

## Chronological Summary of the Twin Club Partnership Between The Knoxville and Mátészalka Rotary Clubs

- 1995 • Initial Outreach, Invited all new Rotary Clubs in Hungary to attend a luncheon at Gundel in Budapest.
  - Visited most Rotary Clubs in Hungary.
  - Met/learned about Mátészalka Club.
- 1996 • Received RI Discovery Grant.
  - Visited Mátészalka Club and *Camp Tridea*.
  - Partnership began with first Twin Club Summer Teen Visits (**Suchomski & McClellan** there, **Ungvari & Keleman** here.)
- 1997 • Return trips to Hungary.
  - Rotary International Matching Grant approved (\$30,000)
  - Twin Club Summer Teen Visits, 5 Hungarian teens, 4 Knoxville teens & 1 adult
- 1998 • First payment of three made on RI Matching Grant.
  - Twin Club Summer Teen Visits, 2 Knoxville teens (Igoe & Nichols)
- 1999 • Received \$20,000 RI Children's Opportunity Grant for *Tridea*.
  - GSE Team from Hungary visits, hosted by Knoxville & District 6780  
GSE Team grant for our District approved
  - *Tour de Tridea* Planning Trip to Hungary
  - Raised \$15,000 from area clubs and individuals for bicycles and helmets for campers at *Camp Tridea*.
  - *Tour de Tridea* – 18 Knoxville Rotarians & 12 Mátészalka Rotarians bicycled from Budapest to *Camp Tridea*. (**Knoxville News-Sentinel** printed front-page feature story and Channel 8 TV aired daily reports.)
  - Hosted luncheon for 100 Hungarian Rotarian leaders at Gundel in Budapest.
  - Produced first partnership calendars for 2000 using *Tour de Tridea* trip photos.
- 2000 • *Tour de Tennessee* – hosted 20 Hungarian partners.
  - Raised \$2,500 for 50 *Tridea* scholarships.
  - Hungarian partners return to Mátészalka with 40 duffle bags of sports equipment donated by Knoxville area clubs.
  - Feature story in *Rotarian* magazine (May 2000)
- 2001 • Twin Club Summer Teen Visits continue
  - GSE Team from District 6780 travels to Hungary, led by Rotary Club of Knoxville member Joe Sutter
  - Produced our annual partnership calendar for 2001.
    - Twin Club Summer Teen Visits continue
    - Launched YMCA Camp Montvale/*Camp Tridea* partnership (Camp Montvale Director visits *Tridea*)
    - 25 Knoxville members travel to Hungary for dedication of *Camp Tridea*.  
Matching Grant renovation completion, and to attend the wedding of member Steve Roth to Zsuzsanna Zadori, daughter of Szeged Rotary President.
- 2002 • Received SHARE Grant for \$25,000 to send teacher to Mátészalka High Schools to teach conversational English in 2003-2004 and to assist with development of Interact Clubs at Mátészalka High Schools.
  - Planning begins for *Tour de Tridea II* in May 2004
- 2003 • Completed two planning trips to Hungary for *Tour de Tridea II*.
  - Club –sponsored candidate for Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship received award to study in Hungary in 2004-05.
  - Dedicated grant recipient selected and preparations made for him to spend three months in Mátészalka in the Fall of 2003.
- 2004 • Thirty-four people participated in the trip to Hungary for *Tour de Tridea II*. Forty-three bicycle packages of \$250 each were donated which permitted 50 bicycles to be purchased for the bike ride, and then presented to *Camp Tridea* and the Children's House of Mátészalka orphanage.
  - Anthony Akers, who accompanied the 2002 Summer Teen Visits Team to Hungary, was the recipient of a designated grant from a club member that enabled him to return to Mátészalka in 2003 to teach ESZE TAMAS GIMNAZIUM, the local college preparatory high school. While there he also assisted the faculty and students in forming the only Interact Club in Hungary jointly with GEPESZET SZAKKOZEPISKOL, the local vocational high school. The Interact Club of Knoxville Catholic High School is a twin-club with the new Interact Club in Mátészalka.
  - In March 2004, the club provided a travel grant for the president and secretary of the new Mátészalka Interact Club to attend the District 6780 Interact Conference in Pigeon Forge that included the Presidential Celebration attended by Rotary International President Jonathan Majiyagbe.

- In addition to its budget allocation from the club, WCS raised \$18,800 on its own to help cover the costs of the activities described above.
- Three Mátézalka youth and three Knoxville youth participated in the 2003 Twin Club Summer Teen Visits.
- At Christmas time, RCK members presented \$1,000 to the Children's Home orphanage to purchase much needed washing machines to support the residents of the home.

As of June 2004, there have been over 60 potluck suppers/planning meetings hosted in homes of our Rotary members who attend with spouses.

- 2005
- Townes Osborn, "godmother" of Mátézalka Interact, represented RCK at the Mátézalka Interact Club chartering celebration in Mátézalka on October 23, 2004. The club is the first Interact Club in Hungary and was initiated by Townes and the World Community Service Committee.
  - Three much needed washing machines were presented to the Mátézalka Children's Home, an orphanage, for Christmas 2004 by the *Tridea II* participants.
  - In April, 2005, seven Mátézalkans visited Knoxville to attend the Centennial Sculpture Dedication and Celebration. They were Lajos Biro, the sculptor, his wife, Sirpa, their son, Ville. Also attending were Istvan (RCM president-elect) and Erzsebet Pak, and Ferenc Erdelyi and Gyöngyi Oláh. Knoxville Rotary members were hosts and tour guides.
  - Five Hungarians from our Twin Clubs in Mátézalka joined us at the Rotary Centennial Convention in Chicago in June 2005. We provided hotel accommodations for past RCM president Ferenc Erdlyi and his wife Maria, plus three Mátézalka Interact members who joined two Catholic Interact members. Several RCK members, along with the District and RCK made it possible for the teens to attend the Centennial Convention, an experience of a lifetime. All the teens were participating in the 2005 Summer Teen Visits that our club has with Mátézalka Rotary. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> summer for the exchanges, and through them 50 teens have had the opportunity to live in and experience another culture.
  - RCK was awarded a Rotary Individual Grant to send three club members/spouse (Steve Anderson, Terry & Trish Igoe) to Mátézalka during Summer 2005 to assist with building a play yard at the Mátézalka Special Education School at which 50 of the orphans from the Children's Home of Mátézalka attend. The group was joined by Summer Teen Visit participants, Mátézalka Rotarians, and Interact members. RCK also made a \$2,500 special project contribution for material and equipment

for the new play yard. The play yard was a joint project of RCK, RCM, KCHS Interact Club, and the Interact Club in Mátézalka. It was the first activity of a multi-year project that will include work on playgrounds in Mátézalka's public parks around downtown buildings that house factory workers.

- 2006
- Four Mátézalka youth participated in the 2006 Hungarian Twin Club Summer Teen Visit (HTCSTV) to Knoxville.
  - A \$1,000 travel grant was provided to the Rotary Club of Mátézalka to assist with travel costs for Interact HTCSTV members.
  - At Christmas, RCK transferred \$1,500 to the Rotary Club of Mátézalka that was used to provide 3 computers for the residents of the Children's Home orphanage.
  - RCK members purchased Christmas cards designed by the Mátézalka Interact Club as their fundraising project to support the multi-year Mátézalka public parks project. The club raised \$250 as did their Twin Interact Club at Knoxville Catholic High School. RCK matched these funds with a \$500 contribution that brought the total raised for the parks project to \$1,000.
- 2007
- Six Knoxville youth participated in the 2007 Knoxville Twin Club Summer Teen Visit (KTCSTV) team to Hungary. Ms. Emily Carter, their Knoxville Catholic High School Interact Club faculty coordinator, accompanied them as chaperone.
  - Four Mátézalka youth participated in the 2007 Hungarian Twin Club Summer Teen Visit (HTCSTV) team to Knoxville.
  - A \$1,000 travel grant was provided to the Rotary Club of Mátézalka to assist with travel costs for the Interact HTCSTV members.
  - At Christmas, RCK members presented \$2,500 to the Children's Home orphanage that was used to purchase a badly needed vacuum cleaner plus additional washing machines for supporting the 160 residents of the home.
  - RCK members purchased Christmas cards designed by the Mátézalka Interact Club as their fundraising parks project. The club raised \$250 as did their Twin Interact Club at Knoxville Catholic High School. RCK matched these funds with a \$500 contribution that brought the total raised for the parks project to \$1,000.
  - In November, past President Townes Osborn and President-elect Mack and Cheryl Gentry traveled to Mátézalka. They visited the local orphanage, dedicated playground basketball courts in parks around town that had been funded as Twin Rotary Club projects, and conferred with Mátézalka Rotarians about twin club projects for the next few years and about plans for the Tour de Tisza visit by Knoxville Rotarians in May 2008.

- 2008
- Five Knoxville youth participated in the 2008 Knoxville Twin Club Summer Teen Visit (KTCSTV) team to Hungary. Michael Donovan, one of their Knoxville Catholic High School Interact Club faculty coordinators, accompanied them as chaperone, and a travel grant was provided to him through the Gerald Michaelson Memorial Travel Fund.
  - Three Mátézalka youth participated in the 2008 Hungarian Twin Club Summer Teen Visit (HTCSTV) team visit to Knoxville.
  - A \$1,000 travel grant was provided to the Rotary Club of Mátézalka to assist with travel costs for the Interact HTCSTV members.
  - At Christmas, RCK and individual members presented a total of \$1,150 to the Children's Home orphanage that was used to provide washing machines and vacuum cleaners that the Children's Home needed.
  - In February, RCK sent \$6,000 (2007-2008 and 2008-2009 contributions) to RCM to help underwrite and complete construction of a playground at the Children's Home orphanage.
  - A club member provided a designated grant of \$2,500 to the Mátézalka orphanage for the purchase of additional bicycles and sports equipment.
  - In May, fourteen Rotarians and spouses traveled to Hungary for the *Tour de Tisza*. A Sunday Brunch was planned and hosted by the *Tour de Tisza* participants with support from a Knoxville foundation at Gundel Restaurant in Budapest. The purpose was to celebrate the creation of the new Hungarian Rotary District 1911, and Rotary leaders throughout Hungary were invited. Our club has worked with the Mátézalka Rotary Club since 1995 and all of its past presidents plus the first District Governor were awarded Paul Harris Fellows which members of RCK provided. District 6780 also presented an Ambassadorial Scholarship to the new Hungary District 1911 which will be used in 2009-10 by a college student from Hungary to study at the University of Tennessee.
  - The *Tour de Tisza* participants traveled to Mátézalka and were shown many cultural and historically significant sights by our Twin Club Rotary members. The trip resulted in more goodwill, stronger friendships, better understanding and appreciation of Hungary's culture. Highlights of the tour included the dedication of the new playground at the Children's Home orphanage which our club helped fund and a Mátézalka Rotary Club meeting/banquet in honor of the *Tour de Tisza* participants. The Mátézalka and Knoxville Rotarians also took a leisurely boat excursion on the Tisza River, the second largest river in Hungary – hence the origin of the trip's name.
- 2009
- During this Rotary year Knoxville Rotarians hosted Katalin Illes, the first Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar from Hungary - who is from Mateszalka. She studied accounting at UT and Terry and Trish Igoe became her Tennessee parents. Grady Bogue was her UT liaison and a great help along with Dave Moser and many RCK members. Townes Osborn and Brown Wright were her official club member sponsors. Katalin's father, Tibor Illes, also visited during the month of April. Because of our 15 year relationship with the Mateszalka Rotary Club, having Katalin with us all year was beneficial to all concerned.
  - Once again, RCK raised funds to provide Christmas gifts for the orphans who reside at the Mateszalka Children's Home. We raised the funds and then the Mateszalka Rotary families shop for a special gift for each child, wrap each gift and deliver the presents under the Christmas tree. Without our annual contributions, these children would not have any Christmas gifts. Special thanks to the World Community Service Committee for spearheading this annual outreach project.
  - This year, Dr. Zsigmond Ungvari, the first president of the Mateszalka Rotary Club, became the District Governor Nominee for Hungary District 1910! DGN Zsigmond launched the first Youth Act Clubs in Hungary and Townes Osborn proved a dedicated grant in support of the new clubs.
  - Last, but significantly, our club applied for a District Simplified Grant ( DSG) for \$2,500 which we will match and add additional funds in 2010-2011 to help co-fund the Mateszalka Rotary's new Rotary Skateboard Park. Because Rotary explained to the Mayor of Mateszalka that the children had no place to skateboard and were damaging some of the public spaces – a dedicated area/park was needed and the Mayor gave public land, as suggested by Rotary, for the park and our clubs will work together to build the park with the proper EU approved equipment. The Rotary Skateboard Park will be dedicated in 2011 and we hope RCK members will be able to attend.
- 2010
- During the 2010-2011 RCK year, through the generous contributions of many members RCK provided \$3,000 for Christmas presents for 246 orphans in Hungary, under the care of the Mateszalka Children's Home. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we have sent funds for Christmas gifts. This is possible because of Mateszalka Rotarians and Inner Wheel members purchase, wrap and deliver the gifts for each child. Some of these children live in a separate home and are mentally ill. Many of the children NEVER received a Christmas present in their entire life!

- Also, in Mateszalka, all of the young skateboarders were pleased when the long awaited and much needed new Skate Park opened just before Christmas. This happened because our club received and matched a \$2,500 District Simplified Grant last year and provided \$5,000 to our Twin Club in Mateszalka as part of the funding for this new park. The park was dedicated on June 18, 2011 and Townes Osborn, filling in for President Brown Wright, was there to cut the ribbon. The gratitude of the skateboarders was expressed to us in the following note from one of the skaters: *“Hello in the name of the whole ‘team’ I would like to wish Merry Xmas. The components fixed yesterday caused big happiness for each of us, now we expect better weather to be able to use the parks. It is almost impossible to imagine a better Xmas present like this, and old dream came true yesterday. Thanks, Andris.”*
- 2011
- The UNICUM held its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year’s Eve Party at Naples Restaurant and celebrated the arrival of the new year in the countries of our Twin Clubs in Hungary and South Africa.
  - This was our club’s 15<sup>th</sup> Summer Youth Exchange between Mateszalka and Knoxville. Three members of the Webb Interact Club (Nicole King, Isabel Schaad and Ann Legg Margiotta) were hosted during June by Bianka Szolnoki, Anna Varadi, Tina and Kristof Zekany and the Hungarian teens returned to Knoxville on July 1-21. President Sam Weaver held a party in honor of these dynamic teens.
- 2012
- This was the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year RCK sent funds for Christmas gifts for the orphans at the Mateszalka Children’s Home. Through the generous contributions of many members RCK provided \$3,000 for Christmas presents for 246 orphans in Hungary, under the care of the Mateszalka Children’s Home. Mateszalka Rotarians and Inner Wheel members purchase, wrap and deliver the gifts for each child. Some of these children live in a separate home and are mentally ill. Many of the children NEVER received a Christmas present in their entire life! Without our contribution, these children would have any gifts on Christmas morning.
- 2013
- In late June 2013, a team of 11 RCKers traveled to Mateszalka to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mateszalka Rotary Club, and the 17 years our two clubs have worked together. Originally 14 RCK members were scheduled to make the trip and these 14 contributed \$3000 as an anniversary gift for the Mateszalka Rotary Club and Inner Wheel Club. The funds were used to sponsor a NE Hungary District Lego Robot competition and to renovate a piano in the library so that concerts and cultural gatherings can once again be held there. Inner Wheel used some of the funds to sponsor Christmas performances in the town for young children. In addition, the travelers took \$2,000 for the Mateszalka Children’s Home to help renovate a new indoor fitness room in the basement of the orphanage. The gift was from the Webb Interact Fund Club and the Osborn Fund. Finally, they delivered the 2013-2014 District Grant of \$5,000 to complete the new Skate Park which we have supported since its inception.
- 2014
- For the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, RCK members contributed \$5,000 to the Mateszalka Christmas Fund to purchase Christmas gifts for the 246 orphans at the Mateszalka Children’s Home. Mateszalka Rotarians and Inner Wheel members purchased and delivered gifts for each of the children.
  - For the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, RCK members contributed funds to the Mateszalka Christmas Fund. A total of \$7,000 was contributed for the purchase of Christmas gifts for the 246 orphans at the Mateszalka Children’s Home. Mateszalka Rotarians and Inner Wheel members purchased and delivered gifts for each of the children.