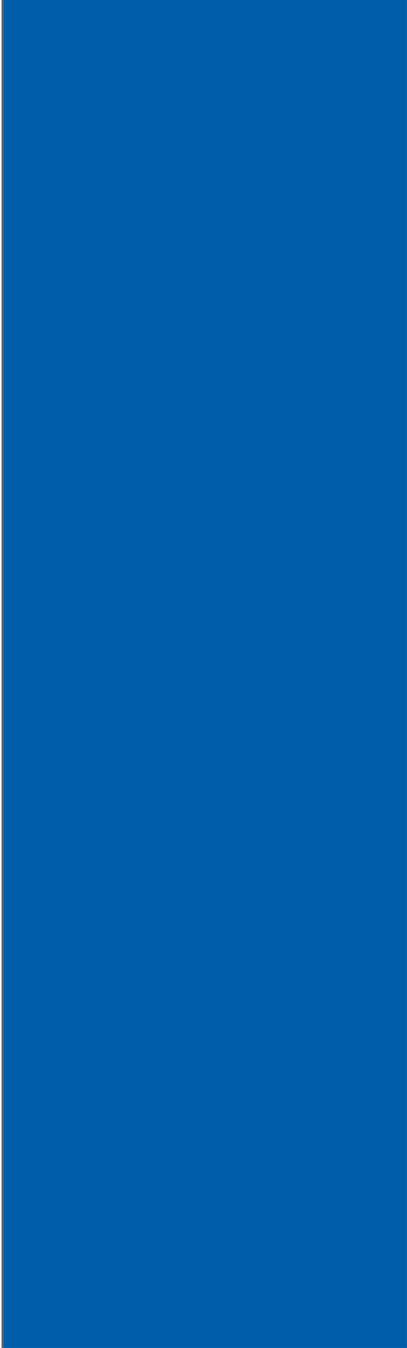




A screenshot of a document with a vertical strip of small images on the left side. The images appear to be a sequence of photos or illustrations. The rest of the page is mostly blank with some faint horizontal lines.

February 5, 2026



Whisked of Activity as We Unite for Good ... and for Fun!



There are 1000s of ways to get involved in our community, including GA, and we're excited to announce our 2025 District Conference. This year's theme is "Unite for Good... and for Fun!"

Join Us at Lake Lanier Island - April 16-19, 2026



Join us for the 2026 District Conference at our beautiful location on Lake Lanier Island. The conference will be held from April 16-19, 2026. We have a fantastic agenda of activities and networking opportunities.

Showing Rotary International at the 2026 FIFA World Cup



Rotary International is proud to be a partner in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. We will be showcasing our organization's commitment to community service and global peace during the tournament.

The Foundation's Work Continues to Reach Further



The Rotary Foundation's work continues to reach further and further. Our global projects and grants are making a positive impact on communities around the world.

Celebrating the Life of Will MacArthur



We are celebrating the life of Will MacArthur, a dedicated leader and community servant. His legacy of service and leadership will continue to inspire us for years to come.

GRSP's Biral, Jin Honored Duo for Thomas Peace Awards



GRSP's Biral and Jin have been honored with the Thomas Peace Awards for their exceptional leadership and commitment to community service. They are a true inspiration to all of us.

Why I Love RILA



Why I Love RILA: It's a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of our Rotarians. It's a chance to honor those who have made a significant impact in their communities.

Join the RLI Learning Opportunity February 21 in Marietta



Join the RLI Learning Opportunity on February 21 in Marietta. This is a great chance to learn from experts and network with other Rotarians. Don't miss this opportunity!

RI President Arzoo to visit North Atlanta's Global Grant Project in Ethiopia



RI President Arzoo will be visiting North Atlanta's Global Grant Project in Ethiopia. This project is focused on providing clean water and improving the lives of the local community.

Once a Laws of Life Student - Now a UGA Bulldog



Once a Laws of Life Student - Now a UGA Bulldog. This young man is a testament to the impact of the Laws of Life program. He has gone on to excel in his studies and sports at the University of Georgia.

Vinings Cumberland Cleans Up Community!



Vinings Cumberland Cleans Up Community! A group of Rotarians and volunteers came together to clean up the community. It was a great day of service and teamwork.

North Cobb Rotarians Busy Making a Difference!



North Cobb Rotarians Busy Making a Difference! Our members are actively engaged in various community service projects, making a positive impact on our local area.

North Atlanta Celebrates Don Millen, 50 Years of Service



North Atlanta Celebrates Don Millen, 50 Years of Service. Don has dedicated his life to service and leadership. His contributions to the community are truly remarkable.

North Fulton Serves Schools on MLK Day of Service



North Fulton Serves Schools on MLK Day of Service. Our members spent the day serving schools and supporting our students. It was a wonderful day of service.

Griffin Daybreak Supports Backpack Food for Kids



Griffin Daybreak Supports Backpack Food for Kids. Our members are supporting a program that provides backpacks filled with food and supplies for children in need.

North Cobb Rotarian Serves City of Acworth



North Cobb Rotarian Serves City of Acworth. Our members are providing valuable support and services to the City of Acworth, contributing to the well-being of our community.

Roswell Recognizes Hometown Hero: Fire Division Chief Cauder



Roswell Recognizes Hometown Hero: Fire Division Chief Cauder. Chief Cauder has dedicated his life to protecting our community. He is a true hometown hero.

Clayton County Issues End Polls Now Proclamation



Clayton County Issues End Polls Now Proclamation. The Clayton County Board of Commissioners has issued a proclamation recognizing the end of the polls.

Roswell Adds Gratitude Wall to Weekly Newsletter



Roswell Adds Gratitude Wall to Weekly Newsletter. We are adding a gratitude wall to our weekly newsletter to recognize and thank our members and volunteers.

**LEADERBOARD**

Here are the clubs that are making the most progress in our district for membership, annual fund and job projects.

Category	Club	Points
Membership	Atlanta Fido	1000
Annual Fund	North Atlanta	800
Job Projects	North Atlanta	700
Upcoming Key Dates	February 21st, 2025	



## Whirlwind of Activity as We Unite for Good ... and for Fun!



I hope all of you were safe and sound as the US, including GA, experienced major weather events recently including sleet, snow, rain, snow. I hope none of you had too much hardship from the rough conditions.

**DGE Cynthia Edwards** completed her International Assembly Training a few weeks ago so congrats to her! She also conducted training for district leaders in Peachtree City.

There's so much GOOD going on in the District.

- **Rotary Youth Exchange:** I survived my second Disney chaperoning event with 16 international RYE students from six FL and GA districts! We had all kinds of adventures. (If you want to have a ton of fun and have loads of energy, run around Disney parks for four days straight with 16 15-17 year olds!!) We even had rough weather in Orlando!
- **Service Projects:** I participated in two amazing service project this month with the **Bainbridge Rotary Club** where we teamed up with Salvation Army, Key Club and Anchor Club from Bainbridge High School and fed 650 people in 3.5 hours! Very well done. Additionally, I read to a bunch of third graders at a local elementary school with the **Rotarians of On the Flint!**
- **The Rotary Foundation:** I am so happy with many of our clubs and Rotarians for Foundation and Polio Plus giving excellence. So far, we have total giving of over \$798K with \$363K to Foundation and \$193K to Polio Plus and \$87K in Endowment. We are first in Zone 34 for Polio Plus and in third place overall for Polio Plus. We still have plenty of time to go and lots of opportunity left for 23 clubs that have not given to Foundation yet and 27 to Polio Plus. Please aim to contribute to some of our primary goals. We have another club with \$1M in total giving again. Thanks again; I am helping present a \$1M giving banner to **RC of Alpharetta** this week. Congrats and thanks to Alpharetta! I

also helped recognized three major donors and 1 Major Donor Level 2 at **RC of North Atlanta**. The club also presented a \$12K check to DRFC Bob Hagan.

- **Recognizing Lifetime Achievement:** We gave a lifetime service award to 58-year Rotarian Don Millen of the Rotary Club of North Atlanta - read the story later in this newsletter.
- **Membership:** The district membership team, led by Audley Knight, held a special Discovery Rotary Event with nearly 50 potential future Rotarians. This was all done with money that Jose Gonzalez told us was available to spend on special membership events. We may be doing some more local events. Keep up your good work to grow Rotary.
- **GRSP:** This program for promoting peace through understanding celebrates its 80th anniversary this year - with nearly 4,000 alumni. The GRSP trustees held their winter meeting in January - a special shortened meeting due to inclement weather with important work, as they took time to review finances, select students for the 2026-27 school year, and recognize some donors - including District 6900's own Warren Hamilton Jr. (Will Watt Fellow), Aadu Allpere (Kendall Weisiger Fellow), Bill Dallas (Jake Cheatam Fellow) and PDG Andre Marria (Ronnie Waller Fellow).

There's so much ahead of us! Please keep in mind the series of events set up for camaraderie and fellowship, and contact **Shawn Bendig** of Rotary Club of Vinings Cumberland with questions.

- February 13-15, 2026 - We Heart Rotary - Barnsley Resort - 597 Barnsley Gardens Road, Adairsville, GA 30103
- March 7, 2026 - Atlanta United Soccer at Mercedes Benz stadium with All 3 GA Rotary Districts!
- April 4, 2026 - Saturday, 7pm - Atlanta Vibe Volleyball vs Orlando Valkyries Georgia State University Convocation Center, 455 Capitol Avenue SE Atlanta GA 30312
- April 16-19, 2026 - District Conference - Lake Lanier Islands, GA
- May 16, 2026 - Saturday, 7:15pm, Truist Park - Atlanta Braves vs Boston Red Sox

Keep up all the good work - have fun as we Unite for Good!

**PHOTOS:**



Bainbridge Rotarians



Posted by Steve Ivory  
February 4, 2026

District Conference 2026

**Join Us at Lake Lanier Island - April 16-19, 2026**

**District Conference**

April 16 - 19 2026

Lake Lanier Islands, GA

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**UNITE FOR GOOD**

ROTARY DISTRICT 6900  
SERVICE HEROES

Join us for an unforgettable 2026 District Conference as we celebrate the incredible 2025-2026 Rotary

Year under District Governor Steve! We're excited to announce that we're moving the conference to the beautiful Lake Lanier Islands Resort this year — offering a fresh, fun setting for fellowship, inspiration, and celebration. We can't wait to see everyone there! We have made special arrangements for some fun outings Friday morning. Get more information and sign up now on the [District 6900 website](#).

Posted by Lisa Carlisle  
January 14, 2026

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District 6900 Opportunity

## **Showcasing Rotary International at the 2026 FIFA World Cup**



Rotary District 6900 has an exciting opportunity to play a visible and meaningful role in one of the world's largest global events—the **2026 FIFA World Cup**, coming to North America from **June 11-July 19, 2026**.

Rotary International is exploring ways to strengthen **Host City Leadership** in key areas that align closely with Rotary's mission, including **hospitality, human trafficking prevention, housing support, event services, and public image**. This effort positions Rotary to demonstrate *Service Above Self* on a global stage.

At the **Rotary Zone Institute 33/34 in Jacksonville**, Rotary International President-Nominee **Larry Lunsford** met with Rotary leaders to learn more about the work of the **Rotary Action Group Against**

**Slavery (RAGAS)** and to discuss Rotary’s potential involvement in addressing increased human-trafficking risks and broader community needs during the World Cup.

Following these discussions, Rotary International leadership connected project organizers with key members of the RI staff. Collaborative conversations are now underway to explore how Rotary can take a leadership role in:

- Human trafficking awareness and prevention
- Hospitality and visitor engagement
- Housing coordination and community support
- Event service initiatives
- Public image and media outreach

In coordination with **PDG Stephanie Meyer (Kansas City)**, a **one-page overview** has been developed outlining several **subcommittee leadership and service opportunities** for Rotarians across North America. The goal is to ensure that Rotary has a strong, coordinated presence in **every World Cup host city**, as well as to organize **Rotary-led events in host cities prior to the tournament**. These events will bring together Rotarians, community leaders, and anti-trafficking partners to raise awareness and coordinate local action.

For **Rotary District 6900**, this represents a unique opportunity for clubs and individual Rotarians to contribute leadership, expertise, and service—whether through advocacy, education, logistics, or public-facing initiatives. Your involvement can help shape how Rotary is seen and experienced during this historic event.

## **Get Involved**

Rotarians interested in learning more or serving on the **World Cup Host City Leadership Committee** are encouraged to complete the **[World Cup Volunteer Google Form](#)**

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact **[Mary Lyn](#)** or **[Dave McCleary](#)**.

Together, Rotary District 6900 can help demonstrate Rotary’s impact, values, and commitment to protecting vulnerable populations—while welcoming the world with service and integrity.

*With appreciation and Rotary fellowship,*

**Mary Lyn**

**Dave McCleary**

Posted by Dave McCleary

January 6, 2026

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Our Rotary Foundation

## **The Foundation’s Work Continues to Reach Further**

by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair



As usual, there is lots to talk about and share with you all. I had the opportunity to put together some halfway through the year numbers of our DG Steve Ivory and he was extremely excited about where we found ourselves at this point in the year. So let me share them with you now.

For District 6900, our annual fund goal for the year is \$307,000, and as of end of December we are already at \$347,000, which is 113% of the goal. Our Polio Plus goal for the year is \$158,000 and we are already at \$184,000 which is 116%! Not bad for this point in our year. Our endowments are \$233,000. The district has two new Arch Klumph Society members as of now. Special thanks go out to our DG Steve Ivory and Mary Chapman for attaining that level. We now have a total of 11 Arch Klumph Society members in the district.

So where do these great numbers place us among the districts? We currently sit at number 1 in polio giving and are number 3 for our annual fund giving. All accomplished just halfway through the Rotary year. Let's keep this going and keep District 6900 on top!

Let's turn our attention now to how we fare with our Grants. The total available to us this year is \$432,000. We've donated \$55,000 to Polio Plus and invested \$147,000 in district grants. In addition, we invested \$220,000 in global grants with a total of seven clubs participating. There are an additional seven clubs that are waiting that are awaiting approval from Rotary International for \$175,000. Once all is signed, we will have \$35,000 left as a carryover for next year. The district has also helped in other areas, including the Jamaican hurricane relief fund and providing \$22,000 in scholarships. The district has also fared very well in our benefactor and bequest numbers as both are up. Thank you to Lee Hollingsworth who has been extremely successful as our Benefactor Chair.

I do want to turn my attention to an outstanding grant project which has its own separate article in this month's issue, which I highly encourage you to read in its entirety. The grant is co-sponsored by the North Atlanta Club, and it is aimed specifically at the country of Ethiopia. The grant is designed to prevent birth defects associated with Spina Bifida. RI President Arezzo and his wife Anna Maria have taken a personal interest in this project as they are making a trip to Ethiopia visit the project firsthand. Very exciting to have our RI President there. Make sure you read the full article in this month's newsletter for all the

information.

As time and space permits, I hope to highlight more grant projects to help promote continued thought in all our clubs of areas Rotary can continue to make a big difference in our own communities and the world at large.

If I can personally assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via cell or email. I'm here to help and together we will....Unite for good!

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Bob Hagan

February 4, 2026

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In Memoriam

## Celebrating the Life of Will MacArthur



Rotary's world shines a little less brightly today with the passing of William "Will" MacArthur of Sandy Springs, Georgia—a devoted Rotarian, a joyful servant leader, and a beloved friend to many.

Will's Rotary journey was marked by unwavering dedication and an infectious spirit. Most recently a member of the Rotary Satellite Club of Stone Mountain Passport, he served as Foundation Chair and resident champion of good humor, lifting spirits as naturally as he lifted service projects. Before joining the Passport club, Will contributed profoundly to the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs, where he faithfully served three years as Treasurer, four years as Foundation Chair, and ultimately as Club President in 2017-18. His commitment only deepened after his presidency, as he continued to guide and encourage fellow Rotarians through three years as Assistant Governor, helping clubs across the district reach new heights.

Will's devotion to Rotary extended far beyond the club level. At the District level, he was an indispensable leader for many years. He brought steady stewardship as District Foundation Treasurer for eight years, strengthened connections as District Alumni Chair for three years, and championed global health as Polio Committee Chair for several years. In 2023, his extraordinary service to The Rotary Foundation was honored with the prestigious Citation for Meritorious Service—a recognition befitting a man whose heart beat strongly for Rotary's mission.

Service was not simply something Will believed in; it was something he lived every day. His generosity—of time, talent, and treasure—was boundless. A Benefactor, Bequest Society Level 2 member, Paul Harris Fellow, Major Donor, and ultimately an Arch Klumph Fellow, Will gave with purpose and conviction. His passion for eradicating polio around the world made him a steadfast supporter of the PolioPlus campaign, a cause to which he dedicated countless hours and immeasurable heart.

Beyond the titles and accolades, Will will be remembered for his kindness, his humility, his laughter, and his devotion to making the world better than he found it. Rotary is stronger, gentler, and more joyful because of him.

He leaves behind a legacy of service that will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

GRSP Update

## GRSP's Biral, Jin Honored Duo for Thomas Peace Awards



**Julia Carlotto Biral of Brazil** and **Guang 'Loski' Jin of China** were recently announced as the winners of the 2025-2026 Barbara M. and Donald L. Thomas Peace Award. The awards were presented in December by Rotary Club of Roswell Committee Chair John Carruth, alongside GRSP Executive Director Kathyne Fields and Past District Governor Cheryl Greenway.

Julia attends Oglethorpe University and hosted by the Rotary Club of Dunwoody and was recognized as a "natural-born leader." The committee was moved by her ability to foster deep relationships with her peers and promote peace through her everyday interactions.

"Julia takes charge without imposing," Carruth noted. "She gives us a glimpse of a young woman who promotes peace naturally." The award will assist Julia with the financial challenges of being an international student, helping to cover educational expenses and improve her housing situation so she can focus on her studies and emotional health.

Loski studies at the University of Georgia (UGA) and is hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Madison County, Hartwell, Elberton, and Royston/Franklin County, Loski was honored for his extensive volunteer teaching in China and Nepal and leadership at UGA with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association and the International Student Advisory Board.

"Loski understands that peace begins not with big speeches, but with everyday interactions," said Carruth. "He has fully embraced the GRSP spirit in this final year at Georgia."

The award carries the names of Barbara and Donald Thomas, who became icons in Georgia during the 1980s for their "Anchor Banker" commercials. Following a mission trip to Costa Rica in 2000, the Thomases were inspired to establish this award to support GRSP students in financial need who exemplify

the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." Since 2002, the Rotary Club of Roswell has administered this annual award, which has grown to two scholarships with \$3,000 per recipient. This year's presentation serves as a powerful reminder of the Thomases' generosity and the 80-year mission of GRSP to create a more peaceful world, one student at a time.

Posted by Katheryne Fields

February 4, 2026

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## Why I Love RYLA

by Jaclyn Donovan, District RYLA Co-Chair



If you know me, you know that RYLA is something that I am 110% passionate about. RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a summer camp that aims to give our District 6900 teenagers the opportunity to build their leadership skills. You can read more about it on [our RYLA page](#) or check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

RYLA is my jam. Here are just a few (of the many) things I love about RYLA:

1. **The Students** - so many different personalities and talents from all over! From the valedictorian to the kid who sits in the back of the class, from the team captain to the one who hardly ever speaks out loud... all leaders in their own special way. RYLA helps them discover themselves and how they can make contributions as leaders at school, at home, and in their communities.
2. **The Experience** - wide open high energy tempered with engaging conversations and deep thoughts... Team building activities, personal learning activities, group games, a talent show, a dance. RYLA keeps you moving all day, but it's so much fun you don't notice or mind. It's all building

to positive impact that will last far beyond our 5 days together.

3. **The Growth** - RYLA is designed to challenge you, but it allows ample opportunity to rise to each challenge. The quiet student will find a voice. The timid student will find confidence. The “talker” will learn to listen. The “I’ll do it myself” student will let others take a turn. The one who always “knows the right way” will accept advice. It’s amazing to see each student evolve from Day 1 to Day 5.
4. **The Ah-Ha Moment** - the most rewarding moment at RYLA. When a student realizes that they CAN in a situation where they always thought they never stood a chance. Whether it be expressing a thought, offer the correct solution, trusting a teammate, accomplishing a task, or even just singing a song - RYLA is full of these little moments when you see a student smile a little bigger or stand a little taller because they did it. This is why we do RYLA. The Ah-Ha Moment - the most rewarding moment at RYLA. When a student realizes that they CAN in a situation where they always thought they never stood a chance. Whether it be expressing a thought, offer the correct solution, trusting a teammate, accomplishing a task, or even just singing a song - RYLA is full of these little moments when you see a student smile a little bigger or stand a little taller because they did it. This is why we do RYLA.
5. **The Family** - this applies to the students and the staff alike, and the bonds forged in just 5 short days are incredibly strong. The students - who 99% probably did Not want to be at RYLA to begin with - find themselves with 100 new best friends and they don’t want to leave... Many of them stay in touch and find ways to meet up and hang out even after RYLA is finished. For the staff, RYLA is the only few days we’ll get to be together each year so we try to squeeze the most fun and togetherness out of it as we can. We come from all walks of life, from different backgrounds and locations across the globe, but we have RYLA in common. My RYLA Family is the family I didn’t know I needed but that I could never do without - I know that they back me up 100% for anything I may ever need, and I know I would do the same for them.

I love RYLA. I thank my lucky Rotary stars every day that I am part of this program. If you are intrigued and want to experience the RYLA phenomenon for yourself, I encourage you to reach out. If you have a heart for young leaders and you want to make a difference, RYLA is where it’s at. We are always in need of help, and if you can give us just one day I promise we will make it worth your time.

If you and your club want to get in on all the great things that come along with sponsoring a student to RYLA, use one of the following routes to send in your RSVP:

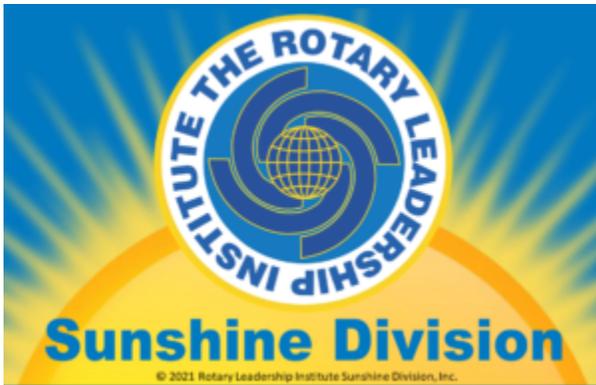
1. Use this link to complete our RSVP online: <https://forms.gle/SsLFt1wFuW38UgPk8>
2. Visit our page to download the forms: [www.rotary6900.org/page/656](http://www.rotary6900.org/page/656)
3. Email us at [RYLA6900@gmail.com](mailto:RYLA6900@gmail.com)

\* If your club is already signed up, Student Registration Payments are Due March 1\*

Mail to: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, c/o Susan Ruckman, P.O. Box 1547, Americus, GA 31709

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
January 25, 2026

## Join the RLI Learning Opportunity: February 21 in Marietta



2026 has kicked off RLI with a bang! 37 members attended the RLI event in Thomasville on January 10. Great learning, sharing, and fun was had by all. They increased their knowledge of Rotary while also increasing their leadership skills. Many thanks to Joe Tarver, Nate Tyler, and the other members of the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** for hosting the event, securing the venue, helping to set up the event, ordering the food and drinks, and turning out a large number of their members to attend. Special thanks to the RLI team, who lead the discussions to the members: Andre Marria, Anthony Slaughter, Audley Knight, Cheryl Greenway, and Tom Gooding from District 6920. Super Special thanks to Don Martin, from District 6910, who stepped in at the last minute, and drove from the GA/SC state line, to lead our Graduate class!

On **Saturday, February 21, 2026**, there will be an RLI event in Marietta, GA featuring Parts 1, 2, 3, and a Graduate class on Membership. **The event will take place at Life University, 1269 Barclay Circle, Marietta, GA.** The cost is \$100 per member, which includes breakfast, lunch, and Student Guides.

Join us to enhance your facilitation skills, connect with peers, and enjoy a full day of learning and networking. Register now [here](#) or at [RLIsunshine.org/course-information/course-schedule/](https://RLIsunshine.org/course-information/course-schedule/) to secure your spot!

Posted by Tracy Van Norman  
January 26, 2026

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## R.I. President Arezzo to visit North Atlanta's Global Grant Project in Ethiopia



*“When spiders unite, they can tie up a lion” – Ethiopian Proverb*

When Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and wife Anna Maria visit Rotary Ethiopia this month, they will see the **Rotary Club of North Atlanta’s** (RCNA) global grant project first-hand – the sole project chosen for their visit.

Joined by two Rotary clubs in the United States and two in Addis Ababa, the RCNA is beginning the third year of a five-year initiative to prevent serious birth defects such as *spina bifida*, which are associated with a lack of an inexpensive vitamin (B9, or *folic acid*) in maternal diets.

Spina bifida occurs when part of the spinal cord lies outside of the vertebrae. It belongs to a group of related conditions called *neural tube defects* or *NTDs*. Children born with an NTD often die at birth. Even if initially saved by prompt and essential neurosurgery, they may still face a difficult, shortened life with disability.

To prevent this problem, women need sufficient folic acid in their diets **before** they become pregnant and during the first trimester. Those who have already given birth to a child with an NTD face a *10X risk of having another child with these disabilities*, and Ethiopia has one of the highest NTD rates in the world. The tragedy is that some 75% of these birth defects can be prevented by preconception consumption of the vitamin.

The purpose of the global grant project is to provide women who have already had a child with an NTD with supplemental high-dose folic acid tablets initially purchased from a firm in India. The high-risk cohort was identified from the records of local hospitals in Addis Ababa. The program follows these mothers to

determine the effect and impact of the intervention during the program's five-year duration.

The Rotary Club of North Atlanta, RC Addis Ababa Central Mella, and RC Addis Ababa West are distributing over 1.8 million high-dose folic acid supplements, benefiting thousands of women and families in Ethiopia. In the third year, the program will expand to two more hospitals in the Tigray region, totaling six hospitals, with one hospital already having a waiting list of over 780 mothers. So far 2500 women have participated.

The project recently won the "Anna Award" for "Most Impressive Project" at the 2025 District 9212 Conference. Momentum is gaining towards sustainability: folic acid tablets are now being manufactured in Ethiopia, and the country has approved folic acid fortification of wheat and plans to introduce double-fortified salt with iodine and folic acid.

RCNA's hope is that the R.I. president's visit will highlight the need and viability of the project to the world of Rotary - and beyond.

### **PHOTOS:**

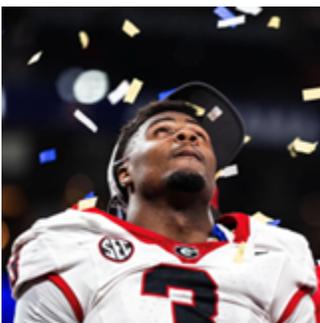


Posted by Jon Yaeger  
January 19, 2026

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Laws of Life

## **Once a Laws of Life Student - Now a UGA Bulldog**



**More than two years after writing his Laws of Life essay in 10th grade, Georgia Laws of Life alumnus CJ Allen, linebacker for the University of Georgia Bulldogs, recently reminded us just how lasting one moment of reflection can be.**

CJ reposted his essay on Facebook with a simple caption: *“My 10th grade project on Laws of Life. Lol read this. Moral of the story—keep going.”*

His Law of Life — *“Everybody goes through something. It’s all about persevering.”* — reflected on football, self-doubt, and the determination to push forward when others, and even he himself, questioned his ability.

Today, CJ has completed his college career at UGA and is pursuing his dream of playing in the NFL. His story powerfully illustrates that Laws of Life essays aren’t just school assignments—they are defining moments that students carry with them long after graduation, shaping how they face challenges and pursue their dreams.

## **Clubs Recruiting Schools for the 2026-27 Contest**

January and February are key planning months for schools, making this an ideal time for Rotary clubs to start conversations about the Laws of Life Essay Contest.

Clubs currently partnering with schools—or exploring new partnerships—can access **school recruitment talking points and resources** here:

### [School Information and Talking Points](#)

Early outreach helps ensure schools can plan to participate in the upcoming academic year. We encourage clubs to connect with local schools now and throughout the year.

## **Calling All Essay Judges**

Essay judging is one of the most meaningful ways Rotarians can get involved in the Contest.

Judges read students’ reflections on perseverance, integrity, gratitude, and responsibility—often describing the experience as eye-opening and deeply rewarding.

- **Judges are typically Rotarians from sponsoring clubs**
- Judges work in teams
- Judging takes place in February and March
- Training and scoring rubrics are provided

**Sign up to be an essay judge:** <https://georgialawsoflife.org/volunteers/>

If you are interested in serving as a judge but your club is not currently a sponsor, please reach out directly—judging is a great way to learn more about the contest and its impact.

## **Invite Your Club to Become a Laws of Life Sponsor**

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest is a **turnkey Rotary service project** that creates lasting connections between clubs, schools, students, and communities.

Now is the perfect time for clubs to:

- Discuss Laws of Life during budget planning
- Commit to sponsoring the contest with a local school
- Provide members with meaningful volunteer opportunities

Sponsoring clubs help bring character education into classrooms while strengthening Rotary's mission of **Service Above Self** .

To learn more about becoming a sponsoring club, visit: <https://georgialawsoflife.org/why-rotary/>

Or contact Carol Gray Walker, Executive Director, to explore partnership opportunities.  
[carol@georgialawsoflife.org](mailto:carol@georgialawsoflife.org)

#### **PHOTOS:**



Posted by Carol Gray Walker  
February 4, 2026

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Club News

## **Vinings Cumberland Cleans Up Community!**



The **Rotary Club of Vinings Cumberland** recently came together for a hands-on community clean-up, and the results were immediate and meaningful. More than 50 bags of trash and bulky debris were collected, helping make local streets cleaner and safer for all who live and work in the area.

The effort was powered by more than 30 dedicated volunteers who generously gave their time and energy in the spirit of service above self.

We extend our sincere thanks to Chick-fil-A for providing lunch for our volunteers...and for helping us share that generosity by delivering extra meals to our local fire department, who were deeply appreciative. Partnerships like these make community service even more impactful.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Thomas House  
January 26, 2026

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Club News

## **North Cobb Rotarians Busy Making a Difference!**



North Cobb Rotary Club President Jose Gonzalez used the first meeting in January to present a

mid-year review. He shared that the club has already gifted over \$30,000 to local and global non-profit organizations. Additionally, the club is nearly completing many of its personal goals including number of service projects, number of club socials, and number of marketing efforts on social media. Additionally, the club has already completed its goal of giving to the Annual Fund and Polio Plus. Lastly, the club learned that this year so far, they have gained 25 new Paul Harris Fellows.

The good work didn't stop there:

- North Cobb Rotary Club members joined the city of Acworth to turn the Martin Luther King holiday into a day of service ... participating with the City of Acworth in a unity walk from the Roberts School to the Acworth Community Center.
- Members spent a Saturday painting to kick off the learning center refresh for the Acworth Achievers Program. The Acworth Achievers Mentoring and After School program was created to form a positive and supportive environment for local youth. Its mission is to provide educational assistance, recreational activities, and mentorship while fostering servant-leadership. Members painted the major learning center spaces using Rotary branded colors and will soon be painting a North Cobb Rotary club logo to establish the space sponsored by the club. The club not only donated their time but provided the program with a \$4,000 donation to conduct the refresh.
- The North Cobb Rotary yellow shirts...and blue shirts...out restocking the Kennesaw State University food pantry for the start of the new semester.

**PHOTOS:**







Posted by Jose Gonzalez  
January 26, 2026

## North Atlanta Celebrates Don Millen, 58 Years of Service



**North Atlanta Rotarian Don Millen** has been a Rotarian for 58 years and was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the District and a Service Hero coin by DG Steve Ivory. Don became a Major Donor Level 2 and was recognized by PDG/DRFC Bob Hagan and Steve Ivory. He has been a huge service leader and has helped out so many people and organizations with his generosity and selfless methods to get things done. He does not seek out recognition and yet he has impacted so many lives. We all were entertained by the amazing stories told about Don's service.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Steve Ivory  
February 4, 2026

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Club News

# **North Fulton Serves Schools on MLK Day of Service**



On January 19, MLK Day of Service, members of **Rotary Club of North Fulton** cleaned and sanitized classrooms at Children's Development Academy. During this severe flu season, it is more important than ever to do what we can to keep children safe and healthy. When children become ill, their parents often must miss work, placing additional strain on already tight household budgets. We are grateful for the opportunity to make a small but meaningful impact in our community!

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Lisa Gelber  
January 20, 2026

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## Griffin Daybreak Supports Backpack Food for Kids



**Griffin Daybreak Rotary** members and friends, including Erin Mulder Director of Stepping Stones, and William Wilson from **Griffin Rotary**, participated in a morning of packing food bags for needy children in the local school system. Led by Will Doss of Backpack Foods for Kids, Daybreak Rotarians packed over 100 bags of non-perishable foods to help sustain children over weekends who do not have a consistent source of food because they lack financial resources.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant  
February 4, 2026

## North Cobb Rotarian Serves City of Acworth



The **North Cobb Rotary** year kicked off with an inspiring celebration of service as North Cobb Rotarian Judge Jaret Usher proudly swore in fellow Rotarian Kimberly Haase to the office of Alderwoman for the City of Acworth. Judge Usher, whose decade-long commitment to the county, and as a State Court Judge since 2022 exemplifies the very spirit of “Service Above Self” helped mark a historic moment on January 2nd in the heart of Acworth, GA. This milestone not only highlights the leadership rising within our clubs, but also showcases how Rotarians continue to shape our communities with integrity, dedication, and purpose. Cheers to a year of impact, fellowship, and bold new beginnings!

Posted by Kimberly Haase  
January 5, 2026

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## Roswell Recognizes Hometown Hero: Fire Division Chief Cavender



**Roswell Rotary** and President Trummie Lee Patrick III was proud to honor Roswell Fire Department Division Chief Christopher Cavender.

Division Chief Cavender is a veteran of the fire service with nearly two decades of experience and a strong track record of leadership, keeping a focus on firefighter health/wellness and professional development. After serving with the DeKalb (GA) County Fire & Rescue, he joined Roswell Fire and has advanced through the ranks, providing steady leadership at every level. Division Chief Cavender has led initiatives focused on firefighter wellness, training standards and long-term health implementing NFPA physicals and department-wide wellness efforts. His leadership continues to strengthen the organization and reinforce a culture centered on readiness, accountability and continuous improvement.

Posted by Becky Nelson  
February 4, 2026

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## Clayton County Issues End Polio Now Proclamation



### CHAIRWOMAN DR. ALIEKA ANDERSON-HENRY PRESENTS "END POLIO NOW" PROCLAMATION TO THE ROTARY CLUB

*Warren Bond*

At a public Board meeting, the Chairwoman of the Clayton County Board of Commissioner, and all the Commissioners representing Clayton County, presented an "End Polio Now" proclamation to the **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent**. The Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County joined in the celebration. The proclamation was read to the audience and presented to President Mahli and President Gerriann. The professional photography was done by Warren Bond.

Posted by Claudia Mertl  
January 29, 2026

Club News

# Roswell Adds Gratitude Wall to Weekly Newsletter

## Gratitude Wal: Members Helping Members



*This is a new section of the Rotoscope- highlighting a few of the many acts of service our members give to each other:*

From **Michael Curling** :

I just wanted to take a second to recognize **David White** . We ended up somewhat last minute needing a Civil Engineer for a permit with the City of Roswell and David and his firm **Civilogistix** , despite their busy schedule, took time over the Holidays to step up and assist us. The power of Rotary!

If you would like to share the extraordinary actions of a fellow Roswell Rotarian on the Gratitude Wall, please contact Alicia Hughes [ahughes@wsnielsen.com](mailto:ahughes@wsnielsen.com) or Kathy Igou [kligou@gmail.com](mailto:kligou@gmail.com)

With a focus on Service Above Self, the **Roswell Rotary Club** realized that it was not publicly recognizing fellow Rotarians when they showed up professionally for another member! In December President Trummie Lee Patrick III asked Kathy Igou (Rotascope Editor) to add a new section to our weekly newsletter after a conversation with Roswell Rotarian Hal Schlenger who was complimenting fellow RRC member Joe Mazzeo, a master plumber, for his prompt and professional response for a personal matter. Thus, The Gratitude Wall was added. Every RRC member is invited to contribute by sharing a brief note about a fellow RRC member in our club who made a difference - whether that be personal support, professional advice/counsel or leadership without recognition. Service reflects the very heart of Rotary and by collecting the notes of gratitude, we not only lift each other up but also showcase the everyday examples that inspire us all. Each submission layers the spirit of gratitude that strengthens our club and our community.

Posted by Becky Nelson  
February 4, 2026

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