May 17, 2024





## **Update on the State of the District: a small view as we...Finish Strong!**



As we approach the end of the Rotary year, I want to thank you for the work you have done. We have focused on membership and the Rotary Foundation for the last months and here is just a snapshot on where we stand. Next month I hope to give a more comprehensive look at all of the things we have accomplished as we celebrate an awesome year!

Membership (let's hold and not lose if we can): Our district continues to thrive with 3,916 members.



Special congratulations to our club presidents for their leadership - starting with Peachtree City President Amy Benton (number 1 in the district). Peachtree City's remarkable growth symbolizes the collective potential within our clubs when we work together toward common goals! PTC is followed by:

- **North Cobb** President: Nancy Prochaska
- **North Fulton** President: Lisa Gelber
- **Brookhaven** President: Elishia Thompson
- **Meriwether County** President: Dawn Woodward
- **Cuthbert** Rotary Club: Patricia Goodman
- **On The Flint** President (new club): President Walter Kelly

**Foundation Giving - Demonstrating Our Commitment** (funds are still coming in): Your commitment remains strong with our Foundation Contributions:

- Congratulation, **Peachtree City** in Giving over \$126,000 this year!
- Our Annual Giving \$560,298
- Polio Plus Contributions: \$205,590
- Other Giving: \$20,827
- Endowment Fund: \$1,565
- **Total Contributions to date: \$788,280**

### **A Few Words about a Few Things**

I appreciate all you have done and appreciate all the new PAUL Harris, Polio Society, and Bequest Society Members who have been added to our number!

**Collaborative Partnerships:** I want to also acknowledge the work done to Create a more cohesive district! Thank you to all who have partnered with community agencies, and I am so proud of all you who have worked with the smaller clubs. One project is worth special noting - a collaborative grant which includes **Fayetteville, Tyrone, Lake Spivey, Griffin, and Griffin Daybreak**. This has led to greater resource sharing and new joint initiatives, amplifying our impact. District wide, programs like this have allowed us to collectively reach more than 5,000 lives.

**Annual District Conference:** We celebrated numerous members for their outstanding service and leadership, contributing to our district's reputation for excellence. Thank You to all for making it a "Fun Time" and a great learning experience. Our focus on Mental Health was well received. Over 475 were in attendance!

**"I SEE YOU AWARD":** Congratulations! to Rory Robichaux for being seen this month for the Leadership provided to his club as they worked to effectively restructure the club's organization at Johns Creek North Fulton.

Thank you to all our district members for your dedication and passion. Your efforts are essential to our success. Let's continue this momentum and make the upcoming year even more impactful!

ONE MONTH TO GO! Let's Finish Strong by improving and/or maintaining our Membership Standing... and Increasing our Foundation Giving, as we Create Hope in The World, and The Magic of Rotary!

Posted by André Marria

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## 2024-2025 District Community Grant Applications Due By May 15, 2024



Did you know there are District 6900 Grant Funds available for projects that begin during the 2024-2025 Rotary year? Each club can be eligible for up to \$2,000 to support a compelling project that will:

- fall within Rotary's seven areas of focus, and
- involve the active participation of Rotarians, and
- meet an identified need in a community.

The District must receive the Community Grant application by May 15, 2024.

This grant program is part of The Rotary Foundation (TRF). TRF distributes funds for District Grants to Clubs, and the specific amount each year is based on how much the District clubs contributed to the Rotary Annual Fund three years earlier. Therefore, the dollar amount available for grants varies each year; increased giving to the Annual Fund increases the amount available for Grants.

**Grant factors are critical to the grant application process. They state the problem, how your grant-funded project will alleviate or assist in easing the problem, how Rotarians will be involved (A MUST), and how your club will promote The Rotary Foundation.**

Grant Factors for Community Grants: Please provide limited information, but enough so we will understand the problem. Stats are not necessary. Example: Prior requirements - "62% of our area is below the poverty level and 43% of high school students read at an 8th-grade level". Now, it can read, "Due to poverty and lack of home support, our high school students struggle to read at grade level."

### Four Grant Factors

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 be involved 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.

Members of the District Grant Subcommittee will review all District Grant applications per TRF guidelines. TRF will then review and approve a single block District Grant; funds may be spent on grant projects only after TRF approves the plan. Don't hesitate to contact Kay Williamson, District Community Grants Chair, at 706.302.2614 if you have any questions.

Posted by Kay Williamson

April 24, 2024

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## Room Block Opens May 1

Join us in Jekyll Island next April



You won't want to miss the first ever multi-district conference on Jekyll Island from April 24-27, 2025. We are expecting 1000-1500 Rotarians to join us, so get your rooms booked before the sell out. We have blocks at every hotel and at a variety of price points, but these rooms will fill up quickly. Visit [GeorgiaUnitedDC.com](https://GeorgiaUnitedDC.com) to register and link to all the available room blocks. We can't wait to turn Jekyll into Rotary Island next spring!

Posted by Gordon Owens

April 25, 2024

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## **Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month**

As we move through the month of May, let us be reminded that it is Mental Health Awareness Month. It's a time to recognize the difference we've made this year, as we worked on projects that focused on Alzheimer's and dementia, for example, and had amazing conversations with mental health professionals at our District Conference. And it's time to look around us at people in need and determine how we can keep our good work going in this area! Thanks to all of you for what you have done this year and will do in the future.

Posted by André Marria  
May 17, 2024

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RYLA Update

## **Can You Give Us One Day in June?**





# Volunteers Needed

Join us as a Chaperone  
and be part of the  
greatest week of the  
summer!

Your time and skills  
can help make a  
difference.

## Why Join Us?

- Rotary Service and Engagement
- Participate in Impactful Activities
- Leadership Development for Young Adults
- Invest in the Future of Your Communities

8-12  
June 2024



Give Us

**#OneDayforRYLA**

ryla6900@gmail.com  
www.RYLA6900.com

Hey Rotary District 6900 members!! Can you give us just \*One Day\* of your summer? We need a little extra help to make our fabulous event fly, and you are perfect for the job! Chaperones help us keep things running smoothly each night and each morning, but have no assigned duties during the day. If you are willing and able - even just for 1 day out of the 4 - to give us #OneDayforRYLA we would love to have you! Please reach out directly to Jaclyn Donovan or Susan Ruckman for more details and we'll sign you up!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan

May 17, 2024

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RLI Update

## Save the Date (June 8) for Our Next RLI Event



Registration is open for the next RLI Event on June 8, 2024, at Cooper Lighting Solutions, 1121 Hwy 74 S, Peachtree City, Georgia. Curriculum includes Parts 1, 2, & 3, PLUS a graduate course on Public Speaking! Go to [rlitraining.org](http://rlitraining.org) to register. If you have any questions or issues, please contact me at [tracy.vannorman@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.vannorman@gmail.com). Look forward to seeing you there!!!

Posted by Tracy Van Norman

May 17, 2024

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May 13 | 6PM

## Attention Club Membership Chairs

Join the next MAP webinar



Let's start the 2024-2025 Rotary year with a plan for membership success! Club membership teams are encouraged to join these MAP Bite sized Informational Webinars to help them make a plan and grow their clubs! This ever growing group of dedicated Rotarians uses the information in these webinars to grow the Magic of Rotary in their community. [Register for the next webinar.](#)

Posted by Dave Schwickerath  
April 26, 2024

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GRSP Update

## Students Confirm Joy of Having a Host Family

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director





Having a host Rotarian who welcomes you into their family simply sweetens the experience for Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars. Just ask the pair studying at Kennesaw State University this year.

Tinashe “Tina” Mukuro, 20, is from Zimbabwe and sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Paulding County** and the **Rotary Club of East Cobb**. She enjoys playing tennis, drawing, painting, reading and exploring local attractions, such as local cafés, restaurants and markets. Her goal is to make a positive, sustainable impact through her civil engineering degree. She says she used to struggle with math but right now calculus is her favorite subject. She said her involvement with GRSP has taught her how different people can be from one another but still have important history. She loves spending time with her host Rotarian Aaron Strimban and his family, who she says treats her like part of their own family, which has been amazing for her.

Roosa “Julia” Toytari, 25 of Finland, is sponsored by the **Roswell Rotary Club**. She credits her host Rotarian Nancy Alterman for showcasing both the state and other states to her during her time with GRSP. and with welcoming her into her home as her own. She said her host mom also taught her to cheer, “Go Dawgs!” Julia received her bachelor of business administration in March of 2023 and is now taking courses to help her career goal of working with a governmental organization such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or with a non-profit association. When the current class was asked who spoke the most languages, they all immediately replied, “Julia!” She speaks four languages and is familiar with a few more. “Understanding the world around us is essential for everyone,” Julia said. “It is richness to learn from other cultures, customs, and ways of living.”

Posted by Katheryne Fields  
May 5, 2024

## Join Us May 21 for Fellowship! Special Meeting Day



Rotary Means Business ("RMB") is a fellowship of Rotary International. District 6900 has a local RMB Chapter. Rotarians are embracing the original foundation of what Rotary was based on as we adhere to the Four Way Test. The RMB Fellowship provide an opportunity for all Rotarians to network on a local and global basis to enhance their businesses.

The District 6900 RMB regularly meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month for networking and socializing. HOWEVER DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WE ARE MEETING ON THE THIRD TUESDAY IN MAY. The next meeting is May 21 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM at Politan Row at Ashford Lane (near Perimeter Mall) (<https://ashfordlane.politanrow.com/>). There is plenty of free parking in the parking deck behind the building.

The Rotary Club of Roswell is our sponsor this month. Your first beer or wine is on us if you register in advance. You can register now by [following this link](#).

Our events are on the District 6900 website calendar and the latest information is on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/RMBDistrict6900>

I hope you will help promote RMB to your Club. We were averaging 25 people at an event but would like



to grow that to 40 to 50 people at each event. It would be great if you can announce our next meeting at your meetings and designate someone to promote RMB in your Club.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Posted by Carter Stout  
May 17, 2024

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## **Rotary Women of Impact Awards Gala a Huge Success!**



The Rotary Women of Impact (RWI) Awards and Fundraiser was a resounding successful sold-out event, exceeding all expectations. The event aimed to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in various fields while raising funds for charitable causes supported by Rotary International. The awards ceremony honored outstanding women who have made significant impacts in their communities, whether through leadership, innovation, philanthropy, or advocacy. These women were recognized for their dedication and commitment to creating positive change.

The RWI team nominated 33 women leaders such as CTOs, VPs, SVP, Founders, Doctors from Fortune 100 companies who not only were at the pinnacle of their careers but are also giving back to the society. Out of the 33 nominees, 11 women won awards for different categories and 3 women were awarded with Lifetime achievement award.

Additionally, the fundraiser aspect of the event was successful, with generous donations pouring in from attendees, sponsors, and supporters. The funds raised will go towards supporting Rotary's initiatives aimed at empowering women, promoting education, healthcare, and economic development, both locally and globally.

Following the success of the Rotary Women of Impact Awards and Fundraiser, the organizers are keen on leveraging the momentum gained to continue their efforts in supporting women's empowerment and community development. Some next steps include

- Expansion of Initiatives: Utilizing the funds raised to expand existing initiatives and launch new projects aimed at empowering women, promoting education, healthcare, and economic development.
- Advocacy and Awareness: Increasing advocacy efforts to raise awareness about issues affecting women and girls, and advocating for policies that promote gender equality and women's rights.
- Networking and Mentorship: Facilitating networking opportunities and mentorship programs to support women in various fields and empower them to achieve their full potential.
- Community Engagement, Partnership Building, Evaluation and Feedback.

By focusing on these next steps, the Rotary Women of Impact committee aims to build on its success and create lasting change in communities around the world.

**PHOTOS:**













Posted by Syd Padala  
May 5, 2024

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## **Americus Rotarian Named to Join International Rotary Positive Peace Activator Program**





Laura Bauer McConatha, Board Member of the **Americus Rotary Club**, has been chosen for the next cohort in Rotary International's Positive Peace Activator Program. Created in 2020, the p Program is the most comprehensive training and educational program hosted jointly by Rotary International and its strategic partner the Institute for Economics & Peace. The Activator Training Program includes a competitive application process and a multi-day intensive training that is curated for each region. After the training, Activators agree to a two-year service commitment, providing presentations, leading trainings, and supporting projects with Rotary clubs, districts, and other stakeholders. Activators are considered representatives of the Rotary-IEP Partnership.

Since 2020, 197 Activators from six regions and more than 70 countries have been trained. This year's Selection Committee was both surprised and delighted by the high number and quality of applications. Laura Bauer McConatha, Board Member of the Americus Rotary Club, recently received word that she had been chosen for the next cohort. Her first responsibility will be to attend training in Chicago this August.

Rotary members organizing and working at the community-level make it possible to create environments where lasting peace is possible, and, in turn, bring about more peaceful societies - from the local to the global. The Rotary-IEP Partnership equips and trains Rotary members in IEP's Pillars of Positive Peace framework - providing a unique structure to view peace as a process and a system versus a product or result, build capacity in how Rotarians think about peace and development, and provide educational resources to move initiatives forward.

IEP's Positive Peace research demonstrates that lasting peace cannot be built merely on the absence of violence, but rather requires a supportive social system inclusive of factors such as good governance, access to needed services, a sound business environment and respect for the right of others.

Rotary's Areas of Focus - peacebuilding, conflict prevention, disease prevention and treatment, water, sanitation and hygiene, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and community economic development - are all integral investments in Positive Peace.

Upon being named as a Positive Peace Activator, Laura shared, "Peacemaking is my passion, and I am excited for this opportunity to learn evidence-based methods of positive peacemaking from international change agents at Rotary International and the Institute for Economics & Peace. In addition to working in my local community, I am looking forward to providing education and coaching to others who are seeking to make meaningful change in their own community."

Posted by Michelle Parker  
May 6, 2024

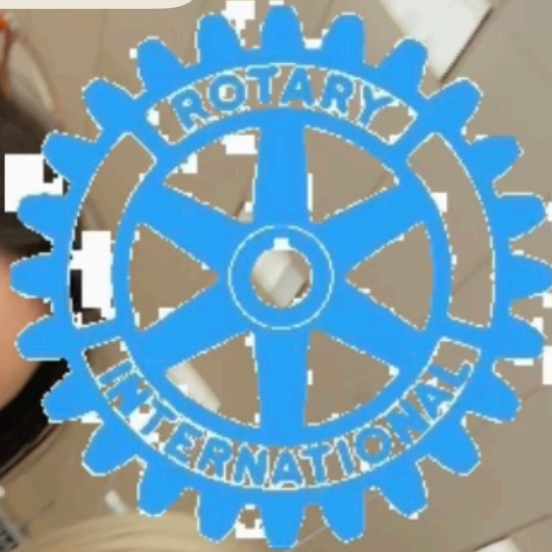
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Club News

## **Rotarians and Interact Rise Against Hunger**



DB From Amie >



**RISE AGAINST HUNGER**

**CAMBRIDGE HIGH  
SCHOOL**

Milton, GA



**Rotary Club of North Fulton** members recently partnered with Cambridge High School Interact Club to pack over 12,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger. These meals will be sent to an area experiencing food insecurity, whether it be from natural disasters, political instability, or ongoing poverty. Rotarians enjoyed getting to know the students while working for a worthy cause. In addition, we had the help of Milton, GA firefighters to round out our work crew!

**PHOTOS:**











Posted by Lisa Gelber  
May 5, 2024

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Club News

## Douglas County Joins Earth Day Festivities



The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** joined in the Earth Day event at Douglasville's new Town Green! Kids young and old had fun making bead bracelets and learning about the water cycle.

Posted by Nell Boggs

May 5, 2024

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Club News

**Join Roswell Fun Any Third Thursday - Now through September**





Roswell, Georgia hosts a street party the third Thursday of each month between April and September. Boasting 3,000-5,000 in attendance, neighbors greet neighbors, locals meet visitors and **Roswell Rotarians** enjoy it all from the Hagan Center Corner. We have our tents, someone is grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs, drinks are self-serve, and everyone is chatting. It is not only a great time for fellowship but also for marketing our club to the greater community. Roswell Rotarian Alan Greensmith and team set up the spread with all the fun of a neighborhood cook-out with a few thousand of your nearest and dearest friends. Long-term member and PDG Bob Hagan owns the parking lot and allows our tent to be set up where cars are not allowed to park. Please let this serve as your invitation to join us should you be in the area! Just walk right on up!

Posted by Becky Nelson  
May 5, 2024

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Club News

## **Blue Jeans and Blueprints Festival Supports Habitat for Humanity**



**Brookhaven Rotarians** helped out at the first ever Habitat for Humanity Dekalb Chapter’s BBQ, Blue Jeans, and Blueprints festival. Rotarians greeted guests at the Tucker, Georgia festival where there was live music, building competitions, and great food. All money raised went to support rehabilitating homes for Dekalb County senior citizens and disabled veterans. There are 430 individuals on Habitat for Humanity’s Dekalb Chapter’s waiting list for assistance so every dollar helps.

Posted by Judith Fuller  
May 5, 2024

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Club News

**Henry County Celebrates National Arbor Day**



**Henry County Rotary** partnership with Girl Scouts and the UGA Extension of Henry County to celebrate Arbor Day. Did you know trees provide social, communal, environmental, and economic benefits? Tim Daly

from the UGA Extension shared his knowledge and experience with us to help us learn more about trees including the best kinds to grow based on where we live, how and when to plant trees, as well as how to care for them. Renfro Valley Tree Farm kindly donated 55 trees to give to each of our participants to take home and plant. We encourage you to plant a tree and improve the air around you. Happy planting!

## PHOTOS:



Posted by Amy Lemelin  
May 5, 2024

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Club News

## Marietta Metro Enjoys the Sun, Makes a Difference





How do you spend a sunny, springtime Saturday? If you're a **Marietta Metro Rotarian**, you might spend it as some of our club members did, building benches for the garden in the outdoor classroom at Hayes Elementary School. The following weekend, they were back at the school, planting flowers in the garden. Outdoor classrooms allow children to learn about the world around them and enhances creativity and imagination. The project spans the Rotary theme for April, the Environment, and June's Youth Service theme.

#### **PHOTOS:**



Posted by Sally Platt  
May 5, 2024

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Club News

## **Griffin Downtown Council Manager Visits Daybreak Club**



Heather Robinson, District Manager of the Griffin Downtown Council, is pictured here with **Griffin Daybreak Rotary** President Katheryne Fields. Ms. Robinson recently met with the Club and informed them of the Summer Concert Series beginning in May and continuing through October. She shared about businesses coming to Griffin, including a boutique hotel and breweries, as well as recent activities and future enhancements to the downtown area.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant  
May 6, 2024

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