



Bingo: Bill Moore

Prayer/Pledge: Page Morgan

Health & Happiness: Natalie Tindol

Sgt.-at-Arms: Mark Epstein

**Welcome to our May 14th meeting
We are glad you are here!**



**Shriners Hospitals
for Children™**

May Birthdays

Bo Abernathy- 13th
John Collier- 16th
Walter Gray- 23rd
Nancy Paschall- 10th
Royce Robinson- 7th
Patrick Smith- 7th
Leigh Spach- 10th
Jennifer Stultz- 20th



May Club Anniversaries (Years)

Skip Bradley	35
Kathy Gallman	20
Craig Kluttz	1
Tim Paschall	27
Pet Sumner	2
Julian Timmons	46
John Watts	28
Vincent Wong	1



Gastonia East Board Members

Morgan Rhoney, President	Jennifer Purdee, Sargent-at-Arms	Lindsay Nelson, Membership
Page Morgan, President Elect	Julia Allen, Service Chair	Barry Wright & Mike Stanforth, Rotary Foundation
Jason Ramey, Secretary	Chris McCallister, Interact Chair	Kelly Morris, International Service
Steve D'Avria, Treasurer	John Pea, Club Programs Chair	Sonya McGraw, Immediate Past President

May 21st	GE Talks & Special Recognition
May 28th	No Meeting – Memorial Day Holiday
June 4th	The Outreach Program – Greg Wilkerson
June 11th	Secure Workplaces w/Sgt Scott Norton & Ofc. Jackie Quinley ///Board Meeting
June 21st	Borderline Farm social

Assisiting Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh

By Eric Lee, a member of the Rotary Club of Cheat Lake, West Virginia, USA

Service above self was the underpinning of our aid project for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh this year. The project was a colorful example of how Rotary works around the globe in the service of others. Clubs from the United States and Bangladesh delivered dry goods to Rohingya refugees in the Bahlukali camp along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in February.

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority who fled violence in Myanmar for refugee camps in southern Bangladesh. More than 700,000 refugees have entered Bangladesh since August 2017, and most came with just the clothes on their back. They are in desperate need of food, supplies and basic sanitation.

Cox's Bazaar is the closest city to the Rohingya refugee camps, and the Rotary Club of Cox's Bazaar engages other clubs and various non-profits to facilitate the delivery of goods and services. The Rotary Club of Cheat Lake in West Virginia, USA, coordinated efforts with Cox's Bazaar Rotary to deliver clothing, personal hygiene products, and water purification tablets to the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Challenges like transferring goods, security on the ground, and obtaining proper authorization were managed between the two Rotary clubs. The goods were purchased and shipped from wholesale markets from the capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka. Once the products arrived in Cox's Bazaar, then our group worked in a small bungalow on the Bay of Bengal preparing separate packages for men and women.

Maji, or tribal captains, are village leaders that manage groups of about fifty families. They were instrumental in helping coordinate with the army and determine fair distribution across thousands of refugees. Many refugees were shaking as they came through the line to receive their package. Some were sick, some were visibly scared.

Distribution went off without a hitch, in part, because members from multiple Rotary clubs made a significant contribution to the project. Together they established resources and logistics for the safe and successful distribution of aid. Rotary clubs around the world should look to examples like this for ideas on future refugee service projects.

