

Rotary gives Gift of Life

Bill Currie recently gave a talk to the White Plains Rotary about the Gift of Life program. Georgene Mongarella of Scarsdale, past president of White Plains Rotary, has been involved in the Gift of Life program and the annual fundraiser it holds. Through Rotary International's Gift of Life programs, children from throughout the world with potentially fatal heart conditions are brought to the United States to receive treatment. Gift of Life began as a Rotary project in 1975 when a Ugandan girl was brought to the United States for open heart surgery. The program has grown into a worldwide movement that now embodies 50 programs. In 2003, Gift of Life International was created to coordinate the efforts throughout the world.

The goals of Gift of Life are saving children's lives, advancing Rotary and spreading world peace. Rotarians meet with the parents and child who is about to receive heart surgery the night before the surgery. It is estimated that 93 percent of the world's children do not have access to adequate cardiac care.



**Georgene Mongarella and
Bill Currie**