



# Espanola Rotary News

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[www.rotary5520.org/Espanola](http://www.rotary5520.org/Espanola)

Nov - Dec 2008

## Donna & Bill's Fellowship Party



Wow what a great afternoon we all had at Bill and Donna's hacienda in Abiquiu. Besides fellow Espanola Rotarians, we were joined by a Rotarian family visiting from Switzerland. A game of horseshoes, a little bit of wine, cake and good spirits were enjoyed by all. And we even celebrated Ron Pomeroy's birthday. Thanks Bill & Donna!



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## The Backpack Pilot-Project



I walked into the Sombrillo Elementary school and found the guidance counselor. She was a young, pretty and very pregnant lady who was talking on the phone, had a child hanging on her arm and had the phone to her ear. I asked her for a minute of her time, she smiled and said "OK but just one minute, it's very busy today."

I told her my idea.....our Rotary club and a neighboring church group would provide her school with backpacks filled with food that she could discretely give out to children who would not have any food at their homes over the weekend. She listened to my idea and then she told the child on her arm "Steven, can you please go outside for a moment." After he left she whispered to me "He might be one of the children that needs food." She said she would have to get permission from the parent and the principal. I told her David Cockerham, the school superintendent was our Rotary president and her face lit up. "Oh good, then we won't have a problem getting permission."

She quickly got on the phone in her enthusiasm to call another counselor. While she was on hold she said to me, "Can you come talk this Wednesday at our counselor meeting, we have ELEVEN other schools and they all have hungry children that don't eat at home." The word ELEVEN vibrated in my head!

"Wait," I said, "I would love to help, but this is the pilot school. Let's see how this works and iron out the kinks and then we can look at these other schools." ELEVEN schools and even more all over the state! What if our Rotary club could help pay for the backpacks to get the projects started and then help to connect community or church groups with the school counselor? This could be a great project to participate in.....Please share your thoughts on this project and email or call me anytime (505) 929-2794 or [drjapa@gmail.com](mailto:drjapa@gmail.com). Blessings, Japa Khalsa  
Community Service Chair

## Rotary Christmas Party

December 5<sup>th</sup> 6pm @ La Cocina



If you're going to attend any big event of the year, this is it. Dinner is \$25 per person with a choice of 3 dinner options. Also we will be collecting gifts for Amigo de Valles seniors. If you haven't already received a persons name to get a gift for, please contact Julie Ziegler. Attend for the good food & fellowship for all.

## Meditation Garden Project

Plans are drawn up and looking good for the Presbyterian Hospital "meditation garden" project.

Derrick Yu along with Manuel Valdez and Ken Beesley have all helped get this project going. We can't wait to be involved and bring this project to fruition. For more information contact Derrick Yu.



## Holiday Birthdays



Julie Ziegler-Langille - November, 15<sup>th</sup>

David Cockerham - November 11<sup>th</sup>

Ivan Guillen - December 26<sup>th</sup>

Mathew Rivera - December 29<sup>th</sup>

## Amigo de Valles Firewood October 4<sup>th</sup>



Matt & Manuel -getting' er done!

A huge thanks to Matt, Manuel, David, Ken & Harpal for going out to collect a couple truckloads of firewood for the seniors of Amigo de Valles. The giant tree we cut was maybe 100ft tall and 2ft wide, but we kept going until it was all done.

## Highway-Clean Up Oct 11<sup>th</sup>



7 brave Rotarians & 2 Rotaractors ventured out into the early Saturday morning air. Complete with double latte's and bags in hand, Japa, Thomas, Julie, Robin, Deborah, David and Harpal picked up anything that moved along the highway. There was a ton of garbage. Here's another local community project that we do as a club, that all members should be proud of. Yes we had fun, part of our 5 Way Test.