



Micro Banks Help Survivors

No victims – just survivors. What a powerful statement about the African villagers who appear from a distance to be among the most destitute in the world, yet on personal account are known to be strong, creative, and innovative.

Rotarian Jos Nolle left us with a great deal of optimism about our ability to make a difference in the lives of many people in Africa, through Rotary. Village banking builds on the personal strength of the African people, we heard convincingly on February 13th. It provides them the simple means to use their inherent business sense.



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Jos Nolle speaks passionately about the impact Micro Credit can make on people's lives in Africa.

Dates To Remember

- ◆ February 20
Diane Elms
– Rotary Club of Dundas
- ◆ February 23 or 24
Dinner Parties
- ◆ February 27
Committee Meetings
- ◆ April 25
Cigar Night
- ◆ May 4 - 6
District Conference

“Micro-credit can be the solution for most or all problems in developing countries, including health problems” stated Mr. Nolle, who spoke with the confidence and authority of having many years experience working in Africa with the medical relief organization Doctors Without Borders. A family business can generate enough money that their kids can go to school and visit a doctor.

The RCNS is joining with the Welland and Grand Island Clubs to begin micro-banks in two Ugandan villages. The Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) already has 15 such banks in Uganda.

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The Best of Rotary

I was really impressed with Jos Nolle's talk on Micro Banks. For me, this type of interaction is The Best of Rotary, for these reasons:

1. Jos is a Rotarian, like me. He has subscribed to the same Values.
2. Jos speaks from intimate personal experience in Africa. He is not talking an institutional line.
3. Jos is personally committed, and quietly passionate and determined.
4. Jos is thoughtful, personable, friendly. We share the Club culture – he took our shoulder rub back to his own Club. He assisted with our paper Valentine.
5. I can go to his Club anytime for a Makeup. I know that I will be welcomed.
6. I am confident that his “due diligence” on the bank administration group (FINCA) is solid and credible.
7. He has a personal insight into the Human dimensions of poverty in Africa that I have not heard before.
8. He calls the Refugees by a new name – Survivors. His personal recollection of the Party they threw for the Dutch ambassador was unique and powerful!
9. Jos gave me an important peek into the dark continent – Africa.
10. Jos helped me to understand another piece of the battle of the sexes – that males in the third world are unreliable family providers.
11. Jos explained the impact of the moneylenders in Africa.
12. Jos explained to my satisfaction that there is a real and meaningful way to assist the third world family pillars (the women) by investing quite small amounts of money. This has a big bang for the buck!

My thanks to Jim Peters for bringing this worthy movement, Micro Banks, to our Club's attention!

Rotary Yours,
Steve [Jackson]

“You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.”

Kahlil Gibran

Lebanese Poet and Novelist

Guess Who's Coming for Dinner

Life got a little easier this week.

You now can choose to have dinner on either February 23rd or 24th – or both – with Rotary friends.

There's two requirements. First, Susan Thompson needs to know if Friday the 23rd is better for you than the 24th. And second, she may still need more hosts.

If you can either host or eat, please give Susan a call unless you've already done so.

Rotary Sunrise Addiction

Meetings aren't always this relaxing – but they could be.

What will it be next week?



Sunriser Bulletin Publication of the Rotary Club of Norfolk Sunrise

Communications & Public Relations Committee

Chair: Ross Gowan - Bulletin Editor
Members: Dan Barker, Blair Harrison, Dave Murphy,
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Committee Chairs

Youth & Exchange - John Matecsa
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Club President: Steve Jackson
Secretary: Judy Scrivener
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Sue O'Dwyer, Randy Bridge, Donna King

Send Sunriser submissions to: rgowan@fanshawec.on.ca
Deadline for submissions: Wednesday 1:00 p.m.

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Our joint project will be implemented by FINCA in cooperation with local Ugandan Rotary clubs. The cost to begin each bank is \$2,500. FINCA will pick at least 20 entrepreneurs – likely all women – and will train them a bit to begin the business venture. The local Rotarians will become the “business partners” and mentors for these entrepreneurs. Each village bank will conduct its own affairs offering business advice and peer support to its members. The banks will grow and have proven to be very successful.

Jos presented a very strong case. Through his current work as Director of International Education and Development for Niagara College, Jos hopes to visit Uganda this summer. We will look forward to an update from him following that trip.