



The e-Wheel has once again returned to keep us informed about our club, about each other and about what is to come in the future. Emily Hosinski and Debra Trapikas have graciously teamed up and taken on the task of the e-Wheel. They have promised to make this a weekly commitment for the rest of their lives—or until they get burned out or bored.... whichever comes first. They really need your help though. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write one or both at emily_m_hosinki@whirlpool.com or ta-wana53@aol.com. If you Happy News you wish to share, let us know. We will print it if you promise to lay five Happy Bucks on your table at the next meeting. Aaron Bradford is the fabulous photographer providing the visuals.

KINEXUS SHARES THEIR VISION

MARCH 10, 2015

Marshall Downs, of Kinexus graciously shared his time with the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary on March 9, 2015 to provide education on some great work that's being done in our community.

So, what is Kinexus anyway? Pronounced "Connects Us", the name is a play on words: Kinetics - a study of reactions and Nexus - a connection or group of connections

Through the prongs of ECONOMY, WORKFORCE and COMMUNITY, Kinexus works as a hub of change agents to connect people, investments, and organizations with strategies and services that make our region a great place to live, work, and play.

Community Development and the Blight Elimination project were the primary focus of Downs' presentation. This year-long project aimed to rid Southwest Michigan of 15 residential and 5 commercial blighted structures. By eliminating these structures, property values of neighboring homes increase and economic development opportunities arise.

The Blight Elimination project is a great example of utilizing an out-of-the-box solution to two problems simultaneously. Kinexus engaged unemployed and under-employed job seekers in this construction project. The goal of the program was not necessarily for these workers to follow through with a career in the construction

field but was a ground-floor experience for individuals with a lack of work experience to understand and gain familiarity with the expectations of an employer. Overcoming barriers of transportation and child care as well as practicing the skills of dependability and responsibility were practiced by these participants. Of the 27 participants, 18 have been able to attain and maintain employment since the project's completion.

With a mission to be a change agent who creates solutions for the workforce, business, and community and promotes economic vitality in the southwest Michigan region, this is just one example of the great work that Kinexus is doing



Marshall Downs of Kinexus

great work in our community. Thank you, Corey!

Upcoming Events

- Interact College Game 3/14
Night at the Citadel
Oak Room. \$10 per
person. BYOB. Buy
tickets at the door.
- Essay Contest Is APR
Coming Soon
- Track Meet at Saint 5/1
Joseph High School

JOKE OF THE DAY

Three old Rotarians were out walking
First one says, "Windy, isn't it?"
Second one says, "No, its Thursday,"
Third one says, "Me too, let's go get a beer."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

What a banner Monday to induct four new members into the club. The weather had a feel of Spring in the air, even though the snow on the ground tells us it is not. Inductee are: Lisa Cripps-Downey, Berrien Community Foundation; sponsored by husband, Bill Downey.

Jacqui Winship of Whirlpool Corporation, sponsored by Lynn Kellogg (on behalf of Bill Marohn)



Jacqui Winship

M'Shannon Marquette of Benton Harbor Schools was sponsored by Dwight Bowman.



M'Shannon Marquette

Chris Newland, Hilton Garden Inn was sponsored by Dave Burkhardt.



Chris Newland, left

Welcome New Members to the Saint Joseph—Benton Harbor Rotary Club.

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Thank you to all Rotarians and guests who attended and/or volunteered at the End Polio Now event on March 4.

Lakeshore Rotary Annual Theater Trip to Chicago is March 28 to see West Side Story, dinner included. \$100 per person. Anyone interested can contact Katie White at 269-983-0611 (office) or email: Kathryn.shoop@gmail.com.

Interact "College Game Night" tickets can be purchased from Lori Marciniak. She can be reached at: dir@curiouskidsmuseum.org or call her cell phone at 269-208-2154/



Lisa Cripps-Downey

STUDENT GUESTS PRESENTATIONS

Sarah Mc Coy met with Nate Harrington, attorney at Coneybeare Law Offices. She also met with Charlie LaSata and a cou-

ple of newly "passed the BAR" attorneys. Sarah is interested in the legal field.

Olivia Clancy of Saint Joseph High School visited Nicole Perrelli at Whirlpool to discuss careers in the Chemical and Mechanical Engineering field.

What do they have in



common? A desire to explore their fields of interest through the experiences and mentorship of local business professionals. Word is getting out that our Rotary has a program for students who are really interested in what their future holds

for them. We have seen a plethora of students come through our doors this year, which only means the program is working. Special thanks to Jackie Huie, Rick Villa and Mary Frey for making sure this program has the mentors and the host Rotarians available for the students.



HIGH SCHOOL KIDS INTERACTING IN THE COMMUNITY

We have seen the members of the Interact Club working hard at different events throughout the area. Their dedication to earn money to return to the Dominican Republic to continue building sanitary facilities and provide clean, filtered drinking water is evident by

their participation in so many fundraisers this year. With over 20 students going to the Dominican Republic this year, they need every dollar they can get to help them travel.

The Interact Club is a program of Rotary and the participating students are

the next generation of Rotary members. Let's support these kids in all that they do, as they have been supporting our other club, district and international programs.

Purchase a \$1 raffle ticket each week. Go to the College Game Night and

bring some friends. There will be plenty of food, prizes and lots of laughter. Have some fun in this busy world. It's okay. The raffle tickets available each Monday helps these kids. One raffle ticket costs just one dollar and gives you the opportunity to be in the drawing for the cash prize. .