

June 30, 2006

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

This past year has been different from prior years for our Club. We did not have a major fund raiser. The Club, along with our charitable foundation, raised funds with our annual pancake breakfast and the sale of Ford 100th anniversary books which were donated to our Club through the efforts of Yasuo. These funds enabled us to continue our support of our Boy Scout Troop along with other local and Rotary charities in addition to the \$4,000 of scholarships we give out every year.

In addition, with the help of our members and the Farmingdale community, we made other significant donations during the year. When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf almost a year ago, our members and friends donated \$2,825 in checks to District 7250 for Rotary's hurricane relief efforts. With the help of a poster designed by Bill Metzendorf and the assistance of the Breakfast Club we placed donation canisters in many stores. The canisters raised almost \$500. Saturday, September 24th, we joined with the Breakfast Club on Main Street to collect over \$3,050 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Our Foundation retained 20% of the proceeds to help any Gulf families that were relocated to Long Island. The remaining 80% of the money collected was forwarded to the District. The funds the District received were doubled with a matching grant and sent to Mississippi to help rebuild a Boys and Girls Club that was completely destroyed by Katrina. We collected clothes, linens, books and other items needed in the Gulf. New Island Hospital collected 3 truckloads of clothing donated by its employees. The Farmingdale Public Library lobby continued to fill up with donations of linens and household goods, even after the collection box and signs were removed. Members helped transport the items collected to the various drop off points. I want to thank everyone for their support both in time and financially to help the hurricane survivors. I want to give special recognition to Jim Anderson and my husband Bobby for assisting me with this major project. Without both of them helping, neither the Club nor I could have accomplished what we did. Through Jim's trip to New Orleans in April, the Board has approved that the remaining Katrina Relief funds of approximately \$1,300 be sent to a nonprofit organization in New Orleans that is helping to rebuild the damaged and destroyed houses.

The Salvation Army bell ringing under the coordination of Lenny Constantinopoli raised \$6,337 in December, which I have been told is a record for our Club. In May, many members participated in the Farmingdale Relay for Life and raised over \$2,000 for the American Cancer Society. Special thanks to Bob Chapman for volunteering to coordinate the event, Nancy White for serving as a team captain and Jim Anderson for purchasing the Rotary hats that we all wore. In summary, our Club has made over \$10,000 of direct donations to charitable organizations that did not go through our bank accounts.

Hurricane Katrina helped to bring our Club into the internet age. Although our Board had approved setting up a website, nothing existed when Katrina struck the Gulf area. I felt that our Katrina fund raising posters would be more credible if would be contributors could see an internet address. Within days, with the help of Prakash Pisipati, we had an address www.farmingdalerotary.org. I want to thank him for responding so quickly to my request. The site initially just told about our efforts to help the hurricane victims and had links to other Rotary sites. Over the months, Prakash has worked on developing the Club's website. He also has redesigned our Daler newsletter to e-format, which is e-mailed to members and is also available at our website.

Our Club's brochure was finally completed and printed in time for the Farmingdale Summit in May. The brochure will be used by our membership committee in recruiting new members. If you have a potential new member, ask Lenny or Yasuo for a brochure. Special thanks to Bill Metzendorf for designing the brochure and my husband Bobby for proofreading it from a nonmember's perspective.

Rotary is a service club, so space does not allow me to mention all the names of the members that worked for the Club in many different ways. So I want to thank all of those members who participated in our Club's fund

raising and other activities during the year. I also want to thank my officers and directors for their hard work during the past year. The 2005 – 2006 Rotary year was definitely a “Service Above Self” year!!

In closing, I want to wish Ted, his officers and Board good luck in the coming year as they “Lead the Way”.
(The motto for the 2006 – 2007 year.)

Ruth A. Betz
President, 2005 -2006