



"SERVICE ABOVE SELF" - "HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST"

### The Four Way Test

1. Is it the **Truth**?
2. Is it **Fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **Goodwill** and **Better Friendships**?
4. Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?

# The Big Wheel

Aug 19, 2008 — Volume No. 52, Issue 8

Programs: Mark Tauber

Editors: Lynn Jensen & David Schultz

Aug 21<sup>st</sup> Program: **Wendy Davis**

Website: [www.rotaryah.org](http://www.rotaryah.org)

**Classification Talk**

## St. Mary's Services—Adoption and Counseling

Article by **Pat McMahon**. Photo by **Rick Koebernick**.



The speaker at our lunch on August 14, 2008 was Cindy Anselmo from St. Mary's Services in Arlington Heights. St. Mary's is a faith-based, non-profit organization that serves women experiencing unplanned pregnancies who are considering adoption and families looking to adopt children. St. Mary's was started in 1887 by the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary. It was originally an orphanage, then became a foster care facility, and in the 1940s began its current focus on adoption. The service area of St. Mary's currently reaches north to the Wisconsin border, east to the Indiana border, south to the Bloomington, Illinois area, and west to Jo Davies County. St. Mary's sources of funding include adoption fees, fundraising efforts, and contributions from the Episcopal Sisters of St. Mary.

A primary focus of St. Mary's is to counsel women on adoption when they experience an unplanned pregnancy. Statistics show that 22% of children in single parent families live in poverty, whereas only 2% of children in adoptive families live in poverty. Birth mothers that consider adoption are often homeless, jobless, and without adequate clothing, food or other resources. A representative of St.

Mary's will meet weekly with the birth mother to provide emotional and often, financial support. However, St. Mary's support of adoption faces a major challenge. Since the 1970s, single parenthood and abortion have become much more socially acceptable. Forty-nine percent of women facing an unplanned pregnancy will raise a child in a single parent home and 50% will choose abortion, resulting in only 1% considering adoption.

A second primary focus of St. Mary's is to counsel families that are infertile in their attempt to adopt an infant. St. Mary's employs a rigorous approval process in order for a family to be ap-

*St. Mary's Services—Continued on Page 2*

## Club Correspondence—The Rat Writes

Letter and Photos from the "Rat".

Dear Rotarians;

I am doing well and enjoying my summer adventures. I have enclosed a picture of me with one of our club members at a local summer festival to assure you I have not been kidnapped by the Riddler, and am not being held against my will. Those fine masters, don't they have anything better to do than come up with tabloid stories? Anyway, as you can see, the identity of my fellow Rotarian traveling partner has been kept secret for his own protection as well as the name of the restaurant where I took a nap in one of their most comfortable buns! I look forward to sending you more pictures of my traveling adventures in the near future.



Sincerely;

The original "Rotary Rat"



### Upcoming Programs

**Aug 28** **Maria Coons**  
**Harper College**

**Sep 5** **Steak Fry**  
**No Meeting Sep 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Sep 11** **Mike Driskill**  
**Arlington Heights**  
**Memorial Library**

**Sep 18** **Marcia McMahon**  
**"Living United"**  
**United Way**

proved to adopt a child. Adoptive families that are approved by St. Mary's then wait until they are chosen by a birth mother; there is no "list". St. Mary's supports "open adoptions", where the birth and adoptive families have contact through the life of the child. St. Mary's requires a minimum level of contact, but allows the families to otherwise choose the amount and manner of communication. St. Mary's supports open adoptions because studies show that children and parents involved in open adoptions are less likely to later need counseling on issues related to the adoption.

Ms. Anselmo reminded us that St. Mary's is committed to finding a good home for every child, **not** on merely finding a child for every family that wants to adopt. St. Mary's is located at 717 W. Kirchoff Road, Arlingington Heights, Illinois 60005-2358, (847)870-8181, [www.stmaryservices.com](http://www.stmaryservices.com).

### Club Happenings & Announcements

Photos by Rick Koebernick.



**Kris Stabler** announced that the Arlington Park Softball Team beat the Arlington Heights Police Department Team in the benefit softball Game that raised funds to purchase an assistance dog for Renee.

Rotarians present for the Arlington Million Softball game—**Kris Stabler, Jon**

**Ridler, Ron Crawford, Ron Popp, Peter Cavoto, Bob Heller, Jan Behrens, Lew O'Donnell, Stacy Mallek, Bill Mahoney, Ron Graeff, Sue Duchek.**



Participation at the Mane Event was also successful. Flyers for the Santa Sleigh Run were distributed to get the word out to the community about this fund raising event for our Club. Rotarians working at the Mane Event— **Ron Crawford, Bill Kmiecik, Peter Cavoto, Ron Graeff, Jennifer Burnidge.**



**Bob Morman** poked a little fun toward **Lynn Jensen**, who took an absolutely perfect picture of the Louvre' that was published in the local newspaper. Lynn explained that while on his recent vacation, he and his wife, Janet, were taking a walk and came upon the sight. Lynn was somewhat disconcerted because he had left his "good" camera back in the room, and only had a small travel camera. As it turned out, the small camera took a BIG picture that was enjoyed by many.

**Benjamin Zintak** was selected by the Ambassadorial Scholar Selection Committee for Rotary District 6440 to be its Ambassadorial Scholar for 2009-2010. It is anticipated that Ben will be at the District Conference Luncheon on October 3, 2008, at the Marriott Lincolnshire.

### Upcoming District 6440 Events

From District 6440 Website—See [www.rotary6440.org](http://www.rotary6440.org)

**Oct 2, 2008**  
**District Golf Outing**

**Feb 28 - Mar 9, 2009**  
**Guatemala Service Project**

**Oct 3 - 5, 2008**  
**District Conference**  
**Marriott Lincolnshire**



### Upcoming Club Events

**August 18, 2008**  
**Immunization Clinic**

**December 6, 2008**  
**Santa Sleigh Run**

**September 5, 2008**  
**Steak Fry**

**February 12, 2009**  
**Valentine's Day Party**

### Club Member Updates

**Rotarians Absent From the Club's Aug 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Berry, Bodinus, Davis, Dawson, Field, Forncrook, French, Hassenplug, Heller, Mallek, Miller, Mulder, Musolino, Nebel, Nuccio, O'Donnell, Passanante, Ridler, Schweers, Silverman, Tauber, Upmeyer, Vaswani, Walter

**Guests:** Mary Stitt & Matt Grana, Sunrise Club  
Jim Runnfeldt, Long Grove

**Make-Ups:** Bill Borst, Linda Borton, David Schultz

### Greeter Schedule

**August**  
**September**  
**October**

**Graeff & Kmiecik**  
**Borton & Dawson**  
**Graeff & Mulder**

### Pledge, 4-Way Test & Invocation Assignments

**August Stand-In**  
**August 21**  
**August 28**  
**September Stand-In**  
**September 5**  
**September 11**

**Bob Nash**  
**Bob Morman**  
**Jim Miller**  
**Pat Mc Mahon**  
**Stacey Mallek**  
**Bill Mahoney**

### Correction

During the Fine Master portion of last meeting, Phyllis Diller was incorrectly presented as Susan Lucci's mother. **Deb Whisler** and **Bill Kmiecik** did additional research to dispel this urban legend. Jeanette Lucci is Susan's real Mother.