

## Kids on fire for service, arts

December 30, 2014

I love to see communities grow and strengthen, especially through opportunities for our youth.

In 2015, I have a chance to participate in that passion with other members of the only Cultural Arts Rotary Club in the world. In particular, we will begin the year by presenting a beautiful new musical instrument purchased by the family of and to honor the memory of the late A.J. Parker-Foster to a deserving youth who has shown dedication and progress in music, academics and community service.

What I hope for and look forward to is a proliferation of opportunities for young people through these collective efforts. Our club sponsors an Interact Club at Central Unified High School East and West Campuses, and those youth are on fire for community service. More than 300 youth contributed in excess of 1,100 hours this past year, and the next year has brought out 500 more interested youth.

I can't wait to see what they accomplish, and I am excited that our club will sponsor and support those efforts in a variety of ways. Yes, 2015 is going to be a great year! Our youth, who will be dedicating their time, exhibiting their artwork in the Water Tower, attending our meetings to share their excitement and energy and making every kind of difference in the community, will be a significant part of that greatness!

Jackie Ryle

Past president, Cultural Arts Rotary Club of Fresno

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