

The Stanford Shout-Out

December, 2023

As one year ends and we usher in the next, it is generally a time for reflection. Stanford Rotary has certainly experienced ups and downs during the second half of this year so we thought we'd share a few snippets with you as we say cheerio to 2023 and welcome 2024.

PENGUIN PLUNGE – Postponed then Cancelled

This was a difficult decision to make, but the safety of our supporters always comes first. We simply could not risk anyone getting injured and the risk of a fast-flowing river as well as the possibility of branches or other debris underwater was just too great. The alternative date chosen would have been Heritage Day.

The Penguin Plunge is an annual fund-raiser for our Soup Kitchens.



Stanfordians are amazing people as we well know, and there is one in particular who has never once - in all her years of "Taking the Plunge" - missed an event, even if she wasn't going to be there on the day. This person is, of course, our very own Sarah James. This year, which would have been her 10th Plunge, Sarah didn't let us down and plunged right in front of her house in Queen Victoria street when the river decided to 'pay her a visit'.



Sarah has announced her retirement from the Penguin Plunge and we'll certainly miss her wonderful spirit of fun. Thank you, Sarah, for being such a strong supporter of Rotary's projects.



SUNSET MARKET

A regular fundraiser is our Raffle at the Sunset Market. Due to the extremely wet conditions in September and the cancellation of the October market, we are extremely grateful for the wonderful support at both the November and December events, which certainly helped us regain some of the lost income from September and October. Thank you to everyone who has supported us, be it by way of donating prizes or buying tickets. Funds raised at the Sunset Markets are used for our various ongoing projects.

HAMPERS OF LOVE

Our final project each year is Hampers of Love. This year was exceptionally well supported which enabled us to add a few extra food items to each Hamper. Thank you to all who supported us with funding and donations in kind.



A GROWING TEAM

We were really excited to induct three new members in the last 6 months, all of whom are long-standing Rotarians who have moved to Stanford but want to carry on with their service work. We look forward to tapping into their vast experiences, not only for existing projects but also with some fresh ideas to better improve the lives of our underprivileged community.



Sybille Essmann



Ray Tee



Flicka Goslett

Rotary always needs new members who bring a fresh energy to the Club. It also means we can offer more support to a struggling community in times of need.

WHAT 2024 LOOKS LIKE FOR US

We always hit the ground running in January which generally kicks off with School Stationery, School Clothes, Supplies for our Family-in-Focus Team (Home-based Early Learning) and getting the Soup Kitchens up and running.

School Stationery: Wish lists are obtained from each of our schools and we do our best to meet their needs. Pens, pencils, rulers, glue sticks, erasers, sharpeners, printer paper, exercise books, rolls of plastic and brown paper, etc. The list is long.

School Clothes: It is very important for children to have school clothes in good repair and which fit. Children who don't have shoes, for example, are teased and ridiculed and often feel they don't want to go to school at all. Same applies for those whose trousers are way too short, etc. Working together with key people in the schools we are able to single those children out (they are most often in the higher grades) and provide some basic school clothes, which does wonders for not only their self-esteem but also encourages them not to drop out.

Family-in-Focus Team: This is a team of Early Learning Practitioners who carry out a home-based early learning program, aimed at pre-schoolers whose parents cannot afford to send their children to a formal pre-school. We provide each of the team members with a backpack containing basic stationery.

Soup Kitchens: The volunteers who cook start up when the schools open in January. They are supported with fresh vegetables and dry goods as well as gas as required. The Rotary soup kitchens serve 3 times per week throughout the year, only taking a break over the Christmas holidays.

EXCITING NEW PROJECT for 2024

Stanford Rotary is always very proud to be in a position to assist our schools, and the Koshuis is very close to our hearts. We will be helping Okkie Smuts redecorate and repurpose a lovely building which has been used as a storeroom but will be transformed into a Recreation Room for the resident children. There'll be beautiful murals, chalk-drawing sections for the children to use, games such as table-tennis, puzzles, books, areas to simply relax. And outside we're hoping for a jungle-gym. Watch this space - we will be reporting back on the progress.

All that remains is to wish one and all a very Happy and Prosperous 2024. Take care and be safe during these holidays.

Should you wish to know more about any of our projects, or would like to contribute in any way, please contact Lana on 082 216 4398