Katie Lovegreen, Xavier O'Brien, and Laura Krusniak  
MISSOURI ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  

Rotary Member Todd Kuhns introduced Laura Krusniak, Xavier O'Brien, and Katie Lovegreen, to our noon Kirksville Rotary Club. They had been recipients of this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, which enabled them to participate in the Missouri Rotary Youth Leadership Academy this year. Laura, Katie, and Xavier showed a documentary video clip and gave a presentation on the Missouri RYLA in which they had participated. This four day event is Rotary's training program for young high school age community leaders who attend through RYLA scholarship awards. It consists of four intense days of personal development and growth. During the program, the participants are given a guide book which helps orient them through a meaningful period of training for community service. The purpose of the program is above to interest them in service. They learn that, in order to develop themselves as leaders, they must develop themselves as individuals. Xavier, Laura, and Kate described the activities of the program, the tests, games, and the division of participants into teams of ten people each to plan and carry out a simulated service project. Other activities included a personality quiz, a rope competition through which participants got to know the strengths and weaknesses in one's own team's members. Our presenters had been deeply moved by the focussed discussion of genocide in Darfur. After they had heard of the situation of 300 children who had to learn under a tree and who consequently had been unable to learn in the the rainy season, our presenters discussed how one team's activities were organized to raise $5000 to build a new school for these children in Sudan. Another simulated group service project was the planning of a charity dinner which necessitated an extensive lesson in planning all aspects of the event. People came to talk to them about their successfully planned activities and told them inspiring stories of their own experiences as community service leaders. One particular story which inspired Laura was told to RYLA participants by Anna, an exchange student to Ecuador who, during her year there, had taught school and had used her own funds to pay for coloring books, supplies, and books for her students. RYLA participants were advised to always consider the critical question in community service: "How many people can I help?" Laura, Kate, and Xavier also described to our Kirksville Rotary Club that they felt strongly that the RYLA held in Fulton with one day's activity in Mexico, had helped them to learn how to lead. Our presenters ended their presentation with the words: "Send more people! Send more kids!"

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Kirksville Rotary member Lisa Kigar was the recipient of the Attendance Prize.

Announcements:

1) Stand-up Board meeting following the regular meeting.
2) Morning club will run a shoes-for-souls campaign this year. Becky Bragg is chairing it, Jeff and Marilyn Romine to deliver. Good opportunity for our club to participate.
3) Five-year Anniversary Celebration for Alliant Bank tomorrow, 4---7
5) October 15th, GSE Applications due.
6) November 7, Foundation Dinner
7) Tree Planting, Rotary Park, October 17

Guests:
Nate Walker (guest of Harriet Beard)
John O'Brien (guest of Andrea O'Brien)
Quang Nguyen (guest of club, TSU International Club Scholar)
Bill Smathers (guest of Marty Joplin)
Dorianne Pyl (Youth Exchange Student, guest of club)
Harley Harrison (guest of club)
Marilyn Romine (guest of Jeff Romine)
Elise Gaber (guest of Ron Gaber)
John Bodell (guest of Ron Gaber)

Upcoming Programs:
October 7 Adair Co-United Way/Berendzen's Pennington
October 14 Curtain Call Theatre Co.
October 21 Ryan Gordon & Elliot Eastin Short Term Rotary Youth
October 28 MO Corn Growers - Ashley McCarty
November 25 No Club Meeting - Joint Service Club Luncheon, November 24th
December 9 Pruitt Winery