

The Coffee Press

8000 Kilometers to peace - continued

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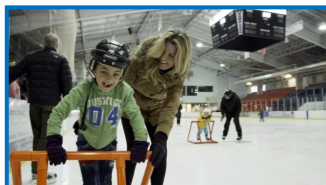
Amherst, Nova Scotia, were watching images of Syrian refugees on television and looking for ways to help.

- **11 mil** Syrians have been displaced since 2011
- **2.9 mil** Syrian refugees have settled in Turkey
- **40,000** Syrian refugees have resettled in Canada since November 2015
- **884,000** Syrians have applied for asylum in Europe

A new culture

In September 2015, members of the Rotary Club of Amherst were thinking about their next international project. Over the years, the group has helped build and equip a school in South Africa, provided educational materials to students in the Bahamas, and raised funds for disaster-stricken areas around the world, but their thoughts turned to Syria as the plight of refugees dominated the news.

To read the full article go [here](#).



Rotary member Ann Sharpe helps Kawthar navigate the ice rink during the family's first experience with ice skating, a national pastime of Canada.



Paul Harris
Founder of
Rotary



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Germ
RI President
2016 - 2017



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Donna
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West
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The Coffee Press

Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise

April 12, 2017

GREETER:

Ann Goody

DOOR PRIZE:

Barbara Kossow

Inside this issue:

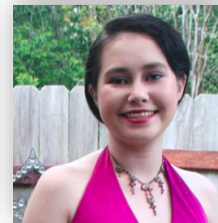
8000 Kilometers to
Peace 2/4

April Calendar 3

The Rotary Club of Kona Sunrise meets every Wednesday 7:00 am at Humpy's Restaurant (upstairs above the ABC Store), 75-5815 Alii Drive, Kailua Kona HI.
For additional information contact Bev Fraser at 936-9965

THIS WEEK: HRYF & Sister Club

This week at our meeting we will have the pleasure of meeting Skyla Elder, who is the winner of one of the \$10,000 scholarships awarded by the Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation.



In addition, President Dennis will be sharing his experience of attending the 60th anniversary of our Sister Club, the Rotary Club of Nagoya South. Come join us!!



Rotary
Club of Kona Sunrise



8000 Kilometers to Peace

By Ryan Hyland Produced by Andrew Chudzinski

This explosion was close – much closer than the others that had rattled the village on the outskirts of Homs, Syria, where Sultanah Alchegade lived with her four young children. This one hit the school next door, blasting out one of the walls of their house.

Alchegade grabbed the children and ran into the night and the choking smoke and dust. A neighbor helped her carry her three-year-old twin boys, Mounzer and Kaiss; another drove the pickup truck they all clambered into. Over the next several days, as bombs continued to fall, the family – including daughters Kawthar, age six, and Roukia, a baby – took refuge in a nearby forest, sleeping under the trees as Sultanah tried to figure out their next move.

In neighboring Lebanon, Sultanah’s husband, Mazen, frantically tried to contact his wife. For years, Mazen had shuttled back and forth across the border every few weeks to do construction work on high-rise buildings in Beirut. While the jobs provided an income for his family, he says, the separation was hard. But their situation had just gotten much harder.

With the Syrian civil war now engulfing his village, Mazen couldn’t return. And it would be four months before his wife and children could cross into Lebanon.

Eventually, the family was reunited. They were alive. But they were refugees, seeking asylum in any country that would take them, hoping to get far away from the violence that had driven them, along with millions of other Syrians, into foreign lands.

The Alchegade family registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agency responsible for resettling Syrian refugees, and waited. They were still in Lebanon nearly three years later.

Meanwhile, 8,000 kilometers away, Rotarians in the small town of

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April 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 	27 Bernice April 2 	28	29	30	31	1 
2 Mike/ Bev 	3	4 Barbara Glenn 	5 Painted Church	6	7	8
9	10 KC 	11	12 HRYF Scholarship Winner	13	14	15
16 	17	18	19 Wendy Hornack MEMBERSHIP	20	21	22
23	24 Ann 	25	26 India NID Polio	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6