



The Ratchet



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St. Baldrick's at AHS

For the second year in a row, the Alton High School Interact Club hosted a St. Baldrick's Day at the high school. There were several student and faculty members who volunteered to have their ears lowered. There were at least two Rotarians who participated, David Elson and Ed Morrissey, the organizer of Rotary's St. Baldrick's Day in 2008. More that \$6100 was raised for childhood cancer research. Megan Van Hoy, \$2500, and David Lauschke, \$700, were the big fund raisers.



Pictures of Megan Van Hoy and David Lauschke by Dan Thornton



Rotary Programs



Dec 6 St. Anthony's Health Center

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Annual Christmas Program - Spouses Night.

Dec 13 Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for December will be honored.

Dec 21 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Regular Meeting 6:00 pm. Club Christmas Party. Family night. Special guest will be Santa Claus to provide a preview of his upcoming world tour.

Dec 27 No Meeting

Holiday



Student Essays

In this month's issue of The Ratchet, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

Service by Phillip Anderson

Four years ago I moved here from Mesa, Arizona. It was quite a change in many ways with many new things. It provided me a myriad of opportunities that I am very proud of.

Just before moving I was able to receive my Eagle Scout award and have since been inducted into the Order of the Arrow where I continue to participate in various activities and service projects. Within Boy Scouts of America, in order to achieve Eagle Scout, one of the requirements is to plan and lead a service project for the community. Although you may chose your project there are still a few requirements that you must perform in order to carry it out successfully and efficiently. It is a scout's ultimate test of leadership and that is just what it was for me.

It took me a while to decide what kind of project I wanted to do. I wanted to do something very special for my community and when I talked to my JR High counselor I found just the thing. The school's JR Honor Society was adopting needy families for Christmas but could not provide the necessary presents for the rest of the families in time due to a shortage of participation of students within the honor society. I decided to adopt all 8 remaining families. I had to get everything done within two weeks. I was very fortunate to have help from people in my school, church, and scout troop. We obtained, wrapped, and delivered the necessary gifts. It was a great success and definitely a test of leadership. I gained useful experience for my future. It was a wonderful experience I will never forget.

I have been an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I have had many opportunities for service and participated in various activities with the



Stewardship by Kathryn Randolph

Volunteering has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and it all started with my mother. When we were younger, she would volunteer her time at our grade school as my brother's "room mom". She spent countless hours devoting her time planning birthday and holiday parties. I would go with her and help her out when she needed an extra hand. It was fun to see the excitement in the student's eyes when she would arrive because everyone knew it was time to celebrate. My father also volunteered his time to our grade school. He was in charge of maintaining the athletic fields. It wasn't long after I could reach the pedals that my dad had me on the lawnmowers helping cut the grass. Quickly I learned that along with volunteer work comes respect from others. Whenever a volunteer opportunity arose within our community, my family was there. Whether it was serving at a fish fry, setting up for our parish picnic, or helping at the local food pantry, our family was always there and eager to help. I learned a lot from all of these volunteering opportunities, but nothing compares to the values gained from volunteering at Challengers Baseball.

Challenger Baseball is a baseball league for young kids and adults with developmental disabilities. The objective of Challenger Baseball is to let everyone bat, play out in the field, and have a good time while doing so. Strikes and outs are not counted, therefore everybody plays and wins. Challenger Baseball is much the same as regular baseball; the kids play on the same fields, use the same equipment, and wear uniforms. Each team has their coach and their own buddy. A buddy is a young volunteer mostly teenagers that do not have disabilities. What a buddy does is they help the kids bat and run, help out in

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Stewardship



the outfield, and help push wheel chairs around the bases and out in the outfield, but mainly a buddy is there to be a friend to the Challenger players. The most important part of Challengers is that the kids and adults that play get to experience

what many people without disabilities take for granted. They get to feel what it's like to be on a team and to be cheered on by family and friends, almost forgetting their disabilities for the couple hours that they play.

My first day at Challengers was one of the most nervous and fearful days of my life. I did not know what to expect and I was scared because I had never dealt with handicap kids before. Once I got out onto the field and started to talk to the kids I realized that they are normal people just like you and I, they are loved and respected. The kids are always happy and excited to play, and it was nice to see a smile on their face. I was then "buddied" with a boy named Max who has been blind since he was born. He and I have been together ever since. I help Max throw, catch, bat, and run the bases because he is blind. Imagine the trust you would have to have in someone helping you catch a ball, run the bases, and hit a ball. Max's and I friend relationship is like no other relationship I have had. We talk about our likes and dislikes and our favorite music and foods. Working with Max made me understand there is more to life than what we realize and helping out in the community is so great and rewarding.

I believe the true measure of a person is not what they take out of this world but in fact what they give back to it. Because of my family and upbringing, I have understood the benefits of volunteering since a young age. All of these opportunities have taught me so much more than what can be learned in a classroom or out of a book. Volunteer work will continue to be a staple in my daily life, and it is something that I will instruct my children and grandchildren for years to come.

Jan 3 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Program to be announced.

Jan 10 Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for January will be honored.

Jan 17 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM.

Jan 24 Holiday Inn

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. The program is a membership mixer. Begin thinking about possible guests to invite.

Jan 31 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Program to be announced.

Bill Hoagland, Program Director



Tree Still Looks Good!



Service



youth group. I have been involved with the Bucket Brigade and Christmas Caroling for the elderly at nursing homes.

In High School I have become a proud member of the concert choir and a Cadet Major within the JR ROTC program. During my four years in ROTC I have been given leadership roles and experiences that have made me the leader I am today. I have been awarded the Military Officer's Association Award and have been named ROTC Team Commander and Flight Commander. I would like to say thank you to the cadets and instructors of the Corps. They have made the past few years memorable, as well as educational.

My goal after high school is to attend a year at SIUE. After which I plan to become an LDS religious missionary and participate in a two year mission. Upon returning, I plan to return to SIUE and enroll in the Army ROTC program for four years to become an officer in the Army Ranger Reserves. While in the reserves I plan on attending college and earning a Masters degree in the field of counseling.

In closing, I would like to add over the past few years I have learned many different things but one of the most important would have to be the importance of service. Not only is it great for the community but it is also good for developing one's character.

Club Officers 2010-2011

President.....Roland Hansen
820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Vice-President..... Mike Tillman
1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
SecretaryJasper Fisher
3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
Treasurer Bob Hamilton
4003 Stoneledge Court, Godfrey, 466-4362
Executive SecretaryMelissa Seymour
3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2010-2011

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