



**Rotarian Profile:** Larry Anderson

A member since 1986, Larry Anderson is currently the President of the Rotary Club of Battle Creek. He expresses, “Serving as the club president during our centennial year is very humbling. Indeed, an honor.” Rotary has a very personal meaning for Larry as he is a polio survivor. Contracting the disease in the third grade, Larry considers himself lucky having not experienced any long-term effects. Rotary International spearheaded the fight against polio world-wide in 1985. Larry recalls one event that has lasting impression. In 2000, Rotary International sponsored the largest public health event in the world. In India, 125 million children received the polio vaccine in one day.

Larry cites several benefits of membership in Rotary: volunteer service opportunities, international group study exchange, community grants and mentoring program and networking.

Members volunteer locally at many non-profit organizations on a regular basis. A signature event sponsored by Rotary since 1930 is the annual Children’s Christmas Party for disadvantaged youth. Internationally, the Club provides financial support for PolioPlus, Rainwater Harvesting, Shelter Kits and Clean Water Initiatives.

The Group Study Exchange brings Rotarians from around the world to Battle Creek. In recent years, the Battle Creek Rotary has been host to Rotarians from India, Spain and Italy.

Each year, Rotary provides monetary grants to local non-profit groups to help them achieve their goals. Members created mentoring program whereby they assist non-profit groups in expanding fund develop planning.

Networking is a key advantage for members, however. Larry shared, “Getting together with outstanding community leaders on a weekly basis is a huge advantage.” Rotary was originally founded in 1905 as a “place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.” This has been true for Rotarians in Battle Creek since our club’s establishment in 1915.