

Monday with Mikey: July 11, 2016

I'm just returning from a "Roto-cation" in Montego Bay, Jamaica. First Mate Jocelyn and I flew there last Wednesday to meet with the 28 other DGs from the Southeast US and the Caribbean nations, along with RI President John G. Germ.

The "Roto" part was a local hands-on project at the Granville Child Care Facility, where we planted a vegetable garden and helped children with learning to read. The "cation" part also included the dedication of a laser eye surgery machine, purchased with Rotary Foundation Global DDF (district Designated Funds) from all 29 districts and matched with monies from the TRF World Fund. We were also "officially" installed by President John as officers of Rotary International and governors of our respective districts.

Whew: DOING GOOD.

The "cation" part was that we stayed (at absolutely NO expense to Rotary, our district, nor any club therein) at a world-class, all-inclusive resort. Even District Governors need a little "down time" – and in this case it was "down-island!" Irie, man!

But wait: there's more...

Last weekend (before we headed south), Jocelyn and I celebrated the 60th birthday of PDG Gary Gunter from Tampa's District 6890, with a surprise party at his home. There were Rotarians present from both of our districts and several clubs in each.

Whoa: HAVING FUN!

I am constantly reminded that we are – each one of us – *first* members of Rotary Clubs. In my mind, "Rotary" means "doing good," and "Club" – defined as "a group of people who share an affinity for or common cause with others of like mind" – means "having fun." Every time we share Rotary camaraderie with folks from places other than our home clubs, we are in emphasizing the "International" part of this magical organization. I think each time we do that, we "join another Rotary Club" because those new Rotary acquaintances will never be strangers again; rather, they become truly our "Fellow Rotarians."

So as you travel this summer – or anytime – look for an opportunity to share Rotary someplace other than where you live and work.

Until next Monday, keep "**Doing Good, Having Fun!**"
Your Friend in Rotary Service,

Mikey

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Rotary District 6950
Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties
Florida's Nature Coast / Suncoast

