

PAGE 1

[Fundraising and immunization days bring Rotarians closer to their goal](#)

[Choice for President](#)

[New Rotary country](#)

[Nairobi ready to host presidential conference](#)

PAGE 2

[President's Message](#)

[Conference reinforces RI's commitment to peace](#)

[Call for exhibitors](#)

[Afghan refugee contributions lauded](#)

[What's New](#)

PAGE 3

[General Secretary's Memo](#)

[Notices & Reminders](#)

[Assembly approaches](#)

[Institute of interest](#)

[Rotary Awareness Month \(January\)](#)

Brazilian Youth Exchange student helps to form Interact club in USA

Brazilian Rotary Youth Exchange student Lucas Coelho left Macomb, Illinois, USA, with more than new friendships and memories of great experiences. During his exchange year in 2001-02, Coelho worked with the Rotary Club of Macomb to found an Interact club.



Lucas Coelho, second from left, with other members of the Interact Club of Macomb in 2002.

Coelho knew a thing or two about Interact. At age 14, he had helped charter the first Interact club in his hometown, São Manuel, São Paulo, Brazil.

"When I had my first opportunity to talk to the Rotary Club of Macomb, I encouraged the club to charter an Interact club," Lucas said. "I told the members that they could count on me for help."

After the Rotarians agreed to sponsor the Interact Club of Macomb, Coelho created a buzz at his school by talking repeatedly to his classmates about Interact. "I kept saying, 'Please just come to see what it is all about,'" he recalled.

Warren Jones, who formerly chaired the Macomb Rotary club's Interact subcommittee, said that, thanks to Coelho's efforts, the Interact club "got off to a flying start and never lost momentum."

Meeting for the first time in January 2002, the 22-member club took on a dozen projects. For example, members arranged a punk rock concert to raise money so the Interactors could entertain children from the local Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program and help their sister Interact Club in São Manuel purchase equipment for local institutions there.

Coelho said he likes Interact because "we have fun and at the same time we help a lot of people and ourselves."

Now back in Brazil, Interactor Coelho is collaborating with Macomb's Rotary and Interact clubs on international projects. Having recently turned 18, he also has a new goal: helping organize a Rotaract club in São Manuel.

Project gives opportunities to refugees and immigrants

San Diego, California, USA, is home to 20,000 East Africans, more than half of them refugees from civil war in Somalia. A Rotary-supported project is helping Somali women, many of whom arrived in the United States without their husbands, to acquire sewing skills in order to support their families.

[Club Clinic](#)

[Core RI information available online](#)

PAGE 4

[Out of tragedy a club is born](#)

[New Models club in Australia attracts once-wary young adults](#)

[European Rotary clubs gain and retain members](#)

[Just the Facts](#)

[Walking along Rotary's four Avenues of Service](#)

PAGE 5

[Brazilian Youth Exchange student helps to form Interact club in USA](#)

[Project gives opportunities to refugees and immigrants](#)

[Rotaract project shines on Kenyan national TV](#)

[Family Week - Brazilian club builds homes for poor families](#)

PAGE 6

[Indigenous Australians benefit from Foundation-aided center](#)

Since January 2002, women have been taking sewing classes twice a week for six weeks at the Horn of Africa Center in the City Heights neighborhood. Hundreds of refugee women have learned to make clothing such as the garbasaar, a traditional scarf, and some plan to start small businesses.

Quickly growing beyond the Somali community, the sewing classes now enroll Latin American students. Organizers hope to enroll Sudanese students soon as well.

"There are significant waiting lists for these classes," said Steve Brown of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, which organized a Rotary Community Corps (RCC) to advance the project and community.

In addition to social workers, student interns, and a garment industry veteran, the RCC includes 10 sewing instructors - among them two Somalis, one Mexican, and one Eritrean - who conduct classes in the students' native languages. They earn a little money from the US\$5 per-two-week class tuition, help maintain the facility, and recruit new students.

The project has received \$1,000 from the La Jolla Golden Triangle club, \$2,000 each from the Rotary clubs of San Diego and San Diego Downtown Breakfast, \$4,000 from the District Designated Funds of District 9200 (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda), \$1,000 from District 4100 in Mexico, and a \$10,000 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. The funds helped purchase equipment and materials.

Organizations cooperating in the project are Horn of Africa, the International Refugee Committee, SAY San Diego, and the University of San Diego.



Sewing the seeds of future success, Somali refugees learn to create traditional clothing, a highly marketable skill.

Rotaract project shines on Kenyan national TV

A community service effort of the Rotaract Club of Millimani in Nairobi, Kenya, benefited hundreds of disadvantaged children, won national TV fame for the club, and planted the seeds for future cooperation with the media.

At the end of 2001, the Rotaractors asked KTN, Kenya's leading television company, to donate airtime on its quiz show "Who's Smarter Now?" which has an audience of 2.5 million viewers. Their goal was to raise funds for a Christmas party for the 150-plus residents of the Good Samaritan Children's Home in Nairobi's Mathare slums.

Accepting the proposal, KTN requested Brookside Dairies, the show's main sponsor, to increase the prize money. In addition to pledging KSh400,000 (about US\$5,000)



Opening act: a group of talented participants depict the streetwise humor of ordinary Nairobians to prepare viewers for the Millimani Rotaract club's entertaining fundraiser.

[Rotary Foundation Month - Programs improve lives, communities](#)

[Rotary World Peace Scholar aspires to join healing process](#)

[Two groups establish Donor Advised Funds](#)

[Worth Repeating](#)

PAGE 7

[Contributions exceed US\\$67 million](#)

[What it takes to be the number one giver](#)

[RotaFact](#)

[Major Donors get firsthand look at Rotary Centers in UK, France](#)

[Asking the Experts](#)

PAGE 8

[Project Firefly lights up minds of children in Istanbul, Turkey](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Rotary clubs combat hunger](#)

[South Africans launch balloons in fight against AIDS](#)

[In Brief](#)

in prizes, the dairy company donated Sh300,000 worth of milk products to Rotaract projects. This allowed the Milimani club to include children's projects from three other Nairobi Rotaract clubs among beneficiaries of the fundraiser.

Many Nairobi Rotarians and Rotaractors were part of the supportive audience at the recording of the show, promoted widely by KTN and a newspaper before airing. To increase the show's appeal, KTN invited six celebrities to compete against each other in a preliminary quiz. Each represented a children's project from the Rotaract clubs of Milimani, Muthaiga, Nairobi Central, and Nairobi East and from local charities. Six Milimani Rotaractors starred in the main contest. Nearly Sh400,000 was raised by the celebrities and Rotaractors to benefit 620 children.

"We succeeded in raising public awareness of Rotaract, and sensitizing Kenyans about the plight of underprivileged children," said Fredrick Kariuki, international service director of the club. The project also inspired new sponsors to contribute funds and material assistance to the children's home.

Family Week

Brazilian club builds homes for poor families

RI's annual Family Week, to be celebrated 3-9 February in 2003, provides an excellent opportunity for Rotary clubs to take up projects that support families - and involve their own families in volunteer activities.

Last year, the Rotary Club of Londrina Alvorada, Brazil, decided to help local families in dire need of the most basic necessity: a home. The club took over the administration of Project Where You Live, originally developed by the Catholic diocese to provide families squatting in shanties with legal housing on the same land. Local authorities and an organization committed to building affordable homes also participate.

Builders recycle materials from demolished houses to construct the new homes, an idea suggested by an engineer and Rotarian. Each 44-square-meter (144-square-foot) house features running water and electricity, two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, and bathroom. Residents obtain their homes at no cost by helping with the construction.

So far, 44 houses have been built, 14 of them since the Londrina Alvorada club began coordinating the project. "The club helps to select families, raise funds, provide basic necessities to the families, supply transportation vouchers to families and builders, and locate construction materials," says James Bussmann, club member.

Area radio, television, and newspaper reports on the project have spread support for it in the community while also promoting Rotary.

One of the myriad ways Rotary clubs can observe Family Week is to confer RI's Family and Community Service Award certificate (757-EN) on individuals or organizations for outstanding service.

return to [top](#)

