

DISTRICT OVERSEAS SERVICE REPORT SPRING 2010 [March17th]

My reports seem to be full of Disasters. After the tsunami in the Far East we had the devastating earthquake in Haiti. I know many clubs have sent money in various ways and I have notified all clubs of the Association recommendations for Charities to support. Unicef was very pleased with the donations Inner Wheel sent. Shelterboxes and Aquaboxes are all desperate for funds as their store of boxes has been greatly depleted. Recently Madeira, Chile, Turkey and Fiji have all suffered. It seems never ending.

I have sent Sheila Halliday-Pegg's Newsletters [now 6 in total] onto Club Overseas officers often via other members in the club who are on e-mail. They had various recommendations and also other charities in need of our help such as **Hamlin Trust** [new number 0121 559 3999] and **Intercare** for GPs to ask for GP pack. Doris Langford [Norwich South] will accept some medicines. Personally local pharmacies have been unable to help.

Sheila also informed me that Lowestoft had expressed an interest to twin with Ulm in Germany. So we hope that comes to fruition.

I went with Liz Thomas to meet Mr and Mrs Potter from **International Aid trust** in Great Yarmouth with lots of your goodies. I had a very appreciative letter from him especially thanking us for bigger jumpers as children do grow! I also delivered some **Teddies for Tragedies** to the Organiser's mother in Diss. I received an e-mail of thanks but even though I thought I had checked them a further plea came from her to make the Teddies as per the instructions. Since then a club had delivered 15 more and I received a thank you e-mail. They are waiting to go off to Zambia in July.

I was invited by 1080 International Chairman Richard Pither to join his initial meetings about a new liaison with a well established charity '**Aid to Hospitals Worldwide**' based in Bury St Edmunds. This charity sends all equipment not used anymore by all the hospitals in E. Anglia. Everything, from incubators to wheel chairs from bandages to needles, is sorted, repaired if necessary and then sent on to 30 odd countries. All recipients are vetted to make sure the gift is sent to the proper place. One request came from somewhere which asked

for all sorts of specialist equipment and then it was discovered they didn't even have electricity let alone the people with experience to use it. Richard had wondered if Inner Wheel wanted to be a partner in his new idea. I was pleased to be invited and reported back to the district executive. The charity itself can take some items we collect, sewing machines [sent with uniforms so they can be altered] soft toys to pack the goods with then given to the child patients and computers [which are thoroughly cleaned] Rotary are hoping to call this new venture **1080 AID**. The Charity really needs money as well to pay for the transport of the equipment in containers. I now have a draft leaflet that Richard has drawn up and I am pleased to say I think Inner Wheel should be involved even in a supporting role. Our logo will appear alongside Rotary's. I hope that the finalised leaflet will be available for all clubs at Mildenhall.

I have received notification from Yorkshire Tea who in exchange for the barcodes from their tea packets will send money to buy wheel chairs via the Wheelchair Foundation. I have notified clubs of this offer and I will take any barcodes if you want me to.

I received 25 out of 27 overseas service reports from clubs after a bit of gentle persuasion in some instances and was amazed to realise that over £13,600 had been raised locally in the District. 42 different overseas charities had been supported. These reports were correlated and sent to Association. I must congratulate everyone, from those who stood at cake stalls on cold days to those who held lunches, fashion shows, quizzes, knitted, collected and had general fun raising funds for those less fortunate than our selves.

My Overseas Service lunch is under way for May 12th at Barnham and all I need now is for a good attendance! Please send your replies as soon as possible. I have already received promises of some items **Mercy Ships** need and hope to get lots more. If you want to have a stall please let me know so I can organise a table for you. Incidentally this charity was on the ground working just 2 hours after the earthquake had happened in Haiti and have promised to stay for as long as it takes; years were mentioned.

Report From Marian de Bass District Overseas Service Chairman.

