

Press Release

The Rotary Club of Glens Falls

P.O. Box 4702

Queensbury, NY, 12804

May 15th, 2009

4th Rotary Water Walk deemed a success

According to event co-ordinator and current club President, Kay Walter, it looks like this year's Rotary Pure Water Walk will raise close to \$ 20,000.

This year was the fourth year the club has hosted the Pure Water Walk and has gone from strength to strength each year. Seeing a need to further the club's international reach; a committee was formed in Glens Falls five years ago. That was the year Ray Agnew was club President.

Ray fostered the formation of the committee which then lead to two club members travelling to Honduras to see Pure Water programs in action there. Club Members Kay Walter and Ian Williams spent eight days travelling throughout Honduras observing the production and distribution of bio-sand water filters and the administration of the program offered by organizations like Pure Water for the World.

Impressed by what they saw; they immediately began to organize a relay-type fundraiser to raise money to fund a water project in southern Honduras.

That was 2006. After funding the Honduran project; they saw a need for a similar involvement in Haiti. Club member Charles Adams spearheaded the project from the Haitian end (he even moved to the nearby Dominican Republic) and Kay rallied the Rotary club again to put on a second Water Walk.

Not satisfied to stop there; the committee saw a connection between their work and that of the local Glens Falls Medical Mission. Perhaps the Medical Mission could use their help in Guatemala too!

The following year's goal was to raise money to fund a Pure Water project in the Nueva Santa Rosa region of Guatemala where the Medical Mission had been working for over a decade. That would make a real Glens Falls impact on that region.

The Medical Mission's work has included water-borne illness treatment. The bio-sand filters provided by Rotary allow the Medical Mission to better combat these types of illnesses by eliminating their root causes.

The Rotary Club had already supplied water filters to tens of thousands of residents in both Honduras and Haiti ~ now it was Guatemala's turn to benefit from clean, potable drinking water. That brings us to the present year's Water Walk...the fourth for the club.

On May 9th, the weather gods were again smiling on the Rotary Club. The clouds had opened up the night before and further rain held off until after the event was over. Scores of volunteers and over 200 participants made the day a fun one and a financial success. Despite the economic downturn; the 28 teams who registered collected over \$12,000. With other miscellaneous donations and amounts still pledged; the amount could reach almost \$20,000 according to organizers.

Added to previous year's money raised; this brings the total to over \$77,000 raised by the Rotary Club to fund Pure Water projects in three countries.

Added to this money raised through matching grants and money from Rotary District funds; the club can boast over \$300,000 to date.

This year, there were teams from local businesses, teams from churches and schools and teams from other local Rotary Clubs. Prizes were awarded to teams who walked the most laps of the course (a 1 mile circuit per lap), who raised the most money, who had the best team spirit, the best team shirts, the best team sign and so on.

Some of the results are as follows:

Most Money Raised (Adult):

1st	"The Aquaholics"	\$2,097
2nd	GF Rotary Past Presidents	\$1,868
3rd	Glens Falls National Bank	\$1,656

Most Money Raised (Youth):

1st	"The Super Surfers"	\$1,759
2nd	GF Home Schoolers	\$ 528
	"The Water Dudes" (tied)	\$ 528
3rd	"The Alley Cats"	\$ 324

Most Laps Walked:

1st	GF Home Schoolers	230 (miles)
------------	--------------------------	--------------------

2nd	"The Aquaholics"	217
3rd	"The Super Surfers"	153
4th	Harrisena Youth Group	104

Thanks were expressed by the event organizers to all the businesses who supported the event and to all of the participants and volunteers on the day.

The event is timed to coincide with World Water Week and will be held in early May 2010.

The Glens Falls Rotary Club is a community service and business professional organization aiding charitable causes both locally and worldwide.

The club meets every Thursday at noon at the Queensbury Hotel. The club can be reached at P.O. Box 4702, Queensbury, NY, 12804 or online at www.glensfallsrotary.org . Kay Walter is this year's President, Tom Haley is the Club's Secretary.

**Ian L. Williams
Publicity Director
Glens Falls Rotary Club**

bendigonian2002@yahoo.com