



**ROTARY  
ELDER  
PROGRAM**

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**Rotary International District 6990**

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*Improving the quality of life of  
elder citizens in Broward, Miami-  
Dade and Monroe counties.*

June, 2003

#### **Meet the Board of Directors**

In last month's newsletter I announced the incorporation of District 6990 Rotary Elder Program, Inc. This month I have the honor of introducing you to the Board of Directors of the new organization.

The Directors are elected by the Members of the corporation, specifically the District Governor, the District Governor-Elect, and the Chair of the District's Rotary Foundation Committee. Since the corporation is being established as a public charity, it is important that the board reflect the community at large. A great deal of work went into developing a group that will be able to guide the organization as it grows. The following community leaders have agreed to serve as Directors of the corporation:

Fred Anderson, a member of the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale, a Past District Governor of District 6990, and the President of Seaward Marine Insurance in Fort Lauderdale.

Patrick Brilliant, a member of the Rotary Club of Weston, and the President and CEO of Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston.

Jorge Gross, a Partner with PriceWaterhouse-Coopers, LLP in Miami.

Fred Jackson, a member of the Rotary Club of

Miami and a Business Development Executive with IBM.

Kirk Landon, a member of the Rotary Club of Coral Gables, the Chairman of The Kirk Foundation, and the philanthropist that provided very generous grant funding to enable the Rotary Elder Program to first exist.

Greta Reed, Associate Pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church in Coconut Grove.

Robert Spottswood, President of Spottswood Companies in Key West.

These seven highly successful community minded individuals will adopt policy, monitor goal attainment, and seek to broaden the reach and scope of the District 6990 Rotary Elder Program, Inc. Reporting to them, I will work with the clubs in the district and a broad array of social service agencies. Being a public charity, new funding opportunities will be constantly sought to insure the long-term success of the program.

#### **A New Rotary Year**

This month marks the conclusion of Rotary Year 2002-2003, and the end of the first full year of work for this program. In the course of these twelve months twenty projects have received matching grant funding totaling more

than \$80,000.00. More than 2,200 volunteer hours have been expended and, most importantly, hundreds of lives have been touched by the good work of Rotarians, Rotaract members and Interact club members in this great Rotary District. Be very proud of the work that you have done and be thinking of what project will be next. Yes, a new Rotary Year is about to begin. The elder citizens of our collective communities are looking to us for assistance.

### **Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season**

Jimmy Buffett came up with that catchy song title back in 1974. In the ensuing 28 hurricane seasons more than a dozen named storms have crossed our shores. Who knows what this season, which begins this month, will bring. The forecasters believe that it will be a busy time. Know that there are many homeowners that have an added layer of concern. Elders living alone are often unable to properly prepare for the arrival of a tropical weather system. CBS 4's Neighbors 4 Neighbors tells me that every time that a storm watch is raised, calls begin to come in to their telephone bank from frightened elder citizens. Often, they simply need someone to clear items out of their yard, or off of a condominium balcony. Commit to being a hurricane buddy for an elder in your community. Contact me so that I can put you on the list of volunteers. You will give peace of mind to someone in what can be a very stressful time.

### **Agency Focus**

Rebuilding Together is a nationwide network of local affiliates that seek to assist homeowners in making repairs to (primarily) single family homes when the owner is financially and/or physically unable to do so. They are best known for their national "work day", traditionally held on the last Saturday in April. There is a local affiliate for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties that has been in existence since Hurricane Andrew came calling in 1992. The Broward County affiliate has been in operation for about four years and has been an

arm of Leadership Broward Foundation, Inc. The very successful program has outgrown its sibling status and is now being established as an independent organization. Dave Reiersen, who is heading up the venture, explains that the goal is to make the affiliate more of a year round operation. Working with Broward County's Elderly and Veterans Services Division to determine what needs exist, Rebuilding Together will examine homes and determine what work needs to be done and then partner with organizations such as Rotary clubs to get the work done.

Home repair tops the list of needs for assistance from area elder citizens. Several of the Rotary Elder Program projects completed this year were home repair events. This opportunity to partner with Rebuilding Together, on a year round basis, provides a streamlined method to plan and execute critically needed projects. Contact me so that I can coordinate your next home repair project. Don't forget that Rotaract volunteers may well be available as a key component of the project as well.

### **Statistically Speaking**

These excerpts are from the "Profile of Older Americans", released by the Administration on Aging. The AoA is the arm of the federal government that deals with aging issues.

Persons reaching age 65 have an average life expectancy of an additional 17.89 years (19.2 years for females and 16.30 years for males).

About 30 percent (9.7 million) non-institutionalized older persons live alone (7.4 million women, 2.4 million men).

Half of older women age 75+ live alone.

The 85+ population is projected to increase from 4.2 million in 2000 to 8.9 million in 2030, more than doubling the current number.

Through research, medical advances, and the like people are living longer. It doesn't, however, mean that they are living better. That's where The District 6990 Rotary Elder Program comes in. You and your club can make a tremendous difference in the lives of many.