Rotary | Rotary Opens Opportunities

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR JANUARY, 2021

From Our District Governor

Here's to All the Opportunities!

By Kirk Driskell

What opportunities await us this coming year. As we look ahead to 2021 it is our choice to look past the obstacle to find the opportunity. Sometimes the opportunity is disguised as a 500-pound gorilla. My Dad always stops me when I start to complain about something. He simply says that I am viewing it wrong, because there is someone in this world that would love to have what I view as a problem.

It has been so encouraging to see Rotarians taking action and making a difference in our communities. I continuously receive emails and phone calls as it relates to the impact that you are having. While there are those sitting waiting for help, District 6900 Rotarians are on the move and serving our community. [more]

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Making a Difference

Check Out Rotary Works ... a Program to Support Career Transitions

By Claudia Mertl

Last month, we introduced a very special vocational service project, "Rotary Works" - an initiative provided for Rotarians and Rotaractors within Zones 33 & 34 experiencing career transition. This initiative is comprised of three distinct programs, providing education, networking, and/or financial resources for participants, providing mentorship opportunities for personal and professional development. To learn more, watch the first program, and sign up for future month Zoom sessions, you can visit **www.rotary.works** (no .org or .com) [more]

RYLA

It's Time to Start Planning!

By Jaclyn Donovan

Club Presidents check your emails for more Information. Assistant Governors please remind the presidents to check their emails.

From Facebook

Join Alpharetta for the Polar Plunge!

By Jackie Cuthbert

The **Alpharetta Rotary Club** is hosting the 3rd Annual Alpharetta Polar Bear Plunge on Feb. 8, 2020! We are challenging local non-profits, school clubs and churches to put a team together and raise money for the benefit of their choosing! Organizations such as NFCC, The Drake House, The Lionheart School, BrewAble Cafe, Stand Up for Kids, The Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation, Atlanta Dream Center, and more!!

As Rotarians, we can join the plunge, create a team or support the causes already identified. Visit the **Alpharetta Rotary Polar Plunge website**.

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Our Foundation at Work

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By Roy Strickland

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By Todd Lawrimore

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By Lizbeth Dison

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By Samantha Rosado

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By Ron Swofford

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The idea was the brainchild of Tom Mertl, former President of the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County**. He noticed the children were receiving gifts but did not have the opportunity of experiencing the joy of giving. He started the "Giving Side of Christmas" and the event has been a huge success and has been bringing joy for 13 years. It is an effective concept that simulates both the buying and the giving experience.

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By Trummie Patrick

Founded in 2009 under the leadership of **Roswell Rotary**'s President, Elwyn Gaissert, "Adopt A Platoon" is an annual fundraiser to support troops with a Roswell connection. The name was settled on because the first year's recipient was a platoon leader.

In honor of those who served, for our Veterans Day Program, Roswell Rotary identified 14 local sailors deployed on the USS Nimitz in the Persian Gulf, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Red Sea and USS Ronald Regan in the South China Sea. The Nimitz operates and trains alongside regional and coalition partners and provides naval aviation support to Operation Inherent Resolve. The Ronald Regan conducts maritime air defense operations in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific. The Dwight D. Eisenhower provides a wide range of flexible mission capabilities, including maritime security operations, expeditionary power projection, crisis response, counterterrorism, and security cooperation.

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By Jackie Cuthbert

The **Rotary Club of Fayetteville** was happy to partner with the Fayetteville Police Department with a donation for their annual Shop With A Cop program!

From Facebook

Honoring Our Veterans and First Responders

By Jackie Cuthbert

In **Americus**, Rotarians honored veteran's this holiday season with Wreaths Across America, while **Buckhead and East Cobb** delivered food to firefighters, **Marietta Metro** recognized first responders with a lunch program honoring Hometown Heroes. In the meantime, **Peachtree City** prepared holiday food baskets for each fire station and hospital break room and **South Cobb** fed over 1500 hospital employees. Check out these Facebook pictures and stories.

[more]

From Facebook

Clubs Making a Difference in Their Communities

By Jackie Cuthbert

The thank you note from Rock Springs Christian Academy third graders is just the beginning of this story. Check out the attached collection of pictures and stories to see the difference everything from dictionaries and Little Free Libraries to bell ringing, gifts and food for families can make in the communities we serve. Here we've captured Facebook stories from **Barnesville, Camilla, Quitman, Dougherty County, Milton, LaGrange, North Atlanta, Moultrie and Senoia.** [more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday, January 14th, 2021	**North Atlanta Board & Official Visit**
Tuesday, January 19th, 2021	**Quitman County Board & Official Visit**
Tuesday, January 26th, 2021	**Cuthbert Board & Official Visit**
Saturday, January 30th, 2021	**2021-2022 Leadership Training**
Tuesday, February 9th, 2021	**Smyrna Board & Official Visit**

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Posted by Gordon Owens
January 11, 2021

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It has been so encouraging to see Rotarians taking action and making a difference in our communities. I continuously receive emails and phone calls as it relates to the impact that you are having. While there are those sitting waiting for help, District 6900 Rotarians are on the move and serving our community.

As you take a look through this month's newsletter, know that I am so proud of all that we have done. It is an honor to serve alongside you this year. Here is to a year full of service, celebration and life change.

Happy New Year.

Posted by Kirk Driskell
January 10, 2021

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Resolve to Consider Others and Let Our Hearts Guide Us



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From Fulton County to Thomasville covering one third of the state, the 71 Rotary Clubs in Rotary District 6900 with nearly 4,300 members will be represented by Thomasville's own Andre' Marria when she assumes the title of District Governor for the Rotary year 2023-2024.

Marria's appointment was announced at the Rotary Club of Thomasville meeting December 17. As is the custom when future Rotary District Governors are announced, Past District Governors attend the home club of the District Governor Nominee Designate when the announcement is made. Attending the December 17 meeting were Past District Governor (PDG) Bob Hagan, Roswell; District Governor Elect, Mary Ligon, Dougherty; District Governor Nominee Designate Andre' Marria, Thomasville; PDG Fran Milberg, Thomasville; PDG Cheryl Greenway, Roswell; District Governor Nominee George Granada, Griffin; PDG Court Dowis, Harris County and PDG Raymond Ray, Griffin Daybreak. We congratulate and celebrate Andre' and look forward to her leadership of District 6900.

Editor's Note: In 2017, Andre' was featured in the District Newsletter as one of our Rotary People of Action. You can ***view that story*** *to learn more about our future District Governor.*

Posted by Michael Bixler
January 10, 2021

RYLA

It's Time to Start Planning!



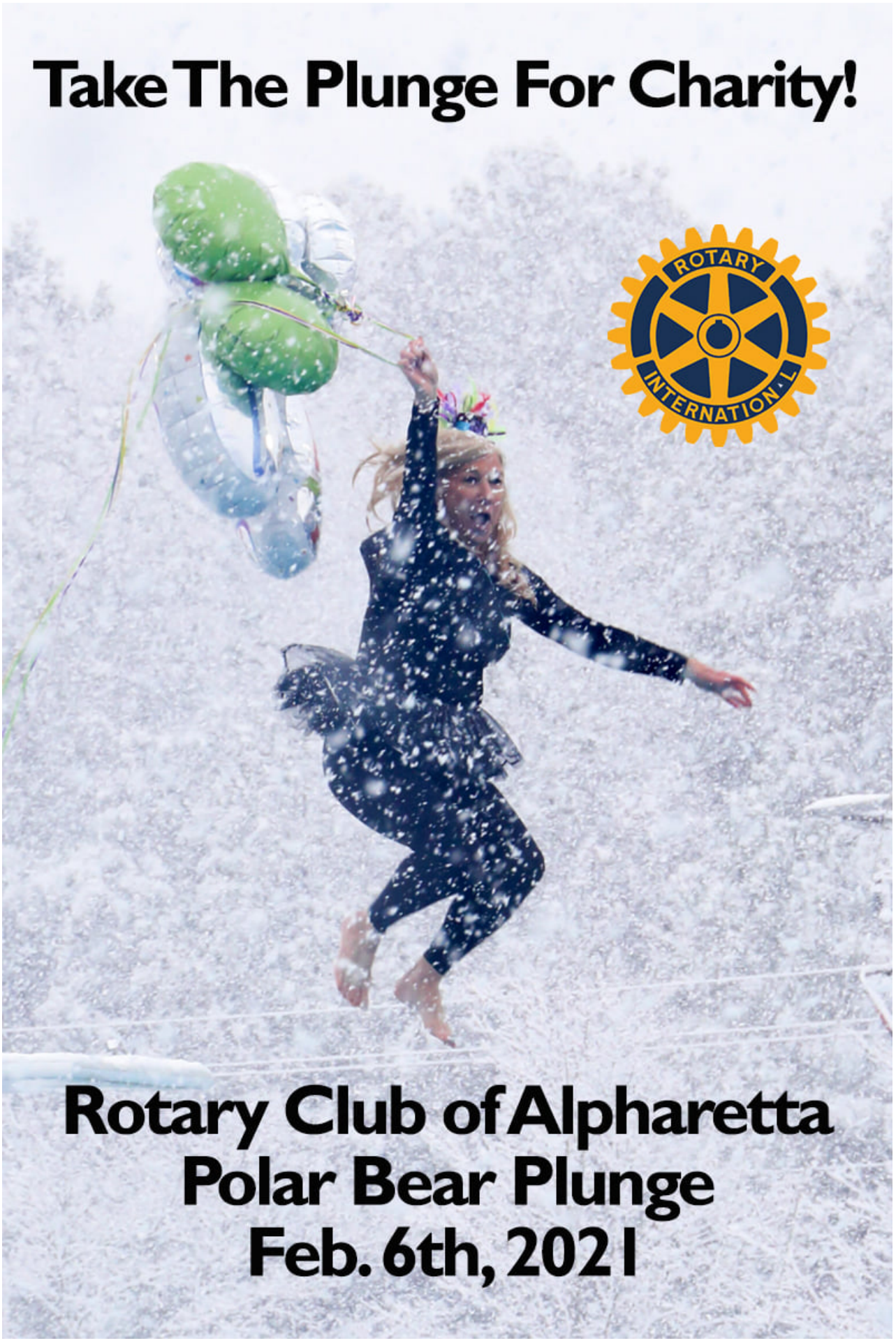
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Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
January 10, 2021

From Facebook

Join Alpharetta for the Polar Plunge!

Take The Plunge For Charity!



Rotary Club of Alpharetta
Polar Bear Plunge
Feb. 6th, 2021

The **Alpharetta Rotary Club** is hosting the 3rd Annual Alpharetta Polar Bear Plunge on Feb. 8, 2020! We are challenging local non-profits, school clubs and churches to put a team together and raise money for the benefit of their choosing! Organizations such as NFCC, The Drake House, The Lionheart School, BrewAble Cafe, Stand Up for Kids, The Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation, Atlanta Dream Center, and more!!

As Rotarians, you can join the plunge, create a team or support the causes already identified. Visit the **Alpharetta Rotary Polar Plunge website.**

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boys from our community, providing them and their adult male mentors with fishing and bonding opportunities in a safe environment on a 25-acre lake. The mentors invest their time and talents with fatherless boys and boys from single parent homes. The influence of a positive male role model helps equip, encourage and guide the boys to find a healthy and useful purpose. With our district grant we purchased 5 jon boats, 15 life jackets, and 10 paddles for our local non-profit partner, Truth in Nature. Seven Paulding County Rotarians currently serve as mentors in this enrichment program offering encouragement and helping build character, Goodwill and Better Friendships.

Posted by Roy Strickland
January 10, 2021

Sandy Springs Supports Distance Learning



The **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** celebrated the holiday season by giving back to the community. Living up to their motto of “Service Above Self”, the club proudly donated $1,920 to the Sandy Springs Charter Middle School to help distance learning during the COVID crisis. John Neill, SSRC President says that the club was incredibly pleased to provide eight hotspot devices to enable distance learning for students who may not have internet access at home." The Rotary Club of Sandy Springs has been active in serving our community for over 48 years. Education has always been one of our highest priorities for service projects," says John.

When asked for her thoughts during the presentation, principal Laurie Woodruff said: Thank you all for coming out to visit Sandy Springs Middle School today to share in the excitement of providing hotspots to our families! I feel fortunate to have an amazing organization such as Rotary Club of Sandy Springs invested in supporting our school and community. I know that our partnership will continue to flourish, with the students of SSCMS being the ultimate beneficiaries. Caption for photo:

Pictured are Rotary District 6900 Assistant Governor, Brian Noyse - Chief Communications Officer, John Neill – Sandy Springs Rotary Club President, Laurie Woodruff – Principle Sandy Springs Charter Middle School, Ashley Garrison – Office of Grant Development and Community Engagement and PDG Jim Squire.

Posted by Todd Lawrimore
January 10, 2021

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During the recent Electronics Recycling Day, sponsored by the **Rotary Clubs of Tucker and Stone Mountain**, volunteers collected over five tons of working and non-working electronics and home medical equipment (HME), as well as almost $2,000 in cash donations.

Proceeds benefited Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), a non-profit organization providing recycled mobility equipment for children and adults during or after a health crisis. FODAC will resell working electronics in its Thrift Store, and non-working will be sold for parts or to recycling companies. HME will be refurbished and redistributed to those in need.

Pictured: FODAC President and ADG Chris Brand with Tucker Rotarians Joe Williams and Nate Martin unload a car during the recycling event.

Posted by Lizbeth Dison
January 10, 2021

Club News

Douglas County Shares Shop with a Cop Photos



Sixty deserving elementary and middle school students were ready with their Christmas lists and picked up lots of toys and clothes at Shop with a Cop on December 15. Spearheaded by the DCSS Police Department, the joyful event was a collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, including the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, the Douglasville Police Department and the Georgia State Patrol.

The program was funded entirely by donations from local businesses, organizations and individuals – including the **Douglas County Rotary Club**. "Shop with a Cop shows the great things that can happen when the community pulls together to care for our children," said Officer Taylor Neufeld with the DCSS Police Department. "We were overwhelmed with the financial support we received from the Douglas County community."

PHOTOS:


Low Price
$9.97
Everyday
Low Price
$14.92
DO NOT USE CLAMP
8111-69
20" BOYS WIPE OUT/DYN
ON WHEELS™



Posted by Samantha Rosado
January 10, 2021

Club News

Lake Spivey/Clayton County Celebrates The Giving Side of Christmas


JUMBLING
TOWER
CATS
2 PACK
2021
12-MONTH CALENDAR

A very Merry Christmas came to the Kinship Care children Thursday evening of December 17 in an unconventional way. The Kinship Care Center provides assistance to grandparents and other family raising children in parent absent homes. Usually, people give presents to the children, but not so this time! The children actually got to shop for gifts for others.

The idea was the brainchild of Tom Mertl, former President of the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County. He noticed the children were receiving gifts but did not have the opportunity of experiencing the joy of giving. He started the "Giving Side of Christmas" and the event has been a huge success and has been bringing joy for 13 years. It is an effective concept that simulates both the buying and the giving experience.

This year the event was held at the Frank Bailey Senior Center in Riverdale. As the children arrived they completed a Christmas list of people they would like to give gifts to at Christmas. For each perosn on their list, the children are given a "Rotary Buck," which represents money for making the purchase. The Rotary buck has the picture of our current President, Troy Hodges. Each child then is assigned a personal shopper assistant who takes her or him to the "Christmas Store." Each item in the store costs one Rotary buck. The adult volunteer shopper assistants, usually a Rotarian, helps the child shoppers make their selections and when complete they take their purchases to one of the wrapping stations. A Rotary Club or Kinship Care volunteer wraps the presents, puts the name tags on them, and puts all the purchases in a shopping bag.

The children leave with Christmas to give. They are able to enjoy the complete Christmas experience. After they shop, they get to see Santa Claus.

Kinship Care is a county program primarily made up of grandparents raising grandchildren. The grandparents are also given a much deserved fellowship time while their children are taken care of by the Rotary Club and Kinship Care volunteers. The merchandise and monetary contributions are donated by the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County.

"We believe that this program has the opportunity to teach a few life lessons. One of them is that the true joy of Christmas is the giving side," says Rotarian Tom Mertl.

PHOTOS:


EXIT
Alexa
OUTBACK
STEAKHOUSE



Posted by Ron Swofford
January 10, 2021

Club News

Roswell Continues Adopt a Platoon Tradition

Roswell Rotary presents

ADOPT A PLATOON

Together,

we will be packing boxes to send off to the brave men and women defending our freedom.

BRING ANY DONATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST TO ROTARY MEETINGS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:

QUICK PROTEIN, POWDERED DRINK MIX, CANDY, HAND SANITIZER, SHAMPOO, WIPES, SOAP, TOOTHPASTE, MAGAZINES, BATH BOMBS, BODY LOTION, FACE MASKS, CROSSWORD PUZZLES, SUDOKU, WORD SEARCHES, BOBBY PINS, HAIR TIES, ROBES, FUZZY SOCKS, BODY SCRUB, FEMININE PRODUCTS, BEEF JERKY, COFFEE, BATTERIES, DRIED PINEAPPLES, DRIED PAPAYAS, DRIED PLANTAINS, SNACKS CONTAINING COCONUT, SUNGLASSES



Founded in 2009 under the leadership of **Roswell Rotary**'s President, Elwyn Gaissert, "Adopt A Platoon" is an annual fundraiser to support troops with a Roswell connection. The name was settled on because the first year's recipient was a platoon leader.

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From Oct. 1st through Nov 5th Roswell Rotary collected supplies such as coffee, hand sanitizers, hard candy, hair clips, sunscreen, magazines, protein packs, socks, etc. to fill 100 goodies boxes. We would like to thank the Interact Clubs at Roswell High School, Blessed Trinity, and Elkins Point Elementary who collected over 40 boxes. Mt. Park Elementary students wrote kind letters that were included in each box along with a note of thanks from Pres. Lynne. The boxes were shipped in time to arrive during the holidays.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Trummie Patrick
January 10, 2021

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Posted by Narayan Sengupta
January 10, 2021

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Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 10, 2021

From Facebook

Honoring Our Veterans and First Responders


PEOPLE
ACTION

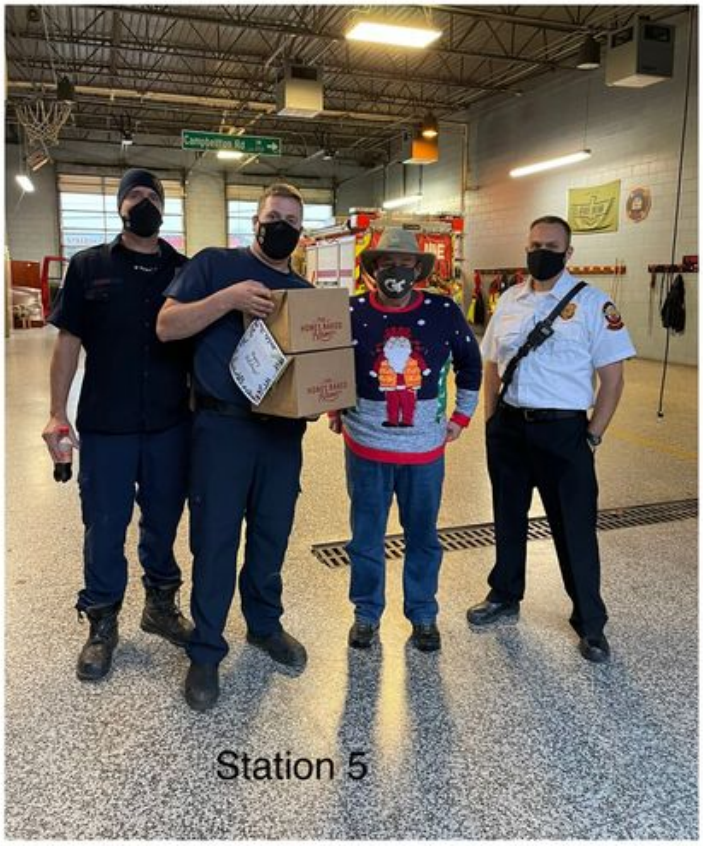
The **Rotary Club of Americus** was privileged to again be a part of this year's wreath-laying ceremony. Wreaths Across America honors those that gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Santa - with some help from the **Rotary Club of Buckhead** - brought City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department Firefighters a special Honey Baked Ham for Christmas! Thanks also to volunteers from Livable Buckhead for helping deliver the goods! The **Rotary Club of East Cobb** also showed appreciate to Public Safety - with Public Safety Director Guy Gephardt and his wife Paulette delivering Patak's brats, buns, chips and cookies to Station 14. The food will then be distributed to all seven stations and will feed over 140 firefighters! And, the **Rotary Club of Marietta Metro** started the New Year with a program to honor our "Hometown Heroes" by recognizing the Marietta Police Department and Marietta Fire Department.

What an amazing time for our **Peachtree City Rotary, Rotaract, Interact and Community Corps** members to come together on a project to recognize our first responders with the PTC Fire Department and the hospital staff at Fayette Piedmont! We are very blessed to have these amazing HEROES in our local community! We prepared Holiday Gift baskets for each fire station and for all of the break rooms at the hospital as a quick thank you to them through the holidays! Thanks to Midwest Food Bank - Georgia Division for letting us use their facility to pack out the boxes!

In partnership with Sweetwater Mission, Pasta Bella and Kenny's Key Lime Pie, the S**outh Cobb Rotary Club** fed over 1500 hospital employees at Wellstar Cobb Hospital.

PHOTOS:






ENGINE
14

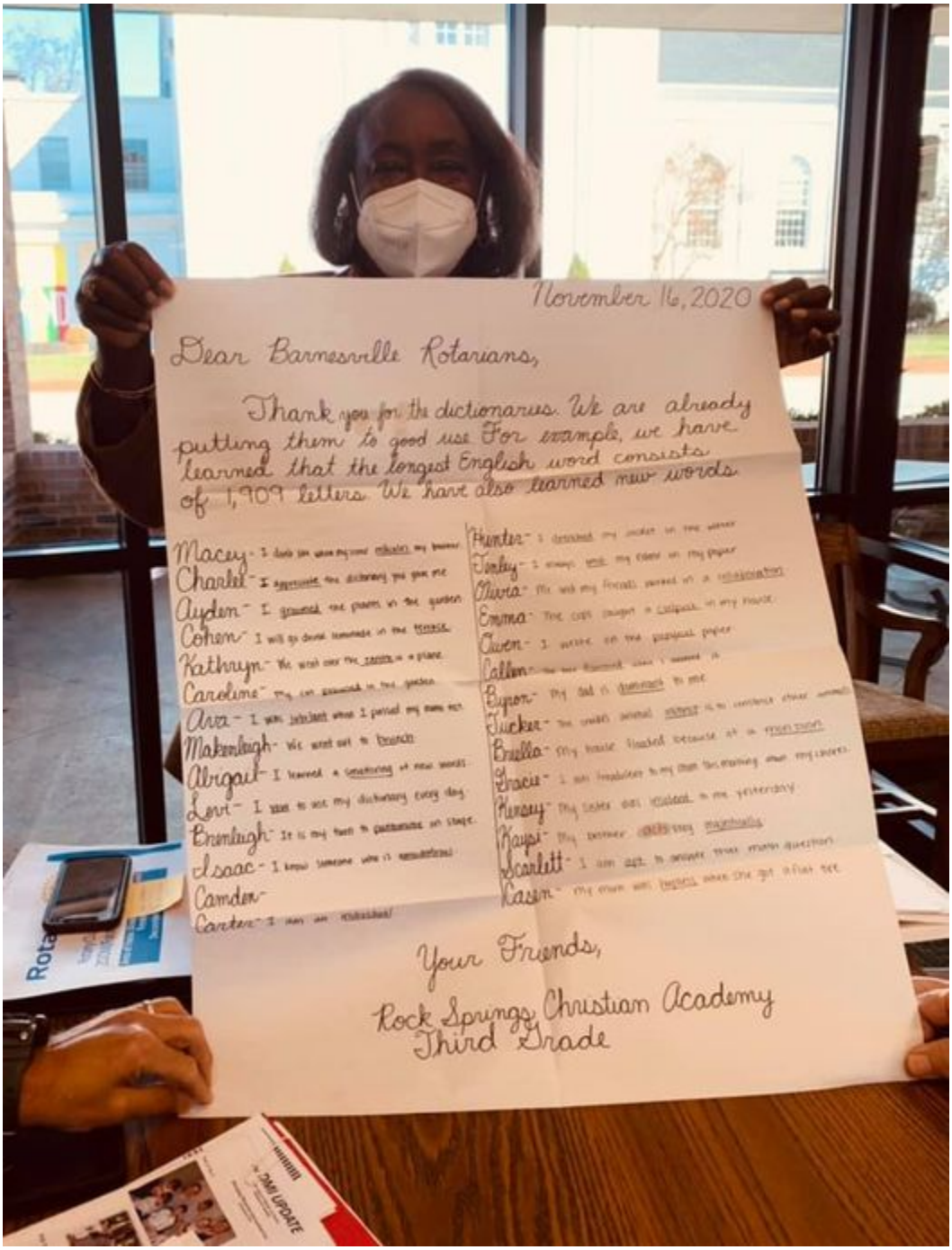

EXIT
Rotary
Rotary



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 10, 2021

From Facebook

Clubs Making a Difference in Their Communities



The **Rotary Club of Barnesville** had a sweet Thank You note from Rock Springs Christian Academy third graders for the dictionaries they received! The students are practicing making super sentences with all the new words they learned.

The **Camilla Rotary Club** gathered gifts for the Mitchell County Boys & Girls Clubs this year. This is our second year doing so, and we really enjoy bringing other people joy.

The **Rotary Club of Quitman** sold over $4,000 worth of poinsettias for its 2020 Scholarship Fundraising drive. All profits from the fundraiser will be directed towards the $1500 scholarships that will be awarded to two deserving 2021 Quitman High School graduates. A very special thanks to Judge Lauren Doan who lead the fundraising effort, to Bella Florists who secured the plants, and to every Quitman Rotarian who helped sell them.

The **Rotary Club of Dougherty County** recently acted as Santa for Seniors - one of the club's favorite service project of the year for SOWEGA Council on Aging/Area Agency on Aging. The **Rotary Club of Milton** took on a similar project, providing gifts for the 27 participants of the Milton Senior Center...COVID-style, of course.

Recently the **Rotary Club of Fayette Daybreak** donated basic supplies to The Joseph Sams School in Fayetteville. We were so happy to support this wonderful organization serving families in our community.

LaGrange Rotarians were busy this holiday season ringing the Salvation Army bells and wrapping presents for the club's student program participants. Rotarians took turns ringing the bell in front of Belk's Department Store. They also delivered wrapped packages to the 20 students who are part of the Rotary Club of LaGrange Youth Challenge Program. Besides a personalized present, thanks to the generous support of Statewide Mortgage each student also received a large goodie bag of Christmas treats. All of the gifts were made possible through the generous donations of club members. The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** also rang bells for the Salvation Army.

With the help of The Moultrie Observer, Southern Powder Coating, and WHATAGRAPHIC, the **Rotary Club of Moultrie** has repurposed newspaper boxes into Little Free Libraries. We think they're as excited as us about all the reading that's about to happen!

Since the **Senoia Rotary Club**'s annual Santa's Workshop project for Light Up Senoia was cancelled this year, the club made a donation instead to Backpack Buddies to purchase over 900 loaves of bread for families during Christmas. Members of the club also volunteered to pack about 700 bags of food!

PHOTOS:


Christmas


a-la-la-
get
year
with...
TEXAS
SERVICE Above Self


last
DAY




THE
SALVATION
MERRY CHRISTMAS


Plus
ife Insurance
& Email
No Smoking
LITTLE FREE LIBRARY
LEAVE A BOOK
Rotary
SPONSORED BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF MOULTRIE
WWW.MOULTRIEROTARY.ORG



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 10, 2021