



# Rotary Club of Metro NYC E-newsletter

DECEMBER 15, 2008

VOLUME 10

## Annual Holiday Party & Toy Drive

Wednesday, December 10



Our annual holiday party and Toy Drive to benefit the Yorkville Common Pantry, took place at the restaurant, Dopo Teatro Trattoria on 125 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street. Attendees brought unwrapped toys for children ages 1 to 12 and had the opportunity to mingle over drinks at the cash bar. The event was a festive one with people enjoying conversation with new and old friends.

## Italian Rotarian Winter Visit

Wednesday, December 4



As a follow-up to the welcoming party that Rotary Club of Metro NYC organized in honor of Italian Rotarians visiting NYC en route to the Rotarian annual conference in Los Angeles this summer, we held an informal welcoming session Italian Rotarians visiting from the Roma Appia and Viterbo Rotary chapters in Italy. Members from the Rotary Club of Metro NYC conducted a private tour of NYC at night to see the city that never sleeps during

Christmas time. Though the weather was cold, there was warmth and fun walking around Manhattan at night. Banners were exchanged and new acquaintances renewed.

## Yorkville Common Pantry

November 22 and October 25



In October and November the Rotary Club of Metro NYC participated in their monthly program to assist the Yorkville Common Pantry distributing bags of food to community neighbors in need. On November 22nd, from 8 AM to 1 PM, We assisted in Thanksgiving preparations in addition to distributing bags of food. Those interested in volunteering for future pantry drives should contact Nadine Homann at [nadinehyc@yahoo.com](mailto:nadinehyc@yahoo.com).



Rotary motto of 2008/2009 is:

*"Make Dreams Real."*

## Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>



Dr. Veronica Ruelas of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity—New York (VOSH-NY) spoke at our Rotary Club of Metro NYC dinner about her “third-eye vision camps,” which she has organized this year in Peru and Northern India. She will be organizing additional camps in Mexico, Ecuador, and Southern India next year.

VOSH-NY is a voluntary nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide free eye care to disadvantaged people from all corners of the world. Composed mainly of optometrists, VOSH-NY also includes physicians, nurses, bankers, lawyers, housewives, as well as volunteers from all walks of life. For more information, please visit their website at: [www.vosh-ny.org](http://www.vosh-ny.org).

## The Europeans are Coming: Run!

### New York Marathon



This year’s running of the New York Marathon was on November 2, 2008. Among the thousands running in this event were about 130 Rotarians from Germany, France, Austria, Tunisia, Bangladesh, and Australia in this Rotary Fellowship event. To celebrate this event, Rotary Club of Metro New York hosted and organized several events to

welcome our guests from overseas.

Friday, October 31, 2008: Official Opening Event—Dinner Cruise



The marathon weekend was kicked off with a 3-hour dinner cruise, starting at 7 PM, to see the highlights of New York City and New Jersey from the water. This cruise was the opening event for the Marathon weekend where about 140 Rotarians from various countries mingled over wine and dinner to hear about the weekend’s planned activities and to hear the current status of the End Polio Now effort for which this weekend event will benefit. To learn more about this effort to end polio, please visit: [www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio). Representatives from Rotaract and NYC district governors were on hand to help celebrate the event as well. The highlight of this event was the nightline of Manhattan and New Jersey with a special trip past the Statue of Liberty.

Saturday, November 1, 2008: Friendship Run and Group Photo

Many of the Rotarians running in the next day’s marathon participated in a run in New York City’s Central Park to celebrate the Rotarian Fellowship. The Run ended with a group photo in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art on 5<sup>th</sup> avenue.



### Sunday, November 2, 2008: Dinner



Starting at 5.30 PM, a farewell dinner was held after the NYC Marathon at Dopo Teatro Trattoria (125 W 44<sup>th</sup> Street) Italian restaurant near Times Square -- to enjoy and celebrate the last evening of the NY Marathon Fellowship event. At this farewell dinner Rotarians relaxed their weary feet while regaling each other with their marathon exploits. It was a very relaxed and casual evening to end the Marathon weekend. The evening ended with the banner exchange between the various visiting Rotarians and the Rotary Club of Metro NY.

## NY Cares Day 2008

### Saturday, October 18, 2008



This year's NY Cares Day was held at PS 122 in Queens, New York. Forty-four volunteers signed up for our "Rotary Metro" team for this annual event. The team braved cold weather to perform extensive gardening, mural painting, and painting the playground. Over \$700 was raised in addition to the "physical" support on this Saturday event.

## NY Power Authority: Behind the Scenes

### Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008



Edward Birdie, Manager of Public and Government Affairs and fellow Rotarian from the Riverdale (Bronx), NY Rotary Club, gave a very entertaining presentation on the scope of operations of the New York Power Authority. Edward discussed the innovative ways that the NY Power Authority—the largest non-federal public power organization in the country—generates electricity and how simple tips at home can save considerable energy. The increased use of electric/hybrid vehicles and their impact on the power grid of the country was discussed. His presentation was supplemented by take home reading materials and souvenirs to help convey the importance of power generation and conservation.

## Metro NYC Rotary Club Meetings

The Rotary Club of Metro NYC is now a participant in the Rotary *Meeting Frequency Pilot Program*. To this effect, our club has decided to meet twice a month, each second and fourth Wednesday.

Our dinner meetings start at 7:30 PM at:

### **Dopo Teatro Trattoria**

125 W 44th St  
New York, NY 10036  
[www.dopoteatro.com](http://www.dopoteatro.com)

Please send and email to [rsvp@rotarymetronyc.org](mailto:rsvp@rotarymetronyc.org) if you are planning to attend.