

Penrith Rotary Club 2009/ 10

Penrith Rotary Club gave £17306 in the last financial year

Penrith Rotary Club's annual charity report reveals that £17306 was given to the poor and needy.

President of Rotary, John Brookfield says,

'Each year we are deeply impressed by the generosity of local people and their willingness to support our events. This allows us to target many local needs such as our support for the development of young people, our **Access for All Walk**, a self-guided tour in six languages which profiles the rich heritage of Penrith and many other good causes. I thank all those who have made this possible.'

In the report, club trust fund administrator, Jeff Fawcett describes the sources and beneficiaries of this generous funding. Once again the jewel in the crown was the annual golf competition which raised over £5000. The main street collection raised almost £3000 in aid of flood relief throughout the county. As a new venture a 10Km Trail Run and 5Km fun run was held in Lowther Park and raised £1790. The military band concert in St Andrew's Church raised over £1000 as did the Swimathon and the Burns' night supper. With other fund raising throughout the year together with £1432 Gift Aid revenue, the club was able to report, for the first time gross charitable income in excess of £20000.

General beneficiaries of approximately £10,000 included schemes to support local young people; The Youth Leadership Award Course, Young Enterprise Eden, and the Life Education trailer staffed by two trained educators. The trailer visits local junior schools to deliver guidance that helps children make healthy lifestyle choices. A severely disabled young person with carer was funded to attend The Calvert Trust for the Disabled. Other local beneficiaries included Penrith Mountain Rescue Team and Eden District Mencap. Further donations were allocated to Cumbria Community Foundation Flood Appeal, the Armed Services Benevolent Association (SSAFA) and the Access for All Walk publication.

The remainder of the funds went to causes that are supported by Rotary clubs around the world. This collaboration means that a major difference can be made in the lives of poor people. Once again the club contributed to the Rotary international polio world eradication project, in conjunction with UNICEF, World Health Organisation, US Centres for Disease Control and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The background to this campaign is that two billion children under five years of age have received the polio vaccine, five million people who might otherwise be paralysed are walking today Polio infected nations have dropped from 125 to just 4.

A further grant went to the Wheelchair Foundation. It is estimated over one hundred million people worldwide have a wheelchair need and Penrith Rotary has funded some 87 wheelchairs over the last 3 years. Five Shelter boxes were bought, each of which contains one ten-person tent, ten sleeping bags and ancillary associated equipment for use when disasters occur throughout the world. A grant was made to Schools 4 Africa, which is providing education for the most disadvantaged children in eleven of Africa's most needy countries. Money also went to the Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group which provides know-how in affected areas to ensure lasting and sustainable safe water and sanitation solutions. Eight Aqua boxes were bought; each provides water purification systems to produce 1100 litres of good water for use at the scenes of disaster. Further grants were made to the Jaipur Limb Centre and the No More Land Mines Trust.

A further donation went to a project, created by Appleby and Upper Eden Rotary Clubs, for the building of the Eden Medical Centre. When completed, this will provide eight hospital wards in the village of Dinbara which is located in the impoverished country of Mali.

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