



From Our District Governor

October ... A Time to Celebrate, Consider Opportunities and Act

By Cynthia Edwards
September was a busy month for me - traveling through District 6900, celebrating all of your accomplishments, fellowship, creativity and determination to make a difference in our communities and the world. I had the privilege to join Rotarians from **Rotary Clubs of Peachtree City, Tyrone, Senoia and Fayetteville - and the Rotary Community Corps**, to make a huge IMPACT with the Midwest Food Bank Georgia. As we move into October, we look forward to celebrating World Polio Day - with events and support for continuing our effort to End Polio Now. It is also Rotary's month to focus on Economic and Community Development. And there's more ...
[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	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
	MEMBERSHIP		
I	Atlanta Brasil	Emory-Druid Hills	Brookhaven
II	Bremen	Jackson-Butts County	Muscogee-Columbus
III	North Atlanta Professional Alliance	Vinings Cumberland	Dougherty County (Albany)
IV	Dunwoody	Dunwoody	Marietta
V	Peachtree City	Alpharetta	Peachtree City

Key Dates

Friday, October 2nd, 2026	Atlanta West End Governor Visit
Tuesday, October 6th, 2026	Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club Governor Visit
Thursday, October 15th, 2026	South Cobb Governor Visit
Monday, October 19th, 2026	Henry County Governor Visit
Tuesday, October 27th, 2026	Barnesville Governor Visit
Wednesday, October 28th, 2026	Griffin Daybreak Governor Visit
Thursday, October 29th, 2026	Griffin Governor Visit



Growing Membership: Increasing Rotary's Impact

By Cynthia Edwards

Across the globe, Rotary is focused on increasing our membership - among Rotarians and Rotaractors.

Rotary's ability to serve begins with its members. Across District 6900—from metro Atlanta to communities throughout western and southwest Georgia—attracting new members brings fresh energy, new ideas, and more hands to meet local needs ... [\[more\]](#)



Rotary
District 6900



District Governor Candidates Wanted

Seeking passionate leaders for Rotary 6900
District Governor position for 2029-2030

*Provide Rotary Resume and Club
Resolution by Saturday, October 31 to
D6900ExecutiveSecretary@gmail.com*



**Nominations
for
2029-2030
District
6900
District
Governor
Due By
10/31**

By Cynthia Edwards
**Nominations for
our 2029-2030
District Governor
are open.** We need
your help in
identifying qualified
candidates and
officially nominating
them by resolution
of your club. The
certified club
resolution form will
be sent to club
presidents along
with Article 16 of the
Rotary Manual of
Procedure that
outlines the role and
responsibilities of a
District Governor.
Read on for more
about the
requirements,
process and deadline
for nominations.
[more]



The Rotary Foundation is the charitable arm of Rotary International. It funds and powers the good works of Rotary clubs worldwide. Its mission is to help Rotarians advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, supporting education, and alleviating poverty.

Our Rotary Foundation **More Than 350 Million Reasons to Give to The Rotary Foundation**

...
By Bob Hagan
This month I want to look at the Foundation in a broader sense in terms of what effects the Foundation has on the world and who else contributes to the Foundation. Let's start with some of the final numbers from the Foundation for 2025-2026 Rotary Year. The Foundation issued **1,804 Global Grants, 463 District Grants and 61 Disaster Response grants**. Also of great note is the fact that **over 350 million children were vaccinated in 28 countries!!** Everywhere you look, Rotary is there working. So who is helping to make that happen? [more]

1 STRUCTURE: HOW IT'S ORGANIZED



WHAT IT IS

A public charity that turns donations into service projects that change lives.



WHO RUNS IT

Governed by a Board of Trustees (different from the Rotary International Board of Directors, which runs the member organization).



WHERE IT IS

Headquarters are in Evanston, Illinois, USA.



2 FUNDING: THE THREE MAIN FUNDS

The Foundation's work is supported by three principal funds.



ANNUAL FUND

The primary source of money for yearly Rotary projects and grants. Donations are invested for three years before being spent.



ENDOWMENT FUND

A permanent fund where the capital is never spent. Only the investment earnings are used, securing Rotary's long-term future.



SUSTAINING TODAY
SECURING TOMORROW



POLIOPLUS FUND

Specifically dedicated to the global eradication of polio.



3 PROGRAMS: HOW THE MONEY IS USED

The Foundation focuses its work in seven Areas of Focus.



Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention



Disease Prevention & Treatment



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene



Basic Education & Literacy



Maternal & Child Health



Community Economic Development



Supporting the Environment

It achieves this through two main types of support:

A. GRANTS – Funding for Rotary clubs to carry out projects



DISTRICT GRANTS

For small-scale, short-term, local or international projects.



GLOBAL GRANTS

For large-scale, international projects with sustainable, measurable outcomes.



B. TARGETED PROGRAMS – Specific initiatives



POLIOPLUS PROGRAM

Working toward a polio-free world.



ROTARY PEACE FELLOWSHIPS

Developing leaders to promote peace and prevent conflict.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAMS

Sharing skills and expertise to build stronger communities.

HOW IT WORKS – THE ROTARY FOUNDATION IN ACTION



1. DONATE
Rotarians and friends contribute to the Foundation's funds.



2. INVEST
Contributions are invested for growth and sustainability.



3. DISTRIBUTE
Funds are converted into grants and programs.



4. CLUBS & DISTRICTS ACT
Clubs use the grants to carry out hands-on projects.



5. LASTING IMPACT
Communities thrive and lives are changed around this world.

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**





End Polio
Now
**World
Polio
Day -
October
24!**

By Bob Hagan
Over the course of my two years plus as your District Foundation Chair, I'm quite certain you have picked up on my personal focus on the fight to eradicate Polio. I have personally had the honor of working with some incredible individuals in the field in India administering over 2,000 vaccines to children myself during my Rotary years of service. It is an experience I will never forget. And I'm writing today to ask for your continued support of our work to end Polio - as we approach World Polio Day on October 24. [more]

OCTOBER 24TH



"Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality." – Jonas Salk

What would you do... if it was your child?

WORLD POLIO DAY



**END
POLIO
NOW**



TAKE ACTION: Join In, Speak Out, Donate

World Polio Day **We Can Help! Forty Clubs Share Easy Polio Initiatives**

By Lee Hollingsworth
World Polio Day is Saturday, October 24. We're asking every club for \$1,500 to PolioPlus - With the Gates Foundation 2-to-1 match, that becomes \$4,500. And DG Cynthia and I are asking every club to hold a World Polio Day Event - five District 6900 clubs have registered a Polio event; the rest have 30 days and need simple, low-cost ways to meet our Polio goals. Take a look at what some clubs are doing ...
[more]



Steve Ivory Joins GRSP Foundation Board

By Jackie Cuthbert
Immediate Past
District Governor
Steve Ivory has
been appointed to
the Georgia Rotary
Student Program
Foundation Board
as a Foundation
Director. In this new
role, Steve will help
advance GRSP's
remarkable 80-year
mission of building
peace and
international
understanding—one
student and one
friendship at a time.
He is available to
visit Rotary clubs
throughout District
6900. [more]



THE GEORGIA LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST
Founders Celebration
An Evening of Gratitude

NOVEMBER 4, 2026 / 6:30 - 9:00 PM
DUNWOODY COUNTRY CLUB
HORS D'OEUVRES / CASH BAR



Our signature annual event, the Founder's Celebration is an unforgettable evening of cocktails, food, celebration, and inspiring student stories. Join Rotarians, educators, business leaders, and community partners as we celebrate Georgia's top student essays and honor the students, teachers, and supporters who make it all possible.



Laws of Life
**Countdown
to GLL
Founders
Day
Celebration**

By Carol Gray Walker
We're getting closer to our Georgia Laws of Life 2026 Founders Celebration, and excitement is building for our first celebration at Dunwoody Country Club on November 4! We're looking forward to an elegant evening of cocktails, food, inspiring student stories, and celebration as we recognize some of Georgia's most remarkable students and the educators who help make Georgia Laws of Life possible. Learn more about the event and how you can be part of it!
[more]



Rotary Means
Business
**Rotary
Means
Business
Returns
to
D6900**

By Carter
Stout

**Rotary
Means
Business**

(RMB) is an
officially
recognized
global Rotary
Fellowship
that honors
this founding
purpose -

**"Empowering
your**

**business by
the Power of
the Pin."** We

encourage you
to join us for:

• **October 15,
2026 (5:00
PM - 7:00**

PM): Joint
Networking
Social with the
Tucker

**Rotary Club
at Tucker
Brewing
Company.**

• **November
5, 2026:** Joint
Networking
Social with the
Decatur

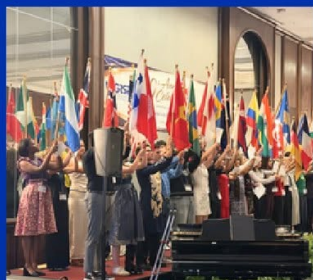
Rotary Club
(Time and
location to be
announced).

Read more
about RMB
and our plans
in District
6900. [more]

GRSP CONNECT



GRSP BY THE NUMBERS



38

International Students
in the class of 2026.
They represent 20
countries around
the world



79

Rotary Clubs Across
the State of Georgia
are Sponsoring
Students in the Class
of 2026.



80

Years of Bringing
Nations Together. GSRP
was established in 1946
by William A. Watt, Sr.
of Thomasville.

GRSP Update Introducing GRSP Connect Newsletter

By Katheryne
Fields

We are pleased to share the October 2026 edition of The GRSP Connect, GRSP's quarterly newsletter, designed to keep you connected to the Georgia Rotary Student Program. From welcoming students at the airport to celebrating Conclave and hosting our first student weekend, it has been a busy and exciting few months! We invite you to take a few minutes to catch up on the latest news, activities, and highlights from GRSP. Thank you for your continued interest and support of GRSP and our mission of *World Peace Through Understanding*.
[more]

A vibrant graphic for RYLA 2027. The text 'RYLA' is in large, colorful letters (R: blue, Y: orange, L: teal, A: pink) with thick black outlines. Below it, '2027' is in large, lime green letters with thick black outlines. Underneath, 'June 5-9' is in bold black letters with a slight drop shadow. The background is white with scattered colorful geometric shapes (circles, triangles) and abstract brushstrokes in blue, yellow, and pink. At the bottom right, there are circular icons for Facebook and Instagram.

RYLA

2027

June 5-9

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

RYLA6900@GMAIL.COM

RYLA

RYLA Club Registration Now OPEN

By Jaclyn Donovan
RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) will be held June 5-9, 2027. To help us get ready for RYLA we are opening registration Now. Our goal is to fill all 144 student spots for 2027 and we are aiming for 100% club participation in District 6900. All we are asking at this point is to decide if your club is going to sponsor students to attend RYLA and how many students that will be. To send that RSVP ... [more]

Rotary
Club of Thomasville



ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

LEARN • LEAD • CONNECT • SERVE



**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 30, 2027**



7:30 AM – 3:30 PM



**SOUTHERN REGIONAL
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

This interactive learning forum is designed to give you an informative and constructive view of Rotary's organizational structure, service opportunities, and leadership.

Whether you are a new member or a seasoned Rotarian, this is a great opportunity to deepen your Rotary knowledge and connect with leaders across our district.

RLI

Find Your Voice: Why Every Rotarian Should Attend RLI

By Walter Marria, Jr.
I still remember my first Rotary Leadership Institute session. I was unsure of what to expect and walked out with a completely different sense of what it means to be a Rotarian. RLI isn't about memorizing bylaws or maybe checking a box; it's about discovering the "**why**" behind our service and finding our own voice as a Rotarian and leader. We hope that you will join us for RLI on January 30, 2027, in Thomasville, Georgia, at Southern Regional Technical College. You can register at **RLI - Sunshine Division.**
[more]



RI Convention
2027

Are You Barcelona Bound?

By André Marria
It has been said that "Some of Rotary's strongest connections begin at the Rotary International Convention." Let's validate that statement by encouraging others to join us in **Barcelona from June 26-30, 2027!**

The Convention is an opportunity to meet Rotarians from different cultures, exchange ideas, share experiences, and build friendships that can last for years. And let's be sure to encourage our Rotaract Clubs to attend and experience Rotary on an international level! [more]

**A wonderful morning in the
company of my friend
[@jhkeaton2002](#)**



**Two Rotarians. Two
Cultures. One Conversation.
Dois rotarianos. Duas
culturas. Uma conversa.**

Club News

Two Rotarians. Two Cultures. One Conversation.

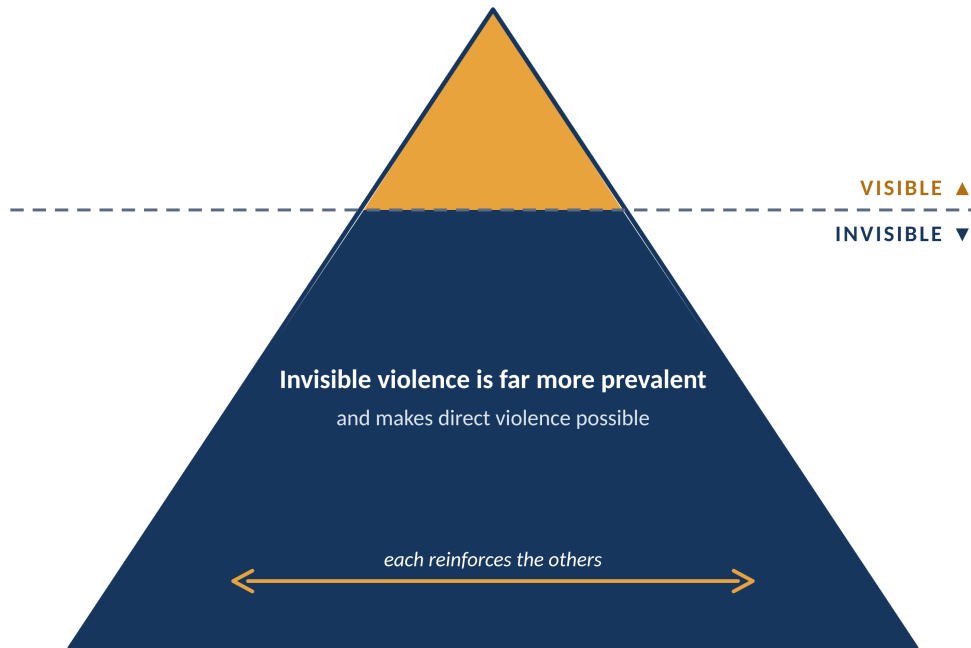
By Josiane Carolino

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Brasil** is launching a new peacebuilding and cultural exchange initiative designed to strengthen conversational English, build confidence, and create meaningful connections among Rotarians across District 6900. "Two Rotarians. Two Cultures. One Conversation" pairs Rotarians who want to strengthen their conversational English with fellow Rotarians who are willing to meet, socialize, listen, and encourage them in a relaxed and welcoming environment. We are inviting all District 6900 Rotarians to volunteer as Conversation Partners. If you're interested, continuing reading and contact the Rotary Club of Atlanta Brasil, atlantabrazilrotaryclub@gmail.com. [more]

Galtung's Triangle of Violence

DIRECT VIOLENCE

Hitting, bullying, war, hate crimes



VISIBLE ▲

INVISIBLE ▼

Invisible violence is far more prevalent

and makes direct violence possible

each reinforces the others

STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE

Built into systems: unequal access to schools, health care, jobs, justice

CULTURAL VIOLENCE

Beliefs, stories and symbols that justify the other two

Adapted from Johan Galtung (1969, 1990)

A Focus on Peace

Every Act of Service is an Act of Peace

From Our District Community Service Chair

By Laura McConatha
I learned a concept from a fellow Rotarian during our August 2024 Positive Peace Activator training that I had never considered before: "Every Act of Service is an Act of Peace". So, let's start there. We all know how important it is to have our basic needs met. Physical needs include clean water and sanitation, nutritious food, shelter and safe housing, basic health care, and physical safety - meaning freedom from violence, war and abuse. It's part of why the Eight Pillars of Peace Framework, developed by the Institute for Economics and Peace, was adopted by Rotary International. And part of what I'll be exploring with you in the district newsletter, starting with this article.
[more]



Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Cynthia Edwards

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) in 2026 takes place from 1-31 October, with the national theme **"With Survivors, Always,"** emphasizing a shift from awareness to action. Many of our Rotary Clubs help provide services/assistance to individuals who are victims or potential victims of domestic violence. The information here provides additional information about the awareness campaign and resources available. [more]



Club News

29th Annual Mayor's Corporate Challenge Breaks Records in Alpharetta

By Clark Savage
The skies were bright and the energy electric as over 1,300 runners, families, and dedicated community members gathered in downtown Alpharetta with the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** in September for the 29th Annual Mayor's Corporate Challenge. The event included a kids' fun run, bouncy house, sponsor tables, and food trucks. Thanks to the incredible generosity of presenting sponsor LexisNexis Risk Solutions, alongside more than 30 dedicated corporate partners, our club proudly raised a phenomenal **\$121,000**.
[\[more\]](#)



Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Emory Druid Hills Grant Equals More Than School Supplies

By Rani Singh
Members of the **Rotary Club of Emory Druid Hills** came together to support students at Lilburn Elementary School by donating much-needed school supplies. For our club members, this was more than simply a donation—it was an opportunity to serve local children and help provide them with supplies that can support their learning and success throughout the school year. The project was made possible through a District 6900 Community Grant. [\[more\]](#)



Club News

A Rotary Legacy Four Generations Strong

*What We Learn
When We Share*

By André Marria

At a recent reception hosted for District Governor Cynthia Edwards, several members of the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** leadership had the opportunity to hear a remarkable piece of Wilson Carraway's family's Rotary history. Wilson shared a limited-edition photograph of Rotary founder Paul Harris, signed in 1937, that had been given to his great-grandfather, Lewis M. Lively. And that's just the start of the story ...
[more]



Club News

Henry County Turns Used Medical Equipment into Renewed Independence

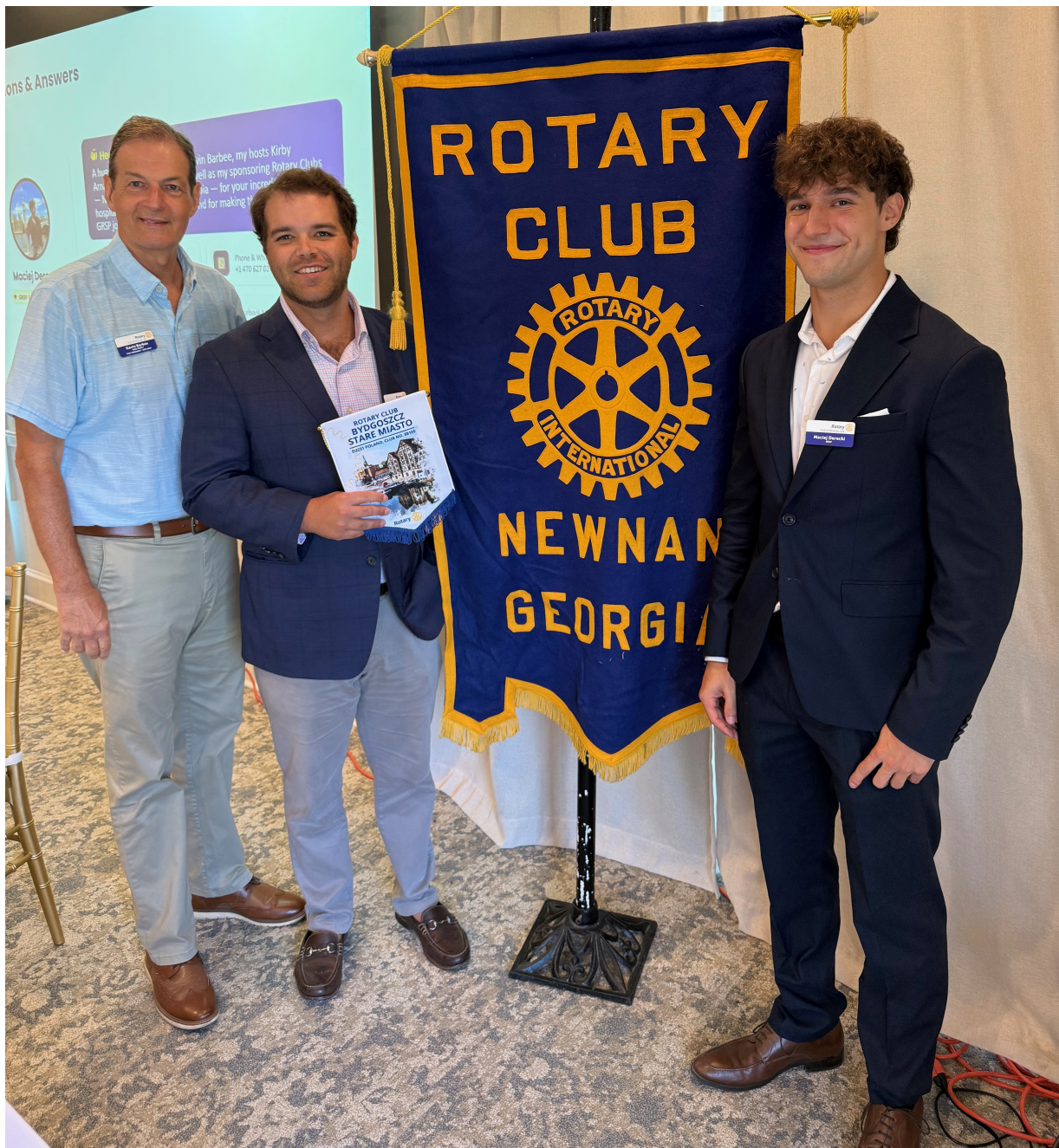
By Debbie Donaldson
The **Rotary Club of Henry County** continued one of its most impactful annual service projects this year partnering with Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) to collect used durable medical equipment. This year's drive collected an impressive 966 pieces of medical equipment and supplies valued at \$267,466.
[more]



Club News

Vinings Cumberland Helps Bring Tandem Cycling to Blind Athletes

By Thomas House
A tandem bicycle ride takes two cyclists working together. For athletes who are blind or visually impaired, the Georgia Blind Sport Association (GBSA) makes that partnership an opportunity to enjoy cycling, and the **Rotary Club of Vinings Cumberland** is glad to help make the rides possible.
[more]



Club News **Maciej Derecki Continues a GRSP Legacy in Newnan**

By Nicholas Ramey
Thirty-two years ago, a young man named Piotr came from Poland to Georgia on a Rotary scholarship and enrolled at the University of West Georgia. This year, his son is doing the same thing, at the same university. Maciej Derecki is the **Rotary Club of Newnan's** Georgia Rotary Student Program scholar for 2026-27. He arrived from Bydgoszcz, Poland, at the end of July, was welcomed to Georgia by club member Kevin Barbee, who serves as a District 6900 GRSP Trustee, and is living on campus at West Georgia. A younger sister hopes to apply next year. And the whole story is fun ... [more]



Club News **North Cobb Joins 9/11 Field of Flags**

By Sheila Hines
North Cobb Rotarians took part in a moving tribute at the 9/11 Field of Flags, organized by the Kiwanis Club of Marietta through the Marietta Kiwanis Foundation. Displayed every five years on the battlefield at Kennesaw Mountain, the event has grown into one of the largest commemorative displays in the nation. Club members walked in the processional and helped place 2,977 flags — one for each life lost in the September 11 attacks — joined by veterans and first responders for a powerful ceremony of remembrance. An honor to stand with our community and never forget.
[more]



Club News

Atlanta West End: Service Above Self on the Westside BeltLine

By CJ Stewart
In September, the **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End** came together to clean up the Westside BeltLine trail and help keep this shared community space welcoming for everyone. Our service benefited neighbors who live along the trail, people who use it for walking and exercise, and visitors who come to enjoy the Westside. [\[more\]](#)

Club News

Atlanta Southern Crescent: Where Tacos Meet Self- Defense!

By Trina Kolawole
What happens when you combine a great taco bar, practical self-defense skills and a room full of Rotarians? For the **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent**, the answer was an evening filled with laughter, learning and plenty of fellowship. Sometimes strengthening a Rotary club starts with something as simple as sharing a good meal, trying something new and enjoying time together. For this club, tacos followed by self-defense turned out to be a pretty great combination. [more]





Club News

Muscogee-Columbus Hosts Oyster Roast

By Lora Warren

The **Rotary Club of Muscogee-Columbus** is continuing to grow - and has been enjoying some socials out in the community and are happy to say members from both the other clubs in town have participated. Our most recent gathering was at one of our members' homes on the lake for an oyster roast. This brings back fond memories for Club President Lora Warren as her family was always the workforce behind the downtown Columbus Rotary oyster roast at Jekyll Island. Check out the "then" and "now" photos. [more]



Club News

Roswell Responds to Michigan Rotarian Request for Help

By Leslie Bassett
The call for help started more than 700 miles away. A Rotarian in Ann Arbor, Michigan, reached out to **Roswell Rotary Club** President Leslie Bassett about Sonja, a single mother here in Roswell who had been experiencing homelessness and was about to move into her own apartment. Sonja needed hands and a little muscle, and Roswell Rotary answered. How did they help? [more]



Club News **North Cobb - Where Service Meets Social**

By Sheila Hines
North Cobb Club President Sheila Hines had the winning idea of combining the club's monthly social with a hands-on service project, and North Cobb Rotarians turned out in force at the Rise Against Hunger facility to put a club grant to work. Teams squared off in some friendly competition at the packing stations, assembling balanced, nutritious meal kits that will be distributed to individuals and families in need around the world. [more]