

Interact
Rotary District 7305



2025

Happy
New Year

JANUARY 2025



1,665

This year's total of cards sent to Southwestern Pa. VA Medical Centers was 1,665 cards from Interactors in Rotary District 7305. Here is a list of participating Interact Clubs:

- Greensburg Central Catholic -261 cards
- Greensburg Salem - 211 cards
- Jeannette Area - 180 cards
- North Allegheny - 167 cards
- Franklin Regional - 142 cards
- Greensburg Rotary Club - 120 cards
- Our Lady of Sacred Heart - 111 cards
- Ligonier Valley - 105 cards
- Brentwood - 84 cards
- Derry Area - 70 cards
- Laurel Highlands - 65 cards
- Marshall Middle School - 56 cards
- McKeesport - 48 cards
- Carson Middle School - 45 cards

THANK YOU, you have helped to make a veteran's Holiday just a little brighter and a little merrier!!



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TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

Be sure to mark January 30 on your calendars. That is the date of this year's Trivia Challenge which will be an in-person event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the auditorium of the Jeannette Senior High School. This will be a double-elimination tournament.

A pizza lunch is being provided by the Rotary Club of Westmoreland (Jeannette Interact's sponsoring Rotary Club).

The deadline to register your team is Thursday, January 23. The registration form can be found on the District's website: www.rotarydistrict7305.org and follow the Interact tabs.

As of this date, registration forms have been received from Thomas Jefferson Interact and Jeannette Interact.

The winning team will receive \$500, second place \$300 and third place \$200 for a school or community service project.





The Bethel Park High School Interact Club invites parents of Kindergarten through 4th grade students to enjoy a break during



Mom's Morning Out from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Dec. 7. This drop-off event will be held in the Bethel Park High School Cafeteria and South Gymnasium. It will include supervised activities such as games, crafts, a holiday movie, and more. Snacks and water will be provided, but parents are welcome to send additional snacks for their children.

The Rotary Foundation



We hit a milestone in November when we sold our tenth Peace Pole. As promised, a donation in the amount of \$200 was made to the Peace Endowment Fund at The Rotary Foundation on behalf of all of the Interact Clubs in Rotary District 7305.

May Peace Prevail On Earth

DO YOU HAVE LAST MINUTE SHOPPING, WRAPPING, OR BAKING TO DO? MAYBE YOU NEED A MORNING TOGET ORGANIZED OR JUST DECOMPRESS?

LET INTERACT WATCH YOUR KIDS!

MOM'S MORNING OUT

DECEMBER 7

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- WHO? ANY STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE
- WHERE? BETHEL PARK HIGH SCHOOL GYM & CAFETERIA
- COST? \$20 PER CHILD

CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO PLAY GAMES, MAKE CRAFTS, WATCH A HOLIDAY MOVIE, AND MAKE FRIENDS. THEY WILL BE SUPERVISED BY TEACHERS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

- REGISTER BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
- ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL CHAPIN.KELSEY@BPHAWKS.ORG

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/3P1V2KXWFRYYUZ19](https://forms.gle/3P1V2KXWFRYYUZ19)

The Mount Pleasant Interact Club in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant was looking to spread some holiday cheer by making care packages for the residents of the Harman House Health and Rehab Center.





"Horses with Hope Tree". The members of Interact Club decided that all money earned via the Holiday Tree Auction will be donated to our friends at Horses with Hope! Tree decorations include horse ornaments, tinsel, and a star.



Horses with Hope is a non-profit that utilizes the power of equine interactions and activities to improve the physical, mental, emotional, and social quality of life for the Pittsburgh region's children, youth, and adults with physical and behavioral needs



The Bob Williams Rotary Memorial Scholarship

While a good percentage of you are ineligible for this scholarship, some of you are. It all depends on your school's location. Be sure to read the eligibility rules closely. I have posted a link to the application under the Interact tabs on the District's website (www.rotarydistrict7305.org).

The Bob Williams Rotary Memorial Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications from current high school seniors and G.E.D students. This year 8 scholarships will be awarded at \$5000 each. Many high school counselors have the materials as well. Please note that this is a need- based scholarship. The deadline for the receipt of applications is February 28, 2025. Please contact Bob Arbuckle, Committee Chair, at rarbuckle66@gmail.com for further information.



Watch for updates on
Rotary District's RYLA
program beginning in
February!!



November and December were months of meaningful service for North Allegheny Interact, as we bonded through various projects and activities to help our local community! We started the month by writing 167 cards to veterans in our district, thanking them for their service to our country. We also wrote 40 letters to isolated seniors to brighten their days! Students from NA Interact also participated in the "Get Stuffed with Love" Thanksgiving packing event, packing around 5,000 meals for food-insecure individuals across Pittsburgh, providing a hearty Thanksgiving meal to those in need. Many Interactors made gingerbread houses to support the City of Pittsburgh's Annual Gingerbread House Display. To assist the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Town of McCandless during Winterfest, NA Interactors manned booths and performed many jobs which included helping children, preparing decorations, handing out hot chocolate, and playing games. Finally, we decorated the hallways of our schools to add a festive atmosphere and bring awareness of our service through Interact.



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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

1. Make my Interact Club stronger and more active.
2. Make sure that two members of my Interact Club attend RYLA this summer.



*Our 2024
Twelve Interacts
of
Kindness*

For our first Interact of Kindness, our Interact officers wrote Christmas cards for Veterans to be shipped in time for the holidays!

Our second Interact of Kindness was helping clean the cafeteria and lunch detention area in between lunches! Members stopped by in between lunches to help cafeteria workers get ready for next lunch!

For our third Interact of Kindness JHS Interact partnered up with JES EarlyAct to put together Blessing Bags! All items for the bags were donated during our Hunger and Homelessness Awareness drive that we did in November. All Blessing Bags will be distributed to people in need during the winter months!



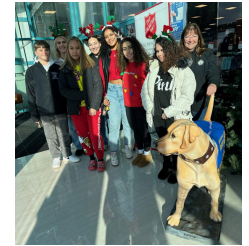
Our fourth Interact of Kindness was donating to Johnstown Fire Department. Interact dropped off gatorade, coffee, and water to JFD to thank them for their service!

The fifth Interact of Kindness was donating snacks and nutrition bars to the Johnstown Police Department, as well as having JHS and JMS Interact attend Rotary's monthly luncheon!



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Interact went Bell Ringing for the sixth Interact of Kindness! Thank you Rotary and the Salvation Army for this opportunity!!



Our seventh Interact of Kindness was completing the donation to Build-A-Chair with the money from our dodgeball tournament! Rotary Internationals Build-A-Chair will receive \$500.00 from our Interact Club to build new wheelchairs for those in Tanzania. Thank you again to everyone who participated in this project!

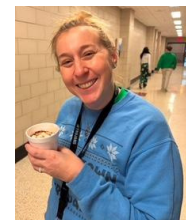
For our eighth Interact of Kindness, Interact members volunteered at the St. Vincent DePaul Johnstown Soup Kitchen!

For our ninth Interact of Kindness, Interact Club aimed to spread some positivity throughout the school with positive sticky notes on lockers and doors!

Our tenth Interact of Kindness consisted of our officers donating cookies! They were given to West End ambulance, Lower Yoder volunteer fire department, the cafeteria staff, the office staff, and security staff!!

Our eleventh Interact of Kindness was our Pre-School Literacy Project at Morrell!

For our twelfth and final Interact of Kindness, our officers showed appreciation to teachers around JHS by handing out hot cocoa and cookies. Thank you teachers for being awesome!! Merry Christmas!





The Interact Club at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School (OLSH) took a special focus on honoring our military during December with meaningful service projects aimed at making a difference in the lives of veterans and active-duty families.

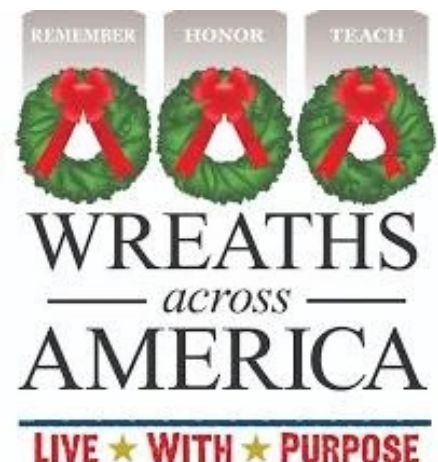
The month began with OLSH's participation in the Interact District-wide Christmas Cards for Veterans project, a tradition for our club. This initiative allowed students to express gratitude and holiday cheer to veterans who have served our country, a practice we've proudly upheld for several years.

This year, however, our Interact Club leaders wanted to expand our impact. For the first time, we participated in Wreaths Across America, raising \$300 to sponsor 16 wreaths that were laid on the graves of veterans at a local cemetery. Club members attended the wreath-laying ceremony as an act of service, honoring the memory of those who served. To educate and engage the broader school community, we invited the father of our club vice president, a former Marine, to record a special message for our school's morning announcements (WCHR). His heartfelt video explained the significance of the Wreaths Across America project and how much it means to veterans to know their sacrifices are remembered.

In addition, two of our Interact Club members led a successful toy drive for Operation Toy Soldier, collecting toys for the children of active-duty military personnel stationed at the

Army Reserve 316th ESC in Moon Township. This initiative added a festive and compassionate touch to the holiday season by supporting military families during a time of year that can often be challenging for those with loved ones deployed.

These December projects reflect the Interact Club's commitment to service and our school's mission to live out the values of compassion and respect. Member Mariah Mars shared, "The Interact club is proud to help those in our community and honored to help those who served and protected our country through this event." The OLSH club will continue to work to make a meaningful impact on the community - locally and globally - as they work to serve all those in need.



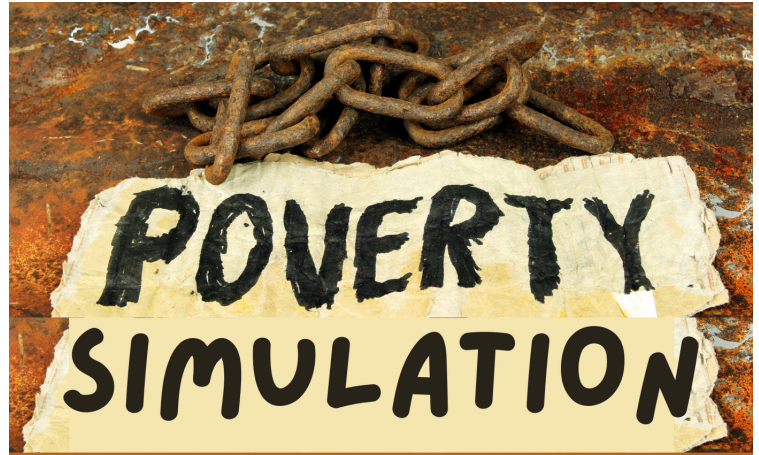
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Over 40 members of the Interact Club at Southmoreland High School stayed after school to hand-paint heartfelt Christmas cards for residents of local nursing homes, spreading holiday cheer one brushstroke at a time. Their efforts sleigh-ed expectations, proving that a little paint and a lot of kindness can make the season merry and bright for those in need.



The Southmoreland Interact Club celebrated the 12 Days of Christmas with the 12 Interacts of Mental Health, collecting 12 essential items from the school and community to support the adult day program at The Mental Health Association of Fayette County. In addition, club officer Alexa Pandullo shared thoughtful mental health tips to help students navigate the holiday season with care and self-compassion, making spirits brighter for all.



Join us on Thursday, April 10, 2025
The Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont
From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Watch for details in the Interact Newsletter
Pre-registrations will be required and lunch
will be provided



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This year's Poverty Simulation will be held on Thursday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are able to hold the costs to the same they were last year, \$5 per person. The registration fee is being charged to pay for your lunch at The Lamplighter. This was a very memorable event last year and there was a lot of interest in it at the District Conference. Don't miss it, get registered TODAY, we must limit the attendance to 80 Interactors. A registration form is on the District's website, follow the Interact tabs at: www.rotarydistrict7305.org.



To start December, Jeannette Interact Officers went shopping for gifts, and gift cards which were given to a local family in need this holiday season. Next, we participated in Jeannette's Sparkle of Christmas Parade. Members marched down the street and passed out candy to the children. Also, over 25 club members partnered with the Jeannette Elementary PTO for their dinner with Santa event. Students ran holiday craft stations, game stations, and a picture station for the kids. All in all, Jeannette Interact has had a wonderful holiday season and can't wait to continue to serve our community in the coming year.



On December 18th, 10+ Jeannette Interactors partnered with multiple Rotary of Westmoreland members to volunteer and help facilitate at toys for tots.

Articles and pictures for the February 2025 Newsletter are to on or before Jan. 25!

Send them to:

mbarnhar@verizon.net

Our Interact club officers had the joy of delivering Angel Tree gifts to Hatfield Elementary, Marshall Elementary, Clark Elementary, and Hutchinson Elementary.

Bringing holiday cheer to children in need was an unforgettable experience, and we had a blast sharing the spirit of giving.

An extra special thanks to our Interact officers who helped deliver the gifts, and we are thankful for the generous donations from students, teachers, parents, and community members.





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Ligonier Valley's Interact Club had a busy December. We rang the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Project, visited a local nursing home to do crafts and bake cookies and visited two elementary schools to do Polar Express activities with all of the first graders.



The Franklin Regional High School Rotary Interact Club sales custom gift tags at their schools Mini-THON. The Mini-THON benefits families and children fighting pediatric cancer by raising money for Four Diamonds.



The money raised helps families of children being treated for cancer at Penn State Health Children's Hospital.

