

Rotary



District 7305

The Connector - January 2022

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Your Membership Team Is Here To Help

On behalf of the District Membership Strengthening Team, I would first like to take this opportunity to say that we hope you are enjoying a wonderful holiday season and we are looking forward to an exciting second half of the Rotary Year. Your team has done a lot to advance membership in the first half of the year and we look forward to continuing the work we have begun. In that vein we want to take a minute to share with you a summary of the efforts, programs, and initiatives of the team conducted on your behalf.

From our inception this year, we attempted to continue the works conducted in the past and at the same time, expand on initiatives developed. We have addressed membership on a number of levels including efforts to enhance membership retention, enhance membership engagement, increase new membership growth, increase the number of clubs through the varied platforms available, and expand into those areas and communities not presently served by Rotary Clubs or at least not known to our clubs.

Following through on lessons learned in our Membership Playbook as well the Zone Membership Series, we have completed, or are in the process of completing:

1. Reinforcing the importance of Membership during DG visits.



2. Instituting Zone 33 District Membership Subcommittee Chairs to assist in our various initiatives: New Club Development, Attraction and Engagement.
3. Pursuing all incoming new leads
4. Reengaging present and former members
5. Identifying potential new Rotary Clubs or expanding into areas previously unidentified
6. Identifying new membership initiatives

To accomplish these efforts, we recruited 14 members of our district to serve on the team with the objective of focusing their individual and collective talents towards meeting the demands of membership. The team we put together incorporates the existing District Governor's Chain including our immediate Past District Governor, the prior Co-Chairs of the District Membership Committee (both of which are Past District Governors), Assistant Governors, District Committee Members, and various other District Champions. Their mission is to address critical issues facing the District. These include: Membership Attraction/Small Club Initiatives/RI Leads; Membership Engagement

and District Communications; Membership Retention; New Club Development; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; IT assets; Innovative Club Advocacy/Public Image/Public Relations; Rotaract; Discover Rotary Program; and the new Young Rotarians Initiative. These members bring forward an expertise gleaned not only from their own professional experiences but further as District Governor Chain representatives, Past District Governor Chain Members, Zone 33 representation, Emerging Leaders, Rotaractors, and the recipients of Rotary Leadership Institute training as well as training through the RI Learning Center.

To assist both the team and the district, we have developed a Membership Primer PowerPoint presentation, a Discover Rotary Hour Program, a lesson plan to assist in growing small clubs, and a Rotaract PowerPoint presentation. Following that, we have responded to a number of invitations from clubs across the district to provide presentations on membership and we have attended business events to advance membership generally. Equally exciting, we are presently examining the delivery of a new membership training series to assist

Quote of the Month:

There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals."

Idowu Koyenikan

in your efforts.

We were successful in showing consistent growth throughout the first part of the year. Unfortunately, we along with many other districts in the Zone, have shown a decline in membership for December. We will all have to work hard to turn this around. We have received recognition of our efforts from other districts and we have continued our active participation at Zone and Tri-District Membership Levels. Of critical importance, we have received feedback from our members reporting that our work has fostered retention, engagement, and the creation of a more inviting atmosphere for existing and prospective members.

While we still have much more to do, we wanted to provide you with some sense of what we have been doing up to this point, and what we intend on doing looking forward. An

earlier detailed report, submitted to the District Governor by the team, will be made available to you for your review on both DACdb and the District Website.

To be sure, membership is critical to our organization and the challenges we face are immense. We are all in this together and our success is dependent upon each other. Membership is the responsibility of each and every one of us. As such, the Team wants you to know that we are here to help with your membership initiatives. Be it growth, retention, engagement and all the exciting initiatives related to membership, we are here to help.

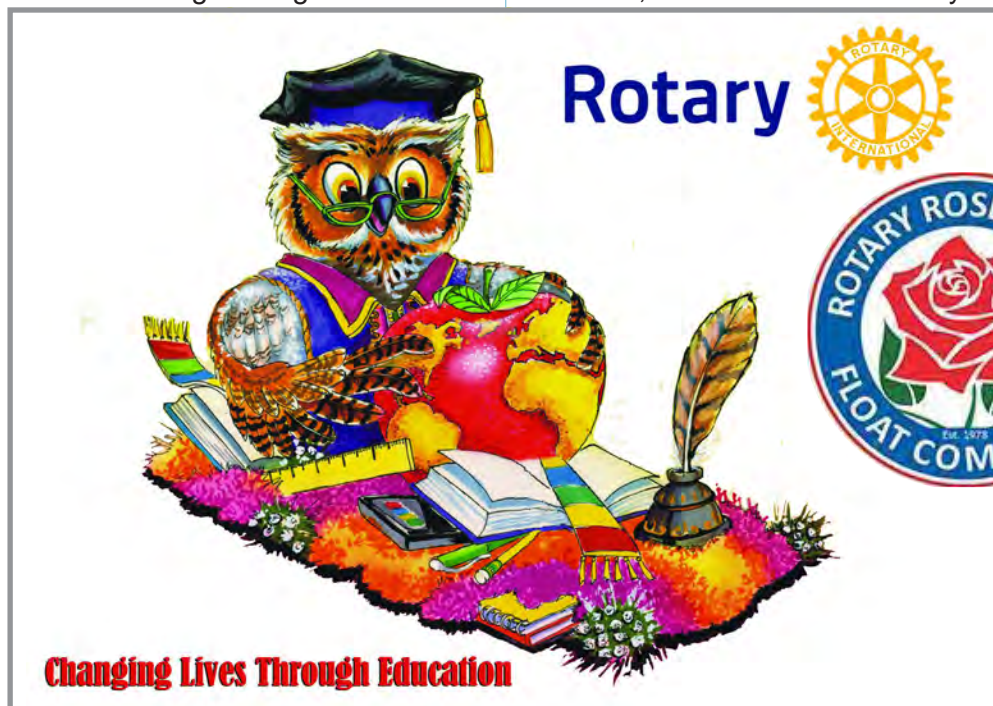
Our team can bring to bear the expertise necessary to address your membership questions, concerns, and ideas. Our reach not only extends throughout this district but on through to other districts, our Zone, other Zones and Rotary

International itself. So, do not hesitate to ask. It is more than likely that your question is something that has been addressed by a Fellow Rotarian somewhere, somehow and someplace in the past.

To conclude, we are working hard for the district and are excited about membership potentials and possibilities. We are here for you. All you need to do is ask. And, as a final note, to assist in our mission, we invite participation from any other member in the district interested in joining our team. Expanding our team can go far in meeting our commitment to you and the district at large. Jump on and join the effort. From one Rotarian to another, we would love to have you.

Thanks for all you do!

By District Governor Nominee / District Membership Strengthening Team Coordinator John Dale Hartman



Rotary's Rose Parade Float

Did you get up in time on New Year's Day to see the Rotary float in the Rose Parade? The 2022 Rose Parade marks the 42nd consecutive year the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee has spearheaded Rotary's representation in America's New Year Celebration.

This year's theme, "*Changing Lives Through Education*," aligns with one of Rotary's seven areas of focus: Basic Education and Literacy. A sixteen-foot-tall owl embodies

both the spirit of self-improvement and Rotary's determination to make the tools of education available to everyone in every land. Books, a quill pen and a hybrid apple/globe symbolize the importance of education throughout the world.

Rotary volunteers from all over the US spend hours and hours to make the vision of the float become reality.

If you would like to be part of the crew decorating the 2023 float, contact the organizing committee at: rotaryfloat.org

Changes of Meeting Venue
The Northern Allegheny Rotary Club will be meeting Tuesdays at noon at Walnut Grille, 12599 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090 January through March.

The Rotary Club of Johnstown will be meeting Wednesdays at noon at Balance Restaurant, 415 Main St. Johnstown, PA 15905 January 5 through February 9.

The RI Convention in Houston It's Time to Register!

One of the main areas at a Rotary International Convention is the "House of Friendship." This is an area where you are able to walk around and visit many different booths of Rotary Fellowships, Rotary Action Groups, numerous club projects, The Rotary International Resource Center, Rotary licensed merchandise booths, and many different food court areas.

At the different club booths, club members are showing projects that they would like other Rotary clubs to get engaged in. Pictured above right is a Rotarian from the Beaver Falls Rotary Club, district 7305, talking about the ProCleanse clean water project at the Bangkok Convention in 2012.

Attending the Rotary International Convention is one way of finding a potential Global Grant Partner. You will get a chance to talk face to face with a fellow Rotarian and learn more about their project.

The 2022 RI Convention in Houston



will be held as a hybrid convention, meaning that there will be the in-person convention in Houston followed by a virtual convention held on-line June 12-16.

As of the end of December, we had 13 Rotarians from our district registered for the in-person convention.

I am looking forward to discovering new horizons with you in Houston!

Rick Martin, PDG



The Rotaract Club of Abugida, Ethiopia, concentrates on a specific community need: maintaining a safe supply of blood. It has held a blood drive quarterly since it was chartered in 2004. Back then, one of its drives drew 30 donors. Today, they bring in 500. The club expanded its reach by partnering with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and other local Rotaractors. By committing to a project that provides a vital service, the club has proved its value to the community and to its own members.

The Rotary Club of Vilnius Lituania International, Lithuania, was founded by two Rotarians and a Rotaractor who wanted to create a flexible club that emphasizes global affairs and inclusivity. Half of its members are women — a rarity in a country where service organizations are often male-dominated. The club's openness to innovation appeals to both current and prospective members.

In the Philippines, the Pilipinas Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organization partnered with Toastmasters International District 75 to help Rotaractors improve their public speaking skills. Rotaract members delivered short speeches to Toastmasters coaches, who provided constructive feedback while building their confidence. The collaboration gave Rotaract and Toastmasters members a chance to expand their networks and learn from one another.

Clubs are increasing their impact in their communities by:

- Asking what members, participants, and the community want and need from the club.
- Examining their practices, culture, image, and the membership experience they offer to identify strengths and address issues.
- Finding new ways to include everyone in leadership roles, service projects, and club activities.

Source: Rotary International

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Houston, Texas, USA
4-8 June 2022

Rotary   **HOUSTON**
2022

Enhancing Engagement

To ensure a strong future for Rotary, we must provide a fulfilling experience to every member and participant. Clubs are listening to what their members want and making changes to meet those needs while staying true to Rotary's vision, mission, and values. By remaining flexible and receptive to new ideas, we make members and participants feel valued and respected.

We want our members and participants to find long-term value in their relationship with Rotary.

A group of Rotaractors in England

formed a Rotary club tailored to the needs of young professionals who are establishing their careers and raising families. The Rotary Club of Maidenhead Bridge, Berkshire, meets twice a month on Sundays in a coffee shop. It's casual — no toasts, no prayers, and no jackets or ties, though you may see a few children running around. Club members focus on skills-based volunteer opportunities, donating their time and professional talents to help community organizations with marketing and branding. The club has more than 50 members and continues to grow.

What is a Global Grant?

A Global Grant is an international service project between at least two clubs or districts to accomplish a project in the host country. Global grants are funded by cash, District Designated Funds and the World Fund from The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of New Brighton was the international partner on a Global Grant proposed by the Rotary Club of Caballito in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The grant was to provide specialized medical instruments to perform endoscopic procedures on children age 5 and under. The department of Child Respiratory Endoscopy at the local Children's Hospital treat around 15 patients per month suffering from subglottic stenosis and the aspirations of foreign bodies. This causes difficulty breathing unless they are properly treated.

The international partnership on this grant was the result of many years of friendship between Carlos Ojeda, of the RC of Caballito, and Rick Martin. Carlos was a Group Study Exchange Team Leader for a GSE team from Buenos Aires that visited our area 28 years ago. At that time, Rick Martin was the District Group Study Exchange Chair.

The grant was for \$46,000 US. The RC of New Brighton communicated with Foundation Chair Jeff Klink about the project and requested \$10,000 in District Designated Funds (DDF) to help fund the project. The DDF were approved, meaning that the club also secured a \$10,000 match from TRF's World Fund. If the club had used cash to fund the project instead of DDF, TRF would only have matched that at 50% (\$5,000). And, with the new rules instituted for Global Grants this year, clubs submitting cash to pay for a project will no longer be eligible for a match from TRF. Therefore, it is best to partner with the district and use DDF to fund Global Grants.

To help our district keep track of



Staff at a local Children's Hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina testing new equipment secured through a Global Grant funded by DDF and co-sponsored by the RC of New Brighton.

donations to TRF, please mail your checks – payable to The Rotary Foundation – to Rick Martin at 1456 8th Avenue, New Brighton, PA 15066.

If your club is considering participating in a Global Grant, please make sure you communicate with the district foundation committee. With their support, and the approval from TRF, you will have access to a DDF match which will enhance the impact of your project.

After some struggles with getting the equipment to Argentina, the equipment was handed over on October 26, 2021. Most of us will never see the smiles of the beneficiaries, or experience the thrill of the staff when local Rotarians present the equipment. We do not give for recognition, but to help people we may never see.

Your annual contribution of \$100 to The Rotary Foundation makes it possible to complete this type of projects. Thank you for your continued support for Our Foundation as we serve to change lives.

By Richard Martin, PDG

70 Years in Rotary

Jim Simmermon, member of the Rotary Club of Oakmont Verona, looks back at his 70 years of Rotary service in an article in the January issue of the Rotary Magazine.

For the full article, please turn to page 39 in your copy of the Rotary Magazine.



PDG Jim Simmermon (above center) was profiled in an article in the January issue of the Rotary Magazine. The picture above is from April 2018 as he was honored at a roast in celebration of his 92nd birthday, 62 years of Rotary service, and perfect attendance. Also in the picture are PDG Bob Arbuckle and PDG Denny Crawford.

International Assembly

The Executive Committee of the Rotary International Board of Directors has taken the decision to prioritize the health and safety of our participants by moving the 2022 International Assembly to a virtual format to be held 7-14 February.

Governors-elect will come together virtually to discuss the impact of our service, the power of members of Rotary to do good in the world and the importance of telling our story.

The program will also focus on membership; how Rotary leaders focusing on inclusivity can increase the impact and relevance of Rotary, and keep our membership strong, vibrant and growing.

All participants will be invited to participate in ongoing discussion groups, activities and networking designed to prepare and inspire them for the year ahead.

Participants will learn about program details and have many of their questions answered about the virtual learning platform by the end of January. Source: my.rotary.org

The
Rotary
Foundation



Doing Good In The World



Cervical Cancer Awareness

January is designated as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. Rotary District 7305 and Basic Health International (BHI) have developed a partnership to eradicate cervical cancer for women in low resource countries. Every two minutes a woman dies of cervical cancer. Yet it is a treatable disease with early detection. Low resource countries have limited ability to expand its health care in the rural areas of the country. This is where our partnership with BHI can address this need through our financial and health care network from our polio campaigns.

Globally, more than 340,000 mothers and daughters were killed by cervical cancer last year by the only cancer that is 100% preventable. That gut-wrenching figure exists for a single reason: No reliable and affordable screening and early treatment was available to them.

Basic Health International (BHI), a world-renowned research organization headquartered right here in Pittsburgh, is working tirelessly to eliminate cervical cancer so that no woman dies of a preventable disease. BHI has been working in El Salvador, Haiti,



Basic Health International, an organization that is headquartered in Pittsburgh, works across the globe to prevent cervical cancer.

Columbia and China. They are expanding their efforts into Peru, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nigeria, and Malawi.

Around the world, BHI has screened a stunning 144,545 women for cervical cancer. And they've treated 14,979 who were diagnosed with it. Screenings are making a difference.

The Oakland Rotary club along with Fox Chapel RC, Quaker Valley RC, Forest Hills RC and Washington RC made contributions to this effort and were included in a District Grant that was approved. Additional clubs have also made donations to this effort. We plan to pursue a global grant

later this year.

We are asking each Rotarian to give a minimum of \$10 to this effort. You can go online at basichealth.org/rotary to make a donation or send checks to BHI, 6425 Living Place Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Please note in the memo section the name of your Rotary Club.

For more information, please contact Joe Coohill at joe@coohill.com or by phone at 412-867-8697. Kate Colligan, Director of Development and Communication for BHI is available to speak at clubs. Her email is: kcolligan@basichealth.org or by phone at 412-965-4653.

By District Governor Vince Costa



A big THANK YOU to the Crafton - Ingram Rotary club for dropping-off presents at Patricia Hillman Miller Campus. The gifts were all hand-picked from wish lists created by the individuals and staff. Several residents attended the weekly Rotary meeting through Zoom so that everyone could watch them open their gifts.

"We thank you for the compassion and love that you and your staff provide to your residents," commented Crafton Ingram Rotary's President Elect Joe Orbovich. "It's an honor to be able to work with you all."

Bethel Park Interact 1st Check

During a holiday party for members of the Interact Club, which includes Bethel Park High School and Independence Middle School students, came the club's first check presentation: \$500 to Smiles From Sean, a nonprofit that aims to put smiles on the faces of ill children.

Also, Interact members wrapped gifts for an Adopt-a-Family program, providing Christmas presents for youngsters who otherwise would not receive much of anything.

"I love Interact because it's a way to bring the community together while helping our community," member Kathryn Anderson said as she gathered with fellow partygoers in the Bethel Park High School cafeteria.

Another Interact member is Sean Rovers, for whom his mother, Maria, named Smiles For Sean.

"He was 9 years old when he was unexpectedly diagnosed with an extremely rare type of brain cancer in 2017," she said during the holiday party. "As a mom, I sat there watching him fighting for his life, and he was coming out of radiation treatment with still a smile on his face."

Because her family received so much support from the community, Maria wanted to do something to support others. So, with the



During their holiday party, the Bethel Park HS / Independence MS Interact Club presented their first check to Smiles From Sean. They also wrapped gifts for an Adopt-a-Family program.



assistance of Eileen Wallace, Bethel Park School District elementary nurse she formed Smiles From Sean in 2019.

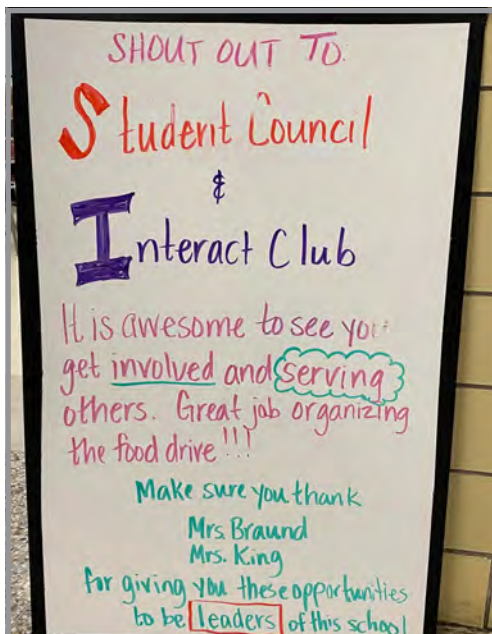


The organization provides "smiley kits" full of fun and comforting items. Initially, the effort concentrated on patients at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where Sean had been treated. "However, the pandemic made us change our mission," his mother said. "We are now sending our 'smiley kits' to children with underlying medical conditions throughout the United States."

Smiles From Sean also promotes the importance of yearly visits to the pediatrician.

"The smiley kit is not a cure for cancer or anything, but our goal is to help brighten the kids' day."

By Harry Funk & The Almanac



The Ambridge Area Middle School Interact's annual Holiday Canned Food Drive was a great success. The Middle School is very proud of their students and staff for going above and beyond to help families in their communities. Congratulations to Mrs. Vaccarelli's, Mr. Becker's, and Ms. Scherer's homerooms for collecting the most donations in each grade. Thank you to the Student Council and the Interact Club for organizing!



Diapers Galore!

The Young Rotarians of District 7305 recently partnered with the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank in Mount Pleasant, PA.

The Mount Pleasant location is their most recent addition, opening in November of 2020. They provide a variety of basic needs items such as diapers and hygiene products for over 500 families regularly throughout Westmoreland and Fayette County.

Their first location, located in Pittsburgh, regularly serves over 2,000 individuals across Western PA!

Contact them if you're interested in volunteering or donating-- their biggest need are size 5 and 6 diapers and pull-ups.

Stay tuned for more volunteer opportunities with Young Rotarians!



A Rotary Christmas Tree

The Norwin Rotary Club was granted their Charter in May 1963. The past and present members of the Club serve the North Huntingdon, North Irwin, and Irwin areas of Westmoreland County.

The club supports local, District and International projects and currently has 28 active members.

For the past six years, Rotary members and their families have contributed to the purchase and decorating of a Christmas tree that is placed in downtown Irwin.

Each year in November, the Norwin area celebrates the Christmas season with a parade and the lighting of the Norwin Rotary Christmas tree during the Light up Norwin night.



The Indiana Midday Club was busy this Christmas season. They put wreaths for Veterans at seven local cemeteries and still found time to ring the bell for The Salvation Army. The Homer Center Interact Club assisted with the bell ringing.



Crafton-Ingram Toy Drive

Crafton-Ingram Rotary members were busy little elves in December delivering gifts to families who needed additional support this holiday season.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to their Toy Drive this year! The club's original goal was to support 5 children this year. However, thanks to generous donations, Danielle and Joe Orbovich (pictured below) were able to provide gifts for 20 children this!

These children, all reside within City of Pittsburgh District 2 (Western Neighborhoods), were identified through the The Open Door and Crafton Heights Community Preschool.

Danielle and Joe hope to grow the program to support even more children in 2022!



RC of Norwin Rotarians posing in front of the Christmas tree sponsored by the club.





Bikes for Adaptive PE Class

Members of the Rotary Club of Upper St. Clair-Bethel Park (Breakfast) were very excited and glad to be able help Mr. Espinar at the Neil Armstrong Middle School with this project.

Zoe Fortier and Abigail Schultz, fifth graders in Mr. Dave Espinar's Adaptive PE class at Neil Armstrong Middle School, were the first two students to ride the new bikes

donated to that program through a grant from the Upper St. Clair/Bethel Park Rotary.

Adam Rossi, of Adam Solar Rides, who put together the bikes, was also on hand for the unveiling.

Mr. Espinar was quick to point out that, although he wrote the grant and organized the effort, he received a lot help from a number of different people within the school district on a variety of issues to make this presentation a reality.



Saturday's Kitchen

Members of the Conemaugh Township Rotary Club assisted with and funded one of the December meals at Saturday's Kitchen in Johnstown. This soup kitchen is known throughout Johnstown for providing weekend meals to people with nowhere else to turn.

Every Saturday and Sunday, about 200 people – elderly, homeless, and low-income families – find food and fellowship with Joan Bost, who started the program 10 years ago.



Toys For Tots

The Interact Clubs of Belle Vernon and Frazier arranged a toys collection drive for the Marines' Toys for Tots in December.

The Belle Vernon Area High School Interact Club worked with the Mon Valley Leathernecks and Ringgold Interact Club to set up for the Toys for Tots collection.



The basic mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas.

The primary goal is, through the gift of a new toy, to help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children.

The Salvation Army Red Kettle

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome - funding the project.

Where would the money come from, he wondered. He lay awake nights, worrying, thinking, praying about how he could find the funds to fulfill his commitment of feeding 1,000 of the city's poorest individuals on Christmas Day. As he pondered the issue, his thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

Six years later, the kettle idea spread from the west coast to the Boston area. That year, the combined effort nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy. In 1901, kettle contributions in New York City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square Garden, a custom that continued for many years.



Today in the U.S., The Salvation Army assists more than 4.5 million people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas time periods.

Captain McFee's kettle idea launched a tradition that has spread not only throughout the United States, but all across the world.

Everywhere, public contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten.

Source: The Salvation Army

The tradition of Rotary clubs volunteering to ring the bell for The Salvation Army continues to be strong throughout our district. The Belle Vernon Rotary club (above right) was lucky enough to get a sunny day to do their good deed.

The Indiana Midday Rotary and Homer Centers Interact Club (right and below) also participated in the bell ringing this Christmas season.



More Bell Ringing...

The Rotary Club of Parkway West (right) was also up for the task of filling the Salvation Army kettle with donations.

The Belle Vernon club (far right) employed bell ringers of all ages to ensure their success.

The Rotary Club of Johnstown (below right) was lucky enough to have an indoor space at the local Galleria Mall to entice holiday shoppers to spare some change for the Salvation Army red kettle.

Carnegie-Collier Rotary Club

On December 9th, the Carnegie-Collier club donated \$20,000 towards Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs Inc new facility to be built near McDonald, PA. They saw this as a wonderful opportunity to support a cause that is truly helping to save lives.

The Veteran Craig Hodgkins, joined by Foxy - his medical service dog, spoke of some very rough periods in his life where, without Foxy, he could possibly not have been here today.

Take the opportunity to visit the Guardian Angels website at medicalservedogs.org to see what this organization is doing to promote a better life for those that served our country and protected our freedoms.

Gallagher Home Health Services donated an additional \$5,000 bringing the grand total to \$25,000.

Club members also pulled together to help with M&M Transportation and the community in Moorefield, WV to fill up two tractor trailers that are heading to Mayfield, KY in support



of the need caused by the recent Tornado.

Thanks to all members that donated to this fundraiser. All donations were turned over to M&M Transportation who, in turn, will make sure that they

are safely delivered to those in need in Kentucky.

Thanks to Ruth A Forsyth, Kay Downey Clarke, Sue Kelly, Diane Parker Moore, Patty John and many others for their contributions.



Christmas Sing-Along

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School Interact Club visited the residents at Caring Heights for a Christmas sing-a-long. The club members sat amongst the residents and sang as Peter Sweeney played the piano.

A highlight was the singing of The Twelve Days of Christmas in small groups representing each of the 12 days. Their time together ended with the sharing of stories while enjoying a donut treat!

The activity coordinator said it was the first student group in nearly two years and invited the students to visit again in the spring.



The residents at Caring Heights were delighted to be visited by members of the Sacred Heart High School Interact Club for a Christmas sing-a-long.



Wishes of Christmas Granted

Forever Broadcasting in tandem with the Conemaugh Township Rotary & the Rotary Club of Somerset teamed up to grant the Wishes of Christmas.

The Somerset Rotary Club is pleased to have provided a number of items for those submitting wishes in Somerset this year!



A Gift for Rotary...

Upper St. Clair Police Chief Jon Wharton and Officer Kevin Forrester stopped by today to do something a little different... give the Rotary Club of Upper St. Clair- Bethel Park a check in the amount of \$2,020!

The Upper St. Clair Police Department raised money in

November by having a "No Shave November" event and decided to give back to Rotary for all that they do for the community.

The Rotary Club of Upper St. Clair- Bethel Park (Breakfast) voted to give that money to Hair Peace Charities.

Pictured above are: Sally Morrison, Kevin Forrester, Jon Wharton, and Bill Findle.

12 InterActs of Kindness!

With the Holiday Season upon us, the Johnstown High School Interact Club is very excited to begin their newest initiative entitled **"The 12 InterActs of Kindness"**! They are focusing on "acts" that follows Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus (Promoting Peace, Fighting Disease, Providing Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Saving Mothers and Children, Supporting Education, The Environment, and Growing Local Economies).

Their **first InterAct of Kindness** was to assist with the organization of items for Pitt-Johnstown's Upcycle Event! This event is designed to allow students to shop for \$1.00 items with all proceeds going towards Pitt-Johnstown's on-campus food pantry.

For the **2nd InterAct of Kindness**, they took on the task of writing out holiday cards to Veterans - 1,810 cards to be exact! They were written out with individual messages of joy and gratitude for their service by club members the past few weeks, and were delivered to be distributed to VA Centers throughout Southwestern PA! [#PromotePeace](#) [#SpreadJoy](#)

For their **3rd InterAct of Kindness**, the club gathered funds, with the generous help from our GJHS Staff, to further the eradication of Polio efforts abroad! These funds were then presented and donated to the Rotary Foundation through Owen's Odyssey. So, of course the club had to had to invite Owen himself when



The Greater Johnstown High School Interact Club's 12 InterActs of Kindness included writing 1,810 holiday cards to veterans (above left), distributing warm winter coats (above right), baking cookies for first responders (below left), and donating money to Owen's Odyssey & Polio Plus (below right).

presenting their check!

Onto the **4th InterAct of Kindness!** Club officers took the weekend to bake over 650 cookies that were distributed to local fire, ambulance, and police stations around the city! Each station received over six dozen cookies to share with those on duty and their volunteers.

Even though we've had a very pleasant Western PA December, the weather will inevitably change leaving some without the protection and comfort of winter coats, hats, and gloves. For the **5th InterAct of Kindness**, the club decided to begin their "I Am Not Lost" winter clothing distribution on their Read, Return, Repeat Red Library Boxes. These

boxes can be see around the city, and it brings these Interactors such joy to know that the community can and has used these year-round for book exchanges, food pantries, hygiene item pick-ups, and now for warm clothing. As they have also done in the past, they like to leave some extra clothing throughout Central Park in downtown Johnstown. This will be the club's first of many clothing distributions, so be on the lookout as they continue to spread joy far beyond the holiday season!

While the weather was still on their side, they headed outside for the **6th InterAct of Kindness**. The Jim Mayer Trail has been getting a



lot of attention in recent summers, from runners and those on bikes to students making their way home. The club felt it should be part of their responsibility to keep this trail clean since it's so close to their school, so they took advantage of unusually warm December weather to pick up any trash they found along the trail!

For the **7th InterAct of Kindness**, they teamed up with their local Rotary Club to aid in ringing the bells for the Salvation Army! They always appreciate the invitation when the Rotary Club sponsors an event, and like every year, they had so much fun raising money for a wonderful organization!

The **8th InterAct of Kindness** took them to the Humane Society of Cambria County! They spent the morning cleaning and helping with odds and ends so the other workers/volunteers could have more time caring for all of their animals. Oh, and they also couldn't pass up spending some quality time with a new addition of puppies! The club members are very much looking forward to heading back and becoming more involved in the upcoming months. [#adoptdontshop](#)

The club spent a lovely day at the Roxbury Place Apartments for their **9th InterAct of Kindness**. They were able to meet and mingle with many of the wonderful residences and provide them with a holiday meal and a small gift. The residences were so very appreciative and quick to share their life advice and experiences. That was the most rewarding part of the day!



Three more of the GJHS Interact Club's 12 InterActs of Kindness were to provide handmade blankets to the NICU (above left), showing their appreciation of school staff by providing coffee and donuts (above right), helping with odds and ends at the local Humane Society (below left), and ringing the Salvation Army bells with the Rotary Club of Johnstown (below right).

The NICU at Conemaugh Health System received the **10th InterAct of Kindness**. Specifically, the club donated over 55 handmade blankets to be used throughout the NICU. This Act could not have been done without the thoughtfulness and effort of Interact President Emmalie Vitalie!

For their **11th InterAct of Kindness**, they headed down to the Morrell Neighborhood School to spread some seasonal cheer with an interactive holiday lesson! They had a wonderful time with all of the preschoolers and want to thank their teachers for allowing them into their classrooms!

What an incredible few weeks of "InterActs"! Throughout this whole

experience, club members have recognized the good that individuals and organizations bring to those in their schools and community.

The GJHS Interact Club hopes that their 12 *InterActs of Kindness* have shown their appreciation for the efforts put forth, not just around this holiday season, but all year long!

With that said, their **12th InterAct of Kindness** went to those who make the Greater Johnstown High School safe, clean, and run smoothly every single day. Club members thanked the school's secretaries, maintenance department, and security guards with donuts and coffee to show their gratitude for what they do for the school!



61 Years of Basketball!

The Conemaugh Township Rotary club hosted the 61st annual Rotary Basketball Tournament on December 28 & 29. The Tournament was played at the Windber High School gymnasium with four boy's high school teams participating: Windber, Bishop McCort, Northern Bedford, and Everett.

Northern Bedford won the consolation game, and Bishop McCort topped Windber for the Championship. Trystan Fornari, a junior from Bishop McCort was named the title game MVP.

This tournament is the longest running tournament in the State of Pennsylvania.

Memorial Highway Chevrolet was the Title Sponsor of the event. Proceeds from the Tournament will be used in the community to support local projects and non-profits. Michael Cotchen, from the Conemaugh Township Rotary club was the Committee chairman.

Socks for Veterans

For the second year, the Quaker Valley Rotary Club hosted a sock collection for homeless Veterans. Larry and Dawn Capozzolo spearheaded this year's initiative placing a box with signs at Safran's Supermarket in Sewickley where community members could conveniently drop off their donations. The club also promoted the drive on social media, encouraging local residents to donate.



Larry and Dawn Capozzolo lead the Quaker Valley Rotary Club's sock collection for Veterans project.



The boys team from Bishop McCort High School won the 61st annual basketball tournament arranged by the Rotary Club of Conemaugh Township. Trystan Fornari (red No. 2 jersey) was named the title game MVP. Also in the picture is Andi Palmar representing both the Conemaugh club and the event sponsor; Memorial Highway Chevrolet. Text & pictures provided by Andi Palmar

The socks will be distributed via the Veterans Leadership Program, a non-profit helping more than 4,000 Veterans annually to get back on their feet with housing, wellness, career development, and support services so that they can live the fulfilling lives they deserve.

Socks are among the most needed items by the homeless, but the least donated. This year's sock drive collected more than 300 pairs of socks for Pittsburgh area homeless veterans.



The Rotary Club of Waynesburg has been busy lately! Their annual assistance with the Greene County Salvation Army Bell Ringing has wrapped up and they were lucky to have warm weather and met a lot of generous individuals from the area who helped support the mission of the Salvation Army locally. Pictured left are Rotarian Melody Longstreth and the 2021 Greene County Fair Queen, Krysten DeBolt. Pictured above are Rotarians Randy Durr and Dave Calverio.

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**Bringing an End to Polio and COVID-19
 Immunization is the Key**

When passion and raw determination are added to the miracle of modern vaccines, great things happen. Over the last 30 years, Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative have seen the reduction of polio cases worldwide, by 99.9 percent. The entire world celebrated one year ago, when the continent of Africa was declared free of the wild poliovirus. As we approached World Polio Day on October 24, I was reminded that we still have work to do. The children of two countries where the wild poliovirus still circulates (Afghanistan and Pakistan) are still vulnerable to this terrible disease. As long as it still circulates anywhere in the world, children in the US are still vulnerable and must continue to be vaccinated.

Here we are today, with more than 800,000 American deaths as a result of COVID-19. As polio survivors who are actively engaged with Rotary's focus on Disease Prevention, I am particularly aware of the important role vaccines play in halting the spread of disease. With that in mind, we must continue to support polio immunization efforts around the world, just as we continue to support the effort to mitigate COVID-19.

We are sharing fact-based vaccination information - as Rotarians throughout our state and our Network support our PA Immunization Coalition(s). We are speaking out about the realities of life after experiencing the effects of a vaccine preventable disease, and distributing packets of vaccine information and resources to day care centers, pediatricians and hospitals that encourage vaccine acceptance. We still have a lot to do. Engage with your local Rotary Club

POLIO IN NUMBERS
Wild virus confirmed cases in 2021
Global Total: 5 (139)
Wild virus detected from other sources in 2021
Global Total: 66 (474)
As of December 28, 2021. Numbers in brackets represent data as of the same date 2020.



The PA Polio Network is a group of Polio Survivors that is independent of any one particular group. Their mission is to be in service providing Information to all Polio Survivors, Post-Polio Support Groups, Survivor's Families and their Caregivers. They draw attention to the importance of being immunized against polio and all crippling childhood diseases.

(or) contact us directly to learn more about how you can get involved. We are doing this not only for ourselves, but for future generations.

We have witnessed the truth first hand. Vaccines Work!

Joe Randig

Joe Randig
 Western PA Coordinator, PA Polio Survivors Network
www.papolionetwork.org

Rotary's Stand on Vaccinations

As the first organization to envision a polio-free world through mass immunization of children, Rotary believes the decision to vaccinate is a humanitarian imperative.

The Rotary International Board of Directors and Rotary Foundation Trustees believe that:

1. Global vaccination is the path to ending the pandemic, and we strongly encourage vaccination for all individuals, including our members.
2. Misinformation hinders the fight against COVID-19, and we are

Rotary's Four Way Test
 Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **goodwill** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

- committed to providing our members with science-based information.
3. Rotary is engaged in assuring equity in vaccine access to all people. Through joint efforts with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance we are leveraging our frontline experience with polio to facilitate vaccine delivery.
 4. Rotary salutes health care workers everywhere as they continue to provide lifesaving services. We encourage clubs to offer recognition and encouragement to these heroes.
 5. Rotary and Rotaract clubs are encouraged to redouble their efforts to support COVID-19 prevention and vaccination efforts.
 6. As one of the greatest advances of modern medicine, vaccines are safe, effective and save millions of lives each year. They have eliminated or controlled numerous diseases such as polio, smallpox, measles, and Ebola, and now, there is the opportunity to end the COVID-19 pandemic through vaccination.
 7. The eradication of polio remains the goal of the highest order for Rotary. We can continue to apply the lessons we have learned in fighting polio to COVID-19 response efforts.



SAVE THE DATE

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CANCELTION OR RESCHEDULE
DUE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



SAVE THE DATE – JANUARY 30, 2022

**MID-YEAR REVIEW
DENUNZIO'S RESTAURANT – ARNOLD PALMER AIRPORT**



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 4-6, 2022

**PETS PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR
PENN STATER MULTI-DISTRICT EVENT**



SAVE THE DATE – MARCH 27

**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LUNCHEON
RIVERS CASINO**



SAVE THE DATE – TBD

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 23-26

**2022 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT (GOLF ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24)**



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 4-8, 2022

**2022 RI CONVENTION
HOUSTON**



SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 26 – JULY 1

RYLA ... TWO VENUES ... LA ROCHE COLLEGE AND OUTDOOR ODYSSEY



SAVE THE DATE – AUGUST 8, 2022

**DISTRICT GOLF OUTING
WESTMORELAND COUNTRY CLUB**

