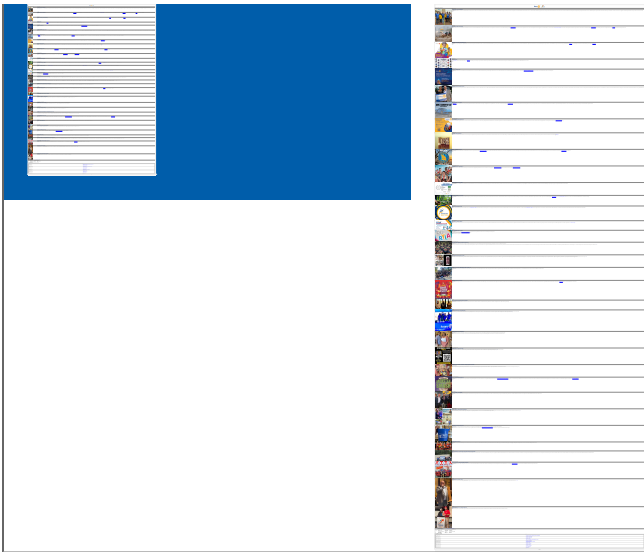


October 5, 2024





The Magic of Rotary

## Creating Peace In Our Communities



Typically when someone thinks of peace, they see it as an aspirational goal that may be impossible to reach. Our minds go to the major conflicts around the world and we discount our ability to impact change in those areas. However, Rotarians are creating peace in our communities every day. We recently planted a peace pole at The Extension where they take in homeless men & women, provide them with shelter, satisfy their hunger, put them on a path to recovery from addiction; giving them the skills to create a better life. These men & women first find peace within themselves. Then they go back to the family & friends they hurt along their path to addiction and make peace with them. This ripple effect of peace spreads like a wave through the community. Every time your club packs a bag with food, teaches a child to read or supports those in need with many other local service projects you are helping create peace in your community.

Posted by Gordon Owens  
October 1, 2024

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Disaster Relief

## Help Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts



Our hearts are broken by those impacted by Hurricane Helene. As Rotarians we want to spring into action to lend a helping hand and there will be plenty of boots on the ground work to do in the coming weeks. If you are interested in being a part of our disaster relief clean up team, please [fill out this quick form](#) and we will keep you in the loop as opportunities to serve arise. If you are not able to physically serve, but want to support those in need across the southeast you can make a contribution to the [District Disaster Relief Fund](#). These funds will go to provide support to Rotarian lead disaster relief projects and supplies in the hardest hit areas. Also, Rotary International has [disaster relief grants](#) available in amounts up to \$25,000 to help areas impacted by the storm. Contact [Chris Brand](#) with any questions about helping recover from Helene.

Posted by Chris Brand  
October 1, 2024

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October 24, 2024

## What Is Your Club Doing For World Polio Day?



World Polio Day is a great opportunity for your club to highlight the work Rotary and its partners are doing around the world to eradicate polio. Each year we vaccinate 400 million children and that takes money, lot's of money. Rotary has asked every club to contribute at least \$1,500 USD to Polio Plus to help raise the \$50,000,000 we need for the Gates Foundation match. Many of our clubs use World Polio Day as a "Fun-raiser" with events like pints for polio, poker tournaments, or corn hole championships. Rotary has great resources to help you promote World Polio Day on [EndPolio.org](https://endpolio.org). You can also submit your event to RI there or for a district award through your club scoreboard on [Rotary6900.org](https://Rotary6900.org).

Posted by Bob Hagan  
October 1, 2024

PolioPickem.com

## Win Up To \$1000



Our next **Polio Pick'em** pool is open for entry until 8pm on Sunday. Your **\$20 entry fee** gets you into the game. Once you pay the fee, you will be directed to a "thank you" page with a link to make your picks online. The winner gets half the pot and the other half goes to Polio Plus. Either way, each entry provides 65 polio vaccines to children around the world so it's a win-win!

Posted by Gordon Owens  
October 4, 2024

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February 20-22, 2025

## Healing In A Divided World



RI President Stephanie Urchick invites you to the Presidential Peace Conference in Türkiye on February 20-22, 2025. The event will coincide with the first cohort of Rotary Peace Fellows studying in Rotary's newest Peace Center, Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center, in the MENA region, located at Bahçeşehir University (BAU) in Istanbul, Türkiye. [Visit www.rotary.org/Istanbul25 to register](http://www.rotary.org/Istanbul25) for the Peace Conference, book your accommodations and to register for the HOC ancillary events.

The 2025 Peace Conference will:

- inform and inspire participants through conversations and presentations that share knowledge, suggestions, and considerations for peacebuilding projects, programs, and initiatives
- create dialogue and facilitate connections to further exchange ideas, consider new perspectives, and form friendships and partnerships
- showcase the strategies, examples, and leadership of Rotary members, alumni, and participants who are addressing these issues locally and globally.

We hope to see you there!

Posted by Gordon Owens  
October 1, 2024

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Nominations Close November 1, 2024

## Nominate Our 2027-28 District Governor



We are looking for the next person to join the governor line and serve our district during the 2027-2028 Rotary year. To be nominated, a candidate must be a member of our district in good standing who has served as club president. Once selected, the District Governor Nominee Designate will begin a two and 1/2 year journey learning the latest policies, procedures and priorities of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. While that may sound like a long time, it flies by as most of these are done at zone events in places like Nassau, Bahamas or at the International Convention which will be in Calgary, Canada this year. The nominee joins a class of governors and builds lasting friendships with their counterparts in Georgia, in our combined zones 33 & 34 and with all the governors around the world at International Assembly. If you are interested in serving or nominating someone from your club, your club president has all the details.

Posted by Alicia Hughes  
October 1, 2024

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[Rotavette.com](http://Rotavette.com)

**Help Us Give Away A Corvette C8**

# **WIN A CORVETTE C8**

## **OR UP TO \$50,000**



**ROTAVETTE** 

The [Rotavette Raffle](#) is a great opportunity to help us raise money for the Rotary Annual Fund from outside of our membership. Everyone has a friend, neighbor or family member who is a car guy, that would love a 1 in 3000 chance to win a Corvette C8. Asking "that guy" 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 community grant, competitive grant and global grant projects. 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  
October 1, 2024

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Tuesday, October 15 @6PM

## **The Gift To Rotary That Pays You Back**





Did you know? Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) payment rates are at an all-time high and are an excellent option for people 50 years of age or older to make a gift that gives back! Senior Major Gifts Officer Debra Lowe and Planned Giving Officer Josh Olewiler along with Endowment/Major Gifts Advisor Dave Rauch invite you to join us for an interactive InfoZoom to learn more about how CGAs can benefit you (or someone you know) while supporting the great work of our Rotary Foundation. Scan the QR code or [click here to register online](#).

We encourage share this invitation with anyone age 50 or older who you think may be interested. Thank you! We hope to see you on October 15.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth  
October 1, 2024

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November 15, 2024

## IRS Annual Filing Requirement



Whether your club is a subordinate under Rotary International's 501(c)(4) group exemption or is

independently tax-exempt, the IRS requires that all Rotary clubs in the U.S. and its territories file an annual information return. For clubs whose tax year follows the Rotary year, the deadline to file is **15 November**. The form a club must file is dependent upon its gross receipts for the year. For more information, please see [Frequently asked questions about annual reporting requirements for exempt organizations](#) at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

It is important that your club comply with IRS requirements. Please note [Section 6033\(j\)](#) of the Internal Revenue Code *automatically revokes* the exemption of any organization that fails to satisfy its filing requirement for *three consecutive years*.

Attention Club Public Image Teams

## Go Platinum with Your Public Image!



The Excellence in Public Image Coordination (EPIC) award presented by Zones 33-34 recognizes clubs for completing monthly tasks throughout the year. Is your club on track? You can view your progress at <https://elevaterotary.org/epic-status/>. All tasks and deadlines for each month can be found at <https://elevaterotary.org/epic-award/>. Deadlines are approaching for the July, August and September tasks as those must be completed by October 31.

[July - Public Image Audit](#)

[August - Public Image Plan](#)

[September - Content Calendar](#)

Don't miss out on this opportunity to win a Platinum Award from our Zones for continuing to TELL OUR STORY across District 6900!

\*\*\*If Help is need - Please reach out to your District Public Image Chair (Mandy Timmons, 678-438-7696,

10AuntMandy@gmail.com)

Posted by Mandy Timmons  
September 28, 2024

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Platinum Membership Award

## Congratulations To Growing Clubs!



Our combined Rotary Zones 33/34 has awarded 7 clubs in our district with a Platinum Membership Award for consecutive years of membership growth. East Cobb, Barnesville, Dougherty County, Cairo & Cuthbert all had 2 consecutive years of growth and we hope that trend continues into this year. We expect to see them back on the list for 3 years of growth. Alpharetta & North Cobb have had a positive growth trend for 5 years. This is an awesome accomplishment! If your club grew last year, keep it up as you are eligible for this recognition if you grow again this year.

Posted by Dave Schwickerath  
October 1, 2024

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International Legacy Giving Day

## How will your Rotary legacy continue?



September 13, 2024 was International Legacy Giving Day and we had several people step up to leave money to The Rotary Foundation endowment fund. Rotary has a goal to raise \$2,025 billion in its endowment by the end of 2025. This will ensure the good work of Rotary goes on long after any of us are still able to serve. While you can certainly make a cash contribution to the endowment fund today, most gifts come through a commitment to a gift as part of a will or trust. Simply fill out the [legacy giving form](#) and email it to [lee@leehollingsworth.com](mailto:lee@leehollingsworth.com). For gifts of \$25,000 or more we will be in touch to discuss the details for setting up a named fund to honor your legacy.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth  
October 1, 2024

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October 17 @ 6pm

## Attention Club Foundation Chairs



Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of the month at 6PM EDT and join us for the **“Foundation Matters” Webinar**. We know you want to have an amazing year at your club, so we’re bringing you experienced leaders to share how to structure your Foundation Committee so you will create an exceptional year of foundation giving. Don’t miss this series! The **“Foundation Matters” Webinar** Series was developed especially for you-Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs. These monthly webinars will provide “bite-sized chunks” of valuable insights and actionable strategies that really work to increase club engagement in The Rotary Foundation.

Posted by Bob Hagan  
October 1, 2024

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October 14 @ 5:30pm

# Attracting New Members Webinar



Join leaders in membership growth from around Rotary Zone 33/34 to learn best practices for attracting new members. This latest webinar titled, "Attraction Action: Build Your Club With Innovative and Traditional Solutions" will give you the best of both worlds. Hear from clubs that have tried some new things that worked well for their club and from others that are using more traditional techniques to attract new members. Either way, the goal is to grow our clubs so we can have even more impact in our community and beyond. We hope to see you online at 5:30pm on October 14. [Click here to register.](#)

Posted by Anna Finn  
October 1, 2024

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RYLA Update

## RYLA: Club Registration Now OPEN



RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) will be held June 7-11, 2025. We are so ready for RYLA that we are starting early this year and opening registration Now. Our goal is to fill all 144 student spots for 2025 and we are aiming for 100% club participation in District 6900. Not sure what RYLA is? Go to [www.RYLA6900.com](http://www.RYLA6900.com) to read all about it or check us out on Facebook at "RYLA 6900."

All we are asking of clubs at this point is to decide if your club is going to sponsor students to attend RYLA and how many students that will be. Then you may use one of the following routes to send in your RSVP:

1. Use this link to complete our RSVP online: <https://forms.gle/SVmSGCg1K4ZK8HZu6>
2. Go to [www.RYLA6900.com/ryla-forms](http://www.RYLA6900.com/ryla-forms) and download the "Club Commitment Form" to send in.
3. Email Susan Ruckman or Jaclyn Donovan.

If you are a club President, President-Elect, RYLA Chair, Service Chair, or Assistant Governor you should have received an email containing all details about the 2025 edition of RYLA. Attached to the email were all relevant forms and documents. If you didn't receive this email or can't locate it, please reach out to District Chairs Susan Ruckman and Jaclyn Donovan.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
October 1, 2024

## Thomasville Expands Efforts to Reduce Food Insecurity



With the help of community partners and District 6900's Community Grant, the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** is preparing grow bags with yellow squash plants and other vegetable seedlings for the 225 participants who will visit the club's monthly manna drop in October.

This Rotary year marks three years since the club launched its monthly free fresh produce drops that provide fruits, vegetables, proteins, and other healthy foods to qualifying underserved households. Second Harvest of South Georgia is the club's key partner for the free produce drops and other local entities offer financial support for the effort. At each of the club's third Thursday's meetings, members pack and sort fresh vegetables and fruit at the Second Harvest warehouse for the following Saturday's market drop. At the market drop, participating households receive about 30 pounds of healthy foods—a combined total of roughly 6,750 pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables, frozen proteins, and other foods.

In Spring 2024, club members surveyed participants at the produce drops to gauge interest in growing

vegetables at their homes. Overwhelmingly, participants indicated they would welcome the opportunity to grow vegetables at home. A test was held in May with a limited number of participants receiving a tomato plant in a grow bag. In the following months, the families involved in the test reported their plants were thriving and proudly shared photos.

With the success of the trial run, members started planning to launch the grow bag project in the new Rotary year. The club submitted the project for funding by the District's Community Grant and in September received approval for the grant. The project team then recruited experts and community partners to provide advice and assistance in growing vegetables, including UGA Extension experts who are guiding the overall effort, Thomas County Central High Schools' Agricultural Department whose students sourced seeds and are growing vegetable plants for the project, 4-H Club members who will assist with planting the grow bags, and others who have offered their help. Club members and our student gardeners are keeping a close watch on the fast-growing seedlings to be certain they will be ready for the October grow bag distribution. We'll share updates about this exciting project as we continue our work to reduce food insecurity in Thomas County.

**PHOTOS:**









Club News

## Grab a Cold One and Energize Your Club!



In an exciting blend of community spirit and craft brewing, **Roswell Rotary** President Nancy Alterman teamed up with Roswell's own Variant Brewing Company to create a unique beverage designed to invigorate both the local community and the city's vibrant culture. This innovative partnership highlights Rotary's commitment to service and community engagement, combining their expansive outreach with Variant's reputation for high-quality, locally crafted brews. The result is an exclusive seltzer, aptly named "Energize Roswell," which promises to energize local residents and celebrate the town's dynamic essence. "Energize Roswell" is more than just a refreshing beverage; it embodies a shared vision of revitalizing and uniting the community. The brew is a lively seltzer with the vibrant flavors of hibiscus and lemonade, offering a unique twist with its floral, tangy notes. Brewed with a blend of hibiscus flowers and zesty lemonade, this refreshing concoction reflects the essence of summer and local flavor, while symbolizing a connection to Roswell's roots. For Rotary, this project is an opportunity to further their mission of fostering positive change, while Variant Brewing Company showcases their dedication to supporting local

initiatives and enhancing community life. Nancy Alterman, President of Roswell Rotary, added "Our club's motto, 'Service Above Self,' embodies the joyful and dynamic spirit that we strive to uphold. Energize Roswell Seltzer perfectly captures this energy with its lively carbonation and delightful flavors. It's not just a beverage; it's a reflection of the fun and spirited culture that defines the Club. And the partnership between our club and Variant Brewing company is just one example of the synergy created when businesses and non-profits combine their talents. Michael Curling, controller at Variant Brewing as well as Roswell Rotary Club Board member is a powerful example of servant leadership in the community and within the Club."

Michael adds, "When we first opened Variant Brewing Company back in 2017 we wanted Variant to be THE gathering place for all Roswell community members and activities. To that end we're always excited when we get to support one of our great Roswell charities - STAR House, HomeStretch, the Drake House, and the CDA to name a few. One of the beautiful things about the Rotary Club of Roswell is when you work with the club you support all of those local organizations and more. Roswell Rotary shares the same passion for enhancing our community that we do at Variant so when President Nancy Alterman shared her vision for 'Energizing Roswell' a collaboration brew was a no-brainer. I am lucky enough to be a part of both organizations and am thrilled for Variant to be a small part of such an impactful organization like the Rotary Club of Roswell. We will do our part - one 'energizing' seltzer at a time!"

Posted by Kathryn Igou  
October 2, 2024

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Club News

## **A Weekend to Remember: GRSP Students Visit Peachtree City**



**Peachtree City** had the honor of hosting 38 exceptional students from 21 countries during a fun-filled weekend for the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP). These students, attending 25 different universities across Georgia, represent the diversity and cultural exchange at the heart of the GRSP. They are hosted by Rotary districts 6900, 6910, and 6920, and during their time in Peachtree City, we made sure to show them a true southern experience!

The weekend kicked off with one of Peachtree City's favorite activities: golf cart rides! The students enjoyed cruising through our scenic paths, setting the tone for an adventurous few days. We took over the local bowling alley for some friendly competition and served up a classic Peachtree City staple—Partners Pizza.

A behind-the-scenes tour of Trilith Studios was a highlight, giving students a unique glimpse into the world of film production. To top it off, they had the chance to meet Dan Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A. We then gathered for lunch at Truett's Luau, adding another layer of cultural exploration to the weekend.

Our service project took us to Clothes Less Traveled, a beloved local non-profit thrift store, where the students lent a helping hand to support the community. The evening continued with a true southern BBQ feast, complete with Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, and the ever-popular Banana Pudding. No GRSP weekend would be complete without more golf cart fun, and, of course, a late-night Waffle House run to wrap it all up!

The weekend was an incredible time of sharing cultures, building friendships, and showcasing the warm hospitality of Peachtree City. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with these amazing young men and women, and we look forward to seeing the impact they will make in the world.

Posted by Mandy Timmons  
October 1, 2024

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RotaryFloat.org

## Did You Know Rotary Has A Float?



Every year since 1980 the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee has worked together to design, build, and showcase an awe-inspiring parade float that embodies the power of service and uplifts communities worldwide. Together, they celebrate Rotary's core values of service above self, goodwill, and friendship, while cultivating lasting memories and embodying the essence of People of Action. If you want to join them on this magical journey and become a part of the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee or make a donation, visit [RotaryFloat.org](https://RotaryFloat.org). Together, we will continue making a difference, one float at a time!

Posted by Gordon Owens  
October 1, 2024

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Club News

## Atlanta Southern Crescent Welcomes New Members



The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** recently inducted three members into our family. Robert Lee, retired CEO. Tim Buchanan, Friends Together, and Bria Murray, House of Dawn, were inducted at a monthly social of the Club. Welcome to Rotary and your Club family!

Posted by Claudia Mertl  
October 1, 2024

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Club News

## **Atlanta West End Expands Community Reach**



Since 1958, the **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End** has been committed to building strong relationships among diverse servant leaders, using our resources to create a broader collective impact in our community. So, when we heard that Atlanta Streets Alive was returning to the West End in September, we knew we had to be involved.

Atlanta Streets Alive is a free, community-driven event that transforms city streets by temporarily closing them to cars and opening them up to pedestrians, cyclists, and skaters. It's all about encouraging active transportation, fostering community connections, and supporting local businesses.

This year, District 6900's goals focus on four key areas: Increasing Our Ability to Adapt, Enhancing Participant Engagement, Expanding Our Reach, and Increasing Our Impact. Atlanta Streets Alive was the perfect opportunity for us to expand our reach and make our presence known in the heart of the community.

Our plan? To set up a table at community events and street fairs (Atlanta Streets Alive is a perfect



example) to connect with local residents, spread the word about our club, and hopefully, welcome new members into our fold. Specifically, we aimed to:

1. Connect with local residents, listen to their needs, and find meaningful ways for the Rotary Club to support the community.
2. Inform the public about the Rotary Club's mission, ongoing projects, and the positive impact we're making in the community.
3. Attract new members who share a passion for community service and want to join a network of like-minded individuals.
4. Promote upcoming events, programs, and initiatives that we are either organizing or participating in.
5. Celebrate the Rotary Club's successes and highlight the positive difference we've made.

We did just that! The Rotary Club of Atlanta West End had an incredible time at Atlanta Streets Alive in the West End! The energy and enthusiasm of the community made the event a huge success.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who visited our booth in front of Mall West End, including Councilmember Jason Dozier of Atlanta City Council District 4, who stopped by to learn more about our club and how to register to vote.

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Jared Evans  
October 2, 2024

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Accessibility | Belonging | Inclusion | Diversity | Equity

## **Midtown Atlanta's A.B.I.D.E. Framework**

Written by Araba Dowell and Kimberly Hutchens



The Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club is committed to enriching the lives of our members and the communities we serve. We achieve this in a multitude of ways, including making every effort to be inclusive and equitable with everything we do -- personally and professionally.

Entrepreneur and Celebrity Chef Ashley Clay recently shared her story with MARC members and they were energized by words and experiences in the world of culinary.

Through our DEI Committee, and its A.B.I.D.E framework, we are intentional about accessibility, belonging, inclusion, diversity and equity. They are not just principles but everyday practices, ensuring that all individuals feel valued, heard, and empowered to thrive.

Our effort can be seen out in the community as well. Our DEI Co-Chair Araba Dowell recently attended the GRSP Conclave in Columbus, GA in support of international student Jordan Laurent Noeuku(Cameroon), a Computer Science Major at Morehouse College. MARC is one of three rotary clubs sponsoring Jordan and The Dowell's are the Host Family.

By using the A.B.I.D.E framework in our efforts we make DEI:

- **Palatable.** We work closely with MARC's leadership committees to keep ABIDE top of mind with decisions around speakers, service projects as well as member recruitment and engagement.
- **Actionable.** Regularly providing members with tips and events in the community to broaden their awareness of others via our MARC Messenger newsletter and during weekly lunch meetings.
- **Enjoyable.** Keeping members informed of fun and engaging ways to learn more about other cultures and experiences such as social gatherings and learning opportunities.
- **Measurable.** Tracking our membership demographics and how we're evolving and growing since 2020.

*Did You Know?* September 15 - October 15, 2024 is HISPANIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH! Our MARC DEI team has shared a few quick ideas to help you experience and learn more about Hispanic American culture in fun ways:

- Take Your Family, Friends and/or Colleagues to Experience Local Hispanic/LatinX Restaurants
- Read Books by Hispanic Authors
- Attend Cultural Events

- Watch Films and Documentaries with Latino leads
- Visit Galleries and Support Hispanic Artists and Creators

Midtown Rotary is aligned with Rotary International's continued commitment to DEI.

Posted by Araba Dowell  
October 1, 2024

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Saturday, November 9 @6PM

## Support Tyrone's Global Grant Project



We invite you to join us in celebrating Mr. Gideon Ticha. After 26 years of serving in the United State Army he is officially retiring. Even more exciting is he is post-retirement, Mr. Ticha is launching a consultancy focused on US-Africa business partnerships.

Join us to celebrate retirement with food, dance, and culture; while enjoying a taste of what is to come with the launching of the consultancy as we host a mini business fair, with representatives from major corporations.

This event will serve as a fundraiser for the Global Grant which supports essential projects such as sustainable energy, clean water systems, and educational development in the region. SFC Ticha, in his role as Foundation Chairperson, has been instrumental in shaping the vision of Tyrone Rotary Club and District 6900 to extend our diversity program. Scan the QR code to register.

Posted by Dorothy Hart  
October 1, 2024

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Club News

## Columbus Program Promotes Global Peace Through Mystical Arts of Tibet



The **Rotary Club of Columbus** recently held a unique program that highlighted the promotion of global peace and compassion through the ancient cultural tradition of the Mystical Arts of Tibet. River Center Board Chair Stephanie Hunter introduced the presentation.

The featured program was the return of Tibetan monks to the RiverCenter, where they spent a week creating the “Mandala of the Buddha of Compassion.” This intricate sand art installation, designed to represent the universe, was constructed in the River Center lobby, drawing hundreds of visitors throughout their residency.

The monks shared the deep spiritual significance behind the Mandala, teaching the audience that its creation serves as a reminder of the impermanence of life and the importance of non-attachment. Each Mandala requires 18 months of training to visualize in 3D before it is carefully brought to life by the monks.

The program concluded on Saturday with a special ceremony marking the Mandala’s completion, followed by its symbolic destruction. This ritual, demonstrating the temporary nature of material things, was attended by many. The sand from the destroyed Mandala was then ceremoniously carried to the

Chattahoochee River, where it was released into the flowing waters. This act symbolized the spread of the Mandala's message of peace and compassion into the world. Attendees were also given a small vial of sand from the Mandala as a personal keepsake, extending the message of peace into their own lives.

This impactful event beautifully illustrated how ancient traditions can foster global understanding and harmony, furthering the Rotary Club's mission of promoting peace and goodwill worldwide.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by LeighAnn Dicesaris  
October 2, 2024

Saturday, October 26 | 9AM-7PM

## **Monster Smash Pickleball Tournament**



Attention all Rotary clubs, bring your club pickle ball team to compete for the Rotary Club Championship Trophy. The Rotary Club of Johns Creek North Fulton is partnering with the ALTA Foundation to host the first annual [Halloween Monster Smash Pickleball Tournament](#). This is going to be a really fun event for players of all skill levels and we will even have prizes for the best costumes. We have tons of courts at ITA Atlanta to host our matches and every participant will play at least 3 times before the medal rounds begin. For more information about playing or sponsoring the event, [visit our tournament website](#).

Posted by Holly Geerdes  
October 1, 2024

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October 22 @6PM

**Join Us For Rotary Means Business**



Each month a great group of Rotarians gathers with the specific goal of passing business to other Rotarians. If we support each other's businesses, we all benefit from the trickle down impact it will have in our communities. We hope to see you at our next meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at 6pm at Politan Row at Ashford Lane near Perimeter Mall. Come prepared to do some business networking with fellow Rotarians from around District 6900.

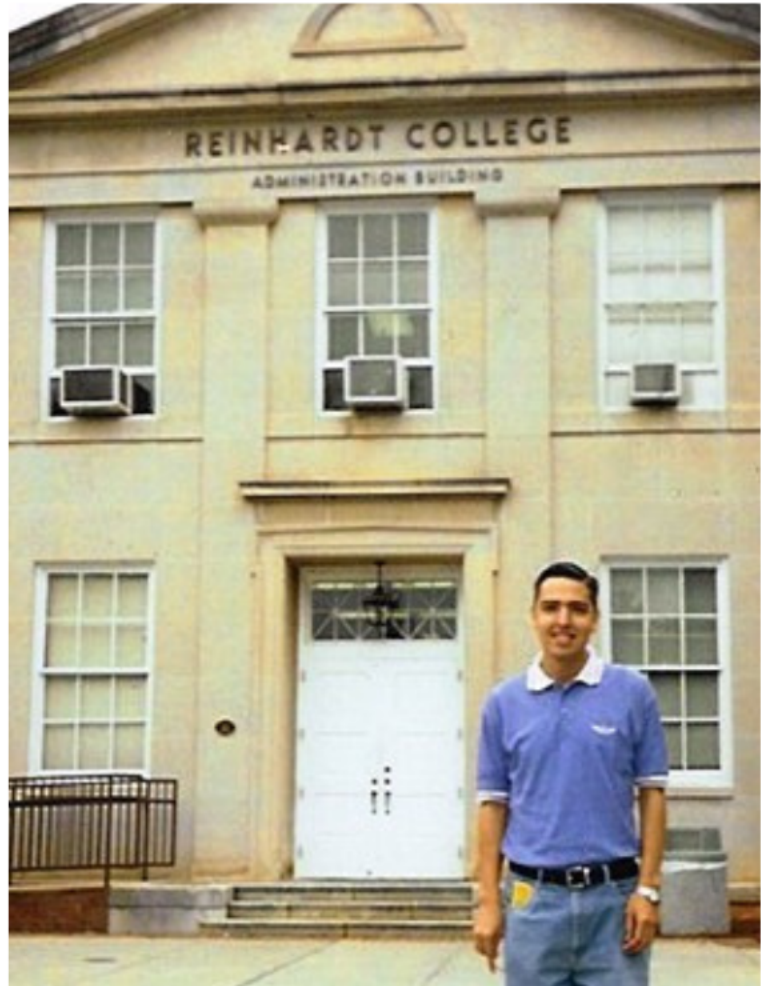
Posted by Carter Stout  
October 1, 2024

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GRSP Alumni Spotlight

## **Francisco Lozano: GRSP Alumni Turned Rotarian**





Francisco Lozano models Rotary International's motto Service Above Self in many ways. He has surrounded himself with mentors and now serves as one to the program that brought him to the United States.

Francisco joined the Georgia Rotary Student Program GRSP family from Mazatlan, Mexico. He was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Canton from 2002-2003 and attended Reinhardt University. He was hosted by Jim and Kay Gilmore and Bob and Denise Robinson. He became an honorary club member in 2005 and a member in 2019 .

"I joined to make a difference as a Rotarian," Francisco said.

He was named the Canton Rotary Club's Rotarian of the Year for 2020-2021. He became a GRSP trustee in 2022 as a way to serve the program that introduced him to Rotary. Francisco served as club president of the Rotary Club of Canton in 2023-2024.

Under his leadership, the Canton Rotary Club received many accolades:

- Awarded Large Club of the Year for District 6910
- Rotary International Zone 34 and District 6910 Public Image Citations
- Hosted a mental health conference
- Best Christmas float- Canton Christmas Parade 2023
  
- Winner for Best Service Project with "Hope Creators"
- Helped local schools
- Served Veterans
- Served children in foster care
- Served victims of domestic violence
- Served homeless
- Served those battling substance abuse
- Stocked food pantries, school lunches and Thanksgiving meals
- Honored our Heroes/First Responders

"I serve because the great work that Rotary does through leadership and service is an important part of my life," Francisco said.

Francisco, the GRSP family is so proud of you. Thank you for being such a wonderful example of what GRSP scholars can accomplish!

Posted by Katheryne Fields  
October 1, 2024

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CART Fund

**New Little Blue Buckets Have Arrived!**



As you know, the "little blue buckets" that collect spare change for The CART Fund are the easiest way to support our district's efforts to #EndALZ! Because of your donations, more than \$13 million has been awarded to researchers around the US.

#FromPocketChangeToLastingChange is the new campaign to support CART. ([Watch the video & share it on social](#))

If the #LittleBlueBuckets at your club have become worn out, faded, or worse yet, MIA, you can get FREE replacements from The CART Fund! Just [message CART's Executive Director Tiffany Ervin](#) and let her know how many you need and which address they should be shipped to!

The new and improved buckets feature a QR code so members (& guests!) can donate securely from their mobile devices, AND they are slightly smaller than the previous buckets so they take up less storage space too!

Don't forget to make your individual or club donation securely ONLINE at [MyCartFund.org](#) to expedite the process and ensure proper credit to our district!

Posted by LouAnn Medlock  
October 1, 2024

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## LeGrange Runs for Literacy



The **Rotary Club of LaGrange** crossed the finish line with great success in its second run for literacy. The first was held last year in conjunction with the club's 100th anniversary celebration. While the totals aren't in, race organizers say they raised more than last year and report great community support, including LaGrange Academy Alumni, Staff, Parents, and the Cross-Country team (some pictured here at the start).

Posted by Jeff Wright  
October 2, 2024

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Club News

## **Rotary in North Fulton County Helps Expand FODAC Collection Opportunities**



So thrilling when a project that took two years of planning and strong connections with community partners becomes a reality. In September, a 40-foot container was delivered to the American Legion Post 201 parking lot at 201 Wills Road, Alpharetta. This container will serve as a collection and distribution point for new and gently used medical equipment. The **Rotary Clubs of Roswell and Alpharetta** and the American Legion Post 201 will manage the project along with the **Rotary Clubs of Johns Creek and North Fulton**. Other partners include Vision Warriors and the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). And of course, FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults & Children) who masterminded this program!

Donations can be dropped off at the container while some pickups in the area will be coordinated. High demand items will be sanitized and redistributed locally by distribution partners to clinics, hospitals, and other healthcare workers. Equipment requiring further repair or not immediately needed will be stored for FODAC to collect. This initiative aims to address the environmental impact of medical waste and the growing demand for affordable medical equipment in Georgia. According to a 2018 CDC study, over 2 million Georgia residents live with disabilities that limit their mobility or daily functioning.

FODAC's DME program repairs, refurbishes, and reissues donated equipment such as wheelchairs, scooters, patient lifts, and hospital beds for a minimal one-time registration fee of \$25. The organization annually provides around 8,000 items to 3,000-4,000 clients. Chris Brand, President of FODAC and District 6900 Disaster Relief Chair said, "Four Rotary clubs joining together to help their local community get no longer needed medical equipment out of their attics, basements, and garages to one North Fulton location and into the hands of those in desperate need."

The new Alpharetta collection site is part of FODAC's strategy to increase its annual collection and refurbishment from 10,000 to 14,000 items to meet growing demand. Roswell Rotary President Nancy

Alterman said, "We wanted to provide medical equipment for times when insurance did not cover or someone could not afford to pay and in a convenient North Fulton location. When health problems strike, there are so many unexpected expenses and we wanted to make this equipment accessible.."

Community members are encouraged to donate gently used medical equipment at the new collection site. For more information contact Jonathan Crooks [jonathancrooks@bellsouth.net](mailto:jonathancrooks@bellsouth.net)

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Kathryn Igou  
October 2, 2024

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International Convention 2025

**Join Us in Calgary for Rotary International Convention**



The Rotary International Convention is coming to Calgary, Canada, from June 21-25, 2025, bringing together Rotarians worldwide to share ideas and celebrate achievements.

### **Early Bird Discount**

Take advantage of the special early bird registration rate of \$525, available until December 15, 2024. Register at [convention.rotary.org/en-us](https://convention.rotary.org/en-us).

### **Accommodations**

We've reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Calgary Downtown. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the form by October 31 if you plan to attend, so we can ensure room availability for D6900

members.

### **Why Attend?**

- Network with Rotarians from around the world
- Hear inspiring speakers and leaders
- Participate in workshops to enhance your Rotary experience
- Explore the vibrant city of Calgary

For questions, contact DGE Steve Ivory or D6900 Public Image Chair Mandy Timmons.

Posted by Mandy Timmons

October 2, 2024

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Club News

## **A Special Gift for DG Gordon Owens**





District Governor 6900 Gordon Owens visited the **Rotary Club of North Cobb** recently as part of his travels through the district. Two days earlier, he unveiled the club's first peace pole at The Men's Extension rehabilitation center. So, when Gordon visited us, we surprised him and gave him his own personal peace pole. Gordon is a champion of planting peace poles all over. Rotary Club of North Cobb has taken the challenge and we are in the process of planting peace poles all over our community. Our goal was to plant 10 peace poles and we have already planted nine of them. We are looking at exceeding our goal.

Posted by Ada Wikina  
October 1, 2024

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Club News

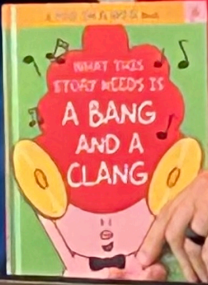
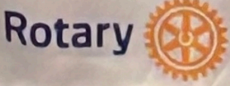
## **Griffin Daybreak Learns from Variety of Speakers**



Stephanie A. Urchick  
2024-25 President  
Rotary International



**THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY**



**Griffin Daybreak Rotary** has had an interesting collection of speakers, including:

- Tairoa Reynolds, a nurse and founder of Asher House, a newly forming group home for persons with developmental disabilities.
- Suzanne Land of Conexon Connect, a company that helps provide reliable, affordable internet service in rural areas.
- State Representative Karen Mathiak who shared information about the district maps, a group economic development trip to Ireland, vouchers for students in failing schools, and the "Certificate of Needs" for regional hospital locations.

Club President Dylan Blasingame presented a children's book to Ms. Reynolds, which will be donated to a local school with her signature. Each of the speakers received a book to sign in recognition of our appreciation for their presentations.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant

October 2, 2024

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