

MidWeek

Rotarians Teach IPA Teens To Put 'Service Above Self'

February 10, 2010

By Alana Folen



Charter members and advisers of Island Pacific Academy's first Interact Club include (from left) Sharon Rolirad, Michelle Mina, Chris Luthi, Catherine Davis, Janisa Swen, DJ Ramos, Tony Dean, Kelsey Uehira, Tyler Billman, Ashley Maginot, Kianna Billman, Colt Wallace, Caitlin Arde, Samantha Sprague, Emily Charman, Jason Brenner, Marah Lynch, Micah Witty-Oakland, Kalei Uno, Shayna Savidge, Ciera Fleming, Karly Torii, Russel Manalo, Raeanne Pascua, Susan Webber, Kylie Uratsuka and Keani Meier-Kreienbaum. Photo by Byron Lee, byronlee@midweek.com.

The Rotary Club of Kapolei Sunset is doing its part to live up to the worldwide Rotarian motto "Service Above Self" while having some fun along the way.

Kapolei resident Sharon Rolirad serves as president of Kapolei Sunset, and with an active group of 24 members, she's trying to reach out to more people who work and live in the West Oahu community.

"So far, projects for our club included helping to paint the Nanakuli High School gym, handing out dictionaries to third-graders in six Leeward area elementary schools, gathering school supplies for area schools and holding a read-aloud session at Ewa Beach Elementary," Rolirad said.

The club also has empowered young adults to be active and take part in their community by sponsoring an Interact Club at Island Pacific Academy.

The Rotary club for high-schoolers was chartered on Sept. 9, 2009, by Rotarian Susan Weber, who also is the Interact adviser for IPA, as a means for students to serve their community, develop leadership skills and make new friends.

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"Through these efforts," Rolirad said, "Interactors develop a network of friends with local and overseas clubs and learn the importance of developing leadership skills and personal integrity; demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others; understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work; and advancing international understanding and goodwill.

"The Rotary Club of Kapolei Sunset was just chartered last March, so it is very proud to sponsor this high school Rotary youth club," she added.

Thirty-three students were inducted into the club Jan. 30 during a ceremony attended by more than 100 people, including guest speaker Claude Thompson, past district governor and the current Interact chairman of Rotary District 5000 in Hawaii.

Among the elected officers and directors this year are Ashley Maginot, president; Samantha Sprague, vice

president; Kelsey Uehira, secretary; and Keani Meier-Kreienbaum, treasurer. Michelle Mina and Catherine Davis will serve as PR directors, and Janisa Swen will take on the responsibility of social director. Faculty adviser is Chris Luthi.

"Let us celebrate, serve and succeed together, because the future of Rotary is in your hands!" said Rotary Hawaii district governor Lisa Foster in a congratulatory letter to the IPA Interact Club.

Members already have been taking part in many community service projects, recently helping to clean Nanakuli beaches, serving as timers for IPA swim meets, helping at the Humane Society in Kalaeloa and assisting the Waianae Coast Rotary with its annual Christmas parade.

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They're holding their first fundraiser now through Sunday (Feb. 14) at the new Menchie's at Kapolei Commons (4450 Kapolei Pkwy. #104). Bring in a coupon from the club, and 20 percent of the purchase will be donated back for community/international service projects.

The Rotary Club of Kapolei Sunset meets from 5:30 to 7 p.m. every Monday in the upstairs banquet room at Roy's Ko Olina. For more information, e-mail Rolirad at txtutu@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.rotary.org>.

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