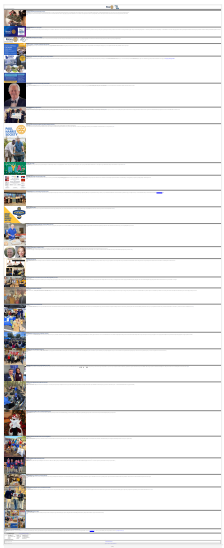
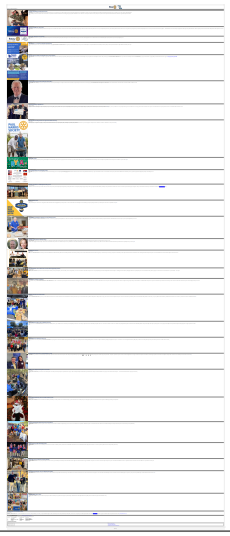
Rotary
District 6900



December 3, 2025





From Our District Governor

Celebrating the Holidays and the Spirit of Giving



I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family. This is a very exciting time of year as we head into holiday season. Most of you all are likely beginning to do lots of fun

stuff like: shop, prepare to travel, plan to attend/host holiday parties with your clubs and family and friends and of course, close out the year for work. I wish everyone an amazing holiday season!

I want to remind you all, on behalf of RI President Francesco, that December is Rotary's Disease Prevention and Treatment month. There are many global gaps in physical and mental health care access. As Rotarians, we can help out with these causes and keep driving towards a polio free world and help those with mental health needs with our investments, support and training. See the article below about grants available to help fight the opioid crisis.

Please remember to take advantage of year end (you can save on taxes) to review where you and your clubs are for foundation and polio plus giving and encourage any last month of the year giving so we can close out 2025 strong and begin our new calendar with great outlooks for the year. I also want to remind each of you that our friends in Jamaica still need any support you can provide. If you are able, kindly consider donating to District 7020 to help their country recover from the recent devastating Hurricane Melissa.

As we turn the corner to 2026, I want to remind you all to register for the April 16-19, 2026 District Conference at Lake Lanier! We have an amazing event planned.

I wish everyone, again, a great holiday season and a safe and Happy New Year!

Posted by Steve Ivory
November 29, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

Our Rotary Foundation is "Tops" Again!

by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair



Last month we got to share the successes of The Rotary Foundation and how fitting since it was

“Foundation” month. Therefore, we looked at the successes internally. This month we have the opportunity to celebrate the external successes as seen by others about us. Here is a great “Did you know?” question for you. Did you know The Rotary Foundation was honored with a “Four Star rating” which is the top rating a charity can receive from Charity Navigator for the 17th consecutive year? Charity Navigator is the independent charity evaluator in the country. Ratings are determined by Charity Navigator by a total examination of nonprofits specifically by how they use their funding, how they implement and sustain their programs and do they adhere to the industry’s standards related to transparency and accountability of the total organization.

Charity Navigator began providing their ratings in 2001 and have rated over 225,000 charities. As they state on their website, “The metrics inform donors of not just where their dollars are going but what their dollars are doing.

To be ranked in the top category is no small feat and to be there for 17 consecutive years says ab awful lot about our mission and the application of it but also speaks volumes about our consistency in achieving our goals and the standards we have set. Certainly, we can all be proud of this accomplishment. November was truly an outstanding month for the Foundation in our district, and we are well on the way to achieving annual goal for 2025-2026. Remember your contributions to the Foundation can be designated to either Polio Plus or the Annual Fund and both count toward your individual contributions. All of us working together makes a huge difference.

Let me change gears now and shift to a video I had the opportunity to view. The video is entitled, “Rotary’s fight against Polio: Global Progress and Updates from Pakistan.” There were three panelists on the video: Past President Rotary International John Germ, who is a friend of mine, Holger Knaack, also a Past President Rotary International, and Dr. Arshad Quddus of the World Health Organization. The video is moderated by Carol Pandak, the Director of PolioPlus. If you are new or newer to Rotary and would like to get a good understanding as to where we stand in the fight to eradicate Polio in the world, it is a must-see video. For those quite familiar with the fight, you won’t hear much by way of new information, but it will give you up to the minute numbers on where we are. Past President John reported as of November 11, 2025, that we have nine cases in Afghanistan and 30 cases in Pakistan of the wild-polio virus. In addition, there are 137 of what has now been labeled “the vaccine derived or the variant” most of which are in Africa giving a total of 176 worldwide, but that compares to 288 cases last year at this time, so the overall is a reduction of 39%. **You can view the video by clicking this link.**

They made sure to make the strong point of the tremendous partnerships we have in place today, the most significant being the partnership renewal with the Gates Foundation matching us $2 to $1. All of this is certainly good news for the fight and for leadership of the Rotary Foundation. So, the fight continues, but the prognosis is very good!! We’ll keep fighting together!

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
November 25, 2025

Opioid Crisis Abatement Grants Available

Rotary District 6900 | Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust

We are pleased to announce that the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust has provided our district with grant funding to help clubs do related projects in their communities. We have two projects to choose from, A Safe Drug Disposal Kiosk or an Overdose Rescue Box. Clubs can submit multiple grant requests (up to $5000) using our district grant application system. Here are the steps to get started:

1. Make sure your club is eligible for funding by checking the **Grant Eligibility Page**
2. **Visit the Opioid Grants page** to learn more about the projects & how to apply
3. Apply for an Opioid Grant(s) by December 31, 2025
4. Complete your opioid grant project by March 31, 2026

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Posted by Gordon Owens
November 26, 2025

Membership

"Discovery Rotary" - An Event for Prospective Rotarians Only

by Audley Knight, District Membership Chair



District 6900 is planning a special evening of networking, food and drinks (cash bar) to give **prospective Rotarians in the Greater Atlanta** area an opportunity to learn more about Rotary, and how to join, serve and make an impact in our Georgia communities. The event will take place on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Copelands of New Orleans - Vinings-Cumberland, GA from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Clubs in the Greater Atlanta area are invited to encourage their prospective members to join in this night of Rotary fellowship and connections - to help solidify their interest in joining our great organization! Prospective members can use this link to register to attend: **Register for Prospective Member Event.**

Invitations will be sent to potential Atlanta area members who are identified in Rotary International's leads platform - and to individuals your club asks to have added to the list._

Posted by Audley Knight
November 30, 2025

GRSP Update

GRSP International Summer School Opportunity for Georgia Students

GRSP
GEORGIA ROTARY STUDENT PROGRAM

DEADLINE: JANUARY 14 2026

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL 2026





GEORGIA RESIDENTS CAN APPLY TO STUDY IN NORWAY OR DENMARK FOR SUMMER 2026!

Study in Norway as part of the Oslo International Summer School (June 27-July 25) or study in Denmark at Aarhus University (July 1-July 25)

REQUIREMENTS

- Georgia Resident age 20-24 and single
- Current Undergraduate College Student
- Completed 1st year of College by Spring 26
- In good health and good academic standing

WWW.GRSP.ORG

Georgia residents who are enrolled in college are encouraged to apply for GRSP's 2026 International Summer School Scholarships. Georgia Rotary Student Program is proud to extend a total of four summer

scholarships to Georgia college students. Two scholarships will be awarded to study in Norway as part of the **Oslo International Summer School** (June 27-July 25, 2026) and two scholarships to Denmark at **Aarhus University** (July 1-July 25, 2026). The deadline to apply is January 14, 2026 for Summer Session 2026. To apply, visit **www.grsp.org/other-opportunities.**

Students must have a valid passport. Applications will be reviewed and all applicants will be notified by the end of January 2026.

GRSP International Summer School Opportunity Requirements:

- Georgia residents
- Undergraduate college students
- Have completed their first year of college by the end of Spring Semester 2026
- Be between the ages of 20 and 24
- Not married or engaged
- In good health
- In good academic standing
- Willing to serve as an ambassador for Georgia Rotarians
- Applicants will need to be endorsed by a member of a Georgia Rotary Club
- Applicants will need to be endorsed by a College/University Representative

Norway Scholarship includes round-trip airfare to and from Atlanta and Norway, undergraduate coursework, administered by the University of Oslo, room, board and administrative fees for the International Summer School at the University of Oslo. School includes students from all over the world in a diverse cultural program in the beautiful city of Oslo, Norway with four weeks of academic achievement and international goodwill.

Denmark Scholarship includes undergraduate coursework, administered by the Aarhus University, room, board and administrative fees for the International Summer School at the Aarhus. The Denmark Scholarship does not include airfare.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
December 2, 2025

Rotary Youth Exchange

RYE Welcomes New District 6900 Leadership Team Members



Mike Irvin (Rotary Club of Dunwoody) has requested to step down as District 6900 Chair for Rotary Youth Exchange due to compliance restrictions around Financial Advisors serving in fiduciary roles. District Governor Steve Ivory has appointed **Bob MacDonald (Rotary Club of Johns Creek North Fulton)** to serve as the new District 6900 Chair.

Mike's dedication and service to Rotary Youth Exchange have been invaluable, and we deeply appreciate his contributions in advancing the program. He remains committed to its growth and will continue serving on the district board as Associate Chair, allowing us to focus more on our support for club YEOs and Counselors.

Bob is a retired Investment Advisor and former CEO and Private Equity executive. He first joined Rotary in 1995 in South Carolina and became a member of Rotary Johns Creek North Fulton in 2014. Bob served as Club President in 2017–2018 and was honored as Rotarian of the Year in 2023–2024. He has been deeply involved in Rotary's Youth Exchange program, serving as his Club's Youth Exchange Officer before becoming District 6900 Outbound Coordinator in 2023 then Inbound Coordinator in 2024. Bob and his wife, Teri, live in Johns Creek. They are proud parents of two adult children and grandparents to three grandchildren, all residing in the Atlanta area

We are also pleased to welcome two new leaders:

- Ann O'Connor, our new Inbound Coordinator. Ann has been a longtime supporter of the Youth Exchange. Her son Henry was one of our district's first outbound exchange students, and she has also served as a host family—bringing valuable perspective to her new role.
- Kelly Caudle, our new Outbound Coordinator. Kelly previously served as Counselor for the **Rotary Club of Decatur** and brings tremendous energy and fresh insight to the program.

District 6900 Youth Exchange Board Members

- Bob MacDonald: District Chair
- Steve Ivory: District Vice Chair
- Mike Irvin: Associate Chair

- Ann O'Connor: Inbound Coordinator
- Kelly Caudle: Outbound Coordinator
- Micheal Stimpert: Youth Protection Officer & District Finance Chair
- Dr. Bill Adcox: Consulting Physician
- Kathy Finn: District Advisor
- Marcus Justice: District Advisor
- Kari Kirkley: District Advisor

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
November 30, 2025

CART Contribution Update

Small Change Making a Big Difference



The mission of the CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) Fund is to raise seed money for bold, early-stage Alzheimer's research—ideas that might otherwise go unfunded but have the potential to unlock breakthroughs in prevention, treatment, and ultimately, a cure. CART is unique in that 100% of all donations go directly to Alzheimer's research, empowering scientists to gather the initial data needed to secure major grants and advance innovative discoveries. In June 2025, the CART Fund announced six grant recipients were awarded a total of $2 million in funds for Alzheimer's research.

What began as Rotarians contributing pocket change at weekly meetings has grown into a powerful grassroots movement. And once again, our clubs are showing how small acts of generosity can create big impact.

Current Club Contributions

- **Americus:** $161.24
- **East Cobb:** $481.80
- **Henry County:** $154.02
- **Marietta Metro:** $1,313.98
- **Muscogee County:** $295.00
- **Peachtree City:** $1,498.84
- **Sandy Springs:** $496.06
- **Stone Mountain:** $50.00

Total of These Contributions: $4,450.94

These gifts add momentum to last year's impressive **2024–2025 CART giving total of $22,989**, proving once again that every donation—large or small—moves us closer to ending Alzheimer's.

Keep the Momentum Going

Let's continue to support CART with the generosity and energy that define our Rotary clubs. Every coin counts, every dollar makes a difference, and together we can fuel the research that brings hope to millions.

For more information or to get your club more involved, contact N**ancy Alterman -** by email at *nancyhalterman8@gmail.com* or phone at *770-262-6300*

Together, we can change the world—one coin at a time.

Posted by Nancy Alterman
November 19, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

Make the Season of Giving Last All Year Long with the Paul Harris Society



With the holidays upon us, thoughts turn to gift giving, entertaining and New Year's Resolutions. We can't help with your gift list or holiday entertaining, but we CAN help with those resolutions.

In 2026, why not resolve to help those less fortunate here at home and around the world? A commitment

to the Paul Harris Society (PHS) can make that an easy resolution to keep. Members of the Paul Harris Society commit to giving $1,000 annually to further the humanitarian, educational and cultural work of our Rotary Foundation.

We asked two D6900 Rotarians why they made the decision to become PHS members:

I made the commitment to the Paul Harris Society so that I can help Rotary make an ongoing, consistent and sustainable difference in the lives of others who are less fortunate. Since joining Rotary, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that can be made to improve our communities. Dan Jenkins, Rotary Club of North Fulton

I became a member of the Paul Harris Society because of the power of the marching grant program, expanding the reach and impact donations can make to address priority needs around the world. Steve Gillard, Past President, Rotary Club of Alpharetta

The Rotary Foundation makes a difference, every day of the year, every year! Why not join us in 2026? And however you celebrate, we wish you peace, joy and love this holiday season and beyond!

Posted by Lauri Young
November 25, 2025

RYLA Update

Give the Gift of RYLA



'Tis the season to be jolly and joyful and merry and to enjoy all the fun things that come with the holidays. And if you are in the gift-giving mood and can't decide what to get for that future leader teenager in your

life… give the gift of RYLA!!

RYLA 2026 will be held June 6-10 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The cost per student is $500, and this covers all necessary expenses related to attending RYLA. For any students riding our charter buses from the Atlanta area, there is an additional $50/per student cost. But this is a small price to pay for the life-changing experiences waiting for your student at RYLA – and no gift wrapping required!

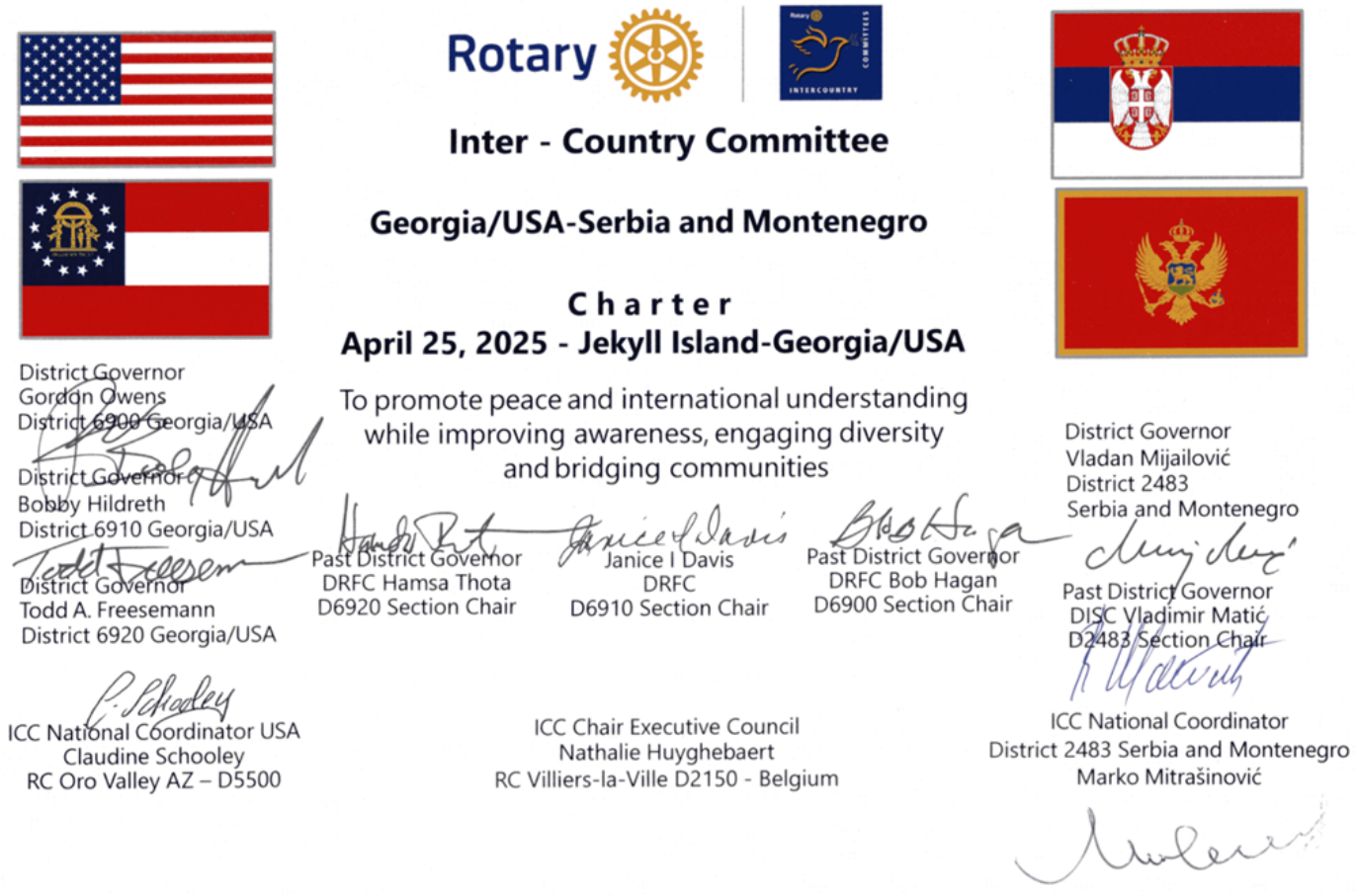
If you and your club want to get in on all the great things that come along with sponsoring a student to RYLA, use one of the following routes to send in your RSVP:

- Use this link to complete our RSVP online: _**https://forms.gle/SsLFt1wFuW38UgPk8**
- Visit our page to download the forms: **www.rotary6900.org/page/656**_
- Email us at **RYLA6900@gmail.com**

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
November 26, 2025

Rotary Friendship Exchange

Why You Might Benefit from Participating in RFE



Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) is one of Rotary International's oldest but often lesser-known programs. It's essentially a **reciprocal exchange program** where Rotarians (and often their families) from one country visit Rotarians in another country or region, and then host them in return.

Belonging to a Rotary Inter-Country Committee (ICC) offers Rotarians a unique opportunity to promote international understanding, collaboration, and peace. Rotary has always emphasized global service, but ICCs strengthen this mission by connecting clubs from different countries and encouraging long-term partnerships. Members who participate in these committees gain both personal and professional benefits while making meaningful contributions to global goodwill.

District 6900 now has these two excellent programs in place. Last year, our PDG Gordon Owens and the PDGs of district 6910 and 6920 signed the ICC Charter with Serbia and Montenegro. (see charter document). This is a great way for clubs to be part of global grants. A partnership is already in place. All clubs need to do is plug in!

One key benefit is **cross-cultural exchange**. Through an ICC, Rotarians build friendships with members in other countries, learn about different cultures, and develop a clearer understanding of global issues

Another major benefit is the ability to **collaborate on impactful service projects**. ICCs help clubs from different countries combine resources, expertise, and manpower to address shared challenges.

The Rotary Friendship Exchange is a cultural exchange that builds international goodwill and peace. Participants live in Rotarians' homes (not hotels), so it's very personal and community-focused. Exchanges can be **individuals, couples, or groups** (typically 4–12 people).

The goals are to build cross-cultural understanding and friendships, strengthen club and district partnerships, lay foundations for future **service projects, grants, or youth programs**, and offer Rotarians authentic cultural immersion while traveling.

This is a great way to travel at low cost (lodging and many meals provided by hosts), see countries "through Rotary eyes," beyond tourism, and build lifelong friendships and sometimes professional connections. Most importantly it can spark joint international projects funded by **Rotary Foundation Global Grants**.

How to get involved in these amazing programs?!?! Send an email to the district 6900 RFE chair, Ada Wikina (awikina@hotmail.com . Let us make this happen.

Posted by Ada Wikina
November 19, 2025

RLI

Celebrating Excellence in Leadership and Learning at RLI



On November 8, Columbus Technical College in Columbus, GA became the center of Rotary learning and leadership development during the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) event. This impactful gathering brought together Rotary members eager to expand their skills and knowledge, culminating in a day of achievement and celebration. '

Beyond the formal sessions and recognitions, participants had the opportunity to network with peers and mentors, share ideas, and build lasting relationships that will support their ongoing leadership journeys. The collaborative spirit throughout the day encouraged both new and experienced members to actively engage in the Rotary mission, deepening their understanding of service and leadership while forging connections that extend beyond the event itself.

- **Graduations and Achievements:** The event saw 25 Rotary members proudly graduating with certificates for successfully completing Parts 1 and 2 of the RLI curriculum, as well as the advanced Facilitation Techniques Graduate Class. This accomplishment marks a significant milestone for each participant, recognizing their commitment to both personal and organizational growth.
- **Stellar Discussion Leaders:** The day was enriched by the expertise and dedication of an outstanding group of Discussion Leaders. These leaders shared invaluable insights about Rotary and leadership, fostering engaging dialogue and practical learning experiences. The Discussion Leaders included: **D6900 Past District Governor (PDG) Cheryl Greenway, D6900 Past RLI Chair Elwyn Gassert, RLI Sunshine Division Chair Stephanie Windham, D6900 Executive Secretary Mandy Timmons, D6900 Membership Chair Audley Knight, and D6900 RLI Chair Tracy Van Norman**. Their collective wisdom and commitment to Rotary ideals inspired participants to take their leadership journey to new heights.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Leadership Development:** Throughout the event, a wealth of knowledge was conveyed—covering Rotary principles, effective leadership strategies, and facilitation techniques. The interactive sessions enabled participants to learn from seasoned leaders and each other, strengthening connections within the Rotary community.

The Rotary Leadership Institute event at Columbus Technical College was a resounding success, marked by enthusiastic participation, dedicated instruction, and meaningful achievement. Congratulations to all graduates and heartfelt appreciation to the Discussion Leaders whose service exemplifies the spirit of Rotary leadership.

Looking ahead, District 6900 RLI has two upcoming events soon. On January 10, 2026, an event is

scheduled in Thomasville, GA at Southern Regional Technical College. Parts 1, 2, 3, and a Graduate class will be offered. And on February 21, 2026, RLI will hold an event at Life College in Marietta. Parts 1, 2, 3, and a Graduate class will be offered. Anyone interested in registering for either or both of these events can go to www.rlisunshine.org/registration.

Lastly, all of us on the RLI team want to wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday season. Peace!

PHOTOS:

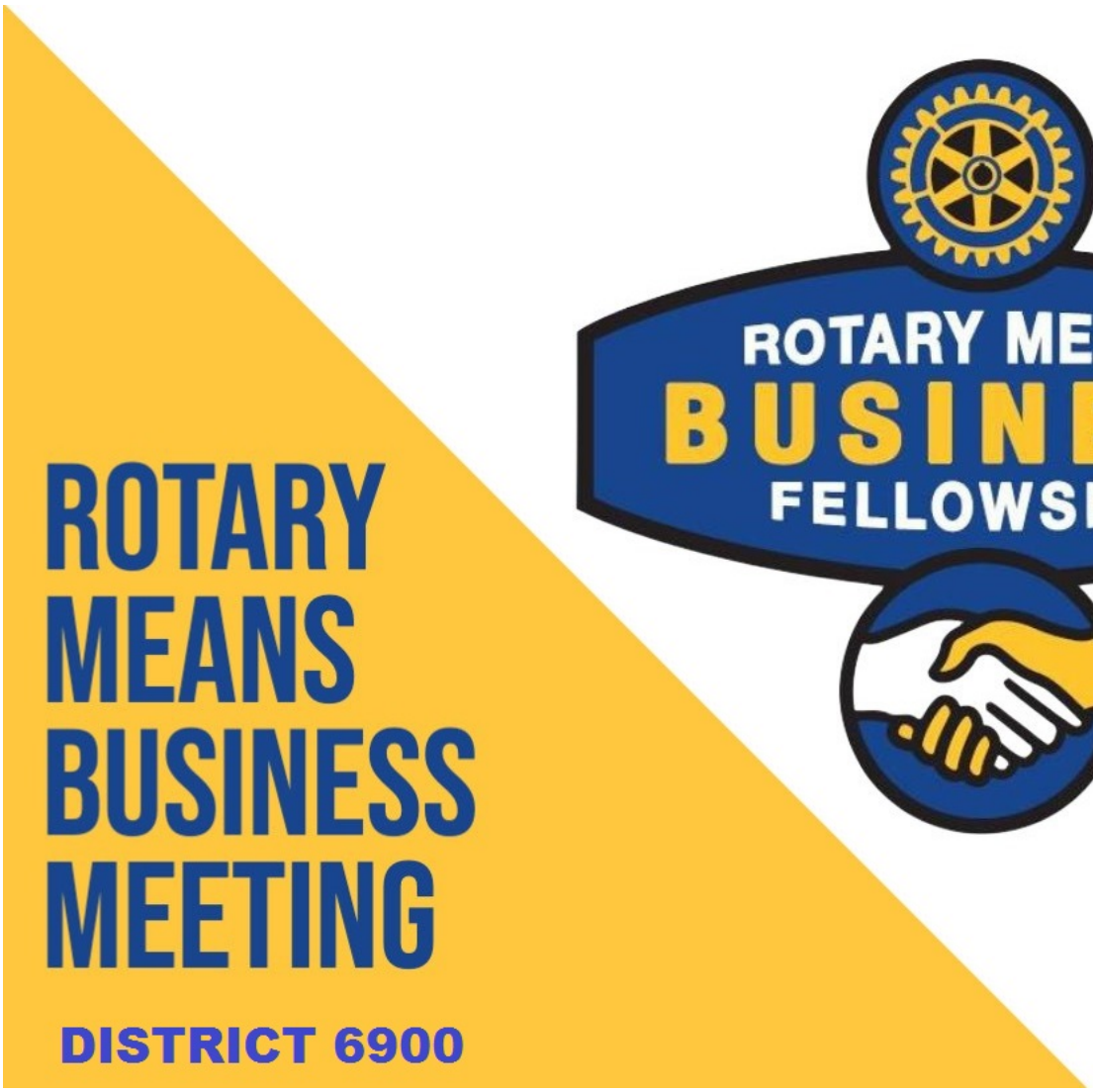




Posted by Tracy Van Norman
November 26, 2025

Rotary Means Business

Hope to See You in 2026



Rotary Means Business plans to be back in 2026 - with opportunities to make business connections while enjoying fellowship one evening a month. Carter Stout leads this initiative, and is still looking for four or five additional people to help with planning our activities. If you're interested, please contact Carter at cstout@stoutkaiser.com

Posted by Carter Stout
November 30, 2025

Club News

Congratulations and Thanks to Bob Evans - 50 Years of Rotary Service!



Congratulations to **Bob Evans of the Rotary Club of Cordele** on his December 1, 50th Anniversary of joining Rotary! Bob exemplifies Service Above Self in his commitment to community, family, banking, and Rotary! Bob is shown here serving on the kitchen crew at Back to School Days last August. He has served as Club Foundation Chair for the last several years.

Posted by Caroline Fielding
December 1, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

Celebrating North Fulton's Foundation Giving





This incredible under-50 member club that got its start in 2000 continues to excel, inspiring generosity like few others. Foundation giving is a vital, self-less, and often difficult task that makes our grants possible. And North Fulton Rotarians have donated more than $900,000 to the Annual Fund in just 25 years as a club!

Foundation Chair Doug Higgins, President Erik Bykat, and District Grants Chair Mike Mudd recently announced two new members of the Bequest Society: Club President Elect Dan Jenkins (his $50,000 Bequest leads the District) and Past President and Assistant Governor Joy Manbeck. This is after North Fulton Past President Richard Matherly committed the District's largest Bequest last year at $50,000.

North Fulton has achieved:

- Top ten per capita Club in District 6900 the last 20 years
- $908,000 in all time giving to the Annual Fund
- $478 per capita giving in 2024-25
- Multiple Global Grant service projects

What is the Bequest Society? It allows deferred giving – committing to leave $10,000 or more in your estate plans. Above $25,000 allows a named, permanent fund - for example, "the Dan Jenkins Better World Fund." Each year the earnings go to the donor's designated area. It's easy. Email lee@leehollingsworth.com, or bhagan@sterling-health.com for more information.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth

November 26, 2025

Club News

Roswell Honors Veterans



Without a doubt, **Roswell Rotary Club** loves celebrating our local and remote hometown heroes. With November being National Veterans and Military Families Month, and DG Steve Ivory focusing on services for Veterans, RRC President Trummie Lee Patrick III saw an opportunity to coordinate a three-peat service project. We packed 100 boxes for Naval personnel on ships around the world the first week of November, honored an amazing veteran with an entrepreneurial spirit the second week of November and the third week we stuffed backpacks for local homeless veterans.

Twice a year we pack boxes for an active military group that has a connection to Roswell or an RRC member. Championed by RRC long-time member Ralph Rowland, the members are asked to not only donate specifically requested items through an Amazon Wishlist but also stay after to pack, tape and

address the boxes. This year the 100 boxes were done in about 30 minutes because all meeting attendees were invited to participate. The committee had organized the pickup line so each person who picked up a box, grabbed one of each item with a note from Roswell Rotary ***and*** a local Interact Club student was on top. The filled box then moved to the taping/addressing table and stacked on a palate ready to be delivered to the USPS. It takes a village and an organized team, but the engagement of all is the magic that is Roswell Rotary Club.

New RRC member Retired Lt Colonel Michael Mizell, introduced RRC President Patrick to Veteran Chris Cathers, Founder and CEO of the Brothers Keeper Veteran Foundation. We honored Cathers as our November Hometown Hero and, a week later, we stuffed backpacks for homeless veterans at our New Member Social that were paid for with a secured Rotary District Grant! Sponsored by long-time RRC member and fellow retired Army Veteran Roger Wise, Mizell is a full-time champion for veterans through his volunteer position with Path Light Counseling Services as Director of Community Veterans Outreach. **https://pathlightga.org/**

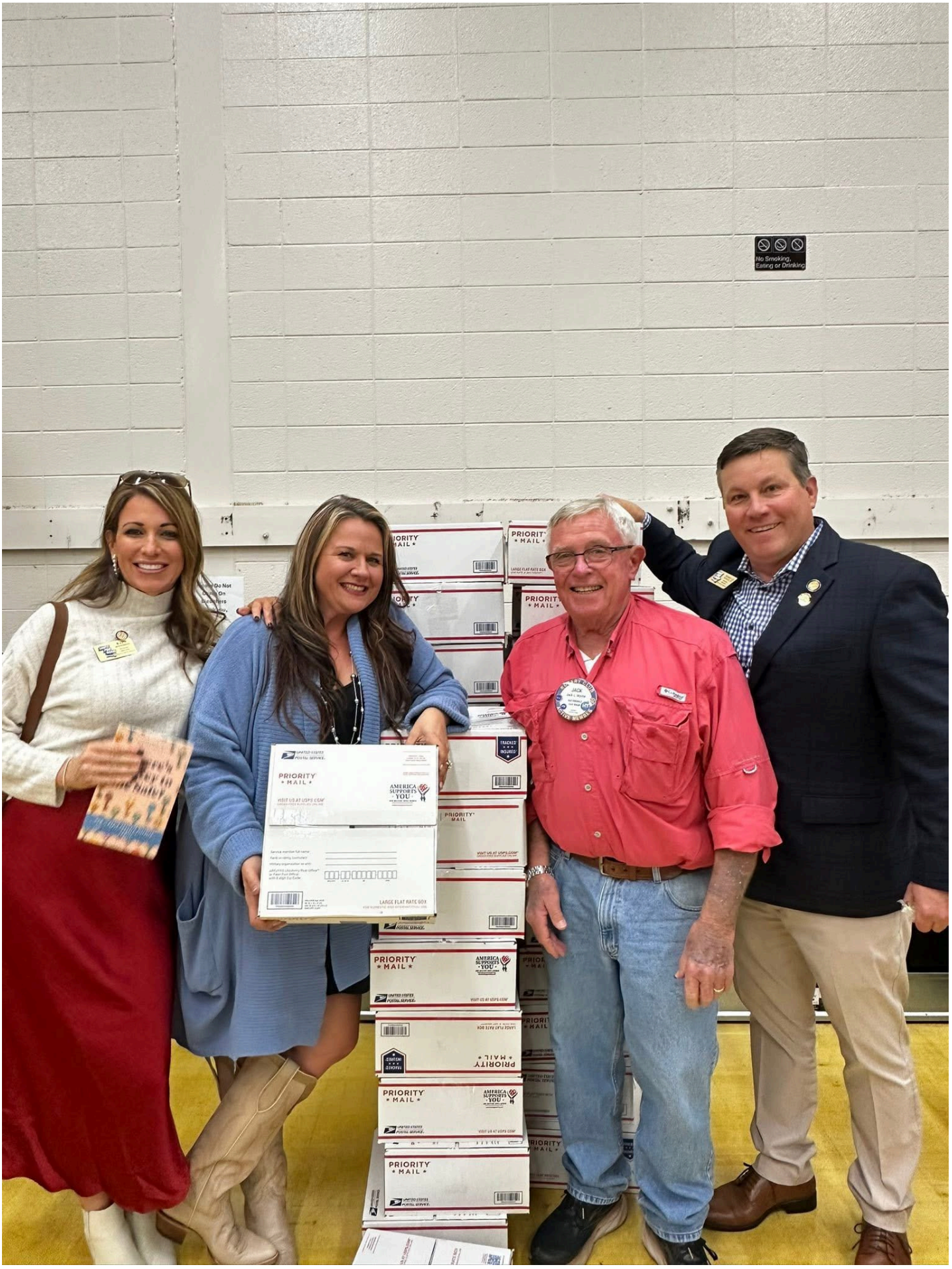
Cathers is literally walking inspiration in human-form. Diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, the Brothers Keeper Foundation was created out of a desperate sense of providing help for veterans in need with no barriers to a solution. With a life enriched by experiences in the Special Forces and CIA, Chris has faced formidable challenges of his own, battling both PTSI and cancer. These trials ignited a deep personal determination to challenge the stigma surrounding mental health issues and to establish a proactive veteran-focused outreach program. His transformative story stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of the human heart. Established in 2020, the Brothers Keeper Veterans Foundation is proof of that commitment by providing a robust network of support to ensure these individuals receive the care and understanding they deserve without exception. **https://bkvf.org/**

Having inducted 25 new members into RRC since July 1, President Patrick realized he had to keep them! Inviting all new members in the last two years as well as the board members past, present and future, he hosted a New Member Potluck at his home. Serving his signature smoked pork-butt bbq, side dishes filled the tables for about 75 guests. It was a great night of fellowship, introductions and deeper connections with a mission: To stuff backpacks for homeless veterans that Mizell and his team will be able to distribute across the streets of metro-Atlanta.

PHOTOS:




UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
PRIORITY MAIL
LARGE FLAT RATE BOX
TRACKED • INSURED
AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU


No Smoking,
Eating or Drinking
PRIORITY MAIL
AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU
LARGE FLAT RATE BOX

Posted by Becky Nelson
November 26, 2025

Club News

East Cobb Club Puts "Service Above Self" into Action with Inaugural Day of Service



The **Rotary Club of East Cobb** recently showcased the transformative power of community action during its inaugural Day of Service on Saturday, October 25. Living out Rotary's core value of "Service Above Self," club members came together to lead a variety of impactful projects and make a meaningful difference in their own backyard.

Spearheaded by Service Projects Chair and Past President Ken Crowell, the day exemplified the strength of collaboration. Partnering with the East Cobb Home Depot, Rotarians revitalized the flower gardens at East Cobb Park. Across town, members tapped into their creative skills to paint signs for Kidz2Leaders, a nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of generational incarceration.

Addressing food insecurity was another key focus, as members planted edible gardens at the Center for Children & Young Adults, supporting the organization's sustainable food initiatives. The spirit of service extended even further with the preparation of more than 200 lunches for The Table on Delk, a ministry aiding at-risk homeless women and children in the heart of East Cobb. Local business owner and Past President Butch Carter hosted a mobile blood drive at his business, Honest-1 Auto Care, providing a way for the community to participate in the day.

After a morning of hard work, members came together to celebrate their collective accomplishments.

"Seeing our members out in the community – beautifying parks, supporting nonprofits, and stepping in wherever help was needed – was a tremendous success," said Club President Liz Myers. "It's a powerful

reminder of what Service Above Self truly means."

The success of the East Cobb Rotary Club’s Day of Service underscores how a committed group can drive significant and positive change. With plans to make this an annual tradition, their efforts stand as an inspiring example of Rotary’s mission in action.

PHOTOS:


VOLUNTEER
ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL





Posted by Whitney Higdon
November 9, 2025

Club News

Honoring Polio Eradication Champions



In honor of World Polio Day, the **Rotary Clubs of Atlanta Southern Cresent/Clifton Emory** held a dinner at Chai Pani in honor of polio champions who have dedicated their lives to eradicating polio as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The Club was humbled and honored to be in the presence of several global polio champions who were in town for high level strategy meetings, including Dr. Hemant Shukla and Dr. Mufti Zubair Wadood. They shared their experiences on the frontlines of polio eradication in the most remote parts of the world and the immense efforts and dedication that polio workers share globally towards a polio-free world.

Posted by Claudia Mertl
November 30, 2025

Club News

Brookhaven Works Local Farmers Market



This fall, the B**rookhaven Rotary Club** was proud to be a part of the Brookhaven Farmers Market, where members dedicated their time to man a booth focused on collecting food donations for a great cause. The Brookhaven Rotary Club invited market-goers and community members to stop by, donate, and learn more about the important work being done at the Suther's Center Food Pantry and the Rotary Club. Visitors to the market found Rotary Club volunteers on hand, ready to accept non-perishable food items and monetary contributions to benefit the Suther's Center Food Pantry, a vital resource for families in need within Brookhaven.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Judith Fuller
November 11, 2025

Club News

Americus Holds Successful Unity in Community Peace Day



On Saturday, October 25, the **Americus Rotary Club** kicked off its first Unity in Community Peace Day - a day of celebration, reflection, and creativity. The free, family-friendly event invited the entire community to gather under the theme: “One Community, Many Voices, Shared Peace.” The event was the brainchild of the club’s Peace Committee, and the planning team was hopeful that the theme would resonate with community members. Not only were these hopes met, but they were greatly surpassed, as over 275 people poured into Rylander Park to spend the afternoon together with people they knew, and people they had never met before.

Peace Day began with a symbolic peace march, bringing together faith leaders and residents who walked in together from across the city, converging at the Rotary Peace Pole in Rylander Park. These faith leaders, representing the diversity of our community, addressed pressing community challenges - such as violence and poverty - and encouraged attendees to be part of the solution.

Community organizations, businesses and churches hosted hands-on peace activities for adults and youth alike. Kindness conversations, peace pledges, friendship bracelet-making and conflict resolution games took place alongside service projects to benefit area seniors living in nursing homes. Local service-based nonprofit organizations hosted information tables to raise awareness about free resources that are available to support individuals and families. An array of cultural performances highlighted the diverse

backgrounds of community members and kept the crowd engaged and entertained throughout the afternoon; West African drumming, an area elementary school chorus, a youth praise dance team, a group participation cultural journey that taught attendees dances from around the world, and a church group of folk/gospel musicians. Other activities that both adults and kids enjoyed were face painting, learning to make dreamcatchers, painting kindness rocks, and storytelling. Area vendors were also on hand showcasing artistic, culinary, and fun creations.

In addition to free hot dogs donated and cooked on-site by the Americus Fire Department, area civic groups and churches provided free drinks, chips, and snacks . Area businesses provided freshly made popcorn, cotton candy, and coffee. Area vendors were on hand showcasing artistic, culinary, and fun creations.

“Peace isn’t just a concept - it’s something we build together, moment by moment,” said Laura McConatha, Peace Chair and Service Chair of the Americus Rotary Club. “This festival was a joyful reminder that when we show up with open hearts, we can create something truly powerful - a stronger, more compassionate community.”

PHOTOS:





Posted by Angela Smith
November 26, 2025

Club News

Dunwoody Gives New Meaning to Turkey Trot



Partnering with others in the Dunwoody community, the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** once again supported the creation of Harvest Baskets for 85 needy families at a local elementary school. Our participation includes some funding AND being on-hand to load baskets for recipients on distribution day. But perhaps the highlight is the "turkey trot" - not a 5K race but rather a run through the local Publix to buy holiday turkeys - because there's a two-turkey limit for any one buyer. So Dunwoody gathered its crew and ran back and forth with turkeys a week or so before Thanksgiving, and a day or two before basket distribution.

The baskets are designed to feed a family for at least a week - with breakfast and lunch items in addition to all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner.

Thanks especially to Anita and Charlie Augello and their family for leading our efforts for several years!

PHOTOS:


ENGELMAN'S
ENGELMAN'S
ENGELMAN'S
BAKERY
KEEP FROZEN


RunBunweedy



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
November 26, 2025

Bainbridge Shares Information on Georgia HEART Tax Credit



It is not often that we get to decide how our tax dollars are spent. Did you know your Georgia state income taxes can be sent back to Hospitals in need? Through the Georgia HEART Hospital Program, you can Help Enhance Access to Rural Treatment by directing your state tax dollars to support a hospital's mission.

Why Choose the HEART Tax Credit?

Georgia is the only state that empowers its residents to transform tax payments into direct support for rural healthcare. This support has strengthened our ability to deliver critical services to our community and boost local healthcare resources. We will work with you to ensure that the process of participating in this program is entirely without any downside to you. This program is a gift to our community, and your involvement will help it reach its full potential. *You are our most important group of participants.* In essence, the program significantly supports our hospitals' financial stability. At this moment there is $35M in tax credits available that will go back to the state if not used toward a qualifying hospital.

Now is the Time to Contribute:

Individual taxpayers may make unlimited contributions to eligible rural hospitals for a corresponding 100% Georgia income tax credit. C Corporation, Trust, or Pass-Through Entity choosing to pay tax at the entity level can contribute up to 75% of annual Georgia tax liability and may be able to take that amount as a federal deduction as well.

- **Did you know?** If you or your spouse is an owner of a Pass-Through Entity choosing to pay tax at the entity level, you are eligible to contribute twice to Georgia HEART: Once as a Pass-Through Entity choosing to pay tax at the entity level, as well as at the individual level.

Contributing is easy! Watch this 60 second video to find out more.

Act Now to Reserve Your 2025 Credit!

Credits are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so reserve your spot today by visiting https://link.edgepilot.com/s/0f481b6f/WcUPtP2zW0SSxLKhXH1--A?u=http://www.georgiaheart.org/. Completing the HEART tax credit application takes less than a minute, and the Georgia HEART team will handle the rest – from submitting your application to the Georgia Department of Revenue to providing your tax receipt after your contribution is made.

Thank you for choosing to support us through your 2025 HEART tax credit application – your participation makes a real difference!

Posted by Jamie Sinko
November 30, 2025

Club News

Peachtree City Completes Sensory Path in Record Time


PREMIUM
WOOD MULCH
2
CU FT

The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** is proud to announce the successful completion of a new Sensory Path for its grant recipient, Camp Southern Ground. The project, aimed at enhancing the therapeutic amenities of the campus, will serve veterans, campers, and families who utilize the facility.

The installation of the Sensory Path was originally estimated to be a six-hour labor-intensive project. However, in a display of remarkable efficiency and teamwork, Rotarian volunteers rallied to complete the entire installation in just two hours.

The expedited timeline provided an immediate benefit: veterans and their families visiting the campus were able to utilize the new path that very same afternoon.

"I am incredibly proud of our volunteers for getting the job done so quickly," said Chavdar Zradkov, President of the Rotary Club of Peachtree City. "To take a project estimated for six hours and finish it in two speaks to the dedication and work ethic of this club. It was a joy to see the path ready for use immediately."

This initiative directly supports the vision of District Governor Steve Ivory and his focus on supporting "Service Heroes." By enhancing the facilities at Camp Southern Ground, the Rotary Club is directly serving the military and veteran families that the camp supports throughout the year.

About Camp Southern Ground

During summer, Camp Southern Ground hosts campers for week-long residential camps. For the remaining weeks of the year, the organization supports military and veteran families, and partners with proven organizations that host remarkable programs at the state-of-the-art facility. Additionally, the facility can be leased for retreats, corporate events, and galas.

As an inclusive camp, Camp Southern Ground serves children ages 7-17, from all socioeconomic backgrounds, races, and religions, with programs that challenge, educate, and inspire. They bring together typically developing children, children with neurodevelopmental differences, children from underserved areas, and children from military and veteran families. The organization believes that by including as many children as possible, they create a stronger community that can learn and grow together.

PHOTOS:


CAMP SOUTHERN GROUND
WARRIOR WEEK
eachy


END POLIO NOW


CLEMSON



Posted by Jason Aldrich
November 19, 2025

Club News

South Cobb Spreads Holiday Cheer for Sanders Elementary Kids



The **Rotary Club of South Cobb** is excited to host its Annual Sanders Elementary Christmas Party on Saturday, December 11! This cherished tradition brings joy to underserved children in our community with a day full of holiday magic.

Santa Claus will be on hand to greet each child, listen to their Christmas wishes, and share a special

moment together. While waiting to meet Santa, the children will enjoy a delicious lunch and festive activities.

Every child will leave with a bag filled with Christmas gifts, generously provided by our South Cobb Rotarians. Their smiles and excitement remind us why this event is so special year after year.

Thank you to all our members for making this celebration possible and for your continued dedication to serving our community.

Merry Christmas from the South Cobb Rotary Club!
"*Service Above Self*"

Posted by Connie Bullock
November 19, 2025

Club News

Fayetteville Rotarians Win Main Street Scarecrow Competition!



The **Rotary Club of Fayetteville** brought home a big win this month after being voted the First-Place Winner in the Main Street Fayetteville Pop-Up Scarecrow Contest! A team of enthusiastic and crafty Rotarians, Michelle Bennet-Copeland, Dr. Alvetta Thomas, Shawn Elzie, Vickie Butler, and Tish Williams worked together to design and build our Rotary-themed scarecrow at the Fayette County Public Library, displaying both creativity and classic Rotary spirit. Community members visited Downtown Fayetteville throughout the week to vote, and Rotarians were proud to say their entry took the top honors. This fun project was an opportunity not only to showcase Rotary but also to remind the community that service can be joyful, artistic, and full of personality. Thank you to all Rotarians who helped design, build, and promote our scarecrow!

Posted by Laura Weishaar
November 20, 2025

Club News

Buckhead Rotarians Shine This Holiday Season



Buckhead Rotary truly shines when we pair our fundraising efforts with hands-on service. Thanks to our members' generosity, we funded 50 Elf on the Shelf Plushee Pals® and with a one-for-one match from The Lumistella Company (The Elf on the Shelf®), we were able to provide every student and teacher at the Boyce Ansley School with a toy.

A few of Santa's elves delivered joy and cheer to the 94 students at the school, all on Santa's nice list from kindergarten through 5th grade. Buckhead Rotarians were greeted with cheers, grateful smiles, and even a few questions about when Santa might be stopping by.

Thanks to Buckhead Rotarian elves, Jim and Anne Breedlove, Jeff Clark, and our newest member, Carl Wiljelm who took the North Pole Express (MARTA) to join the festivities. And a special shout out to our Chief Elf, Miriam Falaki, for packing the sleigh, coordinating with Rudolf and the other reindeer, securing

the Plushee Pals® from Santa and his toy makers, The Lumistella Company, and making this day a holly-jolly fun time for the children.

The mission of the Boyce L. Ansley School is to help children and families break the cycle of generational poverty by providing a tuition-free, private education and comprehensive support services to children experiencing homelessness. The school focuses on providing a complete academic program alongside collaborative family support to empower families to thrive beyond their current circumstances.

Buckhead Rotarians found a meaningful way to give back and brighten the holidays for these students.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Shelley Hammell
November 21, 2025

Club News

North Cobb: Serving Community, Welcoming Members



The **North Cobb Rotary Club** has been busy on many fronts during the last month with several projects benefiting the local community and one for the women and children of Nigeria.

- **Pad A Girl Project | Creating a Sustainable Future for Young Girls:** Club International Service Chair Lao hosted a tea party to help fund the Pad-a-Girl project, which provides women and girls in Nigeria with the tools to make reusable feminine hygiene products. You can support the effort as well by purchasing a raffle ticket for a chance to win $1,000 off a cruise.
- **Forever Fed:** During this time of uncertainty and rising food insecurity, North Cobb Rotarians joined with prospective members and a local church group to package food for local families in need. As cars drove around the Depot in Kennesaw, they were greeted by friendly Rotarians who loaded a box of food into each vehicle to help offset monthly grocery expenses. The service project supported more than 70 families.
- **AED for the City of Kennesaw | Our Grant Dollars At Work:** The club used its community grant funding to purchase and stock a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to be stored on the City of Kennesaw's event vehicle. Although we hope it never has to be used, this AED has the potential to save the lives of community members who may experience an emergency while attending a city event. NCRC is committed to making our communities safer through everyday actions such as this.
- **Foster Friendly - Georgia Kids Belong | Supporting the Case for Foster Families:** The club sponsored and attended the Foster Friendly event at the Acworth Community Center to learn more about foster families, this underserved community, and ways to get engaged.
- **Honoring Our Service Heroes:** What a great morning to celebrate our North Cobb Rotary veterans. From left to right: Dan Kirk, U.S. Marines; Bob Hovey, U.S. Army; Brian Moore, U.S. Army; Rick Shumpert, U.S. Navy; Bob Johnson, U.S. Army; Kevin Mitchell, U.S. Navy; and Lee Pence, U.S. Army. Not pictured: Glenn Reese, U.S. Air Force; Jon Allen, U.S. Air Force; Charles Evans, U.S. Navy; and Bruce Goddard, U.S. Navy. NCRC hosted a roundtable discussion with our veterans to thank them for their service and to hear their stories, which they graciously shared with the club.
- **Men's Extension Dinner | Serving Thanksgiving Dinner with our Community:** Continuing our

monthly service project with The Extension, North Cobb Rotary Club members cook, serve, and share a meal with program participants. Members sit alongside participants to listen, learn, and connect. Breaking bread together creates space for deeper understanding and fosters meaningful relationships. This service project not only allows members to share their talents by preparing delicious meals, but also gives them the opportunity to connect with individuals who are working hard to transform their lives.

- **Kennesaw Veterans Day Luncheon:** Club members joined the City of Kennesaw Parks and Recreation Department to serve food to veterans in the community. Participants heard from Dr. Brian Moore about the importance of mental health advocacy and learned about the resources available through Kennesaw State University.

In addition to all its service projects in November, the club took time to welcome new members and a special guest from across the pond:

- **New Member Orientation:** To equip new members with the best tools, resources, and guidance for service, the North Cobb Rotary Club leadership team joined their newest members for a New Member Orientation. Long-term members shared their Rotary journeys and what has kept them involved for so many years. New members also used the time to ask questions and gain a better understanding of how to engage with the club. As always, the event was graciously hosted by Dave and Jenny in their beautiful home.
- **Building Bridges Across the Pond:** We had a special Rotarian, Uzo Analunam, join the club for a meeting all the way from the Rotary Club of Elstree-Borehamwood in the UK. Uzo has been friends with Past President Ada Wikina for more than 40 years. She has served her community through her work in social services, sharing programs, services, and resources with those in need. An example of Rotarians serving others around the world. Uzo brought her club banner to exchange with Club President Jose Gonzalez.

PHOTOS:




Rotary
Club of North Cobb
KENNESAW, GA
120


USA


North Cobb
Rotary
Cobb
Rotary
Club
North Cobb
Rotary
Club



Posted by Dr. Jose Gonzalez
November 26, 2025

Club News

Roswell Rotarians Jump into Action on Student Meals and More



When Rotarians hear a need, they jump into action. Recently, Past President Jim Coyle and Interact Coordinator Becky Nelson - with unwavering support from **Roswell Rotary Club** President Trummie Lee

Patrick III - delivered a personal packet to the Social Workers for the nine public schools that have Roswell-sponsored Interact Clubs. Why? A Roswell Rotarian (who wishes to remain anonymous) learned there are students in North Fulton County (an affluent Atlanta suburb) eating a “cheese sandwich” because their cafeteria student account stood in arrears. When this Rotarian called both Jim and Becky to see what he could do, he kept saying, “Just ridiculous!” The immediate response - an impromptu quick hit practical service project.

Based on calls made, we created a strategy for the Roswell Rotarian to adopt an area public school cafeteria to ensure that every student was able to eat AND the cafeteria staff was able to serve while no longer paying personally for the students in need. He not only cured the cafeteria student accounts in arrears but also transferred enough funds to cover the rest of the 2025-26 academic year.

In speaking with the RHS Social Worker about our mission to “Clear the Cafeteria Student Accounts," we learned that the schools are seeing an unprecedented amount of need. Students who are accustomed to being the giver are asking for services. Especially food. Why? With inflation, the Federal Government shutdown and the pause on the SNAP program, a very wide scope of students are no longer finding food at home. School staff are being stretched with high absenteeism as well as elevated strife in the classroom, the cafeteria and other areas around campus because of the discourse at home. At our next two club meetings, we told the club what we had learned and asked folks to donate if they could. Over $2,500 was received for our Families in Need which was used to buy Walmart gift cards for $25. Divided evenly among the nine schools, the packets not only included the gift cards but also a hand-written note of appreciation from President Patrick for their personal commitment to the students and the greater school community. Each was delivered on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving directly to each Social Worker.

There were tears and a tenable sense of relief. Why? We knocked on the door unannounced because we had a gift versus a need. We personally came up with a quick, practical and immediate solution not to the problem but certainly on the road to it. School Social Workers were heard, seen and celebrated as the resources they are in our schools. Each Social Worker has responded with sincere appreciation for the gift cards but mainly for the handwritten personal note from RRC President Patrick.

The Rotary Ripple effect is real in Roswell.

- Two additional Roswell Rotarians have offered to adopt a school cafeteria each.
- A Roswell Rotarian offered financial assistance to a family in need. The offer was mentioned in a follow-up e-mail to the social workers on Thursday and, within two hours, a local high school replied. They had a senior in good standing that needed immediate financial help because his father’s income was stopping. He was going to quit school to work to pay the rent. Discussions happened and the Rotarian has agreed to pay the December rent so the student can finish this first semester without worrying.

Posted by Becky Nelson
November 25, 2025

Club News

Columbus Packs Food for 5,000+



The **Rotary Club of Columbus** recently partnered with Feeding the Valley Food Bank for a community service project that delivered big impact. In just one morning, club members and their families packed 358 food boxes, providing meals for an estimated 5,000 people across the Chattahoochee Valley.

Volunteers of all ages — including one of the youngest helpers at just two years old — worked side by side to assemble boxes filled with essential items for families in need. The effort highlighted the club's commitment to Service Above Self and the vital role Feeding the Valley plays in addressing food insecurity in the region.

Rotary Club President Alan Harkness praised the turnout and spirit of the day, saying, "It was inspiring to see so many of our members and their families come together. Serving alongside one another to help our neighbors is at the heart of what Rotary stands for."

The Rotary Club of Columbus continues to champion multigenerational service and remains dedicated to strengthening the community through hands-on volunteer efforts like this one.

Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris
November 26, 2025

Club News

Buckhead Seeks New Club Administrator

The **Rotary Club of Buckhead** seeks a part-time Club Administrator (20–25 hrs/week) to manage bookkeeping, dues, invoicing, and provide administrative support for Club and Foundation operations, including membership and weekly meeting coordination. The role is primarily remote with meetings in Buckhead. Click to see the **Job Description**. If you know any prospective candidates, please contact Jeff Clark at 404-697-1644 or jeffclark@buckheadrotary.org

Posted by Jeff Clark, Jr.
November 30, 2025