Rotary Club of Thomasville

Thomasville HTML Template

DECEMBER 6, 2023

Leadership

A Message From Our President



December...the last month of the calendar year. What does it mean to you? To me, it means a time for reflection on all the great things the Rotary Club of Thomasville has done thus far and a time to look forward to all the great things our club will continue to do in 2024. Our monthly Fresh for You Market has been a huge blessing to the Thomasville community and will continue to be with the great support we've received from local businesses and non-profits alike. Continued projects where we support our Local Heroes and Have a Heart for Seniors. From the smallest project to our largest project, every little engagement with our community leaves a mark on this community. I thank you all for your continued support and we celebrate our successes together as we move into a new year.

District 6900

District Update

WELCOMING OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR BACK HOME

Our very own Thomasville Rotarian and District Governor of Rotary District 6900, Andre' Marria, along with her husband Walter came back home for an official visit earlier last month. The official District Governor visit was a day filled with a Rotary Club of Thomasville board meeting, a heartwarming cookout at Thomasville Police Department to honor our local heroes, and a beautiful District Governor Reception at The Business Exchange of Thomasville where delicious catering by JB Crumbs and delightful piano music by Thomas University created the perfect atmosphere;

MEETINGS

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

12/7	Shop Local!
12/14	Meeting at Second Harvest -- 11:30 a.m. 'til 1 p.m.
12/21	Christmas on Vinyl
12/28	Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays-NO MEETING
1/4	Bethany High - U.S.A. Olympic trap shotgun athlete
1/11	Update from City of Tville -- Alan Carson
1/18	Meet at Second Harvest to Pack/Sort Produce 11:30 a.m.
1/25	U. S Representative Sanford Bishop, GA Second District

BIRTHDAYS

12/7	Tim Daniel
12/10	Andrew Jones
12/11	Eric Ward
12/13	Bob Drummond
12/19	Tia Turner
12/23	Eugene McNease
12/24	Carlton Bryant
12/29	Susie Shin
12/31	Rob Milberg
1/1	Randy Watts

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12/10	Devona Thompson (7)
12/10	Stephan Thompson (7)
12/11	Rankin Smith, Jr. (32)
12/16	James Bue (41)
12/19	Tom Shaw (8)
12/19	George Stephens, Jr. (71)

Andre' even treated us to a special song performance! Even if it was just for a short while, we're so grateful to have had Andre' and Walter back with us; thank you both for your dedication to Rotary District 6900, our club, and Rotary International!

To view photos from this official visit, click **HERE.**



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER COVERAGE

We are featured in December's District Newsletter this month covering our Big Impact Community Project efforts. To view the District newsletter for December and read the full article, click **HERE.**



Club News

Thomasville's Fresh for You Hits New High

By Shanna Skeen

In November, the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** made the BIGGEST IMPACT to date since starting its "FRESH FOR YOU - Free Produce Market" project in partnership with Second Harvest of South Georgia and the Marguerite Neel Williams Boys & Girls Clubs by serving 396 households in one day!

In addition, the club "harvested" $50,000 in their annual golf classic to help with their big impact project, which includes their work with Second Harvest and helping the United Way in its efforts to provide for 18 agencies that serve all the socio-economic citizens and groups throughout Thomas County. [more]

12/21	Fran Milberg (54)
12/29	Joe Brown (65)

YEARS OF SERVICE

12/10	Richard Christenson (3)
12/13	John Blackmon (5) 8 years in Rotary
12/13	Susie Shin (5)
12/13	Barbara Williams-Anderson (5)
1/1	William Jones (38) 43 years in Rotary
1/1	Richard Vann (28)
1/1	GRSP Admin (7)

ROTARY ONLINE

https://thomasvillerotary.org
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
The Plaza Restuarant
217 Broad St
Thomasville, GA 31792

LEADERSHIP

President	Mary Beth Donalson
President-Elect	Marta Jones-Turner
Immediate PP	Danny Braddy
Vice President	Marta Jones-Turner
Treasurer	Warren Ballard
Secretary	Anna Lee
Public Image	Shanna Derby
Past President	Wayne Newsome

Directors

Foundation	Julie Carter
Membership	Angela Williamson
Service Projects	Barbara Williams-Anderson
Youth Service	Chandler Giddes
Club Director	Scott Rich

Admin	Copper Comita

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI) 1/14/24

RLI is coming up in January! The course is mandatory for all new members and participation is encouraged for all members. To learn more about the upcoming Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) and course schedule, click **HERE.**

DISTRICT CONFERENCE 3/21-24/2024

Have you registered for District Conference, March 21-24, 2024?! Early birds get special rates! Join us as we Amplify Rotary and feature the Lady with a Song, none other than our District Governor André Marria at the beautiful Jekyll Island Convention Center. Several hotels on the island have room blocks reserved through February 21, 2024. Jekyll Island is booming, so you are encouraged to book your hotel room NOW! Once our room blocks are sold there is no guarantee that additional room nights will be added. For more information on registration, room blocks, and the conference in general, click **HERE.**

Foundation

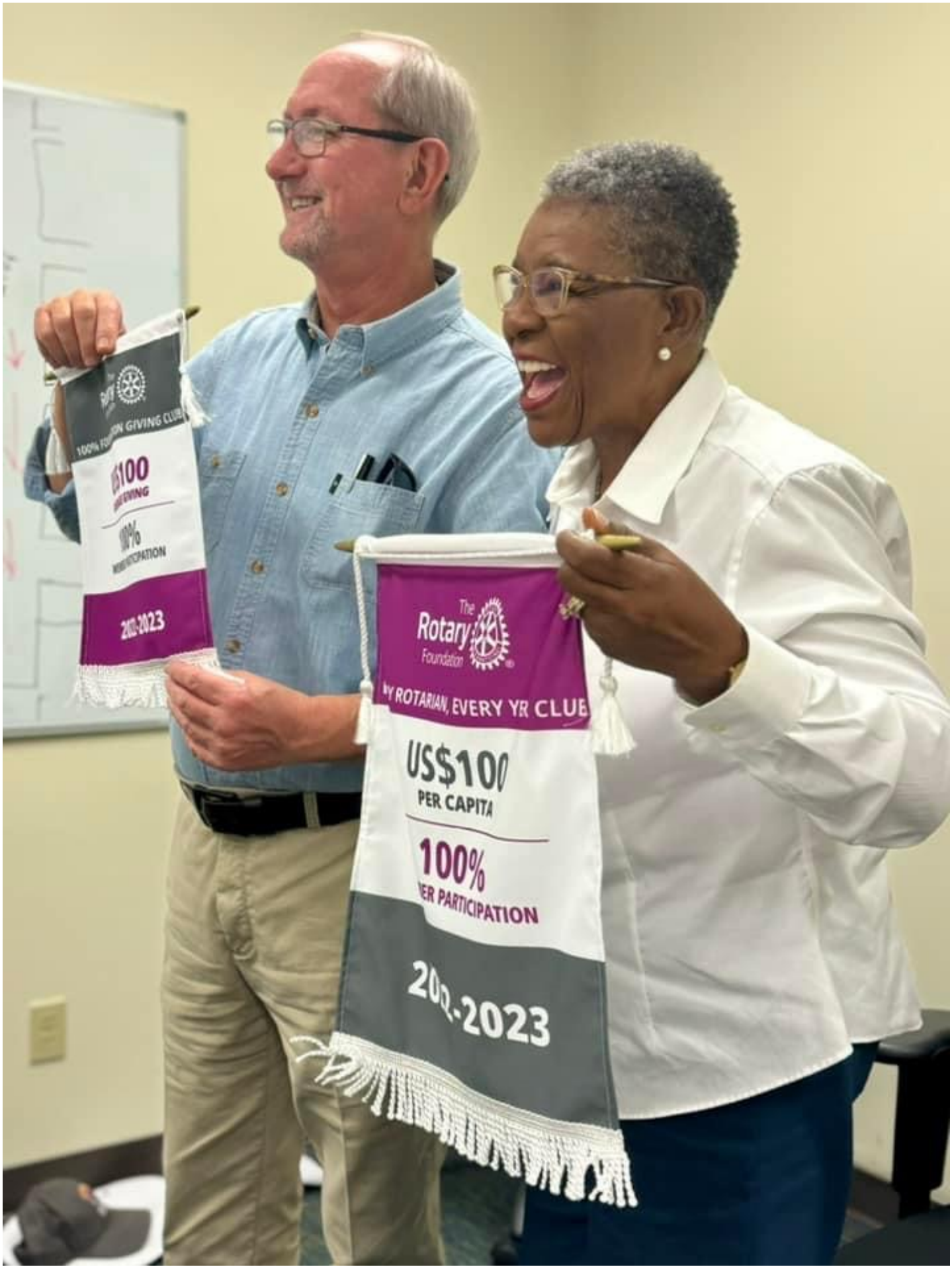
Foundation Update

LEARN ABOUT OUR CLUB'S EFFORTS

Our Foundation chairs work tirelessly with club members to promote annual giving to the RI Foundation's various programs and to the Georgia Rotary Student Program Foundation. Half of all funds raised by the club for the TRF return to the club three years later to be used to fund projects within our community. The remaining dollars are used by the RI foundation to support its many mission in the pursuit of peace, world understand and improvement in the quality of lives around the globe.Rotary Club of Thomasville partners with Rotary Clubs across the globe to fund international projects through Global Grants which improve the lives of people whom we have never met who find themselves far less fortunate than we are. Most recently our projects have impacted the elderly in India and orphans in Serbia.Each year Rotary Club of Thomasville requests funds through the District Grant process to fund local projects which primarily focus on the education of young children in Thomasville with the ultimate goal of improving the local high school graduation rate. The club also supports literacy in Thomasville through the Southwest Georgia Literacy Grant when available.

100% PARTICIPATION + GIVING GOAL MET

District Governor Andre' Marria honored Past President Danny Braddy during her official visit last month for reaching our goal and continuing our 100% Participation annual giving for another year. Great job Danny and club!


The Rotary Foundation
Y ROTARIAN, EVERY YR CLUB
US$100
PER CAPITA
100%
ER PARTICIPATION
20-2023

OUR CURRENT ANNUAL GIVING STATUS

Our goal this year is to give $30,000 before June 2024. Starting December, our club's actual giving year to date sits around $8,000. Want to know how you can contribute? Contact Rotarians Julie Carter and/or Fran Milberg.

Membership

Membership Update

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Join us in welcoming our newest member to the club, Rotarian Austin Finch. Austin was inducted into the Rotary Club of Thomasville during last week's meeting. Austin is sponsored by Rotarian Joe Brown. He specializing in mortgage banking and is currently employed at Stonebridge First Financial Group. He is married to his wife, Lindsey, enjoys UNC Sports, "Dad"ing, and spending time with family and friends.



MEMBERSHIP GUIDE NOW ONLINE

You will now find the Rotary Club of Thomasville's Membership Guide under "Members" within the Resource Library of our website. Members must be signed into our site in order to access the Resource Library. Once signed into your account, you can view and download the guide directly by clicking **HERE.**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

We still need Rotarians to join our team. Become the planner for Wine or Whine, Lead the Red Ribbon

Program, make calls/send cards to fellow Rotarians for an extra touch, or give your own ideas on how to maintain and grow our club. Reach out to Rotarian Angela Williamson.

WINE OR WHINE during the holiday season

Rotary Club of Thomasville turned The Business Exchange of Thomasville into a festive “Wine or Whine" social event yesterday evening. The theme was "ugly holiday attire" and showcased an amazing display of fun and quirky holiday outfits. The refreshments were a delightful mix of creativity and the holiday spirit filled the room while we mingled, laughed, and talked about Rotary. If you missed out, no worries, we plan to host another Wine or Whine again starting back in February…theme to be announced in the coming weeks. To check out some of the fun photos, click **HERE.**








ORANGE YOU GLAD YOU ATTENDED IN OCTOBER?

If you missed October’s Wine or Whine social, “orange” you disappointed? The theme last month was “Orange you glad you joined Rotary” and was an orange colored success! To check out the full post and fun

photos, click **HERE**.



NOVEMBER WAS A HOMECOMING TO REMEMBER

November's Wine or Whine social date was moved to Thomas University's Homecoming weekend. With so many TU alumni in our club, participating in Thomas University's Alumni Association's Homecoming Tailgate party did not disappoint and was a great way to show our community what we are about! To check out the full post and fun photos, click **HERE.**







NO WINE OR WHINE IN JANUARY

No Wine or Whine for January due to the holiday season. We will pick back up again in February. Details to be announced soon. Keep checking back at our club's calendar on the website by clicking **HERE.**

Community Services

Community Services Update

OUR 'BIGGEST' IMPACT TO DATE!

This past month , Rotary Club of Thomasville made the BIGGEST IMPACT to date since starting our "FRESH FOR YOU - Free Produce Market" project in partnership with Second Harvest of South Georgia and the Marguerite Neel Williams Boys & Girls Clubs by serving 396 households today! WOW! Thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work Friday and this morning! We are thrilled to see this project grow while making

a difference in the community we serve!

To view the full post and photos, click **HERE.** To view the District Newsletter coverage on this story, click **HERE.**







ROTARY AT SECOND HARVEST 12/14

We had a great turnout at Second Harvest last month! We will pack and sort fruit and vegetables at Second Harvest starting 11:30AM until 1PM on Thursday, December 14th in preparation for the next Produce Market the following Saturday. Lunch will be served. To view the calendar event, click **HERE.**







FRESH FOR YOU: FREE PRODUCE MARKET 12/16

Our next produce market will take place this day from 8:30-10:30AM (or until we run out) at Weston Park on Felix Street. To view the calendar event, click **HERE.**

Please reach out to Rotarian Marta Turner Jones if you are interested in volunteering for this Big Impact Community Project!

A LONG STANDING TRADITION WITH VASHTI

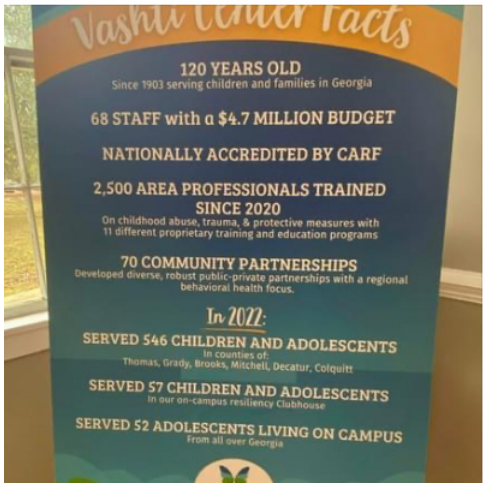
November 16th marked a special day for the Rotary Club of Thomasville as we continued our cherished

tradition at the Vashti Center for Children and Families. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we enjoyed a delightful meal courtesy of Vashti - a heartfelt thank you to them! To those who brought donations for Vashti, thank you for your generosity. Together, we're making a positive impact in the lives of many. To learn more about the Vashti Center's incredible work, click **HERE.**

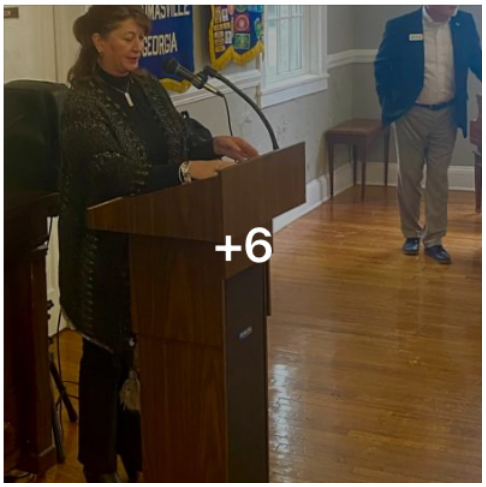
To view the full post and photos, click **HERE.**











$50K RAISED DURING GOLF CLASSIC EFFORTS

In a heartwarming moment at last week's meeting, we presented a giant check of $37,500 to the United Way of Thomas County. This donation, part of the $50,000 raised in our annual Golf Classic, highlights our commitment to supporting local initiatives and making a difference. Together, we are strengthening our community and nurturing future leaders. Proud to be part of the Rotary Club of Thomasville!

To view the Thomasville-Times Enterprise story, click **HERE.** To view the full post and photos, click **HERE.**



HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROES COOKOUT

An annual appreciation cookout for our local heroes was held at the Thomasville Police Department on November 11th during our District Governor's official visit. A big thank you to our Rotarian "grill masters" and Local Heroes Cookout committee for the delicious food, planning, and logistics to making this a success for another year in a row!

To view more photos from the cookout, click **HERE.**



RING THE BELL FOR SALVATION ARMY

It's that time of year again! If you are interested in volunteering to "ring the bell" for the Salvation Army as a Rotarian, please reach out to Rotarian Tom Everett ASAP!

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS 12/10

Calling on volunteers and dessert makers THIS SUNDAY! Each year our club prepares a holiday meal for the 1230th Transportation Company. This year the event will be held at the Armory on Sunday, December 10th. We will start serving at 11:30AM and are in need of Rotarians to assist with serving this day! If you are

available, please reach out to Rotarian Warren Ballard ASAP!



ROTARY HAS HEART FOR SENIORS PLANNING IN ACTION

As a club, we pledged to touch our seniors once a quarter. This quarter, we will be mailing holiday cards created by kids (thanks to Rotarian Susie Shin and the Hands & Hearts for Horses volunteers.) Our seniors love to receive letters in the mail. Rotarian Angela Williamson will bring these to the next Rotary meeting for our club's assistance. You are welcome to add your own special message to the card.

We are also getting ready for our Valentine Party by gathering information from our seniors about what they might like as a Valentine gift. We are going back to our original idea of asking the community for their help. Much like the Christmas Angel trees, we will create Rotary Has Heart for Seniors trees with heart ornaments

that have the name of a local senior and a gift idea for Valentine's Day. A community member purchases the item, wraps the item, and we collect all the gifts before giving a wonderful Valentine Day party at the Scott Senior Center. Trees will be displayed with heart ornaments starting the first week of January. We encourage you to choose your own senior to make smile on Valentine's Day. We will also need volunteers on Valentine's Day as we host the party.

We need Rotarian volunteers to help execute our 2024 plans successfully (as outlined below):

First Quarter - Mail invitation to Valentine Party

Second Quarter - Mail a thank you for joining us & possibly a photo to each senior

Third Quarter - Host monthly birthday party

Fourth Quarter - Mail holiday cards

Please reach out to Rotarian Angela Williamson if you are interested in joining the Rotary Has Heart For Seniors committee!



Youth Services

Youth Services Update

STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION

A round of applause for Chandler Giddes, our Youth Services Director, who honored Rotary's 'Students of the Month' from Thomasville High School, Thomas County Central High School, and Brookwood School for the months of August through November. These remarkable students demonstrate exceptional leadership, community service, and academic excellence, truly embodying the Rotary's core values.











To view photos and the full post, click **HERE.** To view the article in the Thomasville-Times Enterprise this past weekend, click **HERE.**

SAFEDRIVE IS EVOLVING FOR TODAY'S YOUTH

SafeDrive is underway and Youth Services Director, Chandler Giddes, has already started visiting schools this Rotary year. A new addition to our SafeDrive initiative is now available - QR code leave behind cards! In an effort to evolve with today's youth, students can now scan a business size card with a smart device to be lead directly to the SafeDrive site. If you are interested in joining the SafeDrive committee, please reach out to Rotarian Chandler Giddes.



ROTARY RAFFLE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Rotarian John Comita for winning the Rotary Raffle drawing this year! *(We sure hope Copper enjoys spending your winnings…wink, wink!)*

Funds raised go toward our Youth Service projects. Actual funds raised for this year's raffle will be announced at a later date. For questions in regard to the raffle, please contact Rotarian Copper Comita.

Rotary
Club of Thomasville

CONGRATS!

RAFFLE WINNER 2023!

THANK YOU TO ALL
WHO SUPPORTED THIS FUNDRAISER!