

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May, 2007
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Westport Rotary and Westport Sunrise Rotary Float Celebrates Clean Water Westport, Conn. [May 31st, 2007]

At the Memorial Day Parade, the Westport Rotary and the Westport Sunrise Rotary won an award for Most Creative Float. The two Rotary groups joined forces to publicize one of Rotary's key goals to partner with local governments and other non-governmental organizations to initiate projects that provide clean water to people in developing countries. A group of Interact members from Staples High School rode on the truck bed acting out the process of using a sand filter to clean water without electricity.



About thirty-three percent of the world's population does not have access to reliable sources of clean water, and millions die each year due to diseases spread by contaminated water. "A disproportionate number of those who lack access to clean water are children," says Todd Mauerman. "By addressing both the issues of literacy and water management, Rotary can help alleviate hunger and poverty and improve the health and well-being of people and communities worldwide."

The float displayed replicas of a Bio-Sand Water Filter which is made in India using local materials and local labor. The cost of each Bio-Sand Water Filter is approximately \$25 and it is expected to last for 25-30 years with no future cost to the user and very little on-going maintenance. Each filter can supply up to 15 people per day with clean water for all of their drinking, cooking and bathing needs. The float was built by the Interact students and John Shuck, Todd Mauerman, and Sandra Urist.

Partnering with the Rotary Club of Hamden and local Rotary groups around the world, the Westport and Westport Sunrise groups have contributed funds to subsidize the distribution of filters in south Asia. Other clean water programs in Swaziland and other countries leverage contributions to make a big difference directly to the poorest individuals and communities in the world.

In another joint effort, the Westport Sunrise Rotary and the Fairfield Rotary are funding a new water facility in Mato Grosso, Brazil. Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young people ages 14-18. The program gives young people an opportunity to participate in fun, meaningful service projects while developing leadership skills and meeting new friends.

Through service activities, Interactors learn the importance of: developing leadership skills and personal integrity; demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others; and advancing international understanding and goodwill.

For more information about Rotary, come to a meeting on Tuesdays at 12:00 at Longshore or call Westport Rotary Membership Chair, Carleton Cleveland at 203 254 6912 or attend a Westport Sunrise Rotary meeting on Friday mornings at 7:30 AM at the Peppermill or contact Joe Renzulli, incoming President of Westport Sunrise Rotary at 203-226-5633 for more info.

For more information about SAPWII, contact South Asia Pure Water Initiative, Inc., 2832 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518 or email Info@SAPWII.org.

Photo Credit to Dave Matlow: Rotary Clean Water Wins Creative Award at Memorial Day Parade.

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