

NEWS RELEASE

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Leavenworth Rotary Club Sponsors Texas Hold 'Em Tournament Benefiting USM's Annual Service Project in Guatemala

1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— The Leavenworth Rotary 1621 Club has announced it will sponsor a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 in McGilley Field House on the University of Saint Mary campus. All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the University of Saint Mary annual service project in Guatemala.

Food and beer will be provided; prizes for top players will be awarded. Prizes are divided into two playing categories: "Penny Pinchers" and "High Rollers." The entrance donation for "Penny Pinchers" is \$25 and \$50 for the "High Rollers." Confirmed prizes include gift certificates to Mamma Mia's, Kansas City Ballet tickets, NASCAR Speedway Indy Truck-Series tickets and more. Players must register by Jan. 21 to enter the tournament. To register, please call 913-758-6146 or email HoldEmFundraiser@yahoo.com or edchap3@birch.net.

The annual service project in Guatemala has become a large component of the global service-learning mission of the University of Saint Mary. Since 2003, members of the USM community travel to remote Guatemalan villages to construct community buildings in just over one week. The community buildings are typically used as school houses, religious centers, and gathering centers.

USM partners with Roger Strickland's nonprofit construction business, Side-by-Side Ministries, to make the trip possible. Strickland provides much of the building materials and several laborers. A group of eight USM students and staff will accompany Side-by-Side Ministries for the trip March 3 – 12.

For Leavenworth Rotary 1621 Club Representative Ed Chapman, the decision to aid USM was an elementary one. Rotary's mission, etched in vocational service, fits perfectly with the ideals the annual service project to Guatemala promotes, Chapman said.

"The students and staff at Saint Mary are living proof that a value-based mission still exists today. The Texas Hold 'Em Tournament is just a small way Leavenworth Rotary can help the mission-based trip succeed," Chapman said. It's a great pleasure for our organization to be affiliated with Saint Mary and the mission trips it sponsors."

University of Saint Mary Campus Ministry Director Kate Faggella-Luby said she is grateful for Rotary's involvement. Faggella-Luby plans the trip annually, which costs about \$1,400 to \$1,800 per person.

“Working with Leavenworth Rotary has been both fun and exciting,” Faggella-Luby said. “Rotary’s mission is so in tune with ours that the partnership just seems to be a nice fit. We are extremely thankful the club decided to sponsor the tournament—and we’re even more grateful that they plan to donate the proceeds to our annual service project.”

The Leavenworth Rotary 1621 Club is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting service, ethics, understanding and goodwill for the global society and the community at large. Since its national inception in 1905, Rotary has 1.2 million members and 162 clubs world-wide.

The University of Saint Mary is a private, co-educational applied liberal arts university founded by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The University of Saint Mary is located at 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan., with additional locations at 11413 Pflumm in Overland Park and inside Providence Medical Center at 8929 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, Kansas.

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