



Blacksburg Rotary Club

Rotary International
District 7570

March 1, 2010

ROTARY CLUB OF BLACKSBURG RAISES OVER \$15,000 FOR FOUNDATION PROJECTS

BLACKSBURG, VA - The Rotary Club of Blacksburg (club 5753) held a Mardi Gras Party and Fundraiser to benefit the Rotary Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation which enables Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. The event on February 18 held at the Blacksburg Country Club included silent and live auctions and drew approximately 100 members and friends with the goal of raising \$12,000. The goal was met grossing \$15,000 through bidding and donations.

"This money will be used to support projects related to Rotary's mission as well as to support projects in our own District," said Christy Brown, Director, International Service. "With the funds we will name at least 10 Paul Harris Fellows over the coming year." The naming of the Paul Harris Fellows is the Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programs.

"The money will also be used in the EndPolioNow program, the matching grant challenge for polio eradication," Brown continued. Rotary is committed to raising \$200 million which will be matched by \$355 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children.

Contributions to Rotary International are used to support a variety of programs at home and around the world. Rotarians focus their efforts in the following areas:

maternal and child health, clean water and sanitation, disease prevention and treatment, basic education and literacy, economic and community development and peace and conflict prevention/resolution.

Rotarians believe that when you understand other cultures, build friendships, and help people in need, it is easier to resolve problems or misunderstandings peacefully.



Foundation Chairman Tom Reid and Blacksburg Rotary President T.O. Williams enjoy the event

