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District Governor Steve Ivory Pushes for Polio Eradication — Literally!



What better way to start our newsletter for Rotary Foundation month than with a story about End Polio Now!

On **World Polio Day**, District Governor **Steve Ivory** took his commitment to Rotary's top humanitarian cause to the next level — by hitting the pavement for **push-ups to end polio**! With the support of generous district sponsors, Governor Steve raised **nearly \$2,000** in donations for **Rotary's End Polio Now campaign**.

As part of the fundraiser, Governor Steve challenged himself to complete **50 push-ups in one minute** — and he far exceeded that goal, powering through an incredible **70 push-ups**! ([Watch the video!](#)) His energetic display of strength and dedication not only inspired Rotarians across the district but also underscored the determination that drives our mission to **end polio worldwide**.

The event was broadcast live thanks to the efforts of **District Public Image Chair Nicholas Ramey** and **Peachtree City Rotary Club Public Image Chair Jason Aldrich**, who hosted a dynamic **livestream**

event to share the excitement and spread awareness.

A heartfelt **thank you** goes out to everyone who donated, tuned in, and supported this fun and meaningful challenge. Because of your generosity, Rotary is **closer than ever** to eradicating polio — a goal that's within our reach thanks to decades of dedication, advocacy, and action by Rotarians around the world.

Together, we're proving that when Rotary unites behind a cause, **we make an impact — one push-up at a time!**

Posted by Nicholas Ramey
November 5, 2025

Recognizing World Polio Day

by Wynita Cannon, District Polio Chair



On **October 24**, Rotary International and communities around the globe came together to recognize **World Polio Day** —a day to reflect, raise awareness, and renew our commitment to the mission: **End Polio Now**.

Rotary District 6900 showed up with heart, energy, and purpose. We are proud to highlight the incredible efforts of our clubs across the district who participated in events, fundraisers, and awareness campaigns to help eradicate polio from the planet.

- **District Governor Steve Ivory's "Push-Ups for Polio"** campaign was a standout success, energizing clubs and members to get involved in a fun and impactful way. We'll let you know soon what we raised.
- **Peachtree City Rotary and the Atlanta Southern Crescent/Emory Clifton Satellite** held Pizza for Polio nights
- The **Rotaract Club of Atlanta** sponsored Pints for Polio, as well as a billboard highlighting Rotary's polio efforts
- The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro** will hold a Pickleball for Polio tournament on November 15 - see the story in this newsletter about how you can participate
- **Atlanta Southern Crescent** created awareness with an online purple pinky campaign

We extend our deepest appreciation to **every club that participated** —your dedication and creativity made this year's World Polio Day a powerful demonstration of Rotary's global reach and local impact.

Together, we are closer than ever to making polio history. Let's keep pushing forward until every child is safe from this preventable disease.

#EndPolioNow #WorldPolioDay #Rotary6900 #PushUpsForPolio

PHOTOS:



Posted by Wynita Cannon
November 4, 2025

Club News

Join Atlanta Metro's Pickleball for Polio Tournament



The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro** invites you and your club members to join us for our inaugural Pickleball for Polio tournament in support of Rotary International's End Polio Now campaign.

Event details:

Date: Saturday, November 15

Time: 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Sandy Springs Racquet Center
500 Abernathy Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30328

How it works:

- Come with a partner or sign up solo, we'll match you with someone.
- Please bring your own paddle.
- Light refreshments will be served.
- Open to Rotarians, Rotaractors, and community members. Feel free to spread the word to your Pickleball-loving friends and family!
- Winning team receives a \$200 cash prize.

Not playing? You can still help! Cheer on our players and donate to the campaign! Also spread the word!

Register here: <https://luma.com/bslokxvn>

Thank you for helping us turn pickleball into polio vaccines!

Posted by Caroline Lazaro
November 5, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

It's November - That's Spelled "FOUNDATION"



November is a wonderful time of year! The hot weather in District 6900 has finally cooled off a bit, the trees are changing colors giving us good reasons to travel to the northern section of our district to enjoy them and Thanksgiving is now just around the corner.

In the Rotary world, November also marks Foundation Month! Having just had an outstanding World Polio Day, we now turn our attention to The Rotary Foundation. We spoke last month about what dollars were raised last year, \$569 million is certainly worth mentioning again, along with the fact The Foundation surpassed the milestone goal of \$2 billion dollars for the Rotary Endowment. Furthermore, we looked at where the dollars went grant-wise as The Foundation awarded 1,424 global grants, 468 district grants, and 74 disaster response grants. Let's also celebrate our District 6900 2024/25 achievements. Our District was fortunate to award \$497,000 in District Designated funds. Of that amount, \$69,000 went to PolioPlus, \$172,000 went to District and Competitive Grants and \$255,000 went to 12 clubs for Global Grants used around the world. What a fantastic year for our district and our clubs!

Now let's turn our attention toward the source of the dollars coming into the Foundation. The two main areas for donation are the Annual Fund and PolioPlus. When you donate, you have the option of directing where you would like your donations to go. The Annual Fund is considered the main source for The Rotary Foundation's programs. Many new members of Rotary will have a certain dollar amount collected quarterly that will go into that fund. In general, all Rotarians are asked to donate to strengthen this fund in support of Grants and programs. What I'd like you all to remember is the other major area for donating and that is Polio and PolioPlus. For every dollar we as Rotarians donate to Polio, the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation matches two dollars to every one dollar donated!

There are so many ways you can donate to the Foundation. Consider:

1. Benefactor: You become a Benefactor when you designate \$1,000 or more in your estate plans.
2. Paul Harris Fellow: You become a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) when you have donated \$1,000 total to the Annual Fund or to PolioPlus and you will continue to be recognized for each \$1,000 you give until you reach \$10,000 in donates.
3. Major Donor: Once you have attained \$10,000 donated you are considered a Major Donor and recognized as such.
4. Bequest Society: If you pledge \$10,000 or more in future gifts you join the Bequest Society with special recognition at different levels of giving.
5. Arch Klumph Society: At \$250,000 you join the exclusive Arch Klumph Society

There are so many ways to give and be a part of the Foundation in life changing ways! There is much work to be done this year, but we are off to an excellent start!!

Our overall goal is \$375,000 for District 6900 for 2025/2026, and we are already at \$132,000 for the Annual Fund YTD and over \$88,000 for PolioPlus through October. That's a great start! Let's keep it rolling!

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!

Posted by Bob Hagan
November 5, 2025

Amy Benton Selected as District 6900's DG Nominee Designate



We are pleased to announce that the District 6900 nominating committee recently convened to interview candidates for District Governor Nominee Designate who were put forth by their respective clubs and has selected **Amy Benton**, Past President of the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** to serve as District Governor during the 2028-2029 Rotary year. Many of the nominating committee members and the governor line were present at the Rotary Club of Peachtree City to announce the big news to Amy's home club.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
November 30, 2025

Atlanta Rotaract Supports Polio Awareness and More



For the **Rotaract Club of Atlanta**, October was about polio awareness, supporting families and having fun together. The club sponsored a Pints for Polio night, as well as a billboard over Atlanta from October 21 - 24. And Rob DeCou (Nor'wester Rotary Club of Port Angeles, Washington) joined the club virtually to share his 2017 story of completing a 146-mile run across Death Valley to the top of Mt. Whitney, which raised over \$700,000 for End Polio Now.

Rotaractors also volunteered with a booth at McKenna Farm's Fall Festival which we were invited to be a part of thanks to Nancy Prochaska in North Cobb Rotary. They interacted with many families and took quite a few fun photos there.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Rolanda Smalls
November 5, 2005

End Polio Now

Update From the Camino - "The Way" to Fight Polio Fundraiser



This **East Cobb Rotarian** is happy to report that I completed my Camino walk from St. Jean Pied de Port, France to Santiago de Compostela, Spain on October 20. Total distance covered was about 780 km (about 485 miles) in 42 days. The experience was as wide-ranging as the distance was long - excitement, frustration, beauty, pain, exhilaration, exhaustion.... Many extreme highs and lows, both in terms of emotions and the actual hills along the Way. The first picture here is me, representing Rotary and "End Polio Now" in Santiago Cathedral Square - the traditional endpoint of the Camino.

The best part (as with many things) was the people. My hiking partner Scot really pulled me through some of the tough spots when I wasn't sure my aching knees could handle another hill, and saved me when I missed a turn and got pretty far off course one day. The camaraderie of the Camino forged new friendships with fellow peregrinos (Camino pilgrims) from all around the world with shared goals and challenges. Sometimes it was just a smile and a "Buen Camino," sometimes a reminder not to forget one's hiking poles after a coffee stop, sharing ibuprofens ("Vitamin I") when someone's supply ran out, or simply a point in the right direction - lots of little things that added up to a big part of the experience and the beauty of the Camino.

While my Camino is complete, Rotary's fight to eradicate polio worldwide continues - as does my Camino Fundraiser for Rotary's Polio Fund. I'm writing this update on World Polio Day, here in Finisterre (literally, "the end of the earth" to the Romans who built a lot of the original infrastructure of the Camino), a frequent extension of the Camino after Santiago. The generosity of my friends and family (including my Rotary family) in support of the fundraiser has been amazing, and that support was a great inspiration for me to keep putting one foot in front of the other when the walking got difficult.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed, we have exceeded my original goal of \$10,000 on the fundraiser. So I've set a new goal of \$15,000. And to help reach that goal, I will match new contributions to get us there. Contributions go directly to the Polio Fund of the Rotary Foundation, and you and your club will receive the Foundation credit and Paul Harris points for your contributions: visit <https://raise.rotary.org/Brad-Groff/challenge>

Also, I am thinking of putting together a presentation about the Camino in general, my Camino experience, and how to use Rotary's "Raise for Rotary" online fundraiser tool (<https://raise.rotary.org/>) for your own fundraisers. Please reach out to me if your club would be interested in that presentation - bradgroff@gmail.com

PHOTOS:







**ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL**

DISTRITO 221



RC. LA CORUÑA
RC. ROSES

ENTRE Y DESDE
CABO FISTERRA Y CAP DE CREUS
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RI Convention 2026

Join Us in Taipei This June



It's a new year ... and time to make new connections and create unforgettable memories at the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei City, where traditional and contemporary culture intertwine beautifully. The convention will take place June 13-17 in Taiwan. You can learn a lot more about the convention by visiting the [RI Convention website](#).

As always, District 6900 plans to be there in force - and we have been working on making a hotel connection. We have included a link to reserve rooms at Hotel Indigo in Taipei, Taiwan for the convention. The room rate is 8,050 Taiwan Dollars = **\$266.21 US Dollars per night**. Breakfast for two people in each hotel room is complimentary daily. Click here on "[make a reservation](#)" to go to District 6900's dedicated reservation link.

NOTE PER THE HOTEL: Due to our system's setup, the initial page may show "cancellable." However, once you click into the group name, you will see the correct terms, which state that the reservations are ****non-cancellable and non-refundable****. PLEASE pay attention to this important detail.

Since the reservations made at this hotel are non-cancellable and non-refundable, you may consider purchasing travel insurance. While we are not recommending any one particular company, we have included links to help you research and compare travel insurance companies. Visit:

- [Compare the Best Travel Insurance Companies of 2025](#)
- [Best Cancel For Any Reason Travel Insurance in 2025 - Forbes Advisor](#)

More About Hotel Indigo Taipei North

The hotel is located at No. 200 Zhifu Road I Zhongshan District I Taipei City, TW, Taiwan 10466 - 6.4 miles

from Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center (TaiNEX)1 and 2.8 miles from Taipei Dome.

Hotel Indigo Taipei North was launched in January 2020, designed and coordinated by the renowned architect Kris Yao. With five years efforts and a selection of 520,000 handmade bricks, the eye catching conch-shaped hotel building is a new landmark in Dazhi; inside the hotel, people can view the handmade dragon boat by the National Treasure of Taiwan, Master A-Zheng, who inherited sophisticated craft that has been preserved for 5 generations; the meticulous carvings bring all travelers an experience of unparalleled inspiration. Hotel Indigo Taipei North is an upper upscale boutique hotel that blends stylish design with local culture, offering a unique yet uncomplicated stay. Catering to both business and leisure travelers, it combines a distinct boutique experience with the reliability of a global hospitality brand, ensuring a warm and inviting atmosphere.

Questions

Contact DGE Cynthia Edwards if you have questions.

Posted by Cynthia Edwards
January 1, 2026

End Polio Now

Columbus Renews Effort to End Polio



The **Rotary Club of Columbus** is reigniting its commitment to eradicating polio through renewed awareness, education, and fundraising. For the first time in several years, the club is highlighting the PolioPlus initiative with videos, a public health guest speaker, and new fundraising opportunities featuring End Polio Now pins and stickers.

At a recent meeting, Rotarian Dr. Asante Hilts introduced Brandi Nelson, Epidemiology Manager for the West Central Georgia Health District, who spoke about the district's three-step approach to polio prevention: Identify, Isolate, and Inform. She also described outreach programs like Public Health on Wheels, which brings vital health education directly to communities across 16 counties.

"Raising awareness for PolioPlus isn't just about remembering the past—it's about finishing the job for future generations. And we plan to finish strong" said Club President Alan Harkness.

PHOTOS:



Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris
November 5, 2025

End Polio Now

Roswell Raises Money for Polio



In August, **Roswell** Rotarian Lee Hollingsworth jogged across Badwater Basin in Death Valley, the lowest, hottest place in North America— at age 70 – for two great Rotary causes: End Polio Now and the global grant for the KiBeam literacy program benefiting kindergarten through 3rd grade students in the US.

At Roswell's meeting honoring World Polio Day, Rotarian Sid Disher “challenged the District with a \$2,500 matching Polio Plus donation” said District Foundation Chair Bob Hagan. Roswell responded by raising \$13,000 in one meeting - that translates to \$39,000 for polio eradication efforts with the Gates Match.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth
November 5, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

North Fulton Recognizes 5 New Paul Harris Society Members

by Lauri Young, District PHS Chair



Lauri Young, Lee Hollingsworth, Dan Jenkins, Erik Bykat, Rick Clark, Jonathan Stelling, Brad Serff, PDG Bob Hagan, Doug Higgins

The Paul Harris Society (PHS) is a key part of our Foundation's efforts to change lives in our communities and around the world. A PHS member commits to contributing \$1,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation each year. Those contributions may be to the Annual Fund, the PolioPlus Fund or to approved global grants.

Recently, the **Rotary Club of North Fulton** recognized five members for making this important commitment. President Erik Byatt, Richard Clark, Dan Jenkins, Brad Serff and Jonathan Stelling were recognized by PDG Bob Hagan, D6900 Foundation chair. PDG Bob was joined by Club Foundation chair Doug Higgins, District Major Donor chair Lee Hollingsworth and District PHS chair Lauri Young.

If you would like to learn more about the Paul Harris Society and how to become a member, contact Lauri Young at 770-883-0466 or lyoung285@earthlink.net.

Posted by Lauri Young
November 4, 2025

RI Convention 2026

Join Us in Taipei Next June



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travelers, it combines a distinct boutique experience with the reliability of a global hospitality brand, ensuring a warm and inviting atmosphere.

Questions

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Posted by Cynthia Edwards
November 5, 2025

Laws of Life

Georgia Laws of Life Honors Donors and Student Voices at 2025 Founders Celebration



The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest hosted its annual **Founders Celebration** on October 9 at the Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta, welcoming, student writers, Rotarians, donors, educators, and friends from across Georgia for an inspiring evening dedicated to character, gratitude, and community.

Executive Director **Carol Gray Walker**, Event Chair **Bob Hagan** and Board Member **Ed Outlaw** led the program, recognizing donors and presenting *Bridge Builder* plaques to multi-year financial supporters whose generosity sustains the contest's mission. Guests heard moving stories from passionate educators, this year's student essay winner, and an alumna whose journey from homelessness to earning her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering embodied the transformative power of the Laws of Life program.

Katherine Yang, the 2024-25 Susan G. Mason Founders Award winner and a junior at Northview High School, shared her award-winning essay on appreciation and family. Her reflections reminded everyone that gratitude and perseverance are cornerstones of character. Later, **Jackie Harmon**, a 2011- 2012 Honorable Mention recipient, returned to share how writing a Laws of Life essay changed her life, influencing both her confidence and career.

Throughout the evening, guests celebrated the impact of the **Bridge to the Future Campaign**, which continues to expand the contest's reach to more students and schools across Georgia. Each year, more than 33,000 students participate in the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest through partnerships with

Rotary Clubs, who sponsor local contests, host recognition events, and help students reflect on the values that shape good character and strong communities.

Rotary's long-standing commitment remains at the heart of the program's success. "Rotary Clubs are looking for meaningful projects that engage young people," said Executive Director Carol Gray Walker. "The Laws of Life contest aligns with Rotary's focus on leadership, peace, literacy, and youth development—and it changes lives."

The evening also highlighted the program's corporate and individual sponsors, whose support makes this work possible. A special thank-you goes to **Delta Community Credit Union, Peach State Federal Credit Union, Trainz, and our many Bridge Builders** for their generous commitment to helping Georgia's students grow in character and confidence.

Individuals interested becoming a **Bridge Builder** and Rotary Clubs interested in learning more about sponsoring a contest or hosting a **Laws of Life presentation** are invited to contact **Carol Gray Walker, Executive Director**, at carol@georgialawsoflife.org or visit www.georgialawsoflife.org . Presentations can be customized for Rotary club meetings and often feature inspiring student speakers, Board Members or program staff.

Together, Georgia's Rotarians continue to build bridges of character, compassion, and leadership—helping the next generation of Georgians live their own *Laws of Life*.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
November 5, 2025

RYLA Update

So Thankful for RYLA



RYLA is not just a summer camp – it is a whole experience. A wonderful, joyful, sometimes tiring, but always amazing and absolutely life-changing experience for all involved. As we look forward to RYLA 2026 and all of the amazing students and moments it will bring us, we took a moment to reflect on what we are thankful for when it comes to RYLA:

1. Watching students grow and learn
2. Seeing teams bond
3. Rotary clubs that make the investment to send students to RYLA
4. Watching students step outside their comfort zones and have their teams cheer them on
5. Energy and passion that the staff puts into camp
6. My RYLA Family

7. Hearing past students talk about what they learned and how they used what they learned
8. Working with staff who care deeply about the betterment of others
9. Cool breezes on hot June days
10. District 6900 being so supportive of the RYLA program
11. The lifelong Family we get to work with empowering the younger generation
12. Fellow staff members who encourage each other all year long
13. Falling! If you know you know...
14. The Americus Rotary Club for supporting RYLA for 20+ years
15. Bottomless pizza in the cafeteria
16. Seeing students achieve something they thought impossible
17. The look on a student's face when something finally "clicks" with them
18. Mama Bear (aka Susan) and all the love she pours into the program
19. Late night ice cream runs with the RYLA Fam (staff)
20. The opportunity to make a difference in the life of a student
21. The "family" bond of the RYLA staff
22. Students supporting other students
23. See the problem-solving skills come to life during activities
24. Free t-shirts :-)
25. Feeling like I have given of myself to do something good for others

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 5, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Alpharetta Celebrates Continuing Progress of Brazilian Down Syndrome Education & Training Center



Another milestone has been reached with second phase completion of the APADPEL Down Syndrome Training & Education Center in Pelotas, RS Brazil. **Alpharetta Rotarian** Bob Koncerak traveled to Pelotas in August to participate in planning sessions and a celebration with the project's many corporate and civic partners - including Brazil Rotary District 4680. APADPEL is shorthand for the Association of Parents of Downs Persons In Pelotas.

The complex now includes a specially equipped kitchen for occupational training, dormitories to enable independent living, newly equipped therapy rooms and a fitness center play area. Several area clubs and District 4680 meet regularly with Association leaders to observe and assist with programs and a certification curriculum. Thanks to the D6900 clubs who have helped make this project an international success - including **Rotary Clubs of Roswell, Stone Mountain, Peachtree City, Dunwoody, Atlanta Brazil!**

Click on these links for more information and photos ...

- Training center photos: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1DM1bTVnh8/?mibextid=wwXlfr>
- Video of the project celebration
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNinfGoO4IE/?igsh=MW9sdW9iNWU1NXVxMA==>
- Rotary media video of the project's impact in the region: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1D9gJMRDsp/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Posted by Bob Koncerak
November 4, 2025

D6900 Rotarians Honored as Arch Klumph Society Members



What an amazing honor! Out of 38 honorees being inducted into the Rotary Foundation's Arch Klumph Society in October, two are from our district—and both are from the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City**! Congratulations to:

- District Governor Steve Ivory, Past President and Sheffield Leadership Award recipient
- Mary Chapman - Past President and Sheffield Leadership Award recipient, former District 6900 Rotarian of the Year, and lifelong champion of Rotary service.

For Rotarians around the world, this is one of the highest recognitions of service through financial giving to The Rotary Foundation. Society Members have donated at least \$250,000 to The Rotary Foundation. But an even greater honor is how much these two incredible Rotarians serve every single day through their leadership in Rotary.

And what a wonderful surprise that fellow Arch Klumph Society member and District 6900 Foundation Chair, Bob Hagan, joined Mary and Steve for this momentous occasion!

Posted by Nicholas Ramey
November 5, 2025

Satellite Club Asks for Help with Annual Coats for Kids Drive



This fall, the **Rotary Satellite Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent/Clifton-Emory** is just getting started on this year's Acts of Kindness winter service project - under the leadership of charter founder and Club President Yamin Farhat, Angeli Abrol Duggal and her daughter Avya (a first grader at Westminster Schools). Avya will be working on the 2nd Annual Coats for Kids Project (winter clothing collection) in her school, while members of the RCCE global e-club will be conducting Acts of Kindness in their local communities around the world this month. As a hybrid club (a global e-club comprised primarily of medical and public health professionals), our members are actively involved in ongoing projects centered around school-age children in their local communities around the world. The pictures we are sharing are from last year's projects.

Local donations for the **Annual Coats for Kids Project** will be made to Malachi's Storehouse, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, with the support of Dunwoody Mayor Lynn Deutsch and Director Judi Carlson. We kindly ask our fellow clubs to consider donating to Malachi Storehouse and help make this service project a success! If you would like to donate, please note that this is part of the Rotary (RCCE) Coats for Kids Project. Deadline: November 30, 2025. Most requested items are clothing, canned goods, toiletries and diapers. More information can be found here: <https://malachis.org/#donate>

PHOTOS:



Posted by Angeli Abrol Duggal
November 4, 2025

Thanks for Your Service

Dunwoody Dishes Up Lots of Food and Good Will!



Dunwoody Rotarians were quite busy in October. In addition to our visit to Bounds Garden, we enjoyed a Friday meeting presentation on The Sandwich Project, then gathered that Sunday at the Zambris' home to make ham & cheese sandwiches for The Sandwich Project! We made short work of the task for a very worthy cause under the leadership of Meghan with help from husband, Pete and had fun afterward with

wine and conversation!

Then we took our food skills AND dozens of homemade cookies to the USO at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport - serving hotdogs, lasagna, cookies and fruit to our service men and women. Dunwoody hosts at the USO twice each year and has for more than 15 years.

Finally, we gathered for one of the whiskey tastings leading up to our annual Whiskey Raffle fundraiser - learning about Glenmorangie scotch from our host and raffle co-chair Neal MacDonald.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Bob O'Brien
November 4, 2025

Club News

North Cobb's Mountain Top Boys Home BBQ Continues 38-Year Tradition



For nearly four decades, **North Cobb Rotarians** have upheld a cherished tradition of traveling to North Georgia to serve the Mountain Top Boys Home with a delicious, home-cooked barbecue. This annual event not only brings together members, their families, and the local community, but also celebrates a long-standing commitment to supporting the restorative care provided by the Mountain Top Boys Home.

Founded to care for young boys who, through no fault of their own, have become residents of the agency, the Mountain Top Boys Home offers a safe, nurturing, and structured environment. Daily life is organized in a family-style setting, guided by dedicated professional staff and compassionate house parents who provide mentorship, counseling, and support to help each boy grow and thrive.

This year's gathering was marked by great food, beautiful weather, and a shared sense of purpose for over 120 people continuing a meaningful legacy of service, fellowship, and community impact.

PHOTOS:









Buckhead and LifeLine: Pet Adoption and So Much More!



The **Rotary Club of Buckhead** selected LifeLine Animal Project as one of its three-year signature projects, expanding community support efforts to address shelter overcrowding. Their work with LifeLine focuses on much more than promoting pet adoption. Here are three stories of our work:

Fighting Food Insecurity

The Rotary Club, LifeLine and Open Hand Atlanta have joined forces to fight food insecurity in a new way: by feeding both people and their pets. In the first month of this ongoing effort, Rotary volunteers delivered 53 bags of free dog and cat food to 30 families, along with 200 meals, 10 baskets of healthy groceries, and 10 packages of nutritional supplements for an additional 30 families.

Club President Shelley Hammell launched the initiative recognizing that feeding and caring for a pet can cost over \$30,000 over its lifetime, an expense that can force some owners to skip meals or give up their pets, causing shelter overcrowding. Partnering with Open Hand, which already delivers nutritious meals, made it a natural fit to include pet food to help address food insecurity for both people and their pets.

LifeLine provided the pet food and joined in the deliveries alongside Buckhead Rotarians. This monthly effort helps keep people and their pets together, recognizing that pets play a vital role in their owners' mental and emotional well-being.

Keeping Pets with Their People

Buckhead Rotary partnered with LifeLine to help provide access to pet care through their Healthy Pets

event, promoting pet health, supporting families, and preventing surrenders due to unaffordable veterinary care. A dedicated group of Buckhead Rotarians volunteered at Wade Walker Park in Stone Mountain, GA, assisting attendees in the “happy dog” line with paperwork so their pets could receive vital veterinary services—completely free of charge. Nearly 1,300 pets and their owners were seen by onsite veterinarians for services including:

- 625 Microchips
- 789 Distemper Vaccines
- 349 FVRCP Vaccines
- 1040 Rabies Vaccines
- 831 Spay Neutering Vouchers

The event was educational for Buckhead Rotarians who learned how to spell Shih Tzu and Chihuahua and got to interact with the four-legged attendees. This was a huge success with 160 volunteers and Buckhead Rotary was proud to be part of it. Buckhead Rotary will be sponsoring the spring Healthy Pet event and has committed to making this a regular event for the next three-years.

Barking Good Time for Dogs and People

Buckhead Rotary had a truly rewarding time partnering with LifeLine Animal Project to help increase visibility for pet adoption and ease shelter overcrowding. This joint effort between Buckhead Rotary and LifeLine was made so much easier thanks to the support of the North Atlanta High School Interact Club, who teamed up with us to wave down cars and engage with the interested families.

Thanks to everyone’s support, 38 interested families came through to explore pet adoption. We are excited for our furry friends to find their fur-ever homes! A huge thank you to our Interact Club for lending a helping paw in making this event a success. Thank you to our GRSP student, Dani Bergamo and our RYE student Leo Klein-Kraneberg for volunteering at the event!

After our hard work, we followed up with a Bark-A-Que for all Rotarians and their guests, four legged friends were included. We enjoyed a balmy afternoon under a spacious tent while sharing a delicious barbecue meal and connecting with new and old friends. It was a barking good time. Thanks to the Chastain Park Conservancy for the use of the tent and restroom facilities, much appreciated by the humans. The dogs of course preferred the trees. tary Club of Buckhead selected LifeLine Animal Project as one of its three-year signature projects, expanding community support efforts to address shelter overcrowding. Their work with LifeLine focuses on much more than promoting pet adoption.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Shelley Hammell
November 5, 2025

Club News

Roswell Rotary's Family Farm Day Honors First Responders



On Sunday, October 12, over 200 **Roswell Rotarians** joined members of the **Roswell Fire Department, Police Department, EMTs, 911 dispatchers, and their families** on a beautiful fall day to honor those who serve our community every day. Family Farm Day was a celebration of appreciation, relaxation, and connection.

For years, Roswell Rotarians have enjoyed an annual “Farm Day,” made possible by the generosity of fellow Rotarian Gary Garrett at his “Gold & Grass” farm. This 300-acre property—once home to Georgia’s largest gold mining operation—features hay fields and winding trails along the Etowah River. It’s truly a slice of heaven.

Giving back to our first responders is central to Rotary’s mission. Roswell Rotary has long hosted an annual cookout in their honor, but this year, in collaboration with the Chiefs of Roswell Fire and Police, we took it a step further by inviting their families to join us at “the farm.” Roswell Rotarians provided a plentiful and delicious potluck dinner. Laughter echoed across the fields as children enjoyed pumpkin painting, hayrides, face painting, the ever-popular jumpy house, and even “panning for gold.”

Thanks to a district grant, over 100 birdhouses were painted red, white, and blue, each proudly bearing the Roswell Rotary Club emblem - a heartfelt symbol of community pride. Roswell Fire Chief Pabel Troche summed it up best: “It was one of the nicest, most well-done events I’ve ever attended honoring those who serve the community.” The smiles on the faces of the first responders said it all. Many shared that it was the first time their families had seen them so relaxed in a long time—free from the stress of their demanding roles and able to simply enjoy quality time together. A new Roswell Rotary tradition has been born. At our club, Service Above Self is more than a motto, it’s a way of life we’re proud to live and share.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Lynne Lindsay
November 5, 2025

Club News

Brookhaven Launches Be the Voice and Suther's Second Saturday



To celebrate the opening of the Brookhaven City Centre, the **Brookhaven Rotary Club** is hyper-focused on supporting those within our city limits and getting to know our city better. In October, the club kicked off two new service projects.

- We helped kick off the Be the Voice program at Woodward Elementary School. With assistance from a District Grant, our Rotary Club is sponsoring the Be the Voice program this year. Woodward Elementary's Paw Patrol is helping lead the program, guiding students through activities and challenges that promote kindness, empathy, and inclusion.
- We're also supporting Suther's Second Saturday. On the second Saturday of the month, we have a booth at the Brookhaven Farmer's Market to collect food donations for the Suther's Center Food Pantry and to increase the profile of Rotary within the community. When our club learned that the food pantry recently ran out of food, we wanted to help raise awareness and donations thus Suther's Second Saturday was created.

In addition, we continued exploring the parks of Brookhaven, this time walking the trail around Blackburn Park where we had an opportunity to learn more about the local community garden as well as identify a potential future location of a Rotary Peace Pole.

Posted by Jennifer Yanulavich
November 5, 2025

Tyrone Boasts Fantastic Turnout at Founders Day 5K!



The **Rotary Club of Tyrone**'s annual Founders Day 5K was a resounding success, drawing over 100 enthusiastic runners to the scenic course. The community spirit was evident as participants of all ages enjoyed a morning of fitness, fun, and fellowship. A special highlight of the day was Rotary District Governor Steve Ivory, who didn't just stop by—he rolled up his sleeves and jumped right in to assist at the finish line, embodying the true spirit of service. Thanks to everyone who ran, volunteered, or came out to cheer. Events like this remind us why our community is so special.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Dorothy Hart
November 5, 2025

Club News

North Cobb Reach Extends from Local Community to Africa



The Rotarians from **North Cobb** united for good in the local community and in a project to provide mobility to those in need in Africa.

The Lucky Dog Walk | A 5K Walk for Recovery: Club members joined to support the Lucky Dog 5k Walk! We sponsored the walk to benefit the Extension Alumni Association. This association puts on sober events for graduates of The Extension program. Rotarians Brenda Fischer, Axl, Winnie, and Leo had a blast speed walking the event. Getting three dogs to look at the camera is impossible. Want to know more about the Extension? Join us when we serve dinner at the men's or women's facility. Follow us to see more of how Rotarians are uniting for good.

McKenna Farms | A Community Fall Festival to Support Therapy For All: McKenna Farms Therapy

Services is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides vital therapy services to children and young adults (ages birth to 21) with special needs across Northwest Georgia and the metro Atlanta area. North Cobb Rotarians supported their Annual Fall Festival—a fun-filled event that welcomes over 1,000 attendees and offered a wide variety of activities! Members cooked burgers for the many attendees, helped manage parking lot logistics, and provided event support as needed. One of the event highlights is when Club President Jose Gonzalez presented a check for \$7,000 to Development Director Randall to build a new playground to support therapy sessions for children with special needs.

Crutches for Africa | North Cobb Lends a Hand for Neighboring Clubs: Past President Nancy and husband Kevin helped Richard Cope and fellow Rotarians load a container filled with mobility devices to deliver to Africa. 100 wheelchairs along with crutches and walkers will be distributed by Crutches 4 Africa.

PHOTOS:



Rotary Club of North Cobb

DATE: 10/18/2025

PAY TO THE ORDER OF: McKenna Farms Therapy Services \$7,000.00

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Posted by Dr. Jose Gonzalez
November 5, 2025

Vinings Cumberland Rotary Helps Kids Ride with Free Bikes 4 Kidz Atlanta



Members of the **Rotary Club of Vinings Cumberland**, together with students from the **Campbell High School Interact Club**, recently volunteered with **Free Bikes 4 Kidz Atlanta**, an organization that provides bicycles to children and teens who might not otherwise have the opportunity to own one.

Rotarians and Interactors worked side by side to inspect, repair, and refurbish donated bikes, making sure each one was in perfect condition before being distributed. For many of these young recipients, it will be their very first bike, a moment of freedom and excitement made possible by community collaboration.

Free Bikes 4 Kidz Atlanta partners with nonprofit organizations year-round, ensuring families in need have access to quality bikes. The Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club was proud to lend a helping hand, and a few wrenches, to support this inspiring mission.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Thomas House
November 5, 2025

Buckhead Pink Honor Breast Cancer Awareness



Buckhead Rotarians dressed in pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our guest speaker, Christa Pitts, Founder and Co-CEO from The Lumistella Company, joined in the spirit by wearing pink as well. One of our newest members, Liz Loretta, shared her sunshine presentation, giving us a glimpse into her life and her new role as Executive Director of TurningPoint Breast Cancer Rehabilitation. We were proud to come together in recognition of such an important cause that touches so many lives.

Posted by Shelley Hammell
November 5, 2025
