



Happy Holidays & New Year!

Sharing The Magic Over The Holidays

By Gordon Owens
I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and the new year is off to a great start.

December was certainly a special time of year as our clubs shared the magic of Rotary through projects like the jingle jog fundraiser, holiday ham haul for first responders, shop with a cop, Salvation Army bell ringing, presents from Santa for children in need and teaching our youth the Giving Side of Christmas. It was a pleasure to get to participate in many of these and a personal highlight was getting to play Santa to hand out presents with the Jackson-Butts Club. These are just a few of the ways in which our clubs had a positive impact in their communities during the holidays. I look forward to seeing all the amazing ways in which our clubs continue to share the *Magic of*

Rotary throughout 2025, Happy New Year!

[more]

LEADERBOARD Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	Fayetteville	North Atlanta	Brookhaven
II	North Columbus	North Fulton	Vinings Cumberland
III	Marietta	Dunwoody	Carrollton-Dawn Breakers
IV	Roswell	Roswell	Peachtree City

Key Dates

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

2023-2024

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Annual Report



2023-2024 Annual Report

John Hewko Shares Our Annual Report

By André Marria

We are building a healthier, more resilient, and more peaceful world. I invite you to be among the first to read about the difference we're making together in our **2023-24 annual report**.

We have reason to celebrate. More than 400 million children were vaccinated against polio in 2023, with the support of Rotary and our polio eradication partners. We also have much to be thankful for and to hope for in the future. Our donors contributed more than US\$417 million in gifts and commitments, and we awarded US\$82 million in total funding to more than 1,200 global grants.

The stories about our impact and supporters, alongside the financial information, in this year's report testify to the strength of our partnership. I have confidence in the good the Rotary community will continue to achieve together, locally and globally. [more]



April 24-27, 2024 | Jekyll Island, GA

Register For District Conference

By Ryan Swertfager

We hope you've booked your hotel room for our first-ever joint district conference by now as there are only a few rooms left in our block. **Now it's time to get registered.** Registration will include meals from lunch on Friday to breakfast on Sunday, our beach tailgate party on Friday afternoon, live entertainment on Saturday night and a few adult beverages along the way. We are using DACdb for registration and most of you don't have a login, so click on the "Guest Registration" tab at the top of the registration form to get started.

Visit GeorgiaUnitedDC.com for more information. [more]

**YOU DIDN'T KNOW UNTIL YOU KNOW IT!!
SO, KEEP EXPANDING YOUR
KNOWLEDGE..." -ANONYMOUS**

Our Rotary
Foundation

Take a New Look at the Rotary Foundation

By Bob Hagan
Greetings and
Happy New Year
from your District
Foundation Chair!
It seems only
fitting that as it is
a new year, I
should send this
month's message
to New Rotarians.
We tend to get so
caught up in the
business of Rotary
that we sometimes
forget that not
everyone,
particularly our
newer members,
might not be as
familiar with all
the functions as
they would like.
So, this month I
want to focus on
the History of the
Foundation
specifically.
Therefore, if you
are a seasoned
Rotarian, you can
take this month's
message off.
However, before
you do, I might
point to this
month's quote.
[more]



Tour the Canadian Rockies | June 26-July 2, 2025

Post Rotary International Convention Tour

By Chris Archer
The Rotary International convention is June 21-25th, 2025 in Calgary, Alberta. Don't miss the chance to visit highlights of the Canadian Rockies and the great resorts while in the area! Plus spend July 1st in Canada as the country celebrates Canada Day - and still be home for July 4th celebrations. It's a win-win! Check out **the full itinerary** and contact **Chris Archer** if you are interested in joining fellow Rotarians on this amazing trip. [more]



Freezing For A Reason |
Saturday, February 1

Have you taken the Plunge? Anyone can!

By Paul Ray
The Polar Bear Plunge
2025 is very close, but
there is still plenty of
time for YOU to raise
some serious
money! This is the
absolute easiest way to
raise funds for any
charity you support.

Does your Rotary Club
or other organization
you support need to
raise money? On
February 1, 2025
the Rotary Club of
Alpharetta will host a
ready-made fundraiser
just for you! We are
Freezin' for a Reason!
Our 8th annual Polar
Bear Plunge lets you
create your own team,
raise funds, take the
"plunge", and get a
check! Last year the
average team earned
around \$5000.00! The
sky is the limit for you,
so start a team
today! You do not need
to come to Alpharetta to
participate. You can
plunge in whatever
body of water near you.
Last year we had teams
in Utah and Brazil. The
sooner you start, the
more funds you will
raise.

Start a team today to
get those end-of-year
charitable
donations. [Scan the QR
code in the flyer](#) and
get started. [more]



Take Action to Secure Your Rotary Legacy

By Lee Hollingsworth
Children perform for visitors at the Mollejones Community Center in Costa Rica. In partnership with CATIE (Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza), a group of women living near Turrialba, Costa Rica, launched an ecotourism cooperative to attract visitors and grow their community-based tourism businesses. Members of Rotary clubs in Cartago, Costa Rica, and in Denton, Texas, USA, partnered with CATIE to support the project through a Rotary Foundation global grant. He believed he would get better, but the medical clinic didn't have the resources to help him — **Rotary did.**

They knew clean water could be captured from the spring year-round, if only they had the engineering know-how — **Rotary does.**

She knew she could make a difference for others, if only someone believed in her enough to help with her education — **Rotary will.**

Learn how an at-demise commitment, completely revocable, of as little as \$25,000 can secure Naming Rights on a perpetual endowment to support the good work of Rotary. Honor yourself, your family or your most important life influence? Email District 6900 Major Gifts Chair, Lee Hollingsworth at lee@leehollingsworth.com to learn more.
[more]



January 15th, 2025 | 1PM

Join A Special Mega Meeting On Peacebuilding

By Gordon Owens
Join us in a special Rotary Mega-Meeting and Podcast with The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. This is a unique opportunity to meet the team educating youth to follow in the footsteps of Nobel-Prize winning President Jimmy Carter. Space is limited and seats are filling up fast, so please register now at: **Mega-Meeting.com**.

We will be joined by Charles E. Davidson, Ph.D. who directs the school's Center for Peace Technology and heads the Rotary/Carter School Collaboration for Peace.

"For decades, the Carters tirelessly walked in the shoes of the people they strived to empower, transforming countless lives in the process," Davidson says. "We teach our students to identify the underlying causes of conflict and equip them with the cutting-edge theory and practical skills to put their knowledge into action, whether that be at the local, national, or global level." [more]

In Memoriam

Remembering Four Rotarians Who Served Our District Well

By Jackie Cuthbert

In the last quarter of 2024, Rotary District 6900 lost four fine Rotarians who meant a lot to their clubs and the district.

Steve ... [more]






RYLA

June 7-11, 2025

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

www.RYLA6900.com

Susan Ruckman
District Chair
susanruckman@gmail.com

Jaclyn Donovan
District Chair
jaclyn.k.donovan@gmail.com

RYLA
**Start
Thinking
About
RYLA 2025!**

By Jaclyn Donovan
It's a new year and
that means it's

time to start
thinking about
RYLA!! Not that
we ever

really stop thinking
about RYLA... but

now we can say
that RYLA is
happening This
Year!! RYLA 2025

will be held June
7-11 on the
campus of Georgia
Southwestern
State University.

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.

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[more]



JOÃO VILELA

- ✓ From Brazil
- ✓ Attending Mercer University
- ✓ Wants to pursue a career in diplomacy
- ✓ Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Macon, Downtown Macon and Macon North



"I aspire to pursue a career in diplomacy, with a commitment to nurturing global harmony."

 www.grsp.org

GRSP Update

Meet João Vilela, Class of 2024-25

By Katheryne Fields

João Victor Verçosa Vilela, 21 from Brazil, says that Rotary

International's ideals, with an emphasis on service projects, international goodwill and cultural understanding, resonate deeply with his personal and professional objectives. He is attending Mercer University and since his arrival, this future diplomat has embraced his time at Mercer by being invited to take part on a reading group about Benjamin Franklin, being part of the Model Arab League, sharing his country's culture with other students and most recently nominated to a conference in California.

[more]



In Memoriam

Past District Governor Steve Stanfield

By Bob Hagan

Because of the tremendous influence PDG Steve Stanfield had on District 6900 over the last several decades, it is hard to know where to begin to celebrate the man.

Therefore, I believe the best way is to start at the beginning. Born February 19, 1947, Retired Army

Lieutenant Colonel Stanfield spent 21

years honorably serving his country and was Honorably Discharged in 1990.

PDG Steve joined the Rotary Club of

Americus attaining his Blue Badge on August 1, 1993. He had an

immediate impact at the District level, as he was instrumental in creating the Sheffield Leadership Award in 1994. The prestigious

award is presented annually to District 6900 Club Presidents by size category who best exemplify the extraordinary leadership traits represented by the Sheffield family.

[more]



Told By
Senator John
Albers

The Star Spangled Banner

By Nancy
Alterman
Roswell
Rotarian,
Senator John
Albers worked
with his home
club to help
produce a
video to share
with the 13
Interact Clubs
they sponsor
about the
history of The
Star Spangled
Banner. The
video turned
out awesome
and there is no
reason to keep
it a secret or to
only use it for
Roswell Rotary.
Any club that
would like to
share the video
with their
Interact Clubs
or other school
organizations
they partner
with, feel free.
You can **watch
the video on
YouTube** and
share it from
there. Enjoy!
[more]



Buckhead Rotary
Ham Haul

Delivering Holiday Meals To First Responders

By Denise Starling
Buckhead Rotary brought back the holiday tradition of delivering Honey Baked hams, sides and pies to fire and police stations across Dekalb County this Christmas Eve. A small but mighty team help organize all the meals into a single bag making it easy for volunteers to pick up their assigned deliveries. Club members in partnership with Livable Buckhead and other community organizations made quick work of making the first responders working on Christmas Day merry and bright. We had a total of 48 volunteers who served 51 dinners to approximately 60 police and 185 fire fighters. There were approximately 150 hours of service logged for the event...Good will and better friendships created and it was definitely beneficial to all concerned! The club got awesome media coverage with most major news outlets featuring the story during their broadcast and online. All in, they reached an audience of over 225,000 people with the Magic of Rotary. **Check out this video from 11 Alive News.**
[more]

RLI

Be Part of RLI in Thomasville - February 1

By Tracy Van Norman

Join us for Rotary Leadership Institute in Thomasville on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at Southern Regional Technical College. The address is 15689 U.S. Highway 19 North, Thomasville, Georgia 31792. The event will be hosted by the RC of Thomasville ... [more]



Club News

Atlanta Southern Crescent Gives "Gift of Giving"

By Claudia Merti

The Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent recently held its annual "Giving Side of Christmas" program - partnering with:

- Kinship Care, an organization created by the Clayton County government for grandparents and others caring for grandchildren
- the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department.

In its 17th year, this year's Giving Side of Christmas served about 80 children - giving them the opportunity to experience the joy of GIVING at Christmas. [more]



Our Rotary
Foundation at Work
**Griffin Builds
Handicapped
Ramps with
Competitive
Grant**

By Janice Wallace
The Rotary Club of Griffin has utilized a Rotary District Competitive Grant to construct a few handicapped ramps, including this one which significantly improves accessibility for a local family's child with mobility challenges. Collaboration was a key component of this initiative. The Rotary Club of Griffin partnered with Griffin Habitat for Humanity, fostering a sense of communal responsibility and engagement. Members of the Rotary Club of Griffin got their hands dirty, constructing the ramp themselves for the family in need in Griffin. [\[more\]](#)



In Memoriam
**Neill Ferrill,
RC Vinings
Cumberland**

By Thomas House
In May 2022,
beloved Rotarian
and past president
of Vinings
Cumberland Rotary
Club, Neill Ferrill,
was diagnosed with
a glioblastoma brain
tumor. For 29
months he showed
incredible strength
participating in
clinical trials,
numerous rounds of
chemo, radiation,
and 7 brain
surgeries. He
continued to attend
his Rotary meetings
until almost the
very end. His wife,
Robin, would drive
him to meetings
and was his biggest
cheerleader. Neill
passed away
peacefully in her
arms in
November. Neill
will be
remembered for
his infectious
smile and his
quick wit. He
believed in giving
back to others,
finding joy and
gratitude in your
present blessings,
setting goals and
working hard,
making the most
of every
opportunity, and
cherishing time
spent with those
you love. He will
be greatly missed
by so many
including his
Vinings
Cumberland
Rotary Club
family. [more]



Club News

Griffin Daybreak Celebrates December

By Debby Daniel-Bryant

Rotary District
Governor Gordon
Owens visited
with **Griffin
Daybreak
Rotary** and

shared his vision
of the theme, the
Magic of Rotary,
in which
Rotarians around
the district do
what they can to
help communities
locally and
around the world.
Pictured with DG
Owens is
Daybreak
President Dylan
Blasingame. In
addition,
Daybreak
Rotarians helped
... [more]



Club News

Rotary Club of Columbus Partners with Salvation Army to Spread Holiday Cheer

By LeighAnn DiCesaris

The Rotary Club of Columbus joined forces with the Salvation Army to ring in the holiday season and support the community through the annual Red Kettle Campaign. A dedicated group of 29 Rotary members volunteered their time and energy, spreading cheer with warm smiles and the familiar sound of ringing bells. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of the Columbus community, a total of \$729.66 was raised. This included \$328.34 collected at Hobby Lobby and \$401.32 at Walmart Grocery. The funds will help provide food, shelter, and essential services for individuals and families in need, ensuring that hope and joy shine brightly in Columbus during the holidays. [more]



Club News

Atlanta Southern Crescent/Clifton-Emory Satellite Collects Winter Coats

By Angeli Abrol Duggal

This fall, charter founder Yamin Farhat, President of the Rotary Satellite Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent/Clifton-Emory (RSCASC/CE) Angeli Abrol Duggal, and Angeli's five year old daughter, Avya Duggal, led the Club's winter service project to collect winter coats and clothes for Atlantans in need. Rtn. Neil Shorthouse from Atlanta West End Rotary, and a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, helped RSCASC/CE partner with St. Luke's, and Dunwoody Mayor Lynn Deutsch, a supportive, community-focused leader, helped Avya partner with Director Judi Carlson at Malachi Storehouse, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, to mobilize the distribution of coats and clothing. Together, the Club was able to donate over 800 articles of clothing and 60 baby and expectant/new mom essentials this fall! [more]