

SONG FOR TODAY

Jerry Bourgeois
Song Leader

Sidewalks of New York

East side, West side,
All around the town
The tots sing "Ring Around
Rosie",
"London Bridge is Falling Down".
Boys and girls together,
Me and Mamie O'Rourke
Trip the light fantastic
On the sidewalks of New York.

SPIN-OFFS FROM PROJECT FREE ENTERPRISE

-- David Taylor

People in the space industry are used to the idea of spin-offs -- new products or directions taken as a side-effect of another primary focus. Project Free Enterprise, a seminar team of business speakers from Houston which has gone to Eastern Europe four times to teach the American way of doing business to people living behind the former Iron Curtain, has also had some spin-offs.

Project Free Enterprise is a new avenue of service started by Space Center Rotary which has led to a district committee called Rotary Seminar Teams. The
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district committee most recently selected a team of speakers to travel to Mexico City to give a seminar on business fundamentals in Spanish. That's a spin-off named Project Amigo. Upon return, the team gave the same seminar material to an audience of business people in Houston's Hispanic community in the auditorium at Austin High School in December. That's a spin-off. Now Neil Polanski from the mayor's office is asking for a seminar in English that the city could promote to its start-up entrepreneurs.

Our district has some youth exchange students from Hungary and Poland right now, but in this case the spin-off is the other way around. Houston was doing youth exchanges with the U.S.S.R., Hungary and East Germany while they were still communist-- and after the Berlin Wall fell, we sent the first Project Free Enterprise seminar team in to share knowledge on a new way to make a living. Entrepreneurship. The contacts for this were the same people helping us to do some pioneering youth exchanges.

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Another spin-off from Project Free Enterprise is the new district committee called Medical Ambassadors. This program helps doctors to come to Houston for two weeks of free medical training in cardiology at St. Luke's Hospital. And a spin-off from that is a new Space Center Rotary Club committee called Vocational Interns.

Our role is to network a given vocation and find 2-3 sites for a foreign visitor to spend time kibitzing during a two week period. We also locate host homes for the intern, and provide a social and transportation plan. The sending Rotary district needs to select 2-3 people in the same vocation who will travel together to Houston and visit the target businesses. The sending district is to select vocations which would benefit their society by learning about advanced or different ways of practicing their profession.

Another spin-off is that more people in Rotary have found new ways to be of service. If any of these project ideas sound interesting to you contact Dr. David Taylor at 332-6513 for more information.