



## ROTARY DISTRICT 6900

# DISTRICT COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

*2026-2027 Rotary Year | \$2,000 Grant Request | Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026*

## Project Snapshot

**Project Title:** Horizons Atlanta Holiday Celebration — A Holiday Party for the Scholars of the Horizons Atlanta programs at Atlanta International School, Galloway and The Temple

**Sponsoring Club:** Rotary Club of Buckhead (Club ID 12, Rotary District 6900)

**Club President:** Jeff Clark, Jr.

**Club Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 12151, Atlanta, GA 30355

**Club Email:** buckhead@rotary6900.org

**Project Contact / Primary Contact Rotarian:** Jeff Clark, Jr., President — jeff@enbarr.com

**Beneficiary Organization:** Horizons Atlanta at Atlanta International School (501(c)(3) educational program serving students from underserved communities)

**Project Location:** Atlanta International School, 2890 N. Fulton Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30305

**Proposed Event Date:** Saturday, December 12, 2026 (alternate dates the weekend of Dec. 5 or Dec. 19, to be confirmed with the school calendar)

**Number of Direct Beneficiaries:** Approximately 100 Horizons Atlanta students (grades 2-6) plus their immediate family members in attendance

**Total Grant Request:** \$2,000.00 (full District Community Grant amount)

**Rotary Area of Focus:** Basic Education & Literacy (primary), with secondary alignment to Maternal & Child Health through positive child enrichment.

## Executive Summary

The Rotary Club of Buckhead respectfully requests a \$2,000 District Community Grant from Rotary District 6900 to underwrite the Horizons Atlanta Holiday Celebration, a hands-on, Rotarian-led Holiday party for approximately 100 students enrolled in Horizons Atlanta programs at Atlanta International School (AIS), Galloway and The Temple. The three programs in close proximity to Buckhead. The event will be held on the AIS campus in December 2026 and will provide every participating student with a personally selected, age-appropriate wrapped gift, a visit and photograph with Santa Claus, festive refreshments, and a full afternoon of joy, connection, and celebration.

Horizons Atlanta provides a six-week summer academic enrichment program for students from underserved communities in metro Atlanta, and the AIS, Galloway and Temple programs continue to support these scholars year-round. Most Horizons scholars are children whose families face significant



economic barriers. For many of these students, holiday gifts at home are not a given. By delivering a grant-funded celebration that pairs the magic of a Santa Claus appearance with a meaningful gift in every child's hands, Buckhead Rotarians will close a real opportunity gap, strengthen Horizons' wrap-around model, and visibly extend Rotary's commitment to Basic Education and Literacy in our own backyard.

Buckhead Rotary will provide all event planning, volunteer staffing, gift purchasing, gift wrapping, set-up, Santa coordination, photography, clean-up, and post-event reporting. The full \$2,000 grant will be applied to direct project costs, with no overhead deductions, and the project will be completed and reported within the 2026-2027 Rotary year well in advance of the District's reporting deadline.

## The Four District 6900 Grant Factors

### 1. Problem Severity

Horizons Atlanta serves children from low-income households across metro Atlanta whose families would otherwise lack access to enriched summer learning, year-round academic support, and the cultural and recreational experiences that drive long-term educational outcomes. According to Horizons Atlanta, the program targets students experiencing the opportunity gap — children whose families cannot afford the supplemental learning, books, and experiences that more affluent peers receive year-round, and who consequently lose four to six months of reading proficiency over a single summer.

On top of this academic gap sits a quieter but equally real holiday gap. For the families Horizons serves, December often arrives with hard tradeoffs between rent, utilities, transportation, and gifts. National data from the Toy Industry Association and the U.S. Census Bureau consistently show that children in households below 200% of the federal poverty line are roughly half as likely to receive a wrapped gift on Holiday morning as their middle-income peers. Existing community-based gift programs (Toys for Tots, Salvation Army Angel Tree) reach a fraction of qualifying families, and Horizons Atlanta does not currently host a holiday gifting event for its AIS cohort.

The need is therefore concrete and unmet: roughly 100 academically motivated children, already known and trusted by a vetted educational nonprofit, do not have a guaranteed holiday celebration with a personal gift waiting for them. A modest, focused \$2,000 investment can close that gap completely for the 2026 holiday season.

### 2. Project Impact

Direct beneficiaries: approximately 100 Horizons Atlanta students in the AIS, Galloway and Temple programs (grades 2–6). Every participating student will receive a wrapped, age- and interest-matched gift selected with input from Horizons program staff who know the children individually. Each child will also have a photograph taken with Santa Claus, which will be as a keepsake for the family.

Indirect beneficiaries include the parents and siblings who attend the celebration with their student, the Horizons Atlanta program staff (who gain a new flagship community-engagement event), and the broader AIS school community, which will see Rotary partnering visibly with one of its signature outreach programs.



Significance and duration: while the celebration itself is a single afternoon, the program-level impact extends well beyond the event. Horizons Atlanta's evidence-based model relies on building a sustained, trusting relationship between the program and the family. A high-quality holiday celebration reinforces family attachment to the program, increases the likelihood of student return for the following summer (Horizons' six-week summer program drives the documented 4–6 months of reading gains), and gives each family a tangible signal that the broader Atlanta community is invested in their child's success. Buckhead Rotary's intent is to deliver the celebration in a way that establishes a recurring annual event — funded through future club fundraising — so that 2026's grant becomes the seed of a sustainable tradition.

Measurable outcomes the club will track and report:

- Number of students who received a gift (target: 100)
- Number of family members in attendance (target: 200+)
- Total Rotarian volunteer hours contributed (target: 100+)
- Horizons Atlanta staff satisfaction rating (post-event survey, target: 4.5/5.0)

### 3. Volunteer (Rotarian) Involvement

This is a hands-on Rotarian project from start to finish. Buckhead Rotary commits the following structured volunteer involvement, all coordinated by a Project Committee chaired by club leadership and reporting to the President:

- **Planning Committee (2–3 Rotarians):** one month of weekly planning meetings beginning November 2026, covering venue logistics, gift sourcing, volunteer coordination, marketing, and post-event reporting.
- **Gift purchasing & wrapping (15–20 Rotarians):** two wrapping events: one prior to a lunch meeting and one at a member homes in November to wrap, label, and inventory all 100 gifts.
- **Day-of event volunteers (15-20 Rotarians, plus spouses and family):** set-up crew, registration table, refreshment service, photography, gift distribution, Santa's helpers, and tear-down.
- **Santa Claus:** a Buckhead Rotarian volunteer will serve as Santa Claus for the event, wearing the rented professional-grade costume funded by the grant. (No talent fee will be paid; this is a pure volunteer role.)

Total estimated Rotarian volunteer commitment: 100+ hours across the planning and execution phases. The project will be reported at weekly club meetings and in the club newsletter, ensuring broad club awareness and engagement throughout the project lifecycle.

### 4. Public Image Impact

The Rotary Club of Buckhead won the 2025-2026 District 6900 Public Image Award and intends to leverage that momentum to amplify Rotary's visibility through this project.

Public-image deliverables tied to this grant:

- Rotary-branded backdrop at the photo station, with the Rotary masterbrand logo on every photo distributed to families.
- Rotary tags on every wrapped gift ("A gift from Santa & your friends at Rotary").
- Pre- and post-event coverage on the Rotary Club of Buckhead website, the District 6900 "My Rotary" story feed, and the club's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn channels.

- Coordinated social posts and a co-branded thank-you message from Horizons Atlanta to its full donor and family list.
- Outreach to Buckhead-area neighborhood publications (Buckhead.com, Atlanta INtown, Reporter Newspapers) and to the Atlanta International School, Galloway and Temple communications team for inclusion in the school's parent newsletter.

Every print and digital asset will follow the Rotary brand standards (correct masterbrand lockup, approved color palette, and "People of Action" voice).

## Project Budget

The full \$2,000 District Community Grant will be applied to direct, project-specific costs. The Rotary Club of Buckhead will absorb all incidental administrative costs (printing, mileage, planning meeting refreshments, etc.) and will solicit in-kind contributions from members where appropriate. Any cost overruns will be funded by the club's service account; any unspent funds will be returned to the District per the grant Memorandum of Understanding.

Line Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Total
Student gift bags (books, school supplies, age-appropriate toy)	100	\$14.00	\$1,400.00
Santa Claus costume rental (professional grade w/ wig & beard)	1	\$175.00	\$175.00
Refreshments (cookies, hot chocolate, juice, water)	1 lot	\$250.00	\$250.00
Decorations (garland, lights, photo backdrop)	1 lot	\$100.00	\$100.00
Gift wrap, gift bags, tags & ribbon	1 lot	\$75.00	\$75.00
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT GRANT REQUEST</b>			<b>\$2,000.00</b>

**Funding Mix:** 100% Rotary District 6900 District Community Grant (\$2,000). The Rotary Club of Buckhead will additionally contribute an estimated \$500+ in in-kind value through volunteer time and member-donated wrapping supplies, and Horizons Atlanta will provide the AIS venue at no cost.

## Project Timeline

Date	Milestone
<b>July 1, 2026</b>	Grant award notification; project kickoff and committee formation.
<b>August 2026</b>	Coordinate with Horizons Atlanta and Atlanta International School staff to confirm date, headcount, and student wish-list categories.

Date	Milestone
<b>September 2026</b>	Open volunteer sign-ups at weekly Buckhead Rotary meetings; recruit Santa volunteer; reserve costume.
<b>November 2026</b>	Purchase gift inventory and conduct wrapping sessions. Finalize logistics: setup crew, photographers, refreshment team, gift distribution flow.
<b>Dec. 12, 2026 (tentative)</b>	Holiday party event held at Atlanta International School: Santa visit, gift distribution, refreshments, photos.
<b>January 2027</b>	Submit District Grant final report with receipts, photos, volunteer hours, and outcome narrative.

## Sustainability & Future Years

The Buckhead Rotary Club Board has approved this project as a candidate for an annual signature service event. After the 2026-2027 grant-funded edition, the club intends to partner with Horizons Atlanta and use operating budget resources to fund the event — rather than recurring district grant requests. Horizons Atlanta has confirmed enthusiastic interest in making the celebration an annual fixture on their calendar. The 2026 grant therefore catalyzes a recurring, club-funded tradition rather than creating ongoing dependence on District funding.

## Promotion of The Rotary Foundation

Buckhead Rotary will use this project as an active promotion of The Rotary Foundation in three ways:

- Every public-facing communication tied to the event will explicitly identify the celebration as funded by a District 6900 District Grant made possible by The Rotary Foundation.
- The club will give an update at a weekly meeting in January 2027 to a recap and impact report tied to a Foundation giving ask, with an Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) push.
- A short event-recap video featuring beneficiary testimonials (with proper permissions) will be shared with District 6900 and the Zone 33/34 communications team for broader Foundation storytelling.

## Required Compliance Statements

The Rotary Club of Buckhead acknowledges and affirms the following compliance items required for District 6900 District Grant approval:

- The club is current on all dues and Rotary Foundation reporting obligations to District 6900 and Rotary International.
- The club has completed (or will complete prior to award) the District 6900 Club Qualification process for the 2026-2027 Rotary year, including the required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the President and President-Elect.



- At least one member of the project committee has completed the District grant management training/quiz required by District 6900.
- The project does not involve any prohibited grant activity (no purchase of land, no building construction, no fundraising for other organizations, no purely promotional items, no support for partisan political activity).
- All gift items will be age-appropriate, non-alcoholic, non-religious, and consistent with Horizons Atlanta's program guidelines and AIS facility-use policies.
- A final report (with receipts, photos, attendance counts, and outcome narrative) will be submitted to the District 6900 Community Grants Chair within 60 days of the event, and no later than the District's published reporting deadline for the 2026-2027 Rotary year.



## **Authorization & Signatures**

By signing below, the undersigned officers of the Rotary Club of Buckhead certify that the information in this application is accurate; that the club has the organizational capacity to deliver the project as described; that grant funds will be used solely for the purposes outlined herein; and that the club agrees to all terms of the District 6900 District Grant Memorandum of Understanding.

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**Shelley Hammel, President**

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**Jeff Clark, President-Elect**

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**Miriam Falaki, Project Primary Contact (Rotarian)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_