

Rotary 2017 Centerville Citizens of Year

10 years ago Clarence and Jayne Jones were in Burma (also known as Myanmar) on a humanitarian mission for the LDS Church. They represented LDS Charities, working with a non-government organization in Burma known as the Community Development Association, which coordinated funding from government and various humanitarian agencies. At one point Clarence and Jayne had the good fortune of meeting the wife of the Australian ambassador to Burma, who had connections with Rotary Clubs in Australia with lots of money to spend. So the Jones were able to use that money as well as LDS Charities funding. The Jones were involved in the Wheelchairs Project, clean water supply facilities and sanitation (toilets). The relationships they established--particularly with Dr. Win, President of the Community Development Association in Burma--and what they learned about how to get projects done--became the foundation for continuing their humanitarian efforts in that country after their mission.

After returning home, while planning a vacation, the Jones decided to cancel the vacation and use the money instead to buy equipment for a disabled children's school in Burma. While planning this trip back to Burma, they raised additional funds which were used to build schools and drill wells. They have now been back to Burma four times since their mission and are planning to return again this year. Donations for their projects flow through a non-profit fund known as the "Jared Prescott Humanitarian Trust" set up by Centerville resident Keith Prescott in memory of his son who died while on a mission in Madagascar. The Jones work with Dr. Win in Burma, who identifies villages in need with help from the national government, and coordinates this funding with donations from other humanitarian agencies, including LDS Charities and the Centerville-Farmington Rotary Club. Materials are purchased in Burma and transported to villages for construction. Village residents are expected to be involved in some way to make these projects a reality.

The results of this coordinated effort since their mission are impressive:

- Construction of 16 schools
- 56 water wells for 56 villages
- 1000 outhouses in villages that had no toilets
- Purchase of sewing machines and cooking equipment for the YWCA to provide vocational training to hundreds of people
- \$6000 given to the YWCA for a micro-credit revolving loan program that has so far generated more than 500 business loans
- 56 leg prostheses that enabled these people to go back to work
- 300 pair of eyeglasses
- Hundreds of school kits and toys for children

Clarence and Jayne go to Burma to verify the projects were done and were built right, and to celebrate completion. They travel at their own cost so that 100% of the donations can be used for direct project costs.

Other significant service by Clarence and Jayne should be noted. In a six-year period as a scoutmaster many years ago, 42 of Clarence's scouts earned the Eagle Scout award. Much of that credit must go to Jayne, however, who was the 11-year-old scout leader at the same time and saw that most of her scouts earned the Star Rank before advancing on to Clarence's group. Clarence was also a Little League baseball coach for 12 years.

For their incredible example of service to mankind at both the international and local level, the Centerville-Farmington Rotary Club honors Clarence and Jayne Jones as their 2017 Citizens of the Year for Centerville.