



## Interact District 7980

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### **IN REVIEW:**

#### ***Interact-Rotaract Joint Assembly***

On September 20, 2014, a group of Interactors, Rotaractors and Rotarians gathered at the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in Meriden, CT. Here is a brief summary of the event and its outcomes:

- Liz Torres, Executive Director of the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, presented about her passion for strengthening and revitalizing the blighted neighborhoods of Bridgeport. Her work was greatly supported by those in attendance. As a result, it was agreed that the 2015 joint Interact-Rotaract service project will be a community clean-up in conjunction with the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust.
- Eddie Blue, the Unit Service Executive for Boy Scouts of America in Eastern Connecticut, also spoke to the assembly. As recounted by TJ McMahon, president of the North Branford H.S. Interact Club, "He inspired us to take something significant away from everything we experience even if it was not our first time going through something such as a conference."
- Anthony Masi (Interact District Representative) and Jessica Baldizon (Rotaract District Representative) hosted a combined session on the challenges Interact and Rotaract clubs face and how they can be overcome. Participants also shared their ideas for the spring project with the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust.
- Ron Webb (Interact District Chair), Sam Topal (Rotaract District Co-Chair), and Gary Raytar (Rotaract District Co-Chair) held a session for faculty and Rotarian advisers. They discussed the resources available to district clubs and helped define the roles of club advisers.
- Dennis Wong, president of the Westport-Sunrise Rotary club introduced the first project, which was the creation of a peace wall in recognition of International Day of Peace on Sunday, September 21, 2014. Participants constructed a collage of what they defined as symbols or acts of peace.
- Jessica Baldizon led the second service project, Operation Gratitude. Participants wrote letters of appreciation to members of the United States military.