “Peach Sale” and made over

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- \$1,400.00 for the club in our first Fund Raiser.
- Donated \$1,000.00 to a Fresh Water Project in Afghanistan.
- Partnered with the Aurora Rotary Club, Aurora Gateway Rotary Club and the Stapleton Rotary Club in completing the Interpretive Walkway at General’s Park and qualified for completion of a “Centennial Project”.
- Participated with North Middle School to fundraise and send a student to Washington D.C. to learn about our Government and American History.
- Had a club member participate at R.Y.L.A Camp.
- Donated to the Cub Scouts
- Donated to the Parker Rotary Club to support their Fund Raising Project.
- Collected and Donated Items to COMITIS Center.
- Bell Rang for the Salvation Army
- Had a club member participate as a team leader for the visiting GSE Team.
- In addition to Community Service we have grown the Club to 28 members (Bigger than Stapleton and very close to Aurora Gateway in size), Have created our Charitable Foundation (keep working on filling those Piggy Banks) and we now have 10 Paul Harris

At the direction of Deb Jessop, President and the support of a very active membership, Aurora Fitzsimmons Rotary Club had a very busy year and the generosity of other metro area clubs allowed us to join in some of their projects while we gain more experience and learning about the meaning of Rotary.

Contributions to Hospital Volunteer Services



Barry Ables collected magazines and over sixty video tapes for the patient “library” at the Colorado University Hospital. The magazines, books, and video tapes help provide some pleasure to patients and their families during their hospital stay. Nice job Barry!

Beth Brunston organized the collection of personal care items for Comitis Center which is located on the Fitzsimmons campus. The center serves adolescents in need of a safe place to stay and a place where they can begin to receive some counseling. The center often needs just the basics: soap, shampoo, deodorant, tooth paste, etc. Thanks Beth for reminding us that it is often the little things that matter most.

Shades of “Tool Time Tim”

Whose that lady - with the cross cut saw? –loving every minute of it -Teena Hohl, and other members of the Fitz Rotary Club hammered, sawed, carried material for the Habitat for Humanity project at 18th and Eagle. “We built a garage !” said Gale Nichter at the end of the day. Everyone was proud and smiling in spite of a few sore muscles and bruised thumbs. The volunteers of America were

great at getting us organized and supervising our work. The project will provide homes for four

families some of whom worked along with the rest of us. There were some familiar faces from other Rotary Clubs as well, George Peck and Steve Brunston. Al Horton from Smokey Hill Rotary Club helped us get started.



Al Horton & Teena Hohl

From Dream To Realty

Approximately two years ago Mark Jessop had an idea to create a “bricks and mortar project” to celebrate Rotary International’s 100th anniversary. Four clubs agreed to participate in the centennial project: Aurora, Gateway, Stapleton and the Aurora Fitzsimmons Clubs. Steve Kimsey, Guarantee Electrical Contracting, and Rotarian, became the general contractor. Soon others joined the project including the City of Aurora, and four trades unions who committed workers to the project. Generals Park was selected because of its location and historical significance. Plans were developed for an Interpretive Walkway that not only symbolizes the motto of Rotary but its construction is the result of “Service above Self”. Interpretive panels describe the history of the park along with the history of Rotary International.

The park will be used and enjoyed by patients, employees, veterans, and the general public. A ribbon cutting for Rotarians will be held on February 23 at noon-lunch to follow at the Outback. A ribbon cutting and grand opening of the park will be held later this spring.

Our congratulations to Mark and everyone who were so generous in providing time and money for this wonderful project.