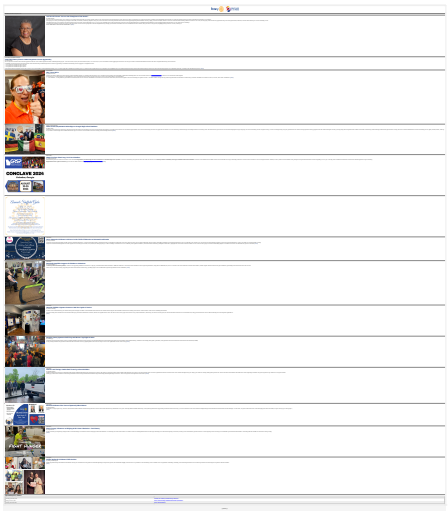
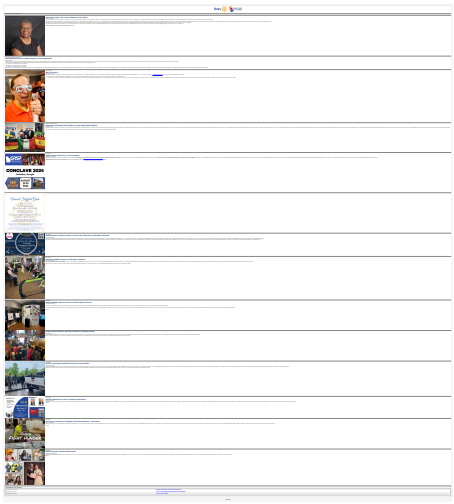
Rotary
District 6900



June 6, 2024





And Now We Know! "We are the Champions of the World."



As we near the end of this Rotary year, I reflect on our journey that began with one crucial question: "What is your why in Rotary?" Each month, Walter and I visited your clubs, encouraging you to support The Rotary Foundation and emphasizing the importance of continuity. Building strong, inclusive teams has been essential to our mission.

We urged you to share your Rotary story through social media, local media, and Rotary magazine. This year, we have focused on increasing mental health awareness and supporting Rotary International's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. We have worked towards fostering cultural awareness in our clubs, ensuring they reflect the diverse populations they serve. Being intentional, authentic, and real about diversity in our club leadership is vital.

Throughout the year, I have strived to live the Four-Way Test in my words, actions and deeds. Now, it is up to you to determine how we have measured up. How has your club performed? Have you handed off responsibilities to the incoming president and directors in a way that ensures continuity?

I am proud of our district and all that we have achieved together. You have been my inspiration and have amplified Rotary through your dedication and hard work. Your commitment has been evident, with your boots on the ground, amplifying Rotary's mission. For this, I thank you.

Let’s Measure a Few of Our Outcomes

Membership:

- We have reached 3,897 members across 67 clubs. Let’s Hold it Steady!
- We established one new club: “On the Flint.”
- We have one new Interact Club

Foundation:

- Annual Fund: $578,116
- Polio Plus: $209,716
- Other: $20,926
- Endowment: $1,565
- Total Giving to Date: $810,323
- Grants: 7 Alzheimer's grants awarded for $86,160, 1 Collaborative for $30,000, 43 Standard/Community Grants for $80,000. Total: $236,160
- Global Grants: 9 approved and initiated, 4 under review at TRF for $100,550. Total investment for Global Grants this year: $236,000

Social Media:

- Clear participation and storytelling by clubs like Albany (Platinum), Alpharetta (Bronze), Atlanta Southern Crescent (Silver), Brookhaven (Bronze), Dougherty County (Gold), Fayetteville (Silver), Henry County (Gold), La Grange (Silver), Lake Spivey/Clayton County (Silver), Marietta-Metro (Platinum), Meriwether County (Platinum), Newnan (Gold), North Cobb County (Silver), North Columbus (Bronze), Peachtree City (Gold), Pelham (Bronze), Roswell (Silver), Thomasville (Silver), and Vinings Cumberland (Platinum).
- District 6900 clubs featured in Rotary Magazine articles.

Rotary Youth Exchange:

- Active involvement, preparing for the 2025-2026 outbound exchange.

Laws of Life:

- State Champion: Duc Le (Rockdale County High School)
- First Runner-up: Fadil Karichiyil (Alpharetta High School, Rotary Club of Alpharetta)
- Second Runner-up: Nathanael Hunt (Manchester High School)
- Third Runner-up: Journey Allen (George Walton Academy)
- Fourth Runner-up: Mark Zimmer (Carrollton High School, Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary)
- Fifth Runner-up: Yena Barna (Columbus High School, North Columbus Rotary, Rotary Club of Columbus, GA, Muscogee Rotary)

- Founder's Award: Arik Tsfati (Lassiter High School, Rotary Club of East Cobb)
- George A. Stewart Jr. Character in Action Award: Chase Vandergriff (South Forsyth High School)

Mental Health Initiative:

- Highlighted Chris 180 Mental Health at Interact Clubs summit in collaboration with Atlanta Westend, Roswell, and Newnan Rotary Clubs.
- District Conference Focus.
- South DeKalb Rotary Club's Social Media and Mental Health Initiative in collaboration with DeKalb County.

GRSP (Georgia Rotary Student Program):

- Continued engagement with 18 students.

Human Trafficking Awareness:

- Fundraiser at the Braves Game and participation in the International Convention in Singapore.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion:

- Rotaract Club of Atlanta Metro assisted with Adult Disability Medical Health Care distributions.
- Rotary Club of Thomasville's Big Impact Project: Launch of community needs assessments and collaborative support for underrepresented communities, serving 1,000 individuals (250 households) monthly with fresh vegetables, fruit, and other healthy choices.
- Be THE Voice Reports:" One of our largest school districts (Fulton County Schools} with 28 schooling roads reported a 95% decrease in bullying incidents in the elementary schools, a 77% decrease in the middle school program, and a 91% decrease in the high school program from 2021-2023." All things In TheirTime!

Collaborative Projects:

- Numerous successful joint efforts.

Leadership:

- Recognized two emerging leaders: Cynthia Edwards (DGDN) and Lisa Carlise (Assistant Governor).

Final Thoughts

This is my final report as your District Governor. Have we answered the call? Have we given our very best? I believe we have, and we have done so with excellence!

Thank you for an incredible year and let us continue to Amplify Rotary in everything we do!

Yours in Rotary,

"Your Lady with a Song"

Posted by André Marria
June 5, 2024

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

2024-2025 Rotary District 6900 Competitive Grants Opportunity

We are pleased to announce that 58 Clubs applied for and will receive funds requested for their Community Grant projects - most will receive $2,000 (one Club asked for $500) - for a total of $ 112,500. The number of Clubs applying increased 23% over last year and the total funds distributed increased 30% when compared with Rotary Year 2023-2024.

In addition, for the 2024–2025 year, Rotary District 6900 and the Rotary Foundation present an exclusive opportunity to all District 6900 Rotary Clubs to apply for a Competitive Grant"

- Two grants are available for up to $10,000.
- Two grants are available for up to $5,000.
- Two grants are available for up to $2,500.

Each club is invited to apply for **one $10,000, $5,000, or $2,500 Competitive Grant** beginning Monday, June 10, **with an application deadline set for Friday, June 21,** 2024.The online application process, designed to be straightforward, is accessible through the Rotary District 6900 Grants webpage. Please note that each Club may apply for one competitive grant only, ensuring a fair and balanced process.

Each Club's Competitive Grant should align with one of the seven crucial focus areas: Peacebuilding and conflict prevention, Disease prevention and treatment, Water, sanitation, and hygiene, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, and Community economic development and Environment. This alignment is not just important; it's crucial, as your project must offer a significant contribution in one of these areas of concern to Rotary.

Rotary Clubs must submit competitive online application proposals using detailed information about the four grant factors through the Rotary District 6900 grants webpage. These proposals will be evaluated by District 6900’s Grant review committee based on the application’s alignment with the areas of focus, the feasibility of the project, the potential impact, and the clarity of the proposal.

1. Problem Severity – Demonstrate the severity of the problem and the lack of other resources to address it.
2. Project Impact – Explain the project's impact on the beneficiaries. (How many will be impacted, how significantly, and for how long?)
3. Volunteer Involvement – Explain how Rotary volunteers will participate in the project.
4. Public Image Impact – Explain how you will build community awareness of the problem and Rotary's role in addressing it. Be sure to address the required signage issue.

Grant Deadlines

- Completed applications are due by June 21, 2024.
- Awarding of the Grant is Mid to Late July
- Project Implementation Dates – August through February
- Closeout of completed grant by March 31, 2025

If you have questions, please contact Kay Williamson.

Posted by Anne Glenn
June 6, 2024

RYLA Update

Why I Love RYLA


I ♥ RYLA
EXIT
PORZINGIS
6
Jaclyn
Rotary
RYLA

The time for RYLA is finally here!! RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a summer camp that aims to give our District 6900 teenagers the opportunity to build their leadership skills. You can read more about it at **www.RYLA6900.com** or check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

If you know me, you know that RYLA is something that I am 110% passionate about. RYLA is my jam. Here are just a few (of the many) things I love about RYLA:

1. **The Students** – so many different personalities and talents from all over! From the valedictorian to the kid who sits in the back of the class, from the team captain to the one who hardly ever speaks out loud… all leaders in their own special way. RYLA helps them discover themselves and how they can make contributions as leaders at school, at home, and in their communities.

2. **The Experience** – wide open high energy tempered with engaging conversations and deep thoughts… Team building activities, personal learning activities, group games, a talent show, a dance. RYLA keeps you moving all day, but it's so much fun you don't notice or mind. It's all building to positive impact that will last far beyond our 5 days together.

3. **The Growth** – RYLA is designed to challenge you, but it allows ample opportunity to rise to each challenge. The quiet student will find a voice. The timid student will find confidence. The "talker" will learn to listen. The "I'll do it myself" student will let others take a turn. The one who always "knows the right way" will accept advice. It's amazing to see each student evolve from Day 1 to Day 5.

4. **The Ah-Ha Moment** – the most rewarding moment at RYLA. When a student realizes that they CAN in a situation where they always thought they never stood a chance. Whether it be expressing a thought, offer the correct solution, trusting a teammate, accomplishing a task, or even just singing a song – RYLA is full of these little moments when you see a student smile a little bigger or stand a little taller because they did it. This is why we do RYLA. The Ah-Ha Moment – the most rewarding moment at RYLA. When a student realizes that they CAN in a situation where they always thought they never stood a chance. Whether it be expressing a thought, offer the correct solution, trusting a teammate, accomplishing a task, or even just singing a song – RYLA is full of these little moments when you see a student smile a little bigger or stand a little taller because they did it. This is why we do RYLA.

5. **The Family** – this applies to the students and the staff alike, and the bonds forged in just 5 short days are incredibly strong. The students – who 99% probably did Not want to be at RYLA to begin with – find themselves with 100 new best friends and they don't want to leave… Many of them stay in touch and find ways to meet up and hang out even after RYLA is finished. For the staff, RYLA is the only few days we'll get to be together each year so we try to squeeze the most fun and togetherness out of it as we can. We come from all walks of life, from different backgrounds and locations across the globe, but we have RYLA in common. My RYLA Family is the family I didn't know I needed but that I could never do without – I know that they back me up 100% for anything I may ever need, and I know I would do the same for them. The Family – this applies to the students and the staff alike, and the bonds forged in just 5 short days are incredibly strong. The students – who 99% probably did Not want to be at RYLA to begin with – find themselves with 100 new best friends and they don't want to leave… Many of them stay in touch and find ways to meet up and hang out even after RYLA is finished. For the staff, RYLA is the only few days we'll get to be together each year so we try to squeeze the most fun and togetherness out of it as we can. We come from all walks of life, from different backgrounds and locations across the globe, but we have RYLA in common. My RYLA Family is the family I didn't know I needed but that I could never do

without – I know that they back me up 100% for anything I may ever need, and I know I would do the same for them.

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

PHOTOS:

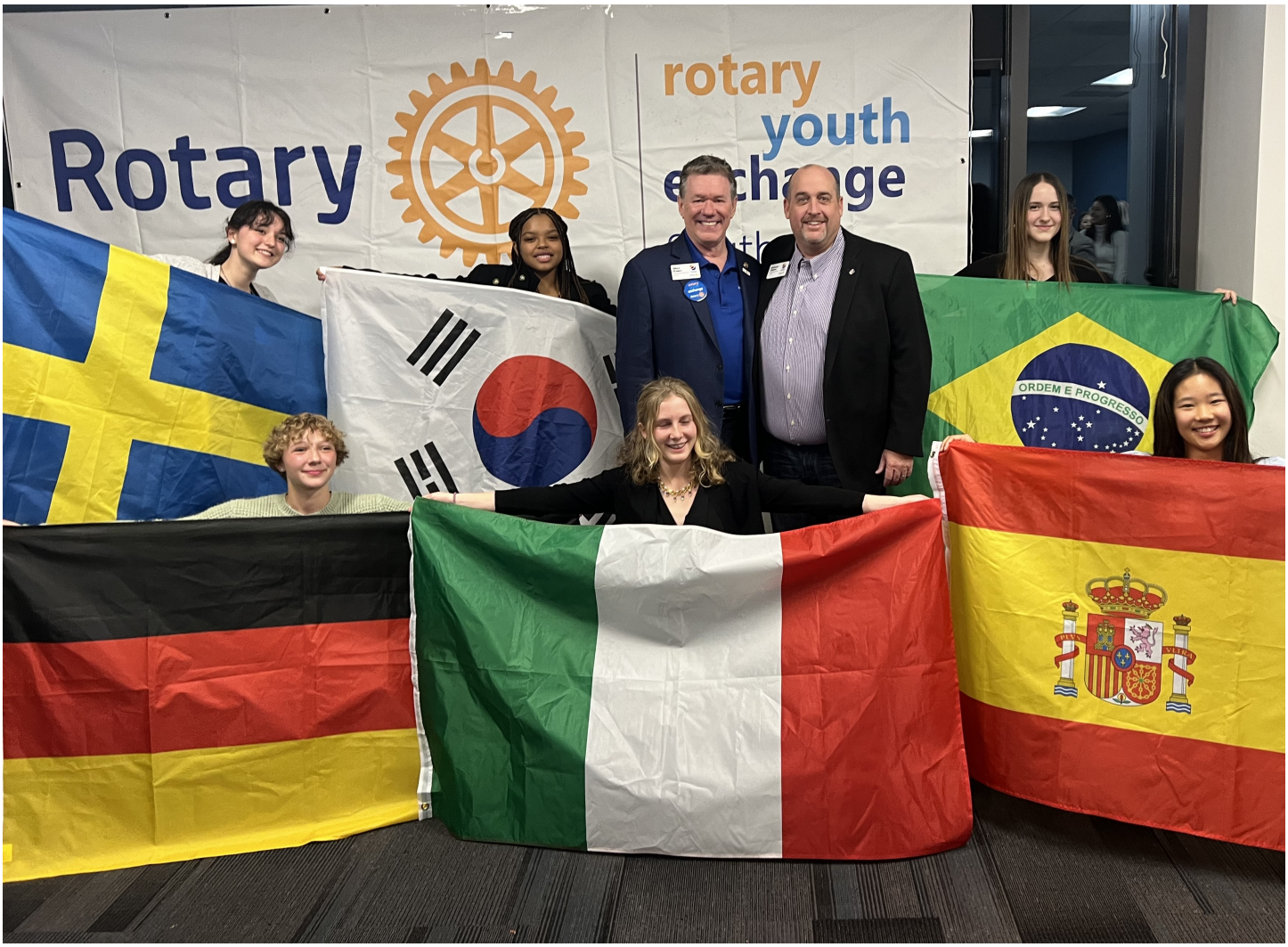




Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
June 3, 2024

Rotary Youth Exchange

Clubs Award $25,000.00 Scholarships to Georgia High School Students

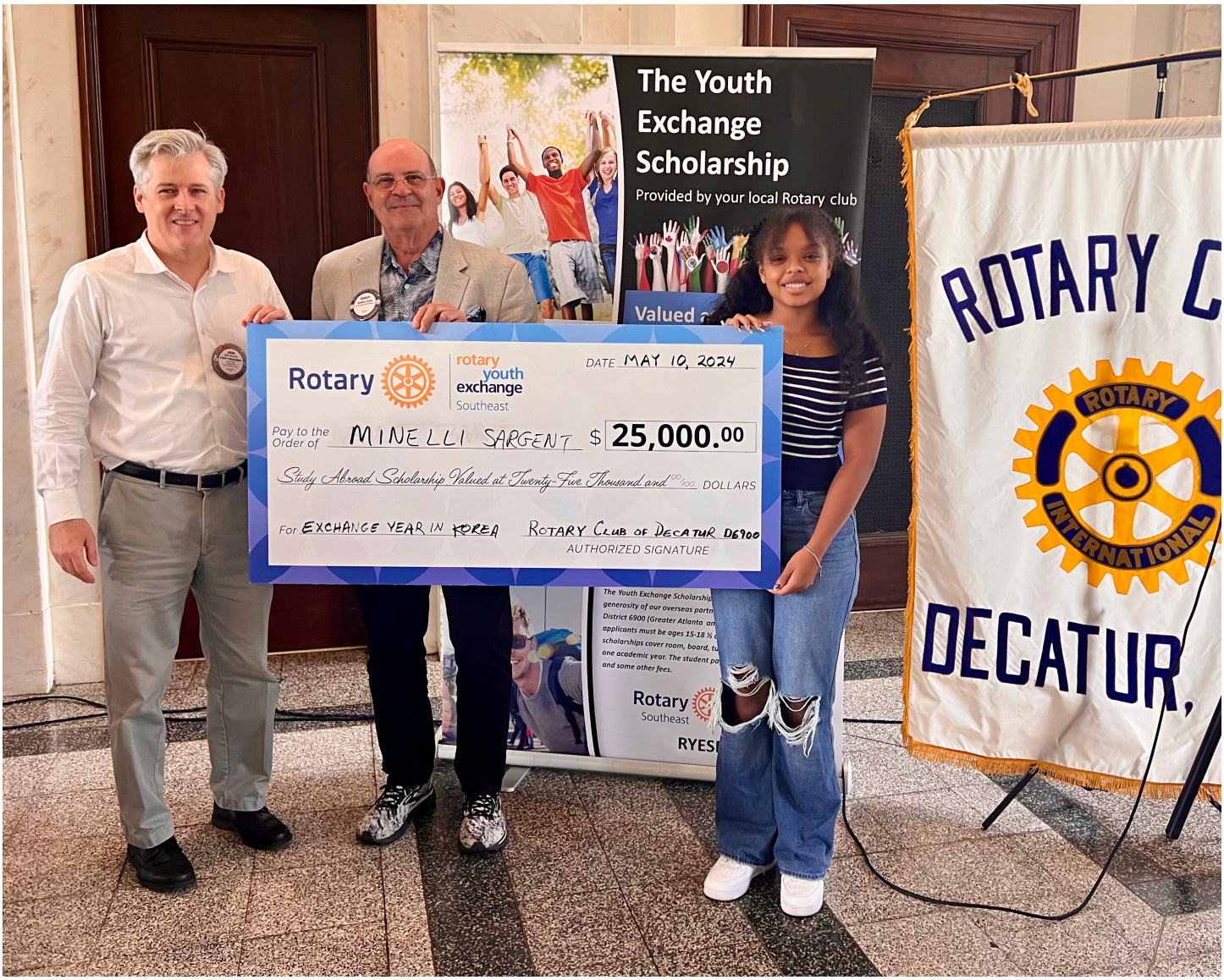


The **Rotary Clubs of Decatur, Dunwoody, and Johns Creek North Fulton** each awarded two $25,000.00 study abroad scholarships to local high school students. Six talented Georgia students were selected from among more than 30 applicants last summer to receive the Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship from their local Rotary clubs. The students have spent the last seven months studying their target language, the culture and history of their assigned country, as well as all things Rotary. They will graduate from our District 6900 preparation training program later this month and depart for their year-long study abroad experience this summer. Our District 6900 Rotary Youth Exchange students will represent their country and serve as student ambassadors overseas in Germany, Korea, Spain, Sweden, Brazil, and Italy.

Do you know a talented high school student between the ages of 14 and 17 who would like to become a Rotary Youth Exchange student? Application for the 2025 – 2026 school year will be open on August 1, 2024, at RYESE.org. Any Rotary club in District 6900 can award the $25,000.00 study abroad scholarship in their local community, AT NO COST TO THE CLUB! More information for Rotarians is available at **Rotary6900.org/RYE**

PHOTOS:


ROTARY CLUB
Rotary
THE FOUR-WAY TEST
Is it the TRUTH?
Rotary
rotary youth exchange Southeast
DATE APR 12 , 2024
Pay to the Order of ERIN MYERS-BECK
$ 25,000.00
Study Abroad Scholarship Valued at Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS
For EXCHANGE YEAR IN GERMANY
ROTARY CLUB OF DUNWOODY D.6900
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE


The Youth Exchange Scholarship
Provided by your local Rotary club
Rotary
rotary youth exchange Southeast
DATE MAY 10, 2024
Pay to the Order of MINELLI SARGENT $ 25,000.00
Study Abroad Scholarship Valued at Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS
For EXCHANGE YEAR IN KOREA
ROTARY CLUB OF DECATUR D6900
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
DECATUR,



Posted by Mike Parks
June 3, 2024

Club News

Stone Mountain Celebrates Achievers in the Field of Education at Diamonds and Denim



The **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** proudly presents "Diamonds and Denim," a unique and elegant night of celebration in honor of Champions of Education. This event, unlike any other, will recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of Education. Join us on Saturday, June 29 from 6:00– 9:30 PM at the Tucker Brewing Company, located at 2003 South Bibb Drive, Tucker, GA 30084, for an unforgettable evening.

Prepare to be dazzled and delighted as we come together for an evening of live music, food, and fun, all while preparing to continue making a real difference in our community. Our signature fundraiser, this **Third Annual Celebrating Champions of Education**, highlights the value of the classroom teacher as well as honors other people who make extraordinary impacts on students and schools. We illuminate the power of education!

Proceeds from this event will fund projects that affect our local and global communities; they include:

- Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse in Stone Mountain, providing occupational therapy for individuals with brain injuries
- Kilimanjaro Institute of Technology in Tanzania, Africa, offering scholarships for vocational training to girls to combat their being traumatized by gender violence
- Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), supporting operations which provide medical equipment at no or a low cost to clients locally and globally
- Foster Care Children, replacing garbage bags with suitcases for their belongings
- Rise Against Hunger, addressing food insecurity and illiteracy
- The Ready School, providing support for learning activities for 3-4 year-old immigrant and refugee children in the Clarkston community
- Georgia Piedmont Technical College, along with Georgia State University/Perimeter College, offering scholarships to students … and more.

Don't keep this amazing event to yourself! Spread the word and invite your family and friends to join you

for an evening out! Remember, the more, the merrier, and the bigger the impact we can make together. Additional details about the event, including how to nominate a candidate for a Champion of Education award, offer sponsorships, place ads, and obtain a sharable flyer, are available on the club's website at **stonemountainrotary.org** . Questions can be emailed to us at stonemountainrotary@gmail.com.

Tickets for this unforgettable night can be purchased by clicking this **Eventbrite link**.

Posted by Leslyn Weekes
June 3, 2024

Club News

Dunwoody Amplifies Support of Alzheimer's Initiatives



The **Rotary Club of Dunwoody (RCD)** is excited to be supporting Alzheimer's initiatives in a big way. Our third annual Golf Tournament - FORE! the Memories - raised $25,000 for Alzheimer's The Longest Day fundraiser, along with an additional $17,000 or so for other club service initiatives. Thanks to Bob O'Brien, Charlie Augello and their team for the golf tournament, sponsorships and auction that led to this success!

That's not all - the Club is actively supporting the launch of Anchor Place Dunwoody - providing respite care for individuals experiencing moderate levels of dementia. This respite center opened in mid-May,

offering caretakers a four-hour break twice a week, with lots of fun activities and lunch for participants. Charlie Augello and President-Elect Louise Barden love that this project is similar to a Global Grant project in Italy a few years ago, where Dunwoody was the International Partner for the grant. RCD has invested $10,000 in getting Anchor Place started, and about 10 of our club members are trained to be volunteers in the twice-a-week sessions, with more about to start the training process.

Anchor Place Director Mary Cohen said, "Wow, did we have a BIG time on our first day with participants! The feedback from our friends on the day and from their caregivers afterwards was so encouraging. One friend said, "I haven't had that much fun in a long time!"

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
June 3, 2024

Club News

Museum Exhibits Captures Newnan's 100-Year Spirit of Service



In honor of its 100th anniversary, the **Newnan Rotary Club** arranged an exhibit at the McRitchie-Hollis Museum. The exhibit featured objects and information from the Club's history in Newnan to educate

visitors on the Club's community involvement.

The Club is likely most well-known for its annual Fourth of July Fireworks celebration in Newnan, which it has organized since 1986. The club also has service projects focused on local youth, homelessness, and literacy. For the last several years, the club has hosted the annual Tour of Coweta bike ride, using proceeds from the event to fund scholarships for local nonprofit organizations.

“For 100 years, Rotary has given back to this community through service projects and community participation,” said Kevin Barbee, president of the Newnan Rotary Club. “There’s also a lot of legacy in our membership. Many who chartered this organization in 1924 are very common and familiar names in our community. Their descendants are still active in this community.”

Items on display include the President’s Cup award, which honors Rotarians who go above and beyond in their service to the club, flags from International Rotary Clubs visited by Rotarians from Newnan, and biographies of the organization’s charter members.

“Not a single Newnanite wouldn’t know the name Arnall,” said Taj Stephens, Museum Manager for the Newnan-Coweta History Center.

While gathering material for the exhibit, Barbee said one of the most interesting things he learned was that the club’s newsletter had persisted just as long as the club itself." Just like the club has been sustained for 100 years, our newsletter has been provided to our members every week for 100 years,” Barbee said. “We have copies of that in the exhibit from the late 1920s. That newsletter has continued, and it’s something that could have easily gone by the wayside. It’s work putting that together every single week.”

According to Stephens, the research for the exhibit was a boon for the museum because it filled in some gaps in its archives. “Many of the charter members were some of the most influential people in Coweta County,” he said. “To have more information for our archive gives more insight into how people lived in early 1900s Newnan.”

PHOTOS:


EXCHANGE OF CLUB BANNERS
One of the colorful traditions of many Rotary clubs is the exchange of small banners, flags, or pennants. Rotarians traveling to distant locations often take banners to exchange at "make-up" meetings as a token of friendship. Many clubs use the decorative banners they have received for displays at club meetings and district events.
The Rotary International board recognized the growing popularity of the banner exchange back in 1959. They suggested that those clubs that participate in such exchanges give careful thought to the design of their banners so that they are distinctive and expressive of the community and country of which the club is a part.
The exchange of banners is a significant tradition of Rotary and serves as a tangible symbol of their international fellowship.
ROTARY CLUB KERRVILLE MORNING TEXAS
ROTARY CLUB OF THE WEST BANK
ROTARY CLUB OF TOKYO
Rotary CHURCHLAND Rotary Portsmouth, VA
AYR & DISTRICT ROUND TABLE "THE LAND O' BURNS"
OSAKA SHIROKITA JAPAN
ROTARY CLUB OF DOWNTOWN GLORIA'S PHILIPPINES
台北文林扶輪社 ROTARY CLUB OF TAIPEI WEN LIN
100 YEARS Rotary
100 Years
ROTARY CLUB OF COVENTRY PHOENIX
ROTARY CLUB OF MARION
ROTARY CLUB Pamplona City
North Las Vegas Rotary Club



Posted by Nicholas Ramey
June 3, 2024

Douglas County Sponsors Field Trip and Honors Top Eight Graders



The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** focuses on helping students in Douglas County. Recently, the Club helped fund an in-house field trip for first and second graders at Beulah Elementary. Students loved learning about plants, pollination, and agriculture from the Great American Bus Interactive Education (GABIE)!

In May, Rotary members also presented certificates and cash awards to the top eighth graders in the four core subject areas at all eight middle schools in the county.

PHOTOS:


770-485-8727
.I.E.
GABLE'S
BIG ADVENTURE



Posted by Nell Boggs
June 3, 2024

Club News

Interact and Vinings Cumberland Team Up to Provide Bikes



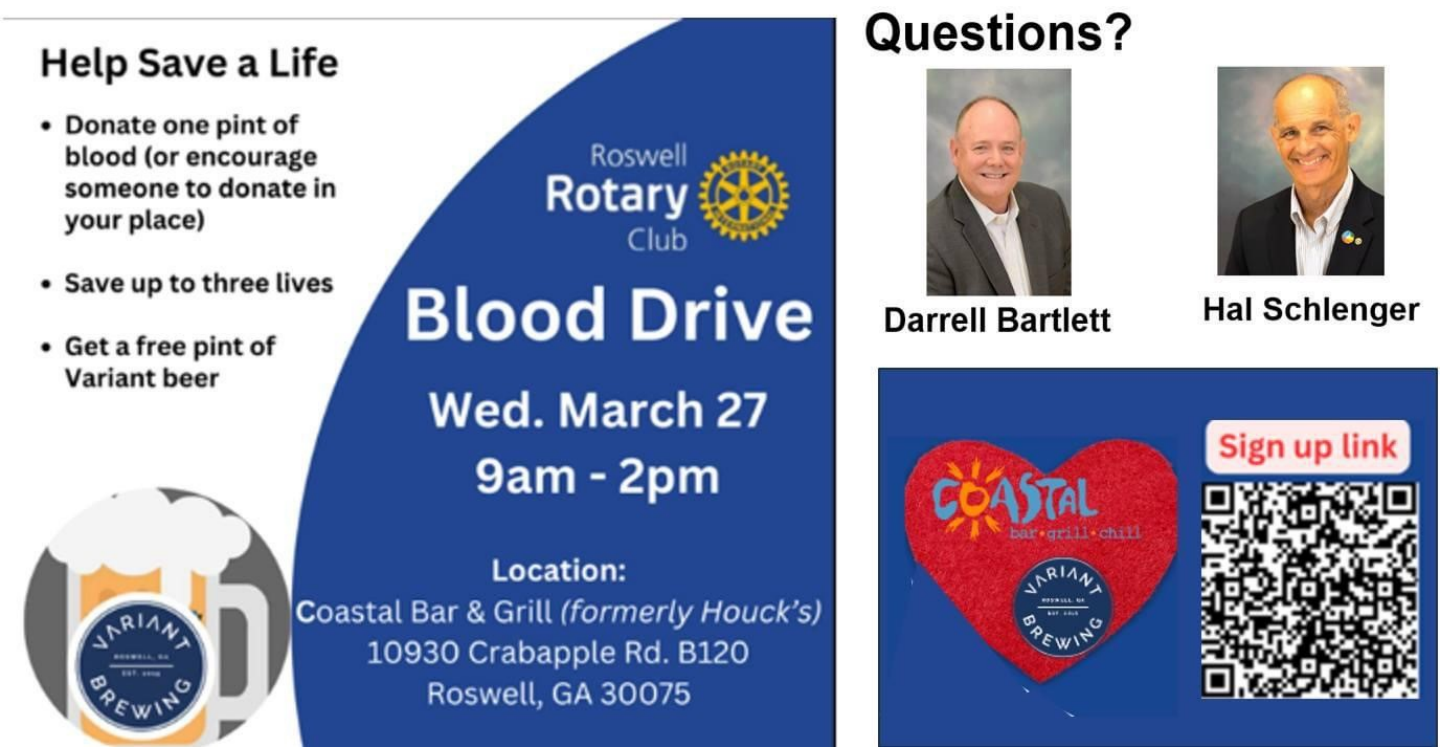
Campbell High School Interactors collaborated with **Vinings Cumberland Rotarians** (the Interact Club's sponsor) this spring to provide Free Bikes 4 Kids (FB4K). Bike donations were taken to the school Sunday April 21 for this organization which has volunteers who work on bikes throughout the year. Many cycle teams are actively making them just like new. Kids receive them at Christmas and another time at the beginning of summer. They take any bike in any condition or even parts of bikes.

Picking up 15 bikes from residents of One Vinings Mountain are Past Vinings Cumberland President Casey Patrick along with Campbell High Interactors - Senior Casey Patrick and Sophomore Sean Patrick.

Posted by Brenda Borden
June 3, 2024

Club News

Roswell Celebrates Five Years of Quarterly Blood Drives



Sometimes a club just gets lucky. We have some dedicated folks within the **Roswell Rotary Club** who come in with an idea and then stay committed to it for years. This May marked the fifth anniversary of our Quarterly Blood Drive supported by the American Red Cross. May 2, 2019 was the first of now 18 blood drives championed by Roswell Rotarians Darrell Bartlett and Hal Schlenger. In that time, 575 pints of blood have been collected helping more than 1600 folks (one pint can help up to three people.)

Finding momentum through COVID, the blood drives are now a branded entity in Roswell with the slogan: A Pint for a Pint. As a thank you, a donor is given a business card when checking in for a free pint of beer at one of our local breweries: Gate City Brewing or Variant Brewing. Not only do our club members donate their blood/platelets, but it also serves as a marketing and membership recruiting effort for the wider community. Through the constant and dependable blood drives typically hosted at one of our RRC members' locations, Darrell & Hal have had 61 folks donate blood for the first time and have recognized one of our members, Michael Curling, for donating his 100th pint! THANK you, Darrell, Hal and the rest of your Blood Drive crew.

Posted by Becky Nelson
June 3, 2024

Club News

Henry County Volunteers at Helping In His Name Ministries - Food Pantry



In May, the **Henry County Rotary Club** put what we learned during a tour and info session at Helping in His Name Ministries - Food Pantry into action and took time to volunteer. Director Tim Engelbracht did an excellent job educating us on what the food pantry is all about, who they serve and what their greatest needs are. The food pantry serves an average of 1000 families per month and that number is increasing with more families in need here in Henry County. He said the pantry could use support in the following areas:

- Food Donations
- Volunteer time to work at the Food Pantry
- Financial donations - this is the greatest need they have.

The food pantry is available to Henry County Residents Monday - Friday by Appointment.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Amy Lemelin
June 3, 2024

Club News

Griffin Daybreak Celebrates Fifth Graders













Griffin Daybreak Rotary Club members attended the end of year celebrations for 5th graders in the Griffin-Spalding County School system, and awarded the Mighty Acorn Award to a top student at each elementary school. Students were recognized for citizenship, leadership, and scholarship. The following Rotarians were on hand to present the awards (all are pictured with their students in the collage shown here):

- Anne Street Elementary: Maura Stringer with Rotarian James Brackett
- Atkinson Elementary: Alay'Jah Mack with Rotarian Susan Thaxton
- Beaverbrook Elementary: Eli Taylor with Rotarian Cindy Jones
- Crescent Elementary: Shelby White with Rotarian Seetal Patel
- Jordan Hill Elementary: Dannie Fielder with Club President Katheryne Fields
- Moreland Road Elementary: Addison Miller with Rotarian Robin Ivey

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant
June 3, 2024