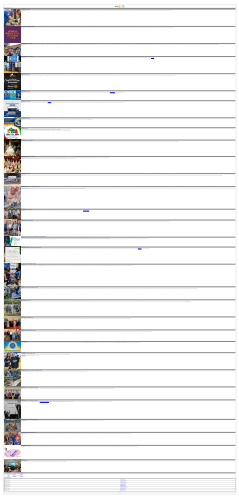
Rotary
District 6900



September 5, 2024

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2024

The Magic of Rotary

Impacting Our Communities

By Gordon Owens

In the last month I've worked with clubs serving our military at the USO, collecting medical supplies for FODAC, installing a peace pole at CNC, building a bridge for the Southern Conservation Trust, dancing at a prom for senior citizens, packing bags with school or personal hygiene supplies, handing out groceries at Solidarity Sandy Springs, packing food supplies at Feeding The Valley, feeding the homeless at the Salvation Army, and supporting families in need with unused school food through Helping Hands. The best part is most of these projects are in partnership with other organizations and only require Rotarian volunteers. There is no doubt our clubs are showing their communities the Magic of Rotary with every project they take on.

[more]

October 24, 2024

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By Bob Hagan

Rotary International has challenged every Rotary club around the world to contribute at lease $1500 USD to Polio Plus to help us cross the finish line in eradicating polio. A great way to raise funds for your club's Polio Plus contribution is hosting a World Polio Day event on Thursday, October 24, 2024. We have seen some great "fun-raisers" over the years like Pints for Polio, Comedy For A Cause, or Corn Hole Tournaments to help engage our friends and family in giving to Polio Plus. We would love to see every club in our district meet the $1500 milestone in Polio Plus giving by the end of October. If you need ideas, there are tons of resources on EndPolio.org or reach out to our Polio Plus Chair, Manoj Barot via email at rtsmanojbarot@gmail.com.

[more]

Selecting The Next Governor

Nominate Candidates For 2027-2028

By Alicia Hughes

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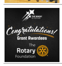

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6PM September 24, 2024

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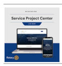

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RYLA Update

Save Room for RYLA!

By Jaclyn Donovan

As you and your club are making plans and moving deeper into the new Rotary year, we hope you will save a spot in your lineup for RYLA. If you've never heard of RYLA, here's a quick introduction:

• Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program that targets young adults, ages 15-18, to further develop character and leadership skills and learn about Rotary. RYLA in District 6900 is a 5-day summer camp experience.

• We have the dates all set – June 7-11, 2025 – and the RYLA staff is already hard at work making plans. Our goal is to fill every available spot in the camp so this year we are starting the process sooner in hopes of reaching everyone in plenty of time.

[more]

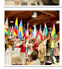
Club News

Southwest Georgia Council Relaunches

By André Marria

In many areas of our district we have active Rotary councils that meet regularly to share ideas, help each out and work together to create even more impact in the community. Conversations around these tables often lead to joint projects and partnerships on district or global grants. While the Southwest Georgia Council got started several years ago, the pandemic took the wind out of its sails before it really got going. That is about to change! With many of the club presidents and AGs meeting in Albany last month, this group is poised to do big things together. We shared connections to help improve projects or fundraisers, ideas on how clubs can hit their goals by reviewing them regularly and the potential to partner on a regional project. We look forward to the next meeting!

[more]



Georgia Rotary Student Program

Columbus Welcomes GRSP Class of 2024-25

By Katheryne Fields

Singing the Peace Song standing together in harmony, Georgia Rotary Student Program Class welcomed the Class of 2024-25 scholars in for Conclave in Columbus this weekend. The class includes 39 recipients, 24 females and 15 males, from 22 countries, sponsored by 89 Rotary Clubs in Georgia and attending 25 colleges, including students at Morehouse College and Georgia Tech, after a 20-year gap at these two distinguished institutions.

Conclave was hosted by District 6900 and the Rotary Clubs of Columbus, Muscogee-Columbus and North Columbus. GRSP Chair Ian Bond also served as the Conclave Chair. DG Gordon Owens kicked off the celebration by introducing Rotary to the new GRSP class. [more]

Rotary Youth Exchange

Welcome to Our RYE Students!

By Mandy Timmons

Rotary District 6900 was excited to welcome a new group of Rotary Youth Exchange inbound students with a special Host Family Picnic! This event marks the beginning of a year-long adventure for five remarkable students from around the world. We are thrilled to introduce Gaia from Italy, Fritz from Germany, Selma from Sweden, Bin from South Korea, and Kaho from Japan to our community in Georgia. Throughout the year, they will immerse themselves in Georgia culture, attend school, and participate in various Rotary activities. They will also have the opportunity to share their own cultures with their host clubs, building lifelong friendships and connections that transcend borders. The Family Picnic was a joyful occasion, filled with fellowship, cultural exchange, and the warm hospitality that Georgia is known for. Our District 6900 is dedicated to fostering global understanding and peace, and this picnic was the perfect way to kick off an unforgettable year for these young ambassadors.

[more]

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

RC of North Atlanta Continues to Fight Against Spina Bifida

By Jon Yaeger

The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta (RNCA)** begins the second year of a five-year global grant project to reduce serious birth defects in Ethiopia. Women who lack an essential, inexpensive vitamin in their diets – vitamin B-9, also known as folic acid – are at a higher risk of having a child with spina bifida, anencephaly, and other developmental issues known collectively as neural tube defects (NTDs). Some of these children will not survive childbirth, and those who do face a lifetime with disabilities including paralysis and lack of bowel and bladder control, along with shorter lifespans. Many of these cases can be prevented by introducing folic acid into the diets of women of childbearing age before they become pregnant. RCNA partnered with other clubs in the USA ; two Rotary clubs in Addis Ababa; and logistically with the ReachAnother Foundation, a non-profit with operations in Oregon and Ethiopia. During the first year of the project, some 800,000 high-dose folic acid tablets were purchased and distributed; this year we are distributing even more.

The RCNA's grant proposal can serve as a template for other clubs and other regions to engage in similar projects. We also welcome additional participants in our current project. For additional information, or to arrange a program presentation for your club, please contact Ralph Peeler, MD at rdpiiimd@comcast.net.

[more]

Dave Burr (Dunwoody), Cynthia Edwards (Stone Mountain), Marlene Randall (Stone Mountain), Glenn Relman (Peachtree City), Carter Stout (Dunwoody)

Rotary Fellowships

Join Us for Rotary Means Business

By Carter Stout

The District 6900 RMB meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month for networking and socializing. The next meeting is September 24 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Politian Row at Ashford Lane (near Perimeter Mall). Our events are on the District 6900 website calendar and the latest information is on our **Facebook page (click here).**

[more]

Club News

Grocery Shopping With Sandy Springs

By John Neill

Many of the members of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs spent a morning volunteering at Solidarity Sandy Springs, a unique take on getting food to those in need in the community. With fun music playing and shelves fully stocked with goods, families come into the charming grocery store like setting at Solidarity to "shop" for items they need. They even provide a child care area for kids to play while parents shop. At checkout they weigh the food, which includes fresh produce and frozen proteins instead of paying so Solidarity can measure the impact they are having on food insecurity. With the fun & friendly environment, stocking shelves, preparing produce and helping customers with their selections didn't feel like work at all!

[more]

Lighting the Path to Literacy: Rotary's Global Initiative with Emerging Technology

By Ron Cox

We are thrilled to introduce to you a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming global literacy. Utilizing the innovative Kibeam Reading System, this program leverages emerging technology to foster a love of reading in children, enhance literacy rates, and empower communities. Through the collaborative efforts of Rotary members and clubs, we are lighting the path to a brighter future where every child has the opportunity to prosper.

The Kibeam Reading System is an interactive tool designed to make reading accessible and enjoyable for children of all ages. By integrating advanced technology with engaging content, Kibeam captivates young minds and ignites a passion for learning. This system not only helps children develop essential reading skills but also builds their confidence and curiosity, laying a strong foundation for their academic and personal growth. Read on for more information and contact David Cochran and Ron Cox, Director at Large and Director of International Services, Rotary Club of Alpharetta to see how you can get involved. [more]

Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest

Meet Our Match Campaign: Inspiring Character, Shaping Futures

By Carol Gray Walker

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest thrives because of a dedicated community of supporters who believe in the transformative power of character education. This year, the commitment from long-standing donors and new supporters has played a crucial role in advancing our Meet Our Match challenge grant. Thanks to their generosity, we are at 75% of our goal with a month to go. Among the inspiring contributors are Lata and Manjeet Chinnan, who have been steadfast supporters of the contest for many years. This year, the Chinnans increased their contribution to the **Meet Our Match** campaign, inspiring others to join them.

[more]

Lake Spivey Clayton County Donates Backpacks

By Gerrian Hawes

The Rotary Club of Lake Spivey | Clayton County demonstrated the Magic of Rotary by supporting Bread Basket Ministries, Inc. with their annual Back to School project. This year, the club generously purchased 500 backpacks to support local students. Each backpack was thoughtfully filled with essential school supplies, ensuring that students have the tools they need for a successful school year. This collaboration highlights the club's commitment to education and community service, embodying the mission of Rotary International to make a positive impact.

[more]

Club News

DeKalb Rotary Council Collects Equipment for FODAC

By Barbara Bush

The 12th Annual home medical equipment collection event for FODAC is in the books! On August 3, 2024 our community of Rotarians and Rotaractors came together on the back patio of the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant to organize into groups who were then assigned to go into the community to pick up donated home medical equipment. This equipment is then refurbished by FODAC at their Stone Mountain site, and distributed back out to those in the community in need, generally for free or at a very low cost. Over the years, with the leadership of Ralph Sims and the North Atlanta Rotary Club, we have collected equipment valued by FODAC at about $2,000,000. This year, our crew of 70 included all of the DeKalb Rotary Council Clubs, the Atlanta Rotaract Club, and the North DeKalb Lions Club, Our DG Gordon and his wife Ashley, and other friends and family.

[more]

Club News

Roswell Plants First Peace Pole

By Nancy Alterman

The first peace pole to be planted in the 2024-2025 Rotary year was installed at The Chattahoochee Nature Center by Roswell Rotarians. The site gets 1000s of visitors annually as it's home to the Butterfly Encounter found along the Wildlife Walk and sits next to a picnic area where groups often stop for a break. The pole was strategically placed to be visible from multiple angles as people walk along the path in the hope that it draws them in to take a closer look. The pole says, "may peace prevail on earth" in English, Hindi, Korean and Spanish. As we planted the first pole, the staff at the Nature Center were already mapping out the location for a second pole close to the special events pavilion. Our club also has plans to place two additional poles in local parks during the course of the year.Find our ***Peace Pole on the map***. [more]

Club News

Americus Hosts Annual Sheffield Gala

By Angela Smith

The **Rotary Club of Americus** hosted the Annual Sheffield Gala honoring the newest Sheffield awardees. The annual "black tie" affair was held on July 27 at the historic Wheatley Building on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and featured live music, a cocktail social, silent auction and full course surf and turf dinner. In addition to the silent auction, PDG Hagan led a live auction of a wooden gavel, made from the Rotary Oaks planted by Paul Harris and the Tuskegee Rotary Club and donated by PDG Steve Stanfield. [more]

Club News

Blakely's 98-Year History of Making a Difference

By Charles Gordon

In its 98th year, the Rotary Club of Blakely has a rich history of serving Early County. This year's President Scott Watford recognized some of that work as he took office this July. He praised outgoing leader David Atkins for starting the local military veterans outreach program which helps Early County veterans learn more about VA benefits. The Rotary Club sponsors the program in conjunction with the Blakely-Early County Chamber of Commerce. Veterans are urged to meet with outreach leaders on the first Monday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce building on Courthouse Square to discover more about the various benefits due them.

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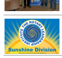


Rotary Leadership Institute

RLI is Going Strong!

By Tracy Van Norman

When District 6900 and District 6920 held a joint RLI session in Valdosta, GA last month, 47 members turned out to increase their Rotary knowledge and meet new friends and contacts, while having a lot of fun in the process. The next RLI event scheduled will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Kennesaw on **October 26 at Kennesaw State University**. This is expected to be a big one, with a lot of Metro Atlanta members attending, so get registered while you can! On **November 16, the Rotary Club of Peachtree City** will be hosting an RLI Graduate course on The Rotary Foundation.

[more]

CART Fund Update

$14,335 Donated To CART During 2023-2024

By LouAnn Medlock

This past year, CART awarded a record $1.4 million in grants, making the cumulative total $13 million that has been distributed to more than 70 research institutions in the US. CART is currently supported by more than 600 Rotary Clubs in more than 40 Rotary districts.

In 2023-24, Rotary District 6900 raised $14,335 for CART, and the top 3 clubs in total giving were:

1. East Cobb ($1655
2. Alpharetta ($1471)
3. Marietta Metro ($1241)

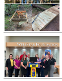
[more]

Club News

Peachtree City + Southern Conservation Trust = A Bridge to Nature!

By Mandy Timmons

The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** was thrilled to partner with the Southern Conservation Trust to build a bridge over a floodplain area, making our local nature areas even more accessible to allow more people to experience the beauty and tranquility of these conserved lands year-round! Southern Conservation Trust ... [more]



Club News

Paulding County Donates Nintendo System to WellStar

By Roy Strickland

Check out the medical-grade Nintendo gaming system being delivered by The Rotary Club of Paulding County for use in the Wellstar Paulding Hospital Pediatric Emergency Room area! This gaming device can help reduce the stress on children receiving ER care and that can result in improved medical outcomes. The gaming system is donated to the hospital by The Rotary Club of Paulding County - made possible in part by a grant from The Rotary Foundation.

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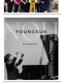


An Inspiring Story

Remarkable Pianist to Visit Some Georgia Rotary Clubs

By Jackie Cuthbert

Youngsuh Noh, a remarkable pianist who has triumphed over significant personal challenges, will be visiting Georgia - with a visit planned to the Peachtree City Rotary Club on September 26 and travel planned to clubs in Savannah, sister city to his home city in Germany. Despite having only about 5% of his sight due to Stargardt disease, Youngsuh has gained recognition across Asia and Europe for his exceptional musical talent and inspiring journey.

He will be traveling to Georgia with Luise Jäsche, a GRSP alumnus from 2018-19. You can **read Youngsuh's story in the attachment** and contact Luise Jäsche by email at luisejaesche@live.de if you might be interested in having them visit your club. [more]

Club News

Columbus Supports Local Street Hockey Championship

By LeighAnn Dicesaris

The **Rotary Club of Columbus** was pleased to support the 2024 Summer Session Championship for the Columbus Street Hockey Association. This event marked the end of a thriving summer session, with participation more than doubling compared to previous years. Eight teams competed - battling it out for the coveted Sasser Cup and the title of 2024 Columbus Street Hockey Summer Champions. [more]

Club News

Peachtree City Welcomes International Student

By Mandy Timmons

Peachtree City had the opportunity to give a warm welcome to our new GRSP Student Atharva Lele from India! He'll be attending Georgia Tech and will be hosted by the wonderful Soulakos family! A big thank you to our District and Club leadership who joined us for the celebration at Partners Pizza, including DG Gordon, AG/IPP Amy, DGE Steve, GRSP Director Katheryne, GRSP Trustee Cyndi, AG Janice, President Patti, and Host Mom/VP Tammy. Your support means the world! Welcome to Georgia, Atharva! We're so excited to have you here!

[more]

Club News

Roswell Off to Energizing Start!

By Kathryn Igou

2024 has kicked off with a bang for the Roswell Rotary Club. Our club is super energized and has already completed multiple projects! With a goal to get everyone in the club involved in service, President Nancy Alterman explains, *"First, we have planned service projects for a variety of times. Right after a meeting, mornings, evenings, weekends...trying to accommodate the schedules of all of our members."* Nancy continues, *"And we recognize our volunteers with the Energize Roswell Bunny t-shirt at each meeting, or for major accomplishments an Energizer Bunny Award."*

[more]

Just for Fun!

While Visiting Alaska

By Brenda Borden

Vinings Cumberland Rotarian Brenda Borden was delighted to find that her make-up meeting in Alaska included welcome for all the newly-arrived Rotary Youth Exchange students. She says they did an excellent presentation!

LEADERBOARD

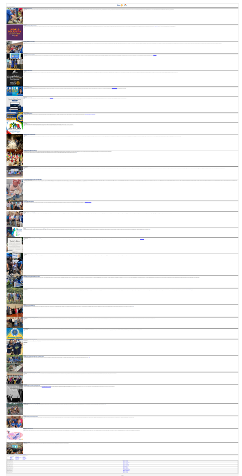
Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	Blakely	North Atlanta	Henry County
II	Bainbridge	Atlanta Southern Crescent	East Cobb
III	Americus	Midtown Atlanta	Midtown Atlanta
IV	Griffin	Peachtree City	Thomasville

Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday, September 5th, 2024	Official Visit - South Cobb
Thursday, September 12th, 2024	Official Visit - North Cobb
Tuesday, September 17th, 2024	Official Visit - Thomaston-Upson
Wednesday, September 18th, 2024	Official Visit - Lake Spivey
Thursday, September 19th, 2024	Official Visit - Forsyth Monroe
Tuesday, September 24th, 2024	Official Visit - Midtown Atlanta
Tuesday, September 24th, 2024	Rotary Means Business
Wednesday, September 25th, 2024	Official Visit - Johns Creek
Thursday, September 26th, 2024	Official Visit - Atlanta Metro
Friday, September 27th, 2024	Freedom Fighter IPA Launch Party
Tuesday, October 1st, 2024	Official Visit - Meriwether County
Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024	Official Visit - Harris County
Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024	Official Visit - LaGrange
Thursday, October 3rd, 2024	Official Visit - West Point



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September 1, 2024

October 24, 2024

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September 3, 2024

6PM September 24, 2024

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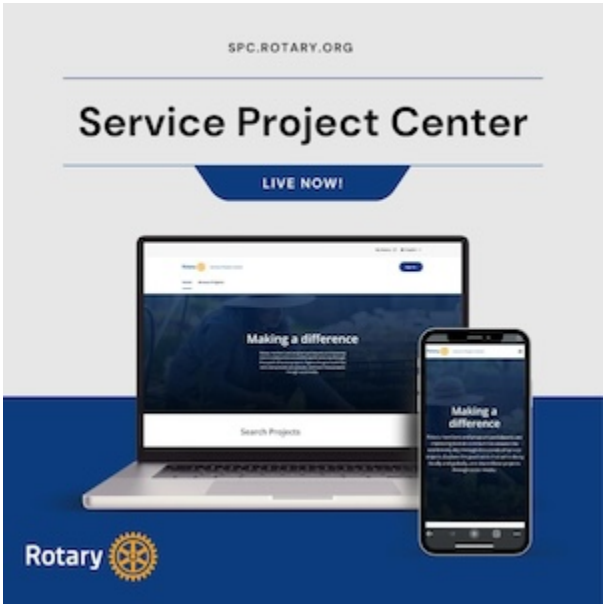

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As you and your club are making plans and moving deeper into the new Rotary year, we hope you will save a spot in your lineup for RYLA. If you've never heard of RYLA, here's a quick introduction:

- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program that targets young adults, ages 15-18, to further develop character and leadership skills and learn about Rotary. RYLA in District 6900 is a 5-day summer camp experience.
- We have the dates all set – June 7-11, 2025 – and the RYLA staff is already hard at work making plans. Our goal is to fill every available spot in the camp so this year we are starting the process sooner in hopes of reaching everyone in plenty of time.
- RYLA participants are nominated by local Rotary clubs, and the clubs are responsible for all expenses. For these young adults, RYLA offers the opportunity to build self-confidence, gain exposure to a variety of issues and people, meet active community leaders, and learn valuable information and career skills.
- RYLA also benefits Rotarians by giving them the opportunity to mentor promising young leaders serving their own communities and beyond. Rotarians serve as resources for participants on the path to becoming professional and community leaders. In turn, RYLA can bring new energy to a Rotary club and district, inspire ideas for service, increase support of community service projects, and develop future Rotarians.
- We can change the lives of 144 students at RYLA and create a positive impact on 144 homes, schools, and communities. To that end, we hope that every club in District 6900 will choose to participate in RYLA this year. You will be hearing from us soon with more details so we can get things rolling!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
August 6, 2024

Club News

Southwest Georgia Council Relaunches

In many areas of our district we have active Rotary councils that meet regularly to share ideas, help each out and work together to create even more impact in the community. Conversations around these tables

often lead to joint projects and partnerships on district or global grants. While the Southwest Georgia Council got started several years ago, the pandemic took the wind out of its sails before it really got going. That is about to change! With many of the club presidents and AGs meeting in Albany last month, this group is poised to do big things together. We shared connections to help improve projects or fundraisers, ideas on how clubs can hit their goals by reviewing them regularly and the potential to partner on a regional project. We look forward to the next meeting!

Posted by André Marria
September 1, 2024

Georgia Rotary Student Program

Columbus Welcomes GRSP Class of 2024-25

Singing the Peace Song standing together in harmony, Georgia Rotary Student Program Class welcomed the Class of 2024-25 scholars in for Conclave in Columbus this weekend. The class includes 39 recipients, 24 females and 15 males, from 22 countries, sponsored by 89 Rotary Clubs in Georgia and attending 25 colleges, including students at Morehouse College and Georgia Tech, after a 20-year gap at these two distinguished institutions.

Conclave was hosted by District 6900 and the Rotary Clubs of Columbus, Muscogee-Columbus and North Columbus. GRSP Chair Ian Bond also served as the Conclave Chair. DG Gordon Owens kicked off the celebration by introducing Rotary to the new GRSP class.

Students, trustees, officers and host families participated in leadership sessions and at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center, a reception dinner at the National Infantry Museum, a student showcase “Cabaret” on Saturday and ending with the scholars rafting the rapids on Sunday before returning to their respective campuses. GRSP extends gratitude to the Conclave committee, weekend host families as well as the tremendous support from all three districts in the state with DG Gordon Owens, DGE Steve Ivory, DGN Cynthia Dorsey Edwards and PDG André Hadley Marria representing District 6900. The next GRSP student weekend will be held in Peachtree City in September.

Cabaret is directed by GRSP Chair Emeritus and Foundation Director Jim Drake and his wife Lynn. The beautiful lyrics for the Peace song were written by GRSP Administrator Emeritus Janis Comer and the music was written by Bernard Wong, GRSP Class of 1994-95. The second verse of the song includes the lyrics, “Peace, oh what a perfect way in which to live our lives each day, in thought and deed, in work and play. Peace, oh what a perfect way!”

PHOTOS:

Posted by Katheryne Fields
August 28, 2024

Rotary Youth Exchange

Welcome to Our RYE Students!

Rotary District 6900 was excited to welcome a new group of Rotary Youth Exchange inbound students with a special Host Family Picnic! This event marks the beginning of a year-long adventure for five remarkable students from around the world. We are thrilled to introduce Gaia from Italy, Fritz from Germany, Selma from Sweden, Bin from South Korea, and Kaho from Japan to our community in Georgia. Throughout the year, they will immerse themselves in Georgia culture, attend school, and participate in various Rotary activities. They will also have the opportunity to share their own cultures with their host clubs, building lifelong friendships and connections that transcend borders. The Family Picnic was a joyful occasion, filled with fellowship, cultural exchange, and the warm hospitality that Georgia is known for. Our District 6900 is dedicated to fostering global understanding and peace, and this picnic was the perfect way to kick off an unforgettable year for these young ambassadors.

Posted by Mandy Timmons
September 2, 2024

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

RC of North Atlanta Continues to Fight Against Spina Bifida

Folic Acid

The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta (RNCA)** begins the second year of a five-year global grant project to reduce serious birth defects in Ethiopia. Details of the project are listed on the Rotary Showcase: **https://spc.rotary.org/project?guid=58368E94-0EEB-425B-A603-3B33487A45D9**

Women who lack an essential, inexpensive vitamin in their diets – vitamin B-9, also known as folic acid – are at a higher risk of having a child with spina bifida, anencephaly, and other developmental issues known collectively as *neural tube defects (NTDs)*. Some of these children will not survive childbirth, and those who do face a lifetime with disabilities including paralysis and lack of bowel and bladder control, along with shorter lifespans. Many of these cases can be prevented by introducing folic acid into the diets of women of childbearing age *before* they become pregnant.

For perspective, Ethiopia's rate of NTDs is about 10X that of the United States, which has been fortifying wheat flour with folic acid since the late 1990s. Ethiopia's NTD rate is currently among the highest in the world.

Moreover, women who have already given birth to a child with an NTD face a *10X risk of having another child with these disabilities*. RNCA's project works with health professionals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to identify these high-risk women whose children are patients in two city hospitals, providing them will folic acid tablets for prevention and tracking subsequent birth outcomes.

RCNA partnered with other clubs in the USA ; two Rotary clubs in Addis Ababa; and logistically with the ReachAnother Foundation, a non-profit with operations in Oregon and Ethiopia. During the first year of the project, some 800,000 high-dose folic acid tablets were purchased and distributed to a target cohort of 1850 mothers in the hospitals. Significantly, other hospitals in Addis Ababa heard about the project and have solicited the folic acid tablets (otherwise unavailable in Ethiopia) for their own patients – an indicator of local impact of the initiative.

This [second] year, the RNCA is increasing the target cohort to 2200 patients, ordering a million more doses, and adding two more hospitals in Addis Ababa. So far, the club has raised $11,100 in donations for the second year of the project, with an expected 100% match from District 6900 and an 80% match from Rotary International. This year's budget for the project is $46,846 after additional donations are received from our other Rotary partners.

The RCNA's grant proposal can serve as a template for other clubs and other regions to engage in similar projects. We also welcome additional participants in our current project. For additional information, or to arrange a program presentation for your club, please contact Ralph Peeler, MD at rdpiiimd@comcast.net.

Posted by Jon Yaeger
September 3, 2024

Rotary Fellowships

Join Us for Rotary Means Business

Dave Burr (Dunwoody), Cynthia Edwards (Stone Mountain), Marlene Randall (Stone Mountain), Glenn Rebman (Peachtree City), Carter Stout (Dunwoody)

The District 6900 RMB meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month for networking and socializing. The next meeting is September 24 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Politian Row at Ashford Lane (near Perimeter Mall). Our events are on the District 6900 website calendar and the latest information is on our Facebook page (click here).

Posted by Carter Stout
August 29, 2024

Club News

Grocery Shopping With Sandy Springs

Many of the members of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs spent a morning volunteering at Solidarity Sandy Springs, a unique take on getting food to those in need in the community. With fun music playing and shelves fully stocked with goods, families come into the charming grocery store like setting at Solidarity to "shop" for items they need. They even provide a child care area for kids to play while parents shop. At checkout they weigh the food, which includes fresh produce and frozen proteins instead of paying so Solidarity can measure the impact they are having on food insecurity. With the fun & friendly environment, stocking shelves, preparing produce and helping customers with their selections didn't feel like work at all!

Posted by John Neill
September 1, 2024

Lighting the Path to Literacy: Rotary's Global Initiative with Emerging Technology

We are thrilled to introduce to you a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming global literacy. Utilizing the innovative Kibeam Reading System, this program leverages emerging technology to foster a love of reading in children, enhance literacy rates, and empower communities. Through the collaborative efforts of Rotary members and clubs, we are lighting the path to a brighter future where every child has the opportunity to prosper.

The Kibeam Reading System is an interactive tool designed to make reading accessible and enjoyable for children of all ages. By integrating advanced technology with engaging content, Kibeam captivates young minds and ignites a passion for learning. This system not only helps children develop essential reading skills but also builds their confidence and curiosity, laying a strong foundation for their academic and personal growth.

As a global program of scale, this initiative begins with us – the dedicated members and clubs of Rotary. We have the unique opportunity to implement the Kibeam Reading System in schools, libraries, and community centers worldwide. By adopting this technology, volunteering our time, and raising funds, we can ensure that children in underserved communities have access to the educational resources they need. Together, we can make a significant impact on literacy rates and demonstrate the power of Rotary's collective efforts.

Let us join forces to bring the magic of Rotary and the transformative power of emerging technology to children around the world. By lighting the path to literacy, we are not only improving lives but also creating a legacy of education and opportunity. Join us in this inspiring journey to make literacy a reality for every child.

Posted by Ron Cox
September 3, 2024

Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest

Meet Our Match Campaign: Inspiring Character, Shaping Futures

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest thrives because of a dedicated community of supporters who believe in the transformative power of character education. This year, the commitment from long-standing donors and new supporters has played a crucial role in advancing our Meet Our Match challenge grant. Thanks to their generosity, we are at 75% of our goal with a month to go.

Among the inspiring contributors are Lata and Manjeet Chinnan, who have been steadfast supporters of the contest for many years. This year, the Chinnans increased their contribution to the Meet Our Match campaign, inspiring others to join them. Manjeet Chinnan, a retired professor from the University of Georgia, reflecting on his career, shared, “All my life, I have been in academia and have loved it. Supporting the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest is my way of giving back and showing my gratitude. I am passionate about this cause because I see the impact it has on the future of many young students, and I am glad to play a small role in this endeavor.”

Their generosity and belief in the mission of Georgia Laws of Life are matched by long-standing Rotary Club Partners, Dawson County and Griffin. As these clubs have expressed, we have “committed to increasing our giving in recognition of what this program has come to mean to our club and the students in our high schools. We hope each club takes this opportunity to increase or give this year, especially with the matching opportunity—basically, our donation will be doubled. What a win for everyone.”

In addition to these long-standing supporters, the campaign has welcomed first-time contributions from local companies such as BearManor Media, Marketing Incentives, SunStop Stores, and Constellation Community Champions. Their support highlights the growing recognition of the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest's impact across communities and industries.

We invite you to join this community of generous supporters by donating through our website or by attending this year’s Founders Celebration. All contributions through October, up to $60,000, will be matched dollar for dollar.

Founders Celebration, An Evening of Inspiration, tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available. Join us on November 17, 6:00 to 8:00PM, at the Piedmont Driving Club. You’ll hear inspiring stories from students who have brought these values to life and honor the dedication of educators who are laying the groundwork for a brighter future.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of young people and ensure that the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest continues to inspire and uplift future generations.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
September 1, 2024

Lake Spivey Clayton County Donates Backpacks

Rotary
Club of Lake Spivey/
Clayton County
SERVICE ABOVE SEL
Did you know? Rotary's Motto: Servi
reflects our belief in unselfish volu
ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

The **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey | Clayton County** demonstrated the Magic of Rotary by supporting Bread Basket Ministries, Inc. with their annual Back to School project. This year, the club generously purchased 500 backpacks to support local students. Each backpack was thoughtfully filled with essential school supplies, ensuring that students have the tools they need for a successful school year. This collaboration highlights the club's commitment to education and community service, embodying the mission of Rotary International to make a positive impact.

The book bag giveaway was coordinated by the club's Service Project Chair, Debbie Anglin, and Club President, Judith Bennett. The backpacks were filled with Rotary information at the club's meeting location, then sent on to Bread Basket Ministries, Inc. for filling with necessary school supplies.

"Our club felt it was important to support students and parents by providing essential and regulation-compliant book bags. This allows parents to focus on other necessities to ensure a smooth start to the school year," said Bennett.

The Back to School project exemplifies the core values of the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey | Clayton County, bringing together community resources and dedicated individuals to make a tangible difference. By collaborating with Bread Basket Ministries, Inc., the club ensured that 500 students are well-equipped for the new school year. This initiative not only alleviates financial burdens on families but also fosters a sense of community support and solidarity. As the new school year begins, the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey | Clayton County's efforts will resonate, reflecting their ongoing commitment to education and service.

PHOTOS:

Rotary
Club of Lake Spivey/
Clayton County
SERVICE ABOVE SEL
Did you know? Rotary's Motto: Servi
reflects our belief in unselfish volu
ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Posted by Gerrian Hawes
July 24, 2024

Club News

DeKalb Rotary Council Collects Equipment for FODAC

The 12th Annual home medical equipment collection event for FODAC is in the books! On August 3, 2024 our community of Rotarians and Rotaractors came together on the back patio of the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant to organize into groups who were then assigned to go into the community to pick up donated home medical equipment. This equipment is then refurbished by FODAC at their Stone Mountain site, and distributed back out to those in the community in need, generally for free or at a very low cost.

Over the previous 11 years that North Atlanta Rotary Club has organized this event, we have collected equipment totaling about $2,000,000 in value (verified by FODAC). Over the last 9 or so years North Atlanta Rotary Club has organized this project with the cooperation and participation of our fellow Dekalb Rotary Council Clubs: Atlanta Metro, Brookhaven, Decatur, Dunwoody, Emory Druid Hills, North Atlanta, South DeKalb, Stone Mountain, Tucker, and Metro Atlanta Rotary, the Atlanta Rotaract Club, the North DeKalb Lions Club, and friends and family members. This year we gathered about 70 volunteers, including District Gov Gordon Owens and his wife Ashley. We made 43 pickups from around the greater Metro Atlanta area including Chamblee, Doraville, Stone Mountain, Snellville, Sandy Springs, Smyrna, Marietta, and Roswell.

Our gratitude to all those involved: Volunteer and Event coordinator North Atlanta Rotary PP Ralph Sims, all of the volunteers, the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant, the FODAC staff, and especially the donors from our communities. THANK YOU! We couldn't accomplish this project without each of YOU!

PHOTOS:

NORTH ATLANTA
ROTARY CLUB
YETI

Rotary
Fellowship Through Service
ADMH
RUN for health
TOGETHER ... WE CAN!
PUMA

FAITH
HOPE
LOVE

Posted by Barbara Bush
September 2, 2024

Club News

Roswell Plants First Peace Pole

The first peace pole to be planted in the 2024-2025 Rotary year was installed at **The Chattahoochee Nature Center** by Roswell Rotarians. The site gets 1000s of visitors annually as it's home to the Butterfly Encounter found along the Wildlife Walk and sits next to a picnic area where groups often stop for a break. The pole was strategically placed to be visible from multiple angles as people walk along the path in the hope that it draws them in to take a closer look. The pole says, "may peace prevail on earth" in English, Hindi, Korean and Spanish. As we planted the first pole, the staff at the Nature Center were already mapping out the location for a second pole close to the special events pavilion. Our club also has plans to place two additional poles in local parks during the course of the year. Find our ***Peace Pole* on the map**.

Posted by Nancy Alterman
August 15, 2024

Club News

Americus Hosts Annual Sheffield Gala

The **Rotary Club of Americus** hosted the Annual Sheffield Gala honoring the newest Sheffield awardees. The annual “black tie” affair was held on July 27 at the historic Wheatley Building on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and featured live music, a cocktail social, silent auction and full course surf and turf dinner.

The Sheffield Leadership Award is presented annually to the District 6900 club presidents (from each of the club size categories) who best exemplify the extraordinary leadership traits represented by the Sheffield family and execute their responsibilities in an exceptional manner. Winners were chosen by Andre’ Marria, District Governor for 2023-24, and announced at the District Conference in Jekyll Island on Saturday, March 23, during the evening festivities. Following a welcome by Americus Club President Jay Anderson, Americus Rotarian and Assistant Governor Kenny Phillips provided a detailed history of the Sheffield Leadership Award.

This year’s winners - Amy Benton (Peachtree City), Lisa Gelber (North Fulton), Matt Jarrard (Vinings Cumberland), and Nancy Prochaska (North Cobb) - were recognized individually by PDG Andre’ Marria who described each recipient’s unique talents and their accomplishments during their year as president of their respective clubs, as well as their dedication and passion for their communities and the ideals of Rotary. PDG Bob Hagan served as emcee for the event which included the inducted of the newest class of winners into the Sheffield Leadership Society, presenting them with their pin ribbons. Two Sheffield Award winners from 2022-23, Michelle Hanchey and Terry Taylor, who were unable to attend the gala honoring them last year, were in attendance and were recognized as well.

In addition to the silent auction, PDG Hagan led a live auction of a wooden gavel, made from the Rotary Oaks planted by Paul Harris and the Tuskegee Rotary Club and donated by PDG Steve Stanfield. The gavel

was won by Terry Taylor with proceeds to benefit the Rotary Foundation. Emily Sheffield Hollingsworth attends the gala as a special guest. She is married to Rotarian Lee Hollingsworth of the Roswell Club but is a native of Americus and considers it her home. She gave a touching recollection of growing up in Rotary and attending numerous events with her father Langdon “Lang” Sheffield. Over 20 past Sheffield Award recipients were in attendance, along with numerous other guests, including PDGs Cheryl Greenway, Bob Hagan, and Andre’ Marria, and District Governor Nominee Cynthia Edwards.

The Sheffield Leadership Award, established in 1994, is awarded by the District Governor of 6900 and presented by the Rotary Club of Americus in honor of three Past District Governors, all from the same family and from the Americus Rotary Club. It honors John West Sheffield (District 30, 1926-27), John W. Sheffield (District 690, 1961-62), and Langdon Sheffield (District 690, 1975-76), who have each served this Rotary District as District Governors.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Angela Smith
September 2, 2024

Club News

Blakely's 98-Year History of Making a Difference

In its 98th year, the Rotary Club of Blakely has a rich history of serving Early County. This year's President Scott Watford recognized some of that work as he took office this July. He praised outgoing leader David Atkins for starting the local military veterans outreach program which helps Early County veterans learn more about VA benefits. The Rotary Club sponsors the program in conjunction with the Blakely-Early County Chamber of Commerce. Veterans are urged to meet with outreach leaders on the first Monday of each month at the Chamber of Commerce building on Courthouse Square to discover more about the various benefits due them.

President Scott also called for the club to carry on in its work in Early County - especially those supporting literacy. And the club remembered a couple of key projects in its history:

- In 1938, the club participated in the establishment of Kolomoki State Park, a few miles north of the Blakely city limits. The edition of the Early County News that reported the park's creation was termed a "red letter day" in the history of Blakely and Early County.
- The club helped start the Public Library in Blakely. First located in the rear of Howell Drug Store, the sparkling library of today came about in the 1970s after the Rotary Club helped start the "Friends of the Library" organization. Rotarians raised the money and donated it for the Lucy Hilton Maddox Memorial Library facility. In more recent times, the club also donated the funds necessary for a local historical group to purchase the building on North Main Street that houses the Early County Museum.

Posted by Charles Gordon

September 3, 2024

Rotary Leadership Institute

RLI is Going Strong!

When District 6900 and District 6920 held a joint RLI session in Valdosta, GA last month, 47 members turned out to increase their Rotary knowledge and meet new friends and contacts, while having a lot of fun in the process. The next RLI event scheduled will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Kennesaw on October 26 at Kennesaw State University. This is expected to be a big one, with a lot of Metro Atlanta members attending, so get registered while you can! On November 16, the Rotary Club of Peachtree City will be hosting an RLI Graduate course on The Rotary Foundation. If you've graduated from RLI and want to learn more of the great things the Foundation does, then this event is for you!! Remember, RLI is for all members of Rotary, but especially new members and/or members in leadership roles in your Clubs or Districts. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks for all you do!

Posted by Tracy Van Norman
September 4, 2024

CART Fund Update

$14,335 Donated To CART During 2023-2024

Founded in 1995 by Roger Ackerman, a Rotarian in Sumter, SC, **The CART Fund** (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is a non-profit grassroots organization that provides "seed" money for cutting edge, high impact research grants to help find a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's Disease.

This past year, CART awarded a record $1.4 million in grants, making the cumulative total $13 million that has been distributed to more than 70 research institutions in the US. CART is currently supported by more than 600 Rotary Clubs in more than 40 Rotary districts.In 2023-24,

Rotary District 6900 raised $14,335 for CART, and the top 3 clubs in total giving were:

1. East Cobb ($1655)
2. Alpharetta ($1471)
3. Marietta Metro ($1241)

THANK YOU to all the clubs who are donating monthly and quarterly to CART via the online donor portal, **www.mycartfund.org**. It's an easy process, and we are happy to help if you need assistance.If your club needs new "little blue buckets" or needs an updated program on CART, please contact District 6900 CART Chair LouAnn Medlock at rotarylouann99@gmail.com or CART Executive Director Tiffany Ervin at tiffany@tiffanyervin.com.
Posted by LouAnn Medlock
September 1, 2024

Club News

Peachtree City + Southern Conservation Trust = A Bridge to Nature!

The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** was thrilled to partner with the Southern Conservation Trust to build a bridge over a floodplain area, making our local nature areas even more accessible to allow more people to experience the beauty and tranquility of these conserved lands year-round! Southern Conservation Trust manages over 55,000 acres of conserved land, including 5 public nature areas in Fayette County, GA, and the Fayette Environmental Education Center. Their mission is to protect land AND ensure everyone has access to enjoy it. This project aligns with Rotary's commitment to protecting the environment, one of our seven areas of focus. Together, we're building more than just a bridge—we're connecting our community to the beauty of nature. A huge thank you to District Governor Gordon and his wife Ashley, along with PTC Rotarian and District Governor-elect Steve and his wife Anna, for joining us on this incredible project! Let's protect and enjoy our environment!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
September 2, 2024

Club News

Paulding County Donates Nintendo System to WellStar

Check out the medical-grade Nintendo gaming system being delivered by **The Rotary Club of Paulding County** for use in the Wellstar Paulding Hospital Pediatric Emergency Room area! This gaming device can help reduce the stress on children receiving ER care and that can result in improved medical outcomes. The gaming system is donated to the hospital by The Rotary Club of Paulding County - made possible in part by a grant from The Rotary Foundation.

Posted by Roy Strickland
September 2, 2024

An Inspiring Story

Remarkable Pianist to Visit Some Georgia Rotary Clubs

Youngsuh Noh, a remarkable pianist who has triumphed over significant personal challenges, will be visiting Georgia - with a visit planned to the Peachtree City Rotary Club on September 26 and travel planned to clubs in Savannah, sister city to his home city in Germany. Despite having only about 5% of his sight due to Stargardt disease, Youngsuh has gained recognition across Asia and Europe for his exceptional musical talent and inspiring journey.

He will be traveling to Georgia with Luise Jäsche, a GRSP alumnus from 2018-19. Luise says, "During my time studying music at Georgia Southern University, I experienced the immense support and hospitality of the Rotary community. Now, as I pursue my PhD in music, it would be an honor to give back by introducing the members to Youngsuh. His story was so incredibly inspiring to me and I remember how the Rotary Clubs in Georgia brought in such interesting guest speakers when I was attending their meetings. I just really want to help him spread the word about him as a musician, but also about his rare disease, which is mainly being researched in the States, and his life as a disabled musician."

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
September 3, 2024

Club News

Columbus Supports Local Street Hockey Championship

The **Rotary Club of Columbus** was pleased to support the 2024 Summer Session Championship for the Columbus Street Hockey Association. This event marked the end of a thriving summer session, with participation more than doubling compared to previous years. Eight teams competed - battling it out for the coveted Sasser Cup and the title of 2024 Columbus Street Hockey Summer Champions.

The event also highlighted the growing reach of the Columbus Street Hockey Association, with local coaches collaborating with cities like Lagrange and Dothan to establish future travel game opportunities. The club was proud to continue supporting this community project as part of its 2024-2025 Rotary year initiatives. It brought together community members, who cheered on the young athletes and enjoyed refreshments provided by Jordan's Girls Gourmet Dawgs and Buffalo Rock, keeping everyone fueled and hydrated throughout the day.

"We were thrilled to witness the excitement and dedication of these young players," said Meredith King, Rotary Club President. "The growth of the Columbus Street Hockey Association is a testament to the community's support and the hard work of everyone involved. It was a fantastic day of sportsmanship and community spirit."

Following the championship, Rotarians delivered hotdogs and other food items to the local fire station as a gesture of appreciation for their service to the community.

PHOTOS:

Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris
September 2, 2024

Club News

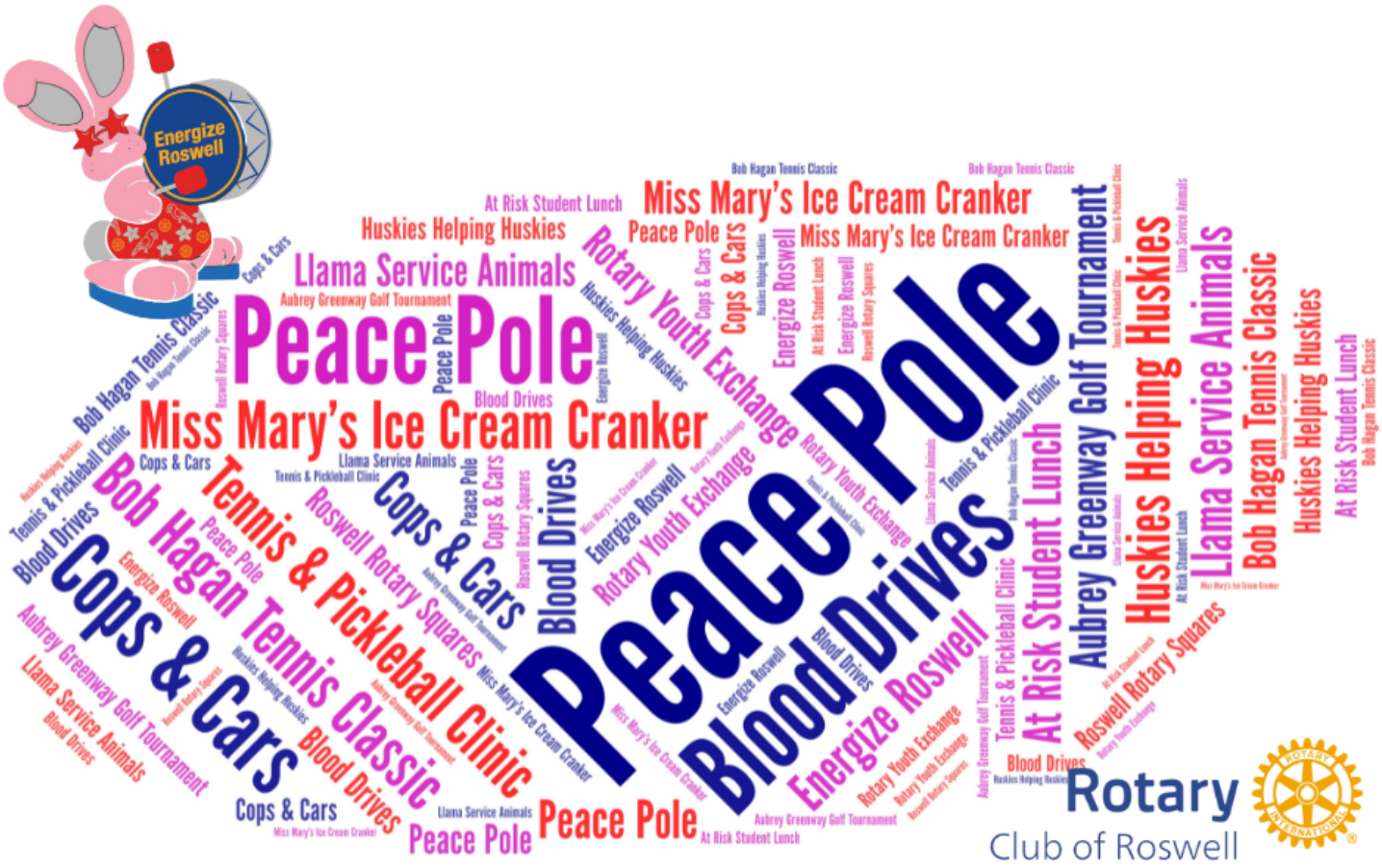
Peachtree City Welcomes International Student

Peachtree City had the opportunity to give a warm welcome to our new GRSP Student Atharva Lele from India! He'll be attending Georgia Tech and will be hosted by the wonderful Soulakos family! A big thank you to our District and Club leadership who joined us for the celebration at Partners Pizza, including DG Gordon, AG/IPP Amy, DGE Steve, GRSP Director Katheryne, GRSP Trustee Cyndi, AG Janice, President Patti, and Host Mom/VP Tammy. Your support means the world! Welcome to Georgia, Atharva! We're so excited to have you here!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
September 2, 2024

Club News

Roswell Off to Energizing Start!



2024 has kicked off with a bang for Roswell Rotary Club. With the first quarter only a third complete, our club is super energized. So many projects already completed!

President Nancy Alterman explains, “First, we have planned service projects for a variety of times. Right after a meeting, mornings, evenings, weekends…trying to accommodate the schedules of all of our members.”

Nancy continues, “And we recognize our volunteers. We have a new brand this year, the Roswell Rotary Energizer Roswell Bunny! At each meeting, we recognize volunteers for service (Bunny t-shirt), major accomplishment (Bunny Award) and volunteerism above & beyond (Bunny apron). Our goal is for every single member to end the year with at least one of these participation awards.”

And it is so exciting to be bringing a variety of projects to the club…from Peace Pole installation to youth projects to our largest fundraiser of the golf 7 tennis tournament to scooping ice cream on a Sunday afternoon, the variety of projects makes sure that everyone can participate in something that is close to their hearts.

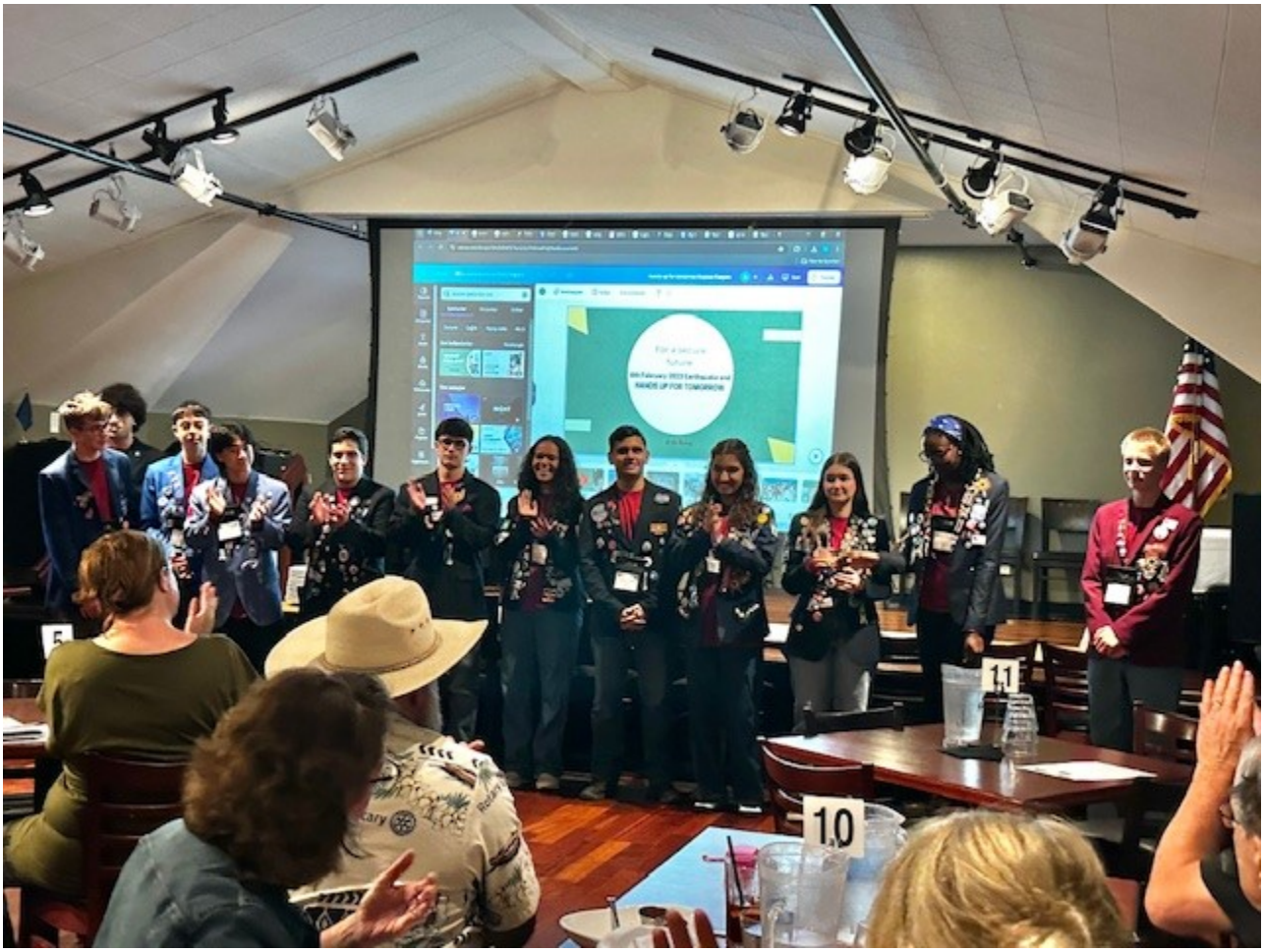
Our goal for 2024-25 is to be very visible to the community. At each project, we have a yard sign that says “Roswell Rotary at Work” so the community knows our club is there.

We are still trying to catch our breath, but so happy to be off to a strong start in 2024!

Posted by Kathryn Igou
September 2, 2024

Just for Fun!

While Visiting Alaska



Vinings Cumberland Rotarian Brenda Borden was delighted to find that her make-up meeting in Alaska included welcome for all the newly-arrived Rotary Youth Exchange students. She says they did an excellent presentation!

Posted by Brenda Borden
September 3, 2024