

ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926
CLUB NUMBER 4339
DISTRICT 6960
ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – BEN BATES
Classification: Real Estate Broker

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

SMILE THE WEEKLY CLUB NEWSLETTER

WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

About This Week's Speakers: Maria DeCarlo & Laura Magnusson

Maria DeCarlo is Vice President of Post-Acute/Rehabilitation Services at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, where she oversees the organization's 34-bed Comprehensive Rehabilitation Unit, 120-bed Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Center and an array of inpatient and outpatient therapy programs. Maria is currently responsible for the new 74,000 square foot Rehab Pavilion that is being built on the hospital campus. Previously, she held various managerial positions where she participated in the planning and development of 4 outpatient rehabilitation clinics, including a medically-based wellness center. Licensed as a speech-language pathologist, Maria holds both a Master of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree. She is board-certified in Health Care Management and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Maria is an administrative surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF International), a Team STEPPS® Master Trainer, holds a Six-Sigma Green Belt **and** is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. **Laura Magnusson is director of rehabilitation services at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System**, where she is responsible for clinical and operational oversight of a 34 bed acute inpatient rehabilitation unit, acute hospital physical, occupational, and speech therapy departments, and five outpatient therapy programs.

Laura Magnusson is Director of Rehabilitation Services at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, where she is responsible for clinical and operational oversight of a 34 bed acute inpatient rehabilitation unit, acute hospital physical, occupational, and speech therapy departments, and five outpatient therapy programs. Laura initially joined the Sarasota Memorial in 1991 and has held multiple positions in acute care, outpatient, inpatient rehab and home health. Laura relocated to Maryland in 1998 to work at Johns Hopkins as a rehabilitation coordinator until returning to Sarasota and SMH in 2001. She has been instrumental in realigning resources, helping to facilitate programming throughout the continuum, growing the service line and contributing to the planning and design for the new Rehabilitation Pavilion. Licensed as an occupational therapist, Laura also holds a Master of Business Administration degree, and is a Team STEPPS® Master Trainer. She is a Member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Next Week's Speaker: October 5th: Sue Parsons Zipay & Peter Fanning...Women's Sports Museum

And for the next few weeks:

October 12th: Christine Johnson....Conservation Foundation

October 19th: Britt Riner....Junior League of Sarasota

October 26th: Shannon Stafford....Girls Inc.

PIONEER PICNIC IS ALMOST HERE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

PREVIOUS MEETING (9/21/16)

A more entertaining Scotsman than our speaker, **George Robertson-Burnett**, I have yet to hear. George was born in Scotland, which you can tell from his delightful accent, but he is a recently naturalized US citizen who makes his home in Bartow, Florida. He currently serves as his **District's Membership Chair** and the **District Governor's Aide**, but his real specialty is building membership in Zone 34, our Zone, which continues to grow with many new Rotary members. George says the key to making our club continue to grow from its current 95 members is to make membership FUN. We can do just that by focusing on fellowship, networking opportunities, and by continuing our exciting community and international projects. But we have to be willing to share our experiences of interesting club meetings, great social activities, and wonderful club projects with other members of our community. We already have the first, best and largest club in Sarasota. Let's share the fun with others. Thanks, George, for your entertaining words of encouragement.

Dining for Women will be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning on October 18.

October's project takes place in Mali and targets agriculture and economic sustainability.

The host for Dining for Women's Oct. 18 meeting will be Ben and Lynn Bates. Their address is: 3659 Torrey Pines Blvd. 34238....located in the Country Club of Sarasota off Beneva.

**Club Social – Thursday, September 29th
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Join Bob Summers & Seaside National Bank & Trust
1999 Main St., Sarasota**



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The Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do: 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build good will and better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

2016/2017 PRESIDENTIAL THEME: ROTARY SERVING HUMANITY

TAKING ON TOOTH DECAY IN CHILDREN

A PARTNERSHIP WILL PROVIDE THE SERVICE TO SECOND GRADERS IN 14 SCHOOLS.

By Maggie Clark Health Reporter

This article appeared in the Wednesday, September 21, 2016 edition of the Sarasota Herald Tribune. It is intended only for the information of the members of the Rotary Club of Sarasota.

Starting in January, second graders at 14 Sarasota County schools will have the chance to receive free dental sealants on their molars through a partnership between the Department of Health in Sarasota County and four local foundations.

It's an effort to improve oral health, and thereby school success. Dental care is the leading cause of absence among children and the disease that causes cavities, known as dental caries, is the nation's most common chronic childhood illness, five times more prevalent than asthma.

The idea for a program to help local students fight the lifelong consequences of dental disease was sparked by an email. Jim Henry, a longtime leader in the Sarasota Rotary Foundation, was looking for a way his group could help improve children's early school success. He contacted Barbara Shirley, the principal at Alta Vista Elementary in Sarasota, and asked if her students, the majority of whom come from low income families, were getting vision screenings when they started school.

The children already receive vision screenings, Shirley said, but they really need dental care. Shirley's observation is backed up by extensive research showing that low income children are the group most likely experiencing dental caries, and are the least likely to get treatment, because of a toxic combination of low Medicaid reimbursement rates, few dentists willing to accept Medicaid patients and a lack of parental education on oral health.

A Herald Tribune series published this summer found that while teachers and school nurses observe children with dental pain nearly every day, they don't have many options for referring Medicaid enrolled children to dental care.

In Sarasota County, the health department's two locations in Sarasota and North Port see about 7,000 children per year. But the county has more than 20,000 children from birth to age 17 enrolled in Medicaid.

Last year in Florida, just one third of Medicaid enrolled children received any dental care at all, according to state data submitted to the federal government. Only 18 percent of Florida dentists accepted Medicaid patients, a Florida Department of the Health dentist survey showed.

PARTNERSHIPS EMERGE

The more he learned about this problem, the more Henry wanted to help. It turned out he wasn't the only one. A call to the Department of Health in Sarasota County revealed that experts there had been working on a grant application to hire a dental hygienist to provide dental sealants to every second grader attending one of the county's 11 Title I schools, which include any school where more than 40 percent of the students come from low income families and are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

At the same time, leaders from The Patterson Foundation, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation were all interested in working to stem the tide of childhood tooth decay. By the time the groups met in July, plans for a dental sealant program for second graders fell quickly into place, and three more low income schools were added to the list.

Last week came more welcome news: the local health department secured a \$42,000 state grant to hire a hygienist and dental assistant, and the portable dental equipment bought by the foundations arrived in Sarasota this week.

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The sealant program is a key initiative for the Florida Department of Health and national experts because of the sealants' effectiveness in preventing cavities and saving money. Sealants reduced the number of children experiencing dental disease by 86 percent in the first year after application, according to a report published in the Journal of the American Dental Association, and for every \$1 spent on sealants, the state of Florida saved \$1.88 on fillings, the state reported.

Over the next few months, the Department of Health in Sarasota County will hire a hygienist who will also help connect uninsured children with health coverage, and a dental assistant who will both help place the sealants and file billing paperwork to the Florida Medicaid program to receive reimbursement for any Medicaid enrolled children they treat.

The dual roles of health worker and advocate helps turn the program into a way to chip away at the number of uninsured kids in the county, said Beth Duda, director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading at The Patterson Foundation. "Yes, we want every child's teeth to be sealed, but this program is also a good entry point for some of the families who qualify for coverage and may not know about it," Duda said.

HOW IT WORKS

Any child with either private coverage or no insurance will get the dental sealants free. For Medicaid enrolled children, the service will be billed to their Medicaid insurance, which covers the service at no cost to the family.

The Medicaid reimbursements should be enough to keep the program financially sustainable, but any extra money needed to support the program will be provided by the foundations, up to a total of \$60,000, Henry said. The foundations also will have money set aside to pay for extra dental care for second graders who need more than just sealants, Henry said.

Those students will be linked with oral health care provided by the Department of Health in Sarasota County, and leaders hope that the whole family will benefit. "This program is just for second graders, but if a family has multiple children, we will try and embrace the entire family and make sure they are connected to the health system," said Linda Glover, school health supervisor for the Department of Health in Sarasota County.

Parents should see permission slips coming home over the next few months, and the sealant appointments are slated to begin in January. Because the dental care will be on campus, dental program administrator Lorany Vasquez anticipates that children won't be out of the classroom for more than about 10 to 15 minutes, so as not to disrupt instructional time.

The program is starting in second grade because that's when children get their first set of permanent molars, which can then be sealed to protect against cavity causing bacteria. But the program's leaders hope to eventually offer on campus dental care to older and younger children in Sarasota County, and eventually expand into Manatee County and communities across the country looking to make a difference in child health and school success. Overall, the program is an example of the collaboration that can happen when people get together with the same goal, Henry said. "We saw dental care as a need we can fill, and with the partnership, we now have a way to get it done."

**GIVING CHALLENGE DONORS WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS IN HONOR AND/OR
MEMORY OF OTHERS OR EVENTS.**

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