

**Chet R. Marshall**  
**President 2009-2010**  
**Putnam County Rotary Club**

The words "Multiple Myeloma" began my year of leadership of the club. It quickly became the year of M & Ms, as at each meeting members received a pack as a reminder to keep me in their thoughts and prayers. It was my Rotary family that kept me encouraged, supported me and communicated their love in various ways. Mike Herron, President Elect stepped to the plate and became a true Rotarian as he filled my shoes in my absence. He did an incredible job and gave us all a glimpse as to what we had in store the following year, fun, surprise and on the edge of our seats. Thanks Mike!

My first official meeting, July 7, 2009, as President found me in Houston, Texas at the MD Anderson Cancer Center and staying at the Rotary House. The Rotary House was connected to the Cancer Center and was built for patients like me to have a convenient place to stay. There were three entities involved in seeing the Rotary House become a reality, Jesse Jones Foundation, MD Anderson Cancer Center and the Rotary Club of Houston. I had the opportunity to attend the Rotary Club of Houston and thank them for their vision becoming a reality and how much the Rotary House meant to me as a patient.

I delivered my inaugural address by way of video taken at the Rotary House; incidentally the lady I asked to operate my camera was a Rotarian from France, my address was brief and to the point. Only two goals were mentioned because I truly felt if each of our club members would embrace them, we would have an outstanding year. Each member received a Pledge Card to put their name in a blank space and then sign. Here is what was written on the Pledge Card:

I, Rotarian \_\_\_\_\_do promise that:

**First, I will live by the Rotarian motto "Service Above Self" in all aspects of my personal and professional life and will become a Rotarian, not just a member of the Rotary Club.**

**Second, I will live "the 4-Way Test" in all I think, say and do.**

Rotarian \_\_\_\_\_(signature)

We did have an outstanding year as club members evolved in becoming true Rotarians in the way of genuine service and participating in the fundraisers allowing us to accomplish and support many local projects, scholarships and continue our international support as well.

Raising the level awareness of our members of the Rotary Foundation and its global impact in all it accomplishes was also a personal goal. During the year we had a total of six members who became first time Paul Harris Fellows.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Bob and Mary Keely, true Rotarians, leaders and more importantly friends. Their love and support during a difficult year for me health wise was above and beyond the call of duty. Constantly asking if there was anything they could do, run errands, shop at the grocery store, pick up pharmaceuticals, drive me places when I was not capable or allowed to and even bringing me food. Thank you so much.

Also, thanks to a club who showed me they were more of a family that truly cared for one of their members who needed love and support. They motivated me to do even more when I was able to and at the end of my year I pledged to continue a level of service to see the Putnam County Rotary Club to become the best club in district 7550. With the leadership that followed our club has become the epitome of what a Rotary Club is to be and the envy of District 7550.