



ROTARY GRIQUA

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

29 October 2018

<http://rotarykimberley.org.za/>

TURNING TEENS AWAY FROM CRIME

Akeem Stephenson wanted to go to jail. He believed it was the only way he could free himself from a life of crime — a life he desperately wanted to change. After being arrested for a fourth time more than 10 years ago, for aggravated robbery, the teenager in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was set to go to prison. But the judge saw something in Stephenson that suggested that he could redeem himself. So he gave Stephenson a choice: participate in an 18-month youth program, or serve the six-month sentence. For Stephenson, the choice was clear. He decided to transform his life through the PACT Urban Peace Program.

PACT, which stands for Participation, Acknowledgement, Commitment, and Transformation, is a Toronto-based, award-winning charity supported by Rotary clubs in Canada. It works with at-risk young people and those who have committed crimes to change their direction in life. Entrepreneur and Toronto Rotary member David Lockett co-founded the program more than 20 years ago. The intensive, step-by-step program aims to break the cycle of poverty and criminal behaviour. Its goal is to determine what the participants need and develop strategies “to put them on a positive path in their life, so they can enrich not only their own lives, but their community,” says Lockett, a member of the Rotary E-Club of Social Innovators D7090.

Lockett says PACT builds peace in urban communities. “It’s really quite simple. If you want to help at-risk youth, you really have to understand the simple needs they have.” He acknowledges that young people who commit crimes should be held accountable, and for many of them, that includes serving jail time. But for some, those he says come from “squalid and deplorable backgrounds” with very little parental guidance, PACT is a resource that can change their lives and reduce the likelihood that they will commit more crimes.

The organization works with the judicial system to identify repeat offenders ages 12-19 who may benefit from the program. After a young adult is convicted of a crime, the judge or judicial official refers them to PACT as part of a probation order.

Central to PACT’s success is its **LifePlan Coaching program**, an intense intervention system that pairs a participant with a certified life coach. The two meet each week for 12-18 months to set goals in six key areas: education, employment, health, relationships, contributing to the community, and staying out of the criminal justice system. This ultimately helps the young person get from where they are to where they want to be in the future. PACT’s LifePlan Coaching differs from the traditional model of therapy or counseling in that it does not focus on the person’s past but rather concentrates on the present and future, says Lockett. The innovative program boasts a 65 percent success rate, with success meaning that the young person completes the program without re-offending.

It was the relationship with his life coach that motivated Stephenson to reshape his future. “The PACT program will change your mindset,” he says. “They’ll give you the blueprint, but it’s up to you to run with it.” Stephenson has since obtained his high school equivalency certificate and has been working at a call center. He also honed his passion for music through PACT’s **Life & Job Skills Community Service Programs**, in which participants learn through practical exposure to activities like music and film production, cooking, gardening, and entrepreneurship.

Rotary brings compassion

To date, nearly 30 clubs in the Toronto area have supported PACT, many with annual commitments of \$3,600 or more to fund the program, according to Lockett. But Rotary clubs are also playing a more in-depth role in PACT. The two organizations created the PACT/Rotary Youth Mentoring Program, which allows members to connect directly with participants. For instance, members can help a PACT participant find volunteer opportunities, get a driver’s license, or secure job interviews.

“Our members are caring and compassionate,” says Bosma-Donovan (a social worker and member of the Rotary Club of Wellington in Ontario). “Those things are crucial to bring about change and to rebuild their lives.”

ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBERLEY

2018-2019

Chartered 20 August 1951

Rotary District 9370

RI President: Barry Rassin

District Gov: Gianna Doubell

Asst Gov: Barry Downs

Club Pres: Corlia v.Tonder

Secretary: Gill Quinn

Club Board:

Barry Downs

Colleen Fairweather

Ken Quinn

Peter Thomas

Amanda van Zyl

Pete van Zyl

Bulletin Editor: Peter Thomas

Club Meetings:

Kimberley Club

Mondays 12:45 for 13:00

INFO: 082 898 3805

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

5-11 November – WORLD INTERACT WEEK

SHIFTIN' GEARS



CALENDAR & DUTIES

OCTOBER

24 October – World Polio Day

29 Oct: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

*“Very little is needed
to make a happy life; it
is all within yourself, in
your way of thinking”*

Marcus Aurelius

DUTIES

*If you are unable to do a duty, please
make arrangements for a substitute.*

WEEK OF 29 OCTOBER

FELLOWSHIP: Board Meeting – No Duty

CORPORAL: Board Meeting – No Duty

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Peter Thomas

WEEK OF 5 NOVEMBER

FELLOWSHIP: Ken Quinn

CORPORAL: Peter Thomas

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Corlia van Tonder

WEEK OF 12 NOVEMBER

FELLOWSHIP: Peter Thomas

CORPORAL: Brenda Booth

TUES COFFEE CLUB: Pete van Zyl

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE ROTARY GRIQUA
ARE WELCOMED. PLEASE E-MAIL TO:

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor and the contributors. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Rotary Club of Kimberley, of Rotary District 9370 or of Rotary International.

NOVEMBER

Rotary Foundation Month

5 Nov: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

5-11 November – *WORLD INTERACT WEEK*

12 Nov: Business Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

19 Nov: Social Meeting 12:45 for 13:00

26 Nov: BOARD MEETING 12:45 for 13:00

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

02 Nov Beryl Bradnum (Honorary)

04 Nov Mike Bradnum (Honorary)

11 Nov Hein Knoke

17 Nov Charlene Daubney (Honorary)

26 Nov Peter Daubney (Honorary)

09 Dec Shirley Maritz

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

01 Nov Hein & Frances Knoke

INDUCTION ANNIVERSARIES

14 Nov 1991 Peter Thomas

02 Dec 1982 Barry Downs

COFFEE CLUB BIRTHDAYS

5 Nov Pem Rodger

21 Nov Danie Theron

2 Dec George Astley

20 Dec Alec Woodrow

27 Dec Chris Marnitz

MEME OF THE WEEK

**MY UNCLE'S DYING
WISH - HE WANTED ME
ON HIS LAP. HE WAS IN
THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!**



**Rodney
Dangerfield**