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Margate Firefighter to Travel to Scotland with Rotary International

Margate, FL, September 19, 2005 – Jason Edelstein, Rescue Supervisor for the City of Margate Fire Department, recently found out that he has been chosen by Rotary International (District 6990) to be part of a group that will travel to Scotland in order to exchange information with foreign counterparts in his profession.

Rotary International is a global organization of professional leaders that provides humanitarian service and works to build goodwill and peace in the world. The “Group Study Exchange” (GSE) program is sponsored by Rotary International. This program is “world-renowned for developing professional and leadership skills among young adults so that they can address the needs of their communities in an increasingly global workplace” says Charlotte Donn, Director of Marketing and PR for the YMCA and GSE program participant in the 2005 trip to Scotland.

Edelstein is the only civil service representative from South Florida chosen to participate. He earned his spot in the “Group Study Exchange” (GSE) program due, in part, to his extensive career experience. Edelstein has been in the firefighter/paramedic industry for 23 years, and 15 of those years he has worked for the City Of Margate. “Jason was very enthusiastic about the opportunity and was a perfect choice to be able to partner and learn from someone in Scotland,” explains Lourdes Perez, Southeastern District Chair of the GSE program. Five more participants, of various professions, will travel with Edelstein to Scotland. “[Rotary] looks for professionals from all walks of life, there is one [person] from the YMCA, another in the IT profession, and others” explained Edelstein.

During their travels, the group will observe their own professions as practiced abroad, practice appreciation to cultural diversity, develop professional relationships, exchange ideas and stay with various local-host families. Chairperson Lourdes Perez knows first hand that people will be inquiring about such events as Hurricane Katrina. She participated in the GSE program in her travels to South Africa shortly after September 11, 2001.

All six members will make the trip to Scotland for one month in October-November 2005. In addition, GSE program participants from Scotland plan to visit South Florida in April 2006. Rotary International provides funding for the trip, and the selected group of travelers will volunteer their time to learn about the socio-economic status and culture of another country.

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