

The Magic of Rotary

## It's The 4th Quarter



As we enter the 4th quarter of the Rotary year, there is still plenty of work to do. Our district is leading the way in Annual Fund and Polio Plus giving, but neighboring districts are nipping at our heels. While our generosity knows no bounds, we are currently predicted to end the year with a few less members in our district than we started the year with. Imagining the impact we could have in our communities and around the world with a few more helping hands in each of our clubs. Even though [district conference](#) is when we recognize much of the hard work during this Rotary year, we still have 3 months left to help those in need with service, ask for donations to support our foundation and invite someone with a servants heart to join our team. Let's finish the year strong!

Posted by Gordon Owens  
April 4, 2025

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GeorgiaUnitedDC.com

## Full Conference Agenda Available

**APRIL 24-27**  
Jekyll Island, GA

**TEAM CAPTAINS**

**6900 Gordon**  
**6910 Bobby**  
**6920 Todd**

**PREGAME Warmups**

- Apr 24 | 6PM | Westin (Break Only) **6900 President's Dinner**
- Apr 25 | 8:30AM | Ben Porter **PDO Breakfast** (Break Only)
- Apr 25 | 10:30AM | Conf G **6910 District Meeting**
- Apr 25 | 10:30AM | Conf H **6920 District Meeting**

**Larry Lunsford**  
Paul, RI Director and current Vice Chairman of the Rotary Foundation, Larry Lunsford, will join us, RI President, Jay-Thomas D'Amico's representative. He will inspire us to take action locally & globally by leveraging all our Rotary Foundation resources to effect.

**Kevin Tanner**  
Kevin provides a Trustee of the Georgia United Club Development Trust and will administer Georgia's share of funds from national partnerships with various manufacturers and distributors. Funds held in the trust will be used by Rotary to support drug-addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services across our state.

**Jim Marggraff**  
In 2020, Jim launched Kibeam Learning, Inc., a revolutionary learning platform that enables students to interact with books using a handheld air-enabled reading device—emerging sound, light, and motion to foster engagement without screens.

**Paul Root Wolpe, Ph.D.**  
Paul is building the new Emory University Center for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation (PACT) with an initial focus on domestic issues. Groups like the Center Center, the King Center, the Center for Civil & Human Rights and others are coming together to make our

The [full conference agenda](https://GeorgiaUnitedDC.com) is available on GeorgiaUnitedDC.com. There is still time to get registered and join us at the first ever joint district conference on Jekyll Island, April 24-27, 2025. We will kick off Friday, April 25 at noon, then hit the beach for a tailgate party all afternoon and into the evening. We even have an after party setup at Tortuga Jacks with a DJ & karaoke! After brunch on Saturday, we have some exciting new partner & project speakers, followed by breakout sessions to get your clubs engaged. After a short break we will come back to the conference center for dinner and dueling pianos to entertain us all night long. You won't want to miss a minute of it!

Posted by Ryan Swertfager  
April 4, 2025

GeorgiaUnitedDC.com

**Sign Up To Join Our Tailgate Party!**



With all three districts in Georgia coming together for the first time at a district conference, we want to kick off the weekend in true southern fashion with a [tailgate party](#). We will hit the Great Dunes Pavilion on the beach at Jekyll Island for fun & fellowship from 3-9pm on Friday, April 25. Tortuga Jacks is catering dinner, so your club hospitality tent should include beverages & snacks to share along with your Rotary Game Day spirit. Also, along the beach we have games setup like, corn hole, bocce ball, volleyball, football toss, soccer darts, and bucket golf to spark some competition amongst your new friends from across the state. [Sign up to reserve your club's spot for a tent today!](#)

Posted by Becky Stone  
April 4, 2025

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GeorgiaUnitedDC.com

## Bring Gently Used Sports Gear To Donate



At our [Georgia United District Conference](#) at the end of this month, we will be collecting gently used sneakers and sporting equipment to donate. The sneakers will get sent to Got Sneakers to be refurbished and distributed to those less fortunate than us. Sports gear that is collected will end up at Boys & Girls clubs in the surrounding area. This is an easy way for us to do a little service while we have fun celebrating all the impact we've had so far during the 2024-2025 Rotary year. We hope to see you on Jekyll, April 25-27.

Posted by Ryan Swertfager  
April 4, 2025

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Be Inspired by What Our TRF Contributions Can Do

by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair



When the District Newsletter reminder note came to me this month, I must admit it truly did inspire me to look at what I wanted to communicate to you all this month a little differently than in past months. So often, and rightly so, I will talk about dollars. Dollars given and dollars in turn placed back out in our

Rotary communities. All are great topics that should constantly be placed before us. However, this month the reminder stated, "We love to hear about the ways you are serving your communities and world..."

It got me thinking and really looking for stories that complement the request made to us this month. Low and behold, the story I decided to share with you all this month simply fell in my lap. It came from my good friend Club President Rick Clark of the **Rotary Club of North Fulton**. I've had the opportunity and blessing of getting to work with Rick, his dear wife Tina and the Rotary Club of North Fulton for a good long time now. This was a project that was funded by the District 6900 Competitive Grant awarded in the Fall of 2024. This is truly a life-giving project, two of his members, Steve Cory and Marc Gelber, have been working on for some time partnering with the North Fulton Fire Departments.

The project was originally designed to teach residents and has now developed into a close association with area high school students from Alpharetta High School in the use of the AEDs, the computerized defibrillator that can analyze the heartbeat of people suffering from cardiac arrest automatically. Classes in the use of these devices and CPR have saved hundreds of thousands of lives every year. The classes that Steve and Marc have organized have already taught over 200 people how to use their newly acquired skills to save lives. They have also organized countless talks where cardiac arrest survivors tell their own stories of survival because of the well-trained quick action of people like the ones Steve and Marc have been able to train. You can [click this link to read the full article](#).

Rotarians save lives in so many ways. Here is an excellent example of where Rotarians have taken the lead in making our world a better place. I will continue to share these types of wonderful stories with you as they come to me. Don't hesitate to share something with me that you see as well.

This is an excellent example of your Foundation dollars at work coming back to our communities. How proud I am to be associated with all of you and all you do every day to be the best we can be and give the best we have as Rotarians!

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Bob Hagan  
March 30, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

**Peachtree City Honors 40 TRF Major Donors**



The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** had the privilege of honoring over 40 Major Donors at a special dinner recognizing their incredible contributions to The Rotary Foundation. Each of these dedicated individuals has given from the heart, contributing \$10,000 or more to support Rotary's life-changing work around the world. We were especially proud to celebrate:

- Four members who have reached Major Donor Level 2 (\$25K)
- One member who has achieved Major Donor Level 4 (\$100K)

As a club, we've contributed nearly \$400,000 to The Rotary Foundation in just the past five years — a testament to the generosity and commitment of our members.

With The Rotary Foundation maintaining a 4-star Charity Navigator rating for 15 consecutive years, we know these funds are making a true difference in communities worldwide.

A heartfelt thank you to Mary and Edgar Chapman for graciously hosting this meaningful evening. Together, we are changing lives and building a better world!

Posted by Mandy Timmons  
March 30, 2025

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Columbus Uses Community Grant to Support Micah's Promise



The **Rotary Club of Columbus** recently completed a meaningful Community Grant Project by providing two benches for the tennis courts at Micah's Promise. A dedication ceremony was held on March 17th to commemorate the occasion.

Micah's Promise, led by Executive Director and fellow Rotarian Bobbi Starr, is dedicated to restoring stolen childhoods by addressing the issue of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). Their mission—to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly"—guides their efforts to educate the community on the risks and prevention of DMST while providing a supportive environment for the transformational life-change of survivors.

The dedication ceremony was a powerful reflection of the shared values between Micah's Promise and the Rotary Club of Columbus. Rev. Wayne Anthony, a fellow Rotarian and respected community leader, offered a heartfelt dedication of the benches in his faith tradition, emphasizing the importance of providing

comfort and community support.

"We are proud to partner with Micah's Promise in their critical work," said President Meredith King . "These benches represent more than just a place to sit—they symbolize our commitment to supporting survivors and creating spaces where healing and community can thrive."

Micah's Promise continues to work tirelessly within the local community to prevent DMST and foster a welcoming environment for survivors' reintegration. The Rotary Club of Columbus is honored to contribute to this mission and looks forward to supporting future initiatives that make a lasting impact.

For more information about Micah's Promise and how you can support their mission, visit [www.micahspromise.org](http://www.micahspromise.org)

Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris  
March 30, 2025

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Frank E. Bentley Sr. Award

## **Nominations Are Open For GRSP Recognition**



Rotary Club of Sandy Springs is pleased to once again present a District Level Award at this year's District Conference in honor of Frank E. Bentley, Sr. The award, titled: the Frank E. Bentley GRSP Leadership Award, will be presented to a District 6900 Rotarian who has displayed outstanding Leadership in the promotion of the Georgia Rotary Student Program.

Frank E. Bentley, Sr. passed away in December 2000 after a year long battle with Leukemia. Frank selflessly served Rotary in many capacities including President of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs, District Governor of District 6900 (1983-1984), and Georgia State Endowment Chairman for the Georgia Rotary Student Program. While many Rotarians have contributed to the tremendous success of GRSP, few have shown more love and concern for the GRSP than Frank E. Bentley, Sr.

Please honor the contributions of Frank E. Bentley, Sr. to Rotary and the GRSP by nominating one member from your Rotary Club for the 25th Annual Frank E. Bentley GRSP Leadership Award by filling out this [Nomination Form](#).

Posted by John Neill  
April 4, 2025

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RYLA Update

**Experience the RYLA Magic Yourself!**

# RYLA

## Chaperones Rock!

Join us as a Chaperone  
and be part of the  
greatest week of the  
summer!

Your time and skills  
can help make a  
difference.

### Why be a Chaperone?

- Rotary Service and Engagement
- Participate in Impactful Activities
- Leadership Development for Young Adults
- Invest in the Future of Your Communities

**7-11**  
**June 2025**



Give Us  
**#OneDayforRYLA**

[ryla6900@gmail.com](mailto:ryla6900@gmail.com)  
[www.RYLA6900.com](http://www.RYLA6900.com)

Hey Rotary District 6900 members! Do you ever wish you could experience RYLA for yourself? Do you want to peak behind the curtain and see where all the magic happens each summer? If you answered yes, and if you can give us just \*One Day\* of your summer we can make the magic happen for you too! We are always looking to bring new Rotary members into the wonderful world of RYLA, offering the opportunity to experience the RYLA energy and explore a new avenue of Rotary service. Chaperones help us keep things running smoothly each night and each morning but have no assigned duties during the day. We think you are perfect for the job! If you are willing and able - even just for 1 day out of the 4 - to give us One Day for RYLA we would love to have you! And you never know, it just might change your life too. Reach out to Jaclyn Donovan or Susan Ruckman for more details and they'll sign you up!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
March 30, 2025

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End Polio Now

## Why Our Polio Eradication Support is So Important

by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair



What is the #1 initiative of Rotary International? ERADICATE POLIO! This brings me to two topics I want to touch on this month. One is a bit concerning and the other quite uplifting. Let me start with the one that is a bit concerning. I was sent an article for review last month that was published in the “Medscape Medical News” and was written by Annie Lennon.

The title of the article was, “Polio Virus Detected in Europe: Cause for Concern?” The article raised a concern over the fact that the vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 was found in the wastewater systems in five countries - Spain, Germany, Finland, the United Kingdom and Poland. The concern of course was the fact that it placed under-vaccinated people at risk. The author stated that the analysis showed a “wide

genetic variation among the samples between and within the countries.” The positive to this story is the fact that the majority of the population in these countries are well vaccinated and that to date no cases have been reported. She also went on to state that the overall risk was very low for the vaccinated population. Certainly, this is excellent news. Still, the reason I point this out is that although we as Rotarians continue strong in our efforts to rid the world of this disease, we must always remain vigilant in those efforts. For if this type of discovery can be found in areas of the world we feel quite confident about, what does it say for the areas of the world where we are still striving to protect those who may not be quite as vigilant?

On an extremely positive note, I came across some information I know you will all be extremely pleased to hear. The World Health Organization (WHO) has mobilized 17,500 vaccinators in the areas of Karachi and four districts in Baluchistan in Pakistan with the expressed goal of vaccinating upwards of one million children under the age of five. They will be using the special pain-free jet injectors to distribute the vaccine against paralytic polio. Quite interesting! This is wonderful news as Pakistan is one of the two main areas of concern we have been so faithfully working to bring into a Polio free zone. Efforts such as these give far more than hope for our completing our worldwide goal of a Polio Free World. This type of effort demonstrates that we will never rest until we achieve it and Rotarians continue to work with all to lead the way!!

Let’s continue to join forces and make this goal a reality!! Let’s continue to work together to END POLIO NOW!

Posted by Bob Hagan  
March 30, 2025

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30 Years of Recovery

**A Warrior’s Path - One Step at a Time**



On April 24, 2024, I will take the first step of a journey that has been 30 years in the making. It marks the exact date I took my last drink and drug in 1995—and this spring, I'll celebrate that milestone by walking 300 miles over 30 days along the Benton MacKaye Trail in an effort we're calling A Warrior's Path.

This isn't just a hike. It's a visual metaphor for recovery, redemption, and resilience. As many of you know, I've shared openly about my personal battle with addiction and the grace that brought me out of it. But this trail is about more than my story—it's about walking on behalf of the men still struggling in silence, the ones still waiting for someone to believe in them, and the communities that desperately need hope and healing. This is about proving that recovery is possible, transformation is real, and no warrior walks alone.

### **Why the Benton MacKaye Trail?**

Because it's raw. It's real. It's not the easy path. It's not as crowded or celebrated as the Appalachian Trail, but it's marked by the feet of those who have come before—just like recovery. The trees are blazed, the trail is beaten down, but that doesn't make it easy. You know the direction, but the next step still hurts. Recovery is the same. You earn every mile, not because it's comfortable, but because freedom is worth it.

We're hiking southbound, intentionally, because the people we serve and the support we seek are at the heart of our destination. Every step we take is toward our purpose. Every mile is powered by community.

### **The Mission Behind the Miles**

This journey is a project of Vision Warriors, a faith-driven recovery community in Alpharetta that I've led for years. We serve men ready to take ownership of their lives and walk in accountability,

purpose, and faith. We offer recovery housing, spiritual growth, and brotherhood—not as a rehab, but as a way of life.

**A Warrior's Path** is our call to action. It's a journey captured in documentary form, shared in real-time, and fueled by the belief that **No One Walks Alone**.

## **How You Can Join Us - District 6900 Rotarians:**

**Donate** - I'm asking you to step up—as an individual sponsor, corporate partner, or someone willing to raise awareness and rally others into the fight. Whether it's sponsoring a mile, a section, or a full week of the journey, every step we take is a step toward breaking chains, restoring lives, and proving that struggle isn't the end—it's where the real work begins. Our campaign is powered by a user-friendly crowdfunding platform designed for maximum social engagement and impact. It allows individuals, teams, and businesses to easily create their own fundraising pages, share across social media, and rally their communities behind the mission. With just a few clicks, supporters can help spread the message that **No One Walks Alone**, making it simple to turn awareness into action.

Learn More - A Warrior's Path [Click Here](#)

Posted by Kirk Driskell  
April 4, 2025

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GRSP Update

## **GRSP Students Visit Pelham and Thomasville**

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director



From the food to the forest fields and the new friends made in between going from Pelham High School, **Pebble Hill Plantation**, **Gentian Creek Preserve**, **Hays LTI** agricultural equipment, the Mitchell County Tennis Center to the Mitchell County Ag Center, the 59th Annual Larry Frosteg Pelham International Weekend made memories for a lifetime. Our Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars were welcomed by amazing hosts from the **Rotary Club of Pelham**, **Camilla Rotary Club** and **Rotary Club of Thomasville** as they spent time touring the nearby South Georgia counties while visiting with one another. Thomasville native Will Watt III, grandson of GRSP Founder William A. Watt, shared his family legacy with the group as well. The last day started with a pair of service projects, including installing a peace pole and a pergola with the help of **Rotary District 6900** Governor Gordon Owens and his wife Ashley, relaxing at the Eubanks farm and ended with the Pelham Club honoring Kathy Frosteg and President Vince with a dedication to GRSP Trustee Emeritus Larry Frosteg as well as a variety show featuring the talented young adults.

**PHOTOS:**









## Attending the RI Presidential Peace Conference



I was privileged to attend the Rotary International Presidential Peace conference which was held in Istanbul, Turkey from the 20-22 of February. The conference theme was "Healing in a Divided World."

It was an amazing experience for me. There were speakers from all over the world. Topics and stories covered ranged from 'Technology, media and Peacebuilding: From Conflict to Connection, to Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Peacebuilders. Details are available in [my.rotary.org](https://my.rotary.org)

These stories brought to the forefront our collective responsibility to be part of the promoting peace. The conference has come and gone. Our task is to continue to bring healing in a highly polarized world. It will take our collective effort to be able to achieve this. The survival of the future generation is dependent on bringing families together, communities to align their values, belief systems and social dynamics to make this happen.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Ada Wikina  
April 2, 2025

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Rotary Means Business

**Join RMD for Our April Meeting**



Join the fun and fellowship on April 22, 2025 from 6-8PM - at Politan Row at Ashford Lane (near Perimeter Mall).

Posted by Carter Stout  
April 2, 2025

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Laws of Life

## **Georgia Laws of Life Winners Announced**



We are thrilled to announce the school-level winners of the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest! The complete list of School Winners can be found in our announcement video on the [GLL Facebook page](#) and on [our YouTube channel](#).

Each year, high school students across Georgia develop valuable self-awareness, communication skills, and strong character by participating in this life-changing program. The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest is a proven character education initiative encouraging students to explore the values and principles that shape their lives, fostering ethical literacy, personal reflection, and critical writing skills essential for future leaders.

This year, more than 30,000 students from 65 schools shared their personal stories and life lessons. Their courage, insight, and reflection are a powerful reminder of the importance of character and resilience in shaping our communities.

Special thanks to the 136 volunteer Essay Judges who generously dedicated their time to reviewing over 1,400 submissions. Through their careful evaluation, essays were recognized as exceptional examples of self-reflection and storytelling, including 141 Grade Winners and 49 School Winners.

This program would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of our educators, volunteer judges, donors, sponsors, and 66 Rotary Club partners. Their support equips students with critical thinking, writing skills, and a deeper understanding of character and ethics.

Rotary Clubs across the state will host student recognition events to honor students in the coming weeks. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for highlights from these celebrations.

As we honor these achievements, let us also celebrate every student essayist their voices. We believe every student who writes a Georgia Laws of Life Essay is a winner!

To bring the Laws of Life contest to a school in your community, contact Executive Director Carol Gray Walker at [carol@georgialawsoflife.org](mailto:carol@georgialawsoflife.org).

Posted by Carol Gray Walker  
March 30, 2025

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Dunwoody Makes The News

## **Anchor Place Respite Is Getting Noticed**



Here is just a snippet from the article on [RoughDraftAtlanta.com](https://www.roughdraftatlanta.com): "Newly formed Anchor Place Respite Care, a twice-a-week program that hosts in its community space older adults living with mild-to-moderate memory issues, is looking to expand its offerings, with the help of the Dunwoody community."

Rotary of Dunwoody has named Anchor Place, as one of its beneficiaries through the Rotary Club, in their upcoming Fore the Memories Golf Tournament to be held Monday, May 19."

Posted by Charlie Augello  
April 4, 2025

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Club News

**Join North Cobb for Smoke on the Lake BBQ**



**Rotary** Club of North Cobb



**SMOKE**

**ON THE LAKE  
BBQ  
FESTIVAL  
Logan Farm Park**



This year marks the 15th Annual Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival at Logan Farm Park - the largest fundraiser for the Rotary Club of North Cobb. The event takes place on Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10. All Net Proceeds are invested in our community. Get more information about the event and buy advance tickets for the Friday night event by visiting the [Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival](#) website.

Here are a few charities that benefit from this event: Acworth Police Community Foundation, (CCYA) Center for Children & Young Adults, Devereux Behavioral Health Georgia, Acworth Community Garden, Horizon Special Needs Field, The Men's and Women's Extension, Cobb Sheriff's Foundation, Pine Mountain Middle School, Kennesaw Public Safety Foundation, Forever Fed, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), Mountain Top Boys Home, Northwest YMCA Summer Feeding Program, Rescuing Hope, Rotary Interact Clubs at North Cobb High School and other local high schools, S.H.A.R.E. Military Initiative, Live Safe Resources, Must Ministries, Cobb County Veterans Treatment and Accountability Court, Power of Peace Leadership Program, ServeComm, Georgia Viet Nam Veterans Alliance Holiday Food Program, Cobb Thanks You for Your Service Veterans Program and many others.

Posted by Ada Wikina  
March 30, 2025

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### Club News

## Marietta Metro Wins the SOUPerBowl!



We did it again! While NFL players were working hard to get ready for the Super Bowl, **Marietta Metro Rotarians** were working hard to collect cans of nutritious, delicious soup for our annual SOUPer Bowl. Once again, the club was divided into four teams and challenged to see which team could contribute the most cans of soup. Our goal was a total of 1,000 cans, but thanks to a fourth-quarter pep talk from Coach Lynn Lanier, the teams blew that out of the water with 1,074 cans. And the Marietta Mountain Goats team (pictured) won bragging rights with more than 300 cans!

The big winners are the students from Georgia Highlands College and Chattahoochee Technical College, whose food pantries are now freshly stocked with soup. Food insecurity is real, even for students at institutions of higher learning. Our club already provides scholarships to students at both of these schools, but we like to give them a little extra incentive to stay in school by helping out with some food for brain fuel.

**PHOTOS:**





**Marietta  
Mountain Goats  
326**

**Cobb  
Caterpillars  
257**



**Metro  
Marmosets  
248**

**Total  
1074**

**Georgia  
Goldfish  
243**

Posted by Sally Platt  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

**Brookhaven Celebrates with Side By Side Clubhouse**



The **Brookhaven Rotary Club** got a jump on celebrating St. Patrick's Day with our friends at Side by Side Clubhouse. The Club brought the food and festoons. SbS members came ready to compete, playing dominos, spades and taboo. Side by Side Clubhouse provides a supportive community for those recovering from traumatic brain injuries (TBI). All members participate in clubhouse operations and support. This provides purpose and further aids their recovery. The Brookhaven Rotary Club members are happy to hang out and have fun with SbS members.

Posted by Judith Fuller  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

## Meriwether County and St. Mary's College Students Build Home



In March, a group of St. Mary's College students embarked on a journey that would change their spring

break and make a tangible difference in the lives of a needy family. The annual college challenge for Habitat for Humanity took them to the heart of Meriwether County, where they dedicated their time and energy to building a home from the ground up.

The students arrived with a shared purpose, ready to contribute to something greater than themselves. They were met with the warm hospitality of the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County**, whose generosity ensured that the evening was as nourishing for the body as the students' work was for the community. Fourteen homemade pizzas, fresh garden salads, and delightful brownies with ice cream set the perfect tone for the week ahead.

As the sun rose the following morning, the students found themselves in front of a structure with an already laid foundation—but there was still so much to do. They worked tirelessly, side by side, hammering nails, installing walls, and putting their hands to work to make the house weather-tight before the week was through. Each student knew that their efforts would go beyond just construction. They were building more than just walls and roofs; they were laying the foundation for a brighter future for a needy family.

Meriwether County Habitat for Humanity, an affiliate of the international nonprofit organization, played a key role in the success of this mission. The organization's goal was simple yet powerful: to empower those in need by providing decent, affordable housing. The houses they built were sold at no profit and without interest, giving families a fresh start and the hope of a stable future.

As the week unfolded, the students grew closer to each other, the community, and Habitat for Humanity's mission. By the time they stood back to admire their work, the house was nearly complete—a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the kindness of all those who supported them.

When the students left Meriwether County at the end of the week, they carried more than just memories. They took the knowledge that their actions had helped change lives, offering a family not just a house but a chance at a new beginning. It was a spring break they would never forget — meaningful, purposeful, and hopeful.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Kay Williamson  
March 30, 2025

Club News

## **Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps Celebrates 10 Years of Service**



The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** recently hosted a "Magical Celebration" to commemorate the 10th anniversary of its **Rotary Community Corps (RCC)**, a dedicated group of special needs adults committed to Rotary's core value of Service Above Self. The evening brought together Rotarians, RCC members, and their families for a heartwarming tribute to a decade of impact and service.

The memorable evening welcomed several distinguished guests, including District Governor Gordon Owens, Past District Governors Raymond Ray and George Granade, Mimi Gentilini (owner of Mimi's Good Food and host of the RCC's monthly meetings), and Chris Allesio (Edward Jones and a generous sponsor for RCC social outings). Their presence underscored the RCC's remarkable contributions to the local community and beyond.

Thanks to the generosity of Peachtree City Rotarians who sponsored the event, RCC members were able to invite their parents to share in the celebration at no cost. The event planning committee, led by Peachtree City Rotarians Mike Lardie, Amy Matusek, Amy Benton, Mandy Timmons, Jim Mothorpe, and Fernando Duenas, ensured every detail contributed to a magical evening.

During the celebration, the RCC's outstanding achievements were highlighted. Over the past decade, RCC members have made a significant impact through service projects with organizations such as Bloom, Midwest Food Bank, and their extraordinary effort in donating seven service dogs to veterans and children with special needs. Special recognition was given to charter members, past RCC presidents, and current officers for their leadership and dedication. Each RCC member was presented with a commemorative plaque to honor their service and commitment over the past 10 years.

A particularly moving moment came during the tribute to Past President Joel Norris, whose vision and leadership sparked the formation of the RCC. Inspired by a similar club he encountered in Colorado that is no longer in existence, Joel's dedication created what is now the only RCC of its kind in the world. Under his leadership, the RCC has grown from its original founding group to 38 members, with four new members set to be inducted next month.

The evening concluded with a touching Rose Ceremony, where RCC members honored their caregivers for the unwavering love and support they provide.

"The Rotary Community Corps is a shining example of what happens when people come together with a heart for service," said District 6900 Governor Gordon Owens. "This celebration was not just about the past 10 years but also a testament to the bright future that lies ahead for these inspiring individuals."

The Rotary Club of Peachtree City is proud to continue supporting the RCC and remains committed to empowering its members through service, fellowship, and opportunity. For more information about the Rotary Community Corps of Peachtree City, please visit

<https://peachtreecityrotary.org/page/rotary-community-corps>.

Posted by Mandy Timmons  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

## Decatur Honors Star Students



The **Decatur Rotary Club** and the PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) recognized the top students and teachers of Dekalb County by hosting the STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) awards at the Historic Dekalb Courthouse.

Over lunch and congratulations by dignitaries such as Andrea Arnold, Decatur City Manager, the students and teachers received their STAR certificates and Chick-fil-A gift certificates, and each high school winner had pictures taken. Honored guests included Dr. Gyimah Whitaker, Superintendent of Decatur City Schools, Dr. Devon Horton, Superintendent of Dekalb County Schools, and many school board members from Decatur and DeKalb.

Each student was given a few moments to thank their STAR teachers, whom they nominated for impacting their education and lives. They also told the large crowd about their next steps as students and what they enjoy doing when not studying.

Several students and teachers were 'System STAR Students' who now go on to compete for region-wide honors within the 12 STAR Regions. They are:

- Chamblee Charter High School - STAR Student: Katherine Amelia Tanzola, Star Teacher: Mrs. Colleen Marin-Mendoza
- Decatur High School: Star Student: Renato Dell'Osso IV, Star Teacher: Mr. David Custer
- Marist School - Star Student: Jonathan Lee, Star teacher: Dr. Isaac Gitonga

"The Decatur Rotary Club is honored to host this fantastic event to honor students and teachers. We are all uplifted and encouraged to see and hear from some of the brightest students in our community and recognize the work of the fantastic teachers who inspire these students. Since 1938, Decatur Rotary has worked hard to promote literacy and advocate for the Decatur community." said Decatur Rotary President Dudley Larus.

In the second photo, Rotarian Tim Martin poses with one student's family; thanks to Tim for all his hard work on this program.

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Art Rosser  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

## **Thomasville Provides Free Tax Prep Services**



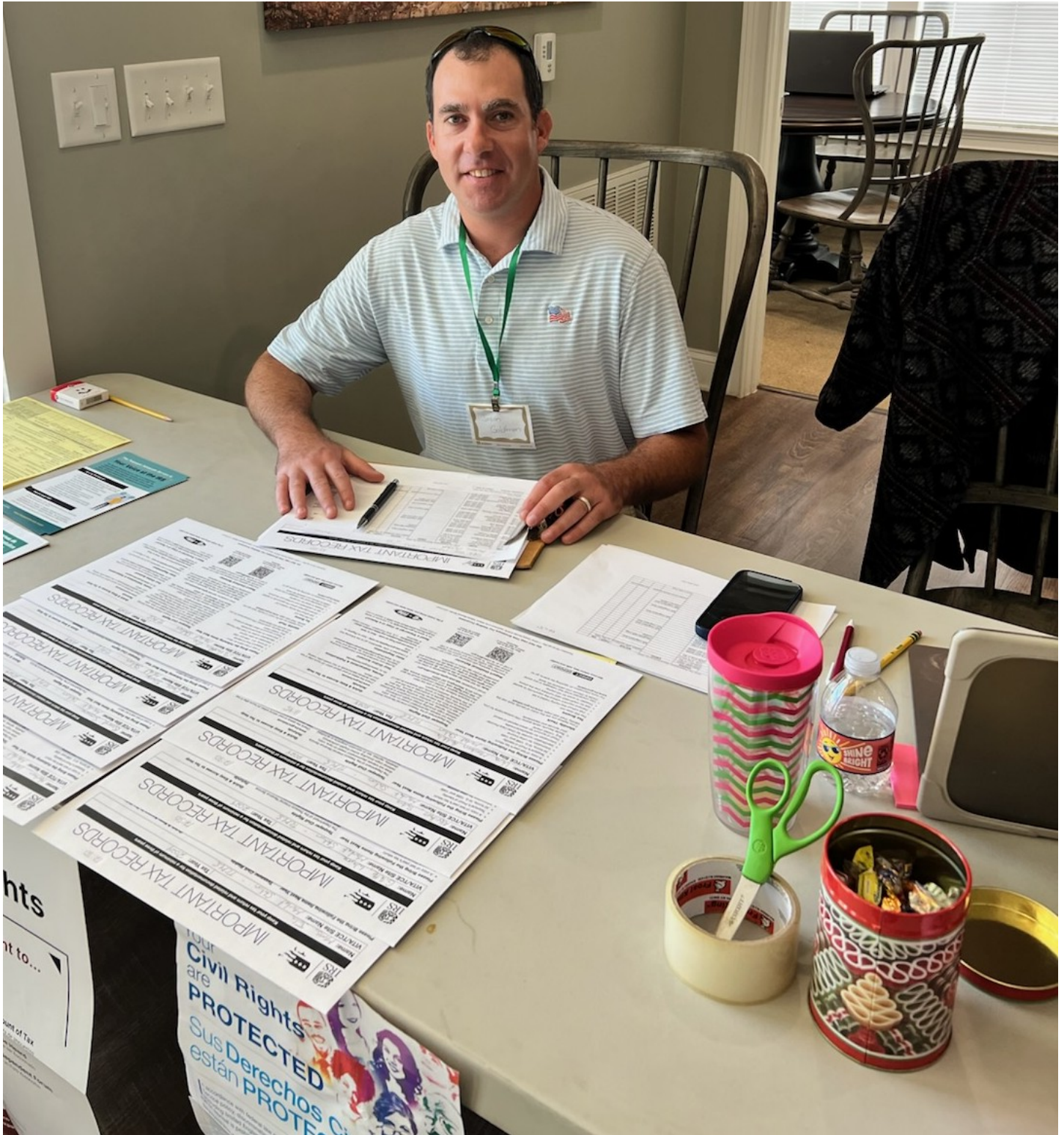
“Tax preparation for free” sounds too good to be true, but for nine years **Thomasville Rotarians** and other community volunteers have been delivering just that to local retired residents with low to moderate income. Since its start, the program has served more than 2800 individuals/families and resulted in direct refunds of over \$1,820,000 to those people.

Tax-Aid is delivered through a partnership of the IRS, Volunteers in Tax Assistance, Rotary Club of Thomasville, Thomas County Library, Envision Credit Union, Thomas University and community volunteers. It provides tax preparation to individuals whose income is from pensions and/or Social Security.

Thomasville Rotarians Scott Rich and Jason Goldman and other volunteers begin assisting clients in February each year and devote one day a week through the tax season. This year it is expected the program will serve approximately 275 clients with refunds to those served estimated at about \$144,200 from Federal & \$89,600 from Georgia for a total of approximately \$234,000.

Scott Rich, a longtime member of Rotary and past club president, said “the Tax-Aid program fits well with Rotary’s mission of doing good in the community.”

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by David Sofferin  
March 30, 2025

## North Fulton Enjoys Day of Service



The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** had a great day of serving the community on March 13th. The day started off at Alpharetta High School to pick up chili and salad made by the Culinary Arts students. This lunch was delivered by Rotarians to every fire station in Alpharetta and Milton, as well as police headquarters and 911 centers. In total, over 125 first responders were served! The evening brought our members to Children's Development Academy, where the club sponsored a Literacy Night which included dinner, entertainment and fun activities for the families of preschoolers. We absolutely love serving the North Fulton community!

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Lisa Gelber  
March 30, 2025

## Marietta Reads in 33 Classrooms



Co-Chairs: Alan Gibby and Tiffany Williams

The **Rotary Club of Marietta** recently conducted its Spring Marietta Reads Program, where Rotarians read a story to each of the 2nd grade classrooms in the Marietta School District. There are seven elementary schools containing 33 classrooms. so this involves a major commitment from our fellow Rotarians - 17 members read once and eight read twice. Our readers included Walt Welker, Joe Atkins, Holly Walquist, Elizabeth Manning, Lee Pence, Jim Peeler, Julia Fedoryuk, Kay Peninger, Doug Haynie, Ralph Knight, Abbott Hall, Glenn Owens, Mark Barbour, Tiffany Williams, Jeff Cooper, Teresa Jones, Marlys Williams, Cliff Kelker, Warren Gordon, Julia Sebastian, Jacob Southerland, Troy Jones, Jennifer Nelson, Kelly Maxwell, Alan Gibby

A special thank you to all readers who arrived at the various elementary schools early in the morning and spent about 30 minutes reading our current story, *The Apple Orchard Park*, which had a theme of "Service Above Self." This story followed the story from the fall in which Andy and Elmer created an apple dumpling business with the theme of the Four Way Test.

A huge thank you to Holly Walquist, our Foundation chair, who arranged for books and bookmarks to be ordered and delivered to the schools and created the instruction sheet for all the readers. Her attention to detail and deadlines helped to make the entire program run smoothly. Also, Tiffany Williams helped recruit volunteers, updated our list of readers, and helped troubleshoot when we had sudden cancelations. She was a valuable teammate in this whole process. Her steady hand and positive demeanor were appreciated.

We could not have done it all without the help of former chair of this program, current President Don Barbour. Don spent time with Tiffany and me reviewing the entire timeline from start to finish. He gets much credit for establishing a well-oiled process, and we merely followed his lead.

Again, a heartfelt Thank You to all the Rotarians who volunteered to read. Without the willingness and support of our readers, the program would not be successful so hats off to all of you! Once again you all personified our motto of "Service Above Self."

Posted by Jacob Southerland  
March 30, 2025

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## Last Chance To Win



The [Rotavette Raffle](#) will have a winner at the end of this month, so be sure to get a ticket for a chance to win half the pot, up to \$50,000. Asking a friend to [buy a \\$100 raffle ticket](#) is a much easier ask, than saying, "will you give \$100 to our Rotary Foundation." The money we raise this year, will come back to us in 3 years in the form District Designated Funds to support the great work you do in your communities and around the world. The more we raise, the more impact we will have in the future. Thanks for helping us share this fun opportunity to support the Annual Fund.

Posted by Will Daniel

April 4, 2025

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Club News

## Lake Spivey-Clayton County Joins Annual Pillars Luncheon



In mid-March, members of the **Lake Spivey/Clayton County Rotary Club** proudly attended the Good Shepherd Clinic's 2025 Pillars Luncheon in Morrow, Georgia. This annual event celebrates community leaders and organizations making significant contributions to the region. This year's luncheon also marked a special milestone, celebrating the clinic's 10th Anniversary and honoring its continued dedication to providing free healthcare to uninsured residents of Clayton County.

The luncheon program, titled "The Julie Brown Tour of Tables," showcased a dazzling array of creatively designed tables, with attendees invited to vote for their favorite display.

The event commenced with a warm welcome and blessing from Kurt-Alexander Zeller, who served as the Master of Ceremonies, alongside Pastor Mel Blackaby of First Baptist Church Jonesboro. Guests were treated to a delicious lunch, generously catered by Chick-fil-A, Jonesboro Dwarf House, with assistance from volunteers of Magnolia House and Shepherd's House. Musical entertainment was provided by pianist Grant Jones.

A highlight of the afternoon was the Honoring of the 2025 Pillars, recognizing individuals across five categories for their exceptional service and leadership.

Among the distinguished honorees was Lake Spivey/Clayton County Rotary Club's own Deborah Anglin, who received the Community Service Pillar Award. As Cofounder and CEO of Hearts to Nourish Hope, Inc., Deborah has dedicated her career to empowering at-risk youth and fostering community development. Her tireless efforts have created pathways to success for countless individuals, truly exemplifying Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self."

Other 2025 Pillar Honorees included:

- Business Pillar: Ben Loggins, Founder of Loggins Kern & McCombs
- Education Pillar: Ed Davis, Retired Music Educator
- Legal Pillar: The Honorable Geronda V. Carter, Clayton County Superior Court Judge
- Medical Pillar: Dr. Joon Y. Kim, President of Clayton Eye Center

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Judith Bennett  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

## **DeKalb Rotary Council Honors Teachers and Rotarians**



When the eight clubs of the DeKalb Rotary Council met for breakfast in March, they focused on education - with each club honoring a teacher from a school in their community. Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, newly elected CEO of DeKalb County, was the keynote speaker and focused most of her remarks on the importance of education.

In addition to honoring teachers at this annual DeKalb Rotary Council event, the Council recognizes individual Rotarians who have gone the extra mile to exemplify Service Above Self.

Each Club selects a member to receive the PDG Bill Mulkey "Show Rotary Cares" award. This year's recipients included:

- Kim Green, Brookhaven
- John Bennett, Decatur
- Meredith Morris, Dunwoody
- Kris Goyal, Emory Druid Hills
- Barbara Bush, North Atlanta
- Yolanda Dixon, South DeKalb
- Darlene Day, Stone Mountain
- Alan Janssen, Stone Mountain Passport

Clubs also nominate members for the PDG Bob Grant "You are the Key" award - and the Council selects the recipient. This year's recipient is Jackie Cuthbert, Rotary Club of Dunwoody. Jackie has been the editor of the District 6900 newsletter for almost 18 years (and plans to continue), serves as Secretary on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Rotary Student Program, is a Major Donor and Bequest Society Member of The Rotary Foundation, serves her club as weekly bulletin editor, and volunteers as part of the club's recent partnership with Anchor Place Respite Care in Dunwoody.

PDGs Bill Mulkey and Bob Grant were instrumental in building the DeKalb Rotary Council - instilling it with a spirit of fun and fellowship (pictured at a DeKalb Council golf tournament). They were two of the 11 DeKalb Rotary Council members who have served District 6900 as Governor; the Council is looking forward to our next DG from the council, Cynthia Edwards.

**PHOTOS:**





The DeKalb Rotary Council  
& the  
Rotary Club of South DeKalb  
Honor  
**DR. EZRA THOMPSON**  
STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL  
as the  
*Teacher of the Year*  
2024 - 2025

  
**William M. Mulkey**  
**"Show Rotary Cares"**  
Award  
Presented To  
**Polanda M. Dixon**  
Rotary Club of South DeKalb  
In exemplifying "Service Above Self"  
to "Show Rotary Cares" in their Club,  
in their community, and in our world.  
DeKalb Rotary Council  
2024-2025

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

## Carrollton Stage for Talent Creates Community Investment



The **Rotary Club of Carrollton**'s third annual West Georgia Talent Competition brought talented performers of all ages from West Georgia, and beyond, to Carrollton, GA last fall.

This annual fundraising event supports Rotary's mission of service to community allowing the club to support deserving causes across Carroll County, including the Dr. Rash Education Scholarship at the University of West Georgia, West Georgia Technical College Education Scholarship, Carroll County Council on Aging, THS Emergency Shelter, Carroll County Child Advocacy Center, and Carroll County Mental Health Advocates, among others.

The focus of the 2024 fundraising efforts was the James R. Fulford Endowment within the Tanner Health Foundation. The James R. Fulford Endowment was established by the Fulford family with support from the community to create access to local neurology services, ensuring that care for a wide range of

neurological disorders can be found close to home.

The 3rd annual West Georgia Talent Competition showcased ten incredible live performances and special celebrity guests through prerecorded video. In addition to ticket sales, the event offers sponsorship packages and accepts donations to enhance the philanthropic impact the Rotary Club of Carrollton seeks to make in the community.

“The object of this event is twofold,” said Ed Ward, the current President of the Rotary Club of Carrollton. “One is to continue a signature event sponsored by the club that brings the community together in a fun, entertaining way; and two, to establish it as a sustainable fundraiser to support Rotary’s ongoing mission of Service Above Self by providing funding for various causes and needs in our community.”

The show format is like that of America’s Got Talent, with both the live audience and those streaming online participating in selection of the talent winners. Four winners are selected receiving the following prizes: Judges Pick/Grand Prize, \$1,000 cash; Contestant’s Pick/Runner Up, \$500 cash; Audience Pick, \$250 cash; and Alumni Pick, \$250 cash. The 2025 West Georgia Talent Competition will be held on Thursday, October 23rd and will benefit cancer patient supportive services at Tanner Health through the Marie Yuran Cancer Patient Supportive Care Endowment.

The Rotary Club of Carrollton is proud to be approaching 100 years of service in the Carroll County community and beyond and looks forward to the next 100 years of practicing service above self, giving back to the Carroll County community, and championing Rotary Club International’s polio eradication efforts and global initiatives.

Posted by Nichole Fannin  
March 30, 2025

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## **Vinings Cumberland Brings Health to Bolivia**



Over a very snowy weekend in Atlanta, a team of dedicated **Vinings Cumberland Rotarians** embarked on an international mission to Bolivia. After enduring nearly 50 hours of travel delays, they arrived in Santa Cruz, ready to serve.

In partnership with Dr. Steve Rosser of Emory University, the team assisted in a cleft palate surgical mission, supporting mothers and children as they prepared for and recovered from life-changing operations. In just five days, the team helped provide care for 60 patients. For many of our Rotarians, the most unforgettable moment was witnessing the overwhelming joy on the faces of mothers as they saw their children's transformed faces for the first time.

This Bolivia mission builds on the club's ongoing commitment to global service. Earlier, another group of members traveled to Paraguay, partnering with the Luque Rotary Club to install seven much-needed cold water fountains in local elementary schools, providing clean drinking water for hundreds of students.

Together, these projects reflect the heart of Rotary—service above self, both at home and around the world.

**PHOTOS:**







Posted by Thomas House  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

## **Roswell in Costa Rica: From New Glasses & Backpacks to Big Smiles**



**Roswell Rotary** recently traveled to Costa Rica and those who were there will never be the same. We came back as different people, full of hope and the joy of giving back.

Project #1 was providing free eyeglasses. We tested almost 120 locals' eyes in two days! We found some with perfect vision, some who were blind in one eye, and had lots of people who were very happy to see better with their new glasses! Project #2 was completing installation of the basketball goals our rotary grant purchased. We met with Mayor Veronica and City people who were so grateful. Project #3 was a trip to the local school to give out backpacks, Spanish to English dictionaries and soccer balls! They were so excited and grateful. Such beautiful happy children.

**PHOTOS:**







Posted by Kathryn Igou  
March 30, 2025

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Club News

## **Stone Mountain Celebrates People Making a Difference**



In March, the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** proudly celebrated its outstanding members and community partners at the annual DeKalb Rotary Council's Awards Breakfast.

Our Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Dr. Monique Robinzine of Redan High School, who was also honored as Redan's 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year. A passionate special education teacher with over 30 years of experience, Dr. Robinzine has dedicated her career to student success, educational innovation, and mentorship. She holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University and has mentored aspiring educators as an adjunct instructor at Central Michigan University/Atlanta. Her remarkable contributions to education have been recognized with the WSFA Class Act Teacher Award and a feature on WSFA's six o'clock news. Her well-deserved recognition highlights the critical role educators play in shaping future generations.

The RCSM and the Stone Mountain Satellite Club honored Darlene Smith Daly and Alan Janssen with the Council's prestigious Show Rotary Cares Award, recognizing their exceptional leadership, service, and dedication. Alan, who is currently engaged in disaster relief efforts in North Carolina, was unable to attend in person, but his tireless contributions were acknowledged and are deeply appreciated.

Stone Mountain made a special presentation to Cynthia Dorsey Edwards - awarding the Guardian of the Legacy Award for her unwavering dedication to growing and sustaining the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain. As District Governor Nominee (DGN), Cynthia continues to elevate Rotary's impact and inspire others to serve with passion.

And finally, the club was proud to nominate Marlene Randall, the club's President-Elect, for the Council's You Are the Key Award - recognizing her incredible work with dementia patients and seniors. Her compassion and service have touched countless lives, making her a true asset to both Rotary and the community.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Darlene Daly  
April 2, 2025

## Paulding County Salutes Soldiers at USO



**Paulding County Rotarians** recently took time to greet hundreds of American soldiers as they passed through Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. Club members prepared and distributed meals for service men and women returning to basic training following the holidays. It's the club's annual event in concert with the USO and it's a most-favorite endeavor for club members. What an honor to serve these great young American soldiers!

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Roy Strickland  
April 2, 2025

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