

Hi this is Gregg Foster with a Community Comment.

It's been a few years since I was a regular commenter. I'm subbing today for John Gullam, from the Northern California Community Blood Bank. John often talks about that great organization and the importance of giving life through blood donations. A couple weeks ago, however, he talked of things less Draculean. He spoke about another great organization, Rotary International. John and I are both members of the Rotary Club of Arcata, Sunrise. Of course, three minutes is just not enough time to talk about all of the great things that Rotary does. John is a member of our World Community Service committee and mentioned just a few of the great international projects that our club supports.

The largest international Rotary project is "Polio Plus," which is our organization's effort to completely eliminate this crippling disease. Started in 1985, we have been successful in leading the effort to immunize the world from Polio. We are so close to success, having reduced polio cases from 350,000 per year to just 250, a 99% reduction. Today, there are only three countries where the transmission of the polio virus is still occurring, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Closer to home, the 10 Rotary Clubs in Humboldt County have also had an incredible impact. We're just one of those ten, but the list of what we do is impressive. This includes:

1. Using our talents and dollars to refurbish the McKinleyville Family Resource Center, Arcata Playhouse, and Boys and Girls Clubs.
2. Providing backpacks of food to needy schoolchildren every Friday.
3. Giving scholarships to Arcata High graduates.
4. Giving dictionaries to third grade students.
5. Sponsoring the RUOK program, which checks on seniors by phone and provides lockboxes for emergency personnel.
6. Providing major funding for the new Arcata Volunteer Fire Department building.
7. Coordinated a training and mentoring program for young adults who are leaving the Foster youth program.
8. Sponsorship of youth athletic events.

And the list goes on. Much of what we do is through our Community Foundation and, of course, we rely on our members' and the community's generosity to help us with this.

And... well, we like to have fun too. Our fundraisers are well known for their creativity and this year's Spring Fundraiser is no different. Our theme? "Down the Rabbit Hole." Yes, it's Alice in Wonderland, recreated at the Arcata Community Center. You will be amazed by the décor, the entertainment and the amazing food and drink. Come in costume if you want. Many will. It promises to be another great sell-out event.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75. Buy an entire table and you or your business will be recognized at the event as a sponsor.

For more information, you can go to our Facebook page or find us at [www.arcatasunrise.org](http://www.arcatasunrise.org).

I look forward to seeing you there. This has been Gregg Foster with a Community Comment.