

**MORE WBL ROTARY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jim Rathburn** is looking for a few more members to participate in the **Stamp Out Hunger** program in partnership with the US Postal Service on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Cub Store on Centerville Road. Letter Carriers will be picking up food donations from homes on their route and bringing the donations to a truck where we will be loading it for delivery to Second Harvest Food Shelf. There are several time slots to fit your schedule and this is a great opportunity to team up with other Rotarians for a good cause and share the fellowship.

This coming Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, is the clean-up and planting day at **Rotary Nature Preserve** in honor of Arbor and Earth Days. This years plans are trash collection, mulch placement and tree trimming. Starting time is 8:00 and we should be done before 11:00. Contact **Bryan Belisle** with questions and to sign up.

On behalf of the Club and the Community Service Committee **Jim Rathburn** presented contribution checks in the amount of \$500 each to PAI Adult Care (for it's music therapy program) the YMCA (for it's Community Partners scholarships) and the 916 Education Foundation (for equipment and programs for special needs students). Representatives of each organization were on hand to accept the donations and thank the club.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday **August 14<sup>th</sup>** for the next **White Bear Lake/ American Red Cross** blood drive at the Armory. If you gave last month you will be eligible again by then. If you missed last time this is another chance to help save a life.

**Tim Geck** presented the Inspiration Pin to Mark Sather, with recognition to Mark for the many city projects he has spearheaded, and his community service through the City and Rotary.

**Program:**

**Had Solberg** introduced Leah Retamozo and Tessa Makepeace of the Bilingual Childcare and Education Center. Ms. Retamozo is the CEO and founder of this family owned business and has Bachelor's degrees in Spanish and Comparative International Development and a Master's degree in Latin American Studies from the U of M. Ms. Makepeace is the Operations Manager, has a degree in Spanish and is a former exchange student. The bilingual daycare center was started by Ms. Retamozo nine years ago in a church in St. Paul and later expanded to a location in Roseville. This past January a second location was opened in Mahtomedi. A total of 75 children are currently enrolled. The Center's mission is to support families who wish to raise bilingual children by supporting the natural development of Spanish language skills and cultural awareness while preparing children for success in school.

Through the immersion education technique, native Spanish speaking teachers serve children six months to five years of age in an environment where only Spanish is spoken. Ms. Retamozo explained that bilingual immersion has academic and cognitive advantages, broadens the children's horizons, allows them to communicate with a larger portion of the population and creates greater employment opportunities. The Center's sites are staffed with licensed aides, assistant teachers and lead teachers. They are open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the tuition ranges from \$365 per week for two to fifteen month olds to \$295 per week for five year olds. Breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack is served. Their business plan calls for a third location in the Stillwater area in three to five years. Forty percent of their current students are from bilingual families. More information is available at [www.bilingualchildcare.com](http://www.bilingualchildcare.com)

Thanks Had and Ms. Retamozo and Makepeace for the interesting presentation.

Your reporter further sayeth naught.

*Writer of the week: Mark Sather*

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**The Rotary Club of White Bear Lake—  
building friendships and improving lives through hands-on  
projects in the White Bear area and around the globe**

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:**

“ Knowledge is power. Information is Liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

- Kofi Annan

The following person has been approved for Rotary membership. If there are no objections from the club members within 10 days, they will be inducted at an upcoming meeting:

**Nancy Watkins**  
**Personal Membership**  
**Sponsor: Craig Drake**

