



Jack Martin
President
District 6990 Rotary Elder Program, Inc.
4000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard
Suite 470
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Telephone: 305-865-0747
Fax: 786-513-0253
Email: jmartin@rotaryelderprogram.org

www.RotaryElderProgram.org

Improving the quality of life of elder citizens in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties

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Storm Readiness

You know the drill. Word comes from the National Hurricane Center that an aircraft is being dispatched to investigate a developing weather system and, before you know it, the dreaded "cone of uncertainty" is plotted with South Florida and The Florida Keys or perhaps Grand Bahama Island in the impact area. Just great . . .

Now consider how an older person, particularly someone in frail health, must feel. All that work to do in preparation for the storm's potential arrival and no one to help with the strenuous and stressful tasks.

Members of the **Rotary Club of Doral City** have recognized that this is a problem in their community and have partnered with the City of Doral, which maintains a special needs registry. When the hint of a storm is out there Rotarians go to the homes of elder citizens and work as needed to prepare the property.

Recognizing that the time before a storm can be very busy for everyone this is truly an act of *Ser-*

vice Above Self. These Rotarians are to be commended for taking on this project which not only protects the property of area senior citizens but, just as importantly, gives them greater peace of mind at a very stressful time.



Before You Go

The dedicated Rotarians at the **Rotary Club of Hialeah-Miami Springs** continue to produce monthly events for area seniors. This past month the afternoon get-together, the 43rd consecutive affair - not including group outings, had a patriotic theme since it fell in between Flag Day and the Fourth of July. Called a "*Tribute to the Soldiers and Families of World War II*", the highlight of the day was a performance of "*Before You Go*" by

Dr. Sam and the Managed Care Blues Band. This very touching song, along with a lovingly produced slide show can be viewed on the Internet at: www.managedmusic.com. If you are reading this newsletter online, simply point your Internet browser to the presentation by [clicking here](#) and then share the link with someone that you know who would appreciate the song and the story.

At the conclusion of this stirring performance there wasn't a dry eye in the house. These veterans of WWII are leaving us on an average of 1,000 per day and, while there is truly no adequate way to thank those who fought this comes closer than anything that I have ever seen.

And Still More Projects

On what turned into a very stormy Sunday afternoon the **Rotary Club of Coral Gables** hosted another in the continuing series of theatre matinees for dozens of area seniors. Many club members turned out to greet their guests and to work behind the counter post-show to serve coffee, pastries and more while the attendees got to chat with cast members.

The distribution of Medical Emergency Information Kits continues unabated for the time being, with several faith-based organizations coming on board this month. A major grant which was being pursued with the assistance of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue failed to materialize but the grant writers at the agency are undeterred and are filing another request. Ultimately, the goal is to re-stock the shelves so that hundreds of thousands more kits can be in circulation.

Another project involving the kits will see advertising this fall in *The Rotarian* magazine to boost awareness in Rotary clubs across America.

Collaboration Effort Accelerating

The partnership with Donors Forum of South Florida is intensifying with establishment of EngAGEment, an affinity group of donors in South Florida that have an interest in aging issues.

One of the first steps to garnering support from those who are motivated to provide financial support within the community has been to raise the level of awareness regarding the

needs of the elder population as well as increase understanding regarding the boom, from a demographic standpoint, that has already begun — tilting the percentage of residents over age 60 in a pronounced direction.

As the donors new to this area of philanthropy learn it is hoped that District 6990 Rotary Elder Program, doing business as "*Seniors Support Network*", will be well positioned to prove that this is an organization that can conduct projects and programs with sufficient impact to realize donor support.

It's a New Rotary Year

Most of the club installations are now complete and the ranks of new Rotary club officers and directors are digging in, setting about the task of laying out a program of work for the year. The great majority of clubs in District 6990 have in one or more of the four years that the Rotary Elder Program has existed, completed one or more projects that benefit elder members of the community.

It is my hope that your club will schedule a project, and soon. I am available as a resource to your club to assist in suggesting possible directions to pursue including the establishment of contacts with social service agencies and other aging related professionals.

It isn't too early to get started. September is National Grandparents Month and there are a variety of ways in which Rotary clubs can recognize the grandparents a particular community.

Contact me soon so that your club can be one of the first to recognize the value of the elder population. They are so often overlooked and for all that they have done it is only right that these folks are treated with the respect that they truly deserve.