Rotary
District 6900

October 4, 2023

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR OCTOBER, 2023

From Our District Governor

A Reminder from Your District Governor

By André Marria

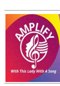
It is time to begin the process of selecting our District Governor for the Rotary Year 2026-2027.
The elected individual will become District Governor on July 1, 2026.
Rotary International requires that the person nominated follow a two-year process of training and preparation before assuming the role of District Governor. During the 2024-2025 Rotary year, the selected individual will be the District Governor Nominee (DGN). This role includes observation and training, and participation at District events. It also includes participation at the Rotary Zone 33-34 training institute 2024-2025 and Presidents-Elect Training Seminar and participating as a non-voting member of key district committees. During the 2025-2026 Rotary year, the selected individual will be the District Governor-Elect (DGE). Training and observation activities continue, including participation at the Zone training institute and at the Rotary International Assembly (an assembly and training program for District Governors-Elect from over 500 Rotary Districts in the world) in Orlando in January 2026.
Our district utilizes a Nominating Committee process. Your help in identifying those qualified applicants would be appreciated. Please look within your club and within your Rotary network to identify those Rotarians who met the qualifications and have the desire to get involved at the district level.
Interested applicants must have the support of their club indicated by resolution and submit it along with their completed application and including a brief resume to District Executive Secretary, Teri White by November 1, 2023. Interviews of selected applicants, by the committee, will take place on Saturday, November 18, 2023. [more]

The Rotary Foundation

World Polio Day - Tuesday, October 24

By Will MacArthur

World Polio Day unites Rotarians, public health advocates, and everyone else who envisions a world free from polio. It is a time for us to come together recognizing and honoring our progress in the fight to end polio. And it is a time to commit to the actions we must take now and end Polio forever, worldwide.
Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious viral disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5 years. Typically the virus spreads person to person through contaminated water. It can attack the nervous system and, in some instances, lead to permanent paralysis.
Please honor World Polio Day 2023 on October 24 and recognize that Polio is still only one plane ride away from all of us and our families. You can support our efforts by advocating, fundraising and educating everyone you know continually until Polio, in all forms, is eradicated from this earth.
[more]

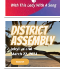


District Conference 2024

Help Us Fill Jekyll Island with Song!

By Barry Oxford

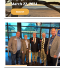
Let me tell you, our District Governor André loves music and loves to sing! If you have had the privilege and pleasure to have her speak at your club's meetings, then you know what I am telling you is true.
André and I are members of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians. I have had great fun singing with André at a couple of International Conventions. Maybe you sang with us too in 2017 at the Atlanta Convention. Singing together as a group or choir can be so much fun.
André has asked me to help her to Amplify Rotary in song at our District Conference on beautiful Jekyll Island, March 21-24, 2024. *Editor's Note: Remember registration is open from the home page of the District website - and you can link to our hotel blocks from there. Now read on about the choir.* [more]



Registration For District Assembly Is Open

By Gordon Owens

We have combined **District Assembly** with the District Conference weekend this year. This gives you a weekend of your life back! If you will serve in club leadership for the 2024-25 Rotary year plan on arriving Thursday night and join us Friday morning for a leadership development and vibrant club workshop. District Assembly will start with lunch on Friday, followed by breakout sessions to help your club become *irresistible* in your community.
[more]



Membership

Dunwoody's Membership Drive

By Gordon Owens

Congratulations to Dunwoody Rotary for trying something new to grow Rotary in their community! The club is using its 40 years of history to highlight the impact they have had both locally and globally to help build a sense of pride in the great work they have done. Between a concise message and being proud of the club, members are well equipped to talk up Rotary to people in their community who are Rotarians but aren't members yet. They even made up business cards to use to invite prospects to come to meeting. [more]

GRSP

Former Student Shares Experience; Application Process for 2024-25 Now Open

By Katheryne Fields

Adaobi Princess Nwofor spoke so highly of her year with Georgia Rotary Student Program that her brother Obinna Kingsley Nwofor was quick to apply himself. Princess participated in the Class of 2018-2019 and attended Oglethorpe University. She was sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of **Midtown Atlanta, Sandy Springs and Tucker**. She ... [more]

Auntie André Needs You!

By André Marria

Auntie André and the district leadership team need your help. If you've ever wanted to serve Rotary beyond your club now is your chance! In addition to nominations for the 2026-2027 District Governor we have several opportunities to serve the district over the next few years. We are looking for all types of expertise; administrative support, public image, finance, foundation and leadership roles are available. Click [more] below to see if you might be a good fit for one of the roles. [more]

GRSP Update

Columbus: From White Water Rafting to Space Shuttle Simulations

By Katheryne Fields

Riding the rapids along with a space shuttle simulation were two of many highlights for 41 Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars in Columbus for the GRSP Tony Wright Student Weekend September 15-17. The weekend was hosted by Rotarians from the Columbus, North Columbus and Muscogee Rotary Clubs. Two GRSP alumni members who were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Columbus - Laury Petit (Class of 22-23) and Sebastian Villa (Class of 15-16) helped in the efforts, including Bafa' Bafa', a cultural simulation game.
[more]

Join Us In Singapore

By Gordon Owens

The Rotary International Convention will be in Singapore from May 25 to May 29, 2024. We hope you will consider joining the Rotarians from our district who are already registered and can't wait to go. These conventions bring together 10's of thousands of Rotarians from around the world in a unique destination. There are unique opportunities to experience local culture, see the sights around town and explore the surrounding countries before or after the convention. We have a hotel room block setup so we can stick together, we will host a district dinner during the convention and have a suggested trip for afterwards. Visit the convention page for more information.
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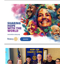

Club News

Thomasville - Home of GRSP - Welcomes New Student

By Shanna Skeen

The Rotary Club of Thomasville is proud to sponsor Allen-Amin Hollander, a promising young student from the vibrant island of Curaçao, for this year's Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP). Amin Hollander will be pursuing his higher education at Thomas University, marking a significant step forward for both him and the university.
[more]

Be the Voice

Peachtree Helps Launch Be THE Voice at Local School!

By Holly Davanzo

What an awesome day at Booth Middle School recently with the kick-off of Be THE Voice (and anti-bullying campaign) sponsored ... [more]

President Tekmekia Gilchrist is pictured with Rotary Counselor Zachary Adams, Alexsis Alfred, Nicholas Allen, Krista Brown, and NMHS Counselor and Interact Club Sponsor Pamela Cummings

Club News

Douglas County Speakers Highlight RYLA and New Concert Facilities in Douglasville

By Nell Boggs

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** has had some great programs this year. We enjoyed hearing from the three students they sponsored for this summer's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) leadership camp. And we heard from our own Past President Samantha Rosado, assistant conference center and tourism director for the city of Douglasville, who updated us on the new GreyStone Amphitheater and Town Green.
[more]

Amplifying Rotary

East Cobb's 5K Run Celebrates 22 Years with 552 Runners and $100,000+ to Community

By Jonathan Rudolph

What a day it was! On August 5 at the McClesky YMCA, East Cobb Rotary marked the 22nd anniversary of our Dog Days 5K event with an extraordinary show of unity, determination, and support. We had a fantastic turnout of 552 runners that helped us raise over $100,000 to go toward local charities. This event is a testament not just to one day's achievement but to over two decades of our community coming together to make a difference for local charities in the typical Rotary way: service above self.
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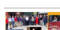


Club News

Cuthbert Rotary Sponsors STEM Breakfast

By Patricia Goodman

Cuthbert Rotary Club sponsored the first ever Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School Senior Breakfast which was held in the Private Dining Hall at Andrew College. Rotary Club President Patricia Goodman shared briefly the purpose of Rotary emphasizing service above self. Andrew College President Dr. Rusty Kennedy welcomed the students to the college and shared various opportunities available at Andrew College. School Leader Mrs. Ginger Almon (far right) is pictured with the senior class in front of the dining hall.
[more]

Club News

Columbus Rotary and GRSP Alumni Honor Lamar Johnson on His 90th Birthday!

By Julie Bond

Rotary Club of Columbus member Lamar Johnson received guests, accolades and a Georgia Rotary Student Program award for his 90th birthday. About 80 of his family and friends toasted to Lamar's longevity last week including Rotarians from his current club, his good friend PDG Steve Stanfield, his prior North Fulton club along with two GRSP alumnae sponsored by Columbus, Bjorg Kilmarsdottir, Class of 2010-11 from Iceland and Olga Cajaichin of Moldova, Class of 2013-14. Bjorg and GRSP Vice Chair Ian Bond presented Lamar with the Kendall Weisiger Fellow, which represents cumulative donations of $5,000 or more to the GRSP Foundation. Donations were made in his honor as well. Bjorg also sang for the occasion.
[more]

Club News

Roswell Serves Up Thanks to 9-11 First REsponders

By Becky Nelson

It was a beautiful afternoon when the fourth annual 9-11 First Responders Cookout was held Saturday, September 16th at Roswell Fire Station #24. Over 300 Roswell First Responders were served hamburgers/hot dogs & brats by over 20 **Roswell Rotarians** and 12 Interact students representing the **Blessed Trinity and Roswell HS Interact Clubs**.
During the September 11, 2001, attacks, 2,977 people were killed and more than 6,000 others were injured. Of the 2,977 fatalities, 2,753 were killed in the World Trade Center and surrounding area, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania. These deaths included 265 on the four planes. The attacks remain the deadliest terrorist act in world history.
We need to thank the Roswell Rotary Club 9-11 Committee Dave Young, Gene Beckham, and Jack Wyche. [more]

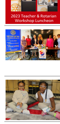
Susan Bonds McCulloch, Executive Director of Dress For Success, Club President Matt Jarrard, Betty Smith, Jolene Northrop, Brenda Borden, Ross Henderson

Rotary Foundation at Work

Vinings Cumberland's District Grant Supports Dress for Success

By Ross Henderson

The **Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club** presented Executive Director of Dress for Success Susan Bonds McCulloch with a $2500 check recently - $1750 from Rotary International Foundation community grant funds. The grant funds are for technology resources available for women to visit Dress For ... [more]

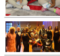


Laws of Life

25 Years of Laws of Life Contest

By Linda Hatten

To kick off the 25th year of the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest, we hosted our annual Teacher & Rotarian Luncheon. It's always a joy to reconnect with the educators and Rotarians who ardently support student writers and the contest.
Keynote Speaker Brick Johnstone, PhD shared his research into the Neuropsychology of the Self which explores the biological factors that influence a person's sense of self and their resulting empathic response. As Director of Brain Injury Research at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, his findings will further enhance recovery for patients at Shepherd and beyond.
We also heard 6900 DGE Gordon Owens shared a humorous tale of how his grandfather motivated him to aim high, "You might amount to something yet." Lassiter High School GLL Chair Anne Blanchard McGreggor, PhD shared how ,over the years, she has motivated colleagues in the English Department for the contest. Student winners Arik Tsfati (Lassiter High School) and Journey Allen (George Walton Academy) shared their inspiring essays that moved many in the audience.
If your Rotary club is interested in bringing the Laws of Life Essay Contest to your local high school's students, we'd love to come and share contest info with your club at a meeting. Contact District 6900 Laws of Life Chair Linda Hatten at linda@georgialawsoflife.org. [more]



Club News

Griffin Daybreak Honors DG André with Multiple Community Service Actions

By Debby Daniel-Bryant

Rotary International District 6900 Governor André Hadley Marria discussed succession planning, building teams and growing membership when she addressed the Griffin Daybreak Rotary Club. She emphasized the importance of working together with financial resources toward a polio-free world. She also shared her passion for creating a more inclusive club that is a reflection of the community's demographics.
In keeping with RI President Gordon McInally's theme to "Create Hope in The World" and remove the stigma regarding mental illness and addiction, the club made a donation in Marria's honor to The Heritage Foundation, Inc., "Maya's House," a residential program for women with addiction and their children. In line with Rotary International's quest to End Polio Now and upcoming World Polio Day October 24, an additional donation was made to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus Fund in Marria's honor. [more]

Sandy Springs Shares the Joy of Vision

By Zac Boswell

Sandy Springs Rotarians - including President Rollin Richmond, Ashley Napier, Nancy Schroeder, Joe Jones, Gene Jordan - recently went to Ison Springs Elementary School to help distribute glasses to third and fourth grade students. The ability of young students to read is a major issue in our country and state. If you have trouble seeing words and letters, having glasses can make a big difference. The Ison School students were happy to have new glasses as you can see in the photo.
[more]

Club News

Fayetteville Sponsors Senior "Citizen" Prom

By Vickie Butler

The Rotary Club of Fayetteville's Senior "Citizen" Prom & Fundraiser at Whitewater Creek Country Club was created to honor and celebrate senior citizens in the community. The 2023 theme for the Prom was Reflections Ball-A Moment In Time, capitalizing on the desire for attending seniors to have a "glittering night of reflections".
[more]

Club News

Newnan Welcomes 36th GRSP Student Since 1954

By Nicholas Ramey

In 1952, the Newnan Rotary Club hosted its very first Georgia Student Rotary Program (GRSP) student from Korea. What began as an effort to engage with a younger generation and learn more about other cultures has now, more than 70 years later, become an annual tradition for the club.
Each year, the club has hosted these students with partner clubs and will partner once again this year with the Senoia Rotary Club.
Newnan has hosted students from 35 countries in every continent with the exception of Antarctica. This year, that number has reached 36. [more]

Club News

Peachtree City Grants Mean Support for Households and Students

By Holly Davanzo

See how **Peachtree City Rotary** grants are impacting people served by the Real Life Center, the students at Spring Hill Elementary as they learn about the environment, and The Bloom Closet focused on providing youth and teens with clothing options. [more]

Club News

North Fulton Supports Local High School on Habitat for Humanity Build

By Lisa Gelber

The Rotary Club of North Fulton is helping Holy Innocents Episcopal School Habitat Club on a Habitat for Humanity Build this fall. The school club was charged with raising $120,000 of the needed funds to build the home and they have made great progress on their goal. Rotary Club of North Fulton was happy to provide a donation as well as a group of members to help with the exterior painting. The house should be complete this month, at which time, the new owner will move in with her two young daughters. We love working with young people who have a passion for service!
[more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Wednesday, October 4th, 2023	DG Official Visit- Marietta
Friday, October 6th, 2023	DG Official Visit-Dunwoody
Tuesday, October 10th, 2023	DG Official Visit-Dougherty County
Wednesday, October 11th, 2023	DG Official Visit-Columbus
Sunday, October 15th, 2023	Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship applications close
Tuesday, October 17th, 2023	DG Official Visit-Thomaston-Upson County
Wednesday, October 18th, 2023	DG Official Visit-East Cobb
Thursday, October 19th, 2023	DG Official Visit-Bremen
Thursday, October 19th, 2023	Monthly call of Rotary Youth Exchange volunteers
Saturday, October 21st, 2023	Zone Institute-Bahamas
Friday, October 27th, 2023	Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship candidate in-home interviews deadline
Monday, October 30th, 2023	DG Official Visit-Buckhead
Tuesday, October 31st, 2023	DG Official Visit-Midtown Atlanta
Wednesday, November 1st, 2023	DG Official Visit- Brookhaven
Thursday, November 2nd, 2023	DG Official Visit- Forsyth

From Our District Governor

A Reminder from Your District Governor

It is time to begin the process of selecting our District Governor for the Rotary Year 2026-2027.

The elected individual will become District Governor on July 1, 2026.

Rotary International requires that the person nominated follow a two-year process of training and preparation before assuming the role of District Governor. During the 2024-2025 Rotary year, the selected individual will be the District Governor Nominee (DGN). This role includes observation and training, and participation at District events. It also includes participation at the Rotary Zone 33-34 training institute 2024-2025 and Presidents-Elect Training Seminar and participating as a non-voting member of key district committees. During the 2025-2026 Rotary year, the selected individual will be the District Governor-Elect (DGE). Training and observation activities continue, including participation at the Zone training institute and at the Rotary International Assembly (an assembly and training program for District Governors-Elect from over 500 Rotary Districts in the world) in Orlando in January 2026.

Our district utilizes a Nominating Committee process. Your help in identifying those qualified applicants would be appreciated. Please look within your club and within your Rotary network to identify those Rotarians who met the qualifications and have the desire to get involved at the district level.

Interested applicants must have the support of their club indicated by resolution and submit it along with their completed application and including a brief resume to District Executive Secretary, Teri White by **November 1, 2023**. Interviews of selected applicants, by the committee, will take place on **Saturday, November 18, 2023**.

If you have questions, contact me, your AG, or call Teri White at 229-221-3935, or e-mail her at twhite@hurstboiler.com

Qualifications, Requirements and Instructions

- Be a current active member in good standing of a functioning Rotary club in District 6900.
- Have full qualifications for membership in the strict application of the club membership provisions, and the integrity of the Rotarian’s classification must be without question.

- Have served as President of a Rotary club for a full term before July 1, 2023 or be a charter president of a club having served the term from the date of the charter to 30 June, provide that period is for at least six months. (Note: that club may be one outside of District 6900).
- Demonstrate willingness, commitment, ability, physically and otherwise, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of Governor as provided in the RI Bylaws section.

- Demonstrate knowledge of the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of the Governor as prescribed in the RI Bylaws, and submit a signed statement acknowledging a clear understanding of them. This statement shall also confirm that the Rotarian is qualified for the office of Governor and is willing and able to assume the duties and responsibilities of the office and to perform them faithfully

  The nomination is made in the name of the sponsoring Rotary Club and must include a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the club. The resolution shall be signed by the Club Secretary, certifying the resolution. The Nominating Committee Chair shall contact the Club President of the candidate to verify the applicant is a member in good standing and to verify that the application is properly signed and certified.

Each applicant is to complete and submit the following items:

- District Governor Application along with a brief resume
- The Club Resolution signed by the club President and Club Secretary
- The Governor-nominee Form from Rotary International signed by the Club Secretary

Completed applications should be mailed/emailed to:

Teri White
District Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 55, Coolidge, GA 31738-0055

twhite@hurstboiler.com

Posted by André Marria
October 2, 2023

The Rotary Foundation

World Polio Day - Tuesday, October 24

One Day… One Focus … One End to Polio

World Polio Day unites Rotarians, public health advocates, and everyone else who envisions a world free from polio. It is a time for us to come together recognizing and honoring our progress in the fight to end polio. And it is a time to commit to the actions we must take now and end Polio forever, worldwide.

Poliomyelitis is a highly infectious viral disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5 years. Typically the virus spreads person to person through contaminated water. It can attack the nervous system and, in some instances, lead to permanent paralysis.

At this moment, there is no cure for Polio; however, there is a safe and effective vaccine that Rotary International, along with our partners in the global Polio Eradication Initiative, uses to immunize over 2.5 billion children worldwide. These partners include UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments around the globe.

The only way to end Polio forever requires that all the people in the world work in unison to fight this virus. Our current situation, (limiting the polio virus inside just 2 countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan) is a tremendous achievement. This unique achievement further validates what is possible when everyone unites to fight our common health dangers.

World Polio Day is celebrated around the world to remind all of us just how far we've come in fighting this disease. It was created in 1988.

Please honor World Polio Day 2023 on October 24 and recognize that Polio is still only one plane ride away from all of us and our families. You can support our efforts by advocating, fundraising and educating everyone you know continually until Polio, in all forms, is eradicated from this earth.

This year, Rotary International's quest is to find 12.5 million unvaccinated children around the world and immunize them. Here are some action steps you can take with us on our mission.

- **Learn** – Inform yourself and make polio a topic of conversation in your community.
- **Share** - While most people have heard of Polio, few know how the disease affect children worldwide. You can tell them.
- **Donate** – Help Rotary International obtain the vaccines, transportation and materials needed in the fight against Polio. A Polio free world is possible only if we all take action together. 1) Donate to@End Polio Now on #WorldPolioDay and it will be matched $2 to $1; 2) Triple your impact: Donate at **Donate to End Polio | End Polio**; 3) You may also make your donations directly on line at My Rotary.org – Polio plus Fund or through your Club and Foundation Chair.

Posted by Will MacArthur
October 1, 2023

Membership

Dunwoody's Membership Drive

In a recent visit to the **Dunwoody Rotary Club** to help forge a partnership between their club and the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association for a new memorial in Brook Run Park, I learned of Dunwoody's Membership drive. President Jack Sparks and his team decided there would be no better way to honor their club's 40th anniversary than to grow the club's impact in Dunwoody by being intentional about membership.

They started by having Mark Galvin, Public Image Chair, lead a branding exercise where the club came up with a concise elevator pitch, "At Dunwoody Rotary we connect, serve and grow." The club is using its 40 years of history to highlight the impact they have had both locally and globally to help build a sense of pride in the great work they have done. Between a concise message and being proud of the club, members are well equipped to talk up Rotary to people in their community who are Rotarians but aren't members yet. They even made up business cards to use to invite prospects to come to a meeting.

I look forward to seeing the great progress they will make in growing Rotary in Dunwoody this year and want to congratulate them for trying something new to move the needle!

Posted by Gordon Owens
September 27, 2023

GRSP

Former Student Shares Experience; Application Process for 2024-25 Now Open

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director

Adaobi Princess Nwofor spoke so highly of her year with Georgia Rotary Student Program that her brother Obinna Kingsley Nwofor was quick to apply himself. Princess participated in the Class of 2018-2019 and attended Oglethorpe University. She was sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of **Midtown Atlanta, Sandy Springs and Tucker**. She was the recipient of the Barbara M. and Donald L Thomas Peace Award from the Rotary Club of Roswell within her class. She is currently working as a data analyst at Google.

Kinglsey is participating in the Class of 2023-24, attends Clayton State University and is sponsored by the **Rotary Clubs of Henry County and Lake Spivey**. The siblings from Nigeria are part of a family of six, with a mother who is a school teacher, and they value family time. After her year with GRSP, Princess earned her undergraduate degree followed by her master's degree. She addressed current scholars at Conclave in Macon and assured them the year ahead would be one of the best of their lives. She stated she maintains connections with many of the Rotarians she met within the program as well as her classmates.

Since 1946, the Georgia Rotarians have hosted more than 3,775 students from over 109 countries in an effort to promote world peace and understanding. After their one-year experience, GRSP students return to their countries and are expected to visit Rotary meetings and tell of their year in Georgia. They also will be encouraging other prospective students to apply for a scholarship.

The GRSP office works with alumni of our program and Rotarians all over the world who endorse candidates for our program each year. **Our 2024-2025 scholarship application is now open** through October 31, 2023. Please let us know you have any questions, and if you ever want us to host a virtual session to connect with any prospects and promote our program. The official application, which is completed entirely online, is available on the GRSP website at **https://grsp.org/students/** , along with Application Guidelines and other information. If a potential applicant is unable to access the online application, please email grsp@grsp.org for assistance.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
September 16, 2023

Auntie André Needs You!

The District Is Looking For Your Help

Auntie André thanks you for considering a role outside of your club. Here are the details of the leadership opportunities the district is looking to fill. If you are interested in any of these, reach out to DGE Gordon Owens at (404)597-5434 or GOrotaryDG@gmail.com:

District Governor Nominee Designate: Nominations are open for the 2026-2027 District Governor. This is an honor of a lifetime that all past presidents should seriously consider. You get to travel the world for training, visit all the clubs in our district and build better friendships along the way. If you are considering it and want to learn more about the role, any PDG would be happy to talk with your about what it's like to be Governor.

District Treasurer: Help the district manage our monthly financials. The role requires 8-10 hours per month of your time, a working knowledge of Quickbooks and experience in financial reporting. This is a great way for those with a financial/accounting background to lend their expertise to Rotary. We would love to identify this person soon so they can work with our current treasurer, Teri White, before their term starts on July 1, 2024.

Assistant Governor: Were you an awesome club president? Want to help clubs in your area grow their impact in the community? If you answered yes to both of these, we need you! AGs are like a coach and help 3-4 club presidents in their area prepare for and lead their clubs during the Rotary year. This is a great way to build relationships with surrounding communities. For next year we have AG openings for LaGrange, Columbus, Albany & Thomasville.

Public Image Team: If you are creative, love things like Canva or posting to social media and a bit crazy

we want you on the Public Image team. Help us create promotions for District Conference, Foundation Giving, Polio+, Membership and more. We need help producing videos, podcasts and captivating visual content so bring your expertise to this rare virtual volunteer opportunity that only requires a few hours each month.

Foundation Team: Love to fundraise? Help us promote Rotary Foundation and Polio+ giving around the district. We have some fun things in the works for both of these efforts but they're still *Top Secret* at this time. Maybe you have a passion for service and want to help clubs with community or global grants either way, the foundation team wants you!

Posted by André Marria
September 24, 2023

GRSP Update

Columbus: From White Water Rafting to Space Shuttle Simulations

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director

Riding the rapids along with a space shuttle simulation were two of many highlights for 41 Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars in Columbus for the GRSP Tony Wright Student Weekend September 15-17. The weekend was hosted by Rotarians from the **Columbus, North Columbus and Muscogee Rotary Clubs**. Two GRSP alumni members who were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Columbus - Laury Petit (Class of 22-23) and Sebastian Villa (Class of 15-16) helped in the efforts, including Bafa' Bafa', a cultural simulation game.

Scholars spent Friday evening at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center at Columbus State University as they toured the collection of NASA and Apollo memorabilia, explored interactive exhibits, experienced the space shuttle simulation to the International Space Station and observed the night skies in the planetarium. Saturday's scheduled included a whitewater rafting excursion on the Chattahoochee River along with time with weekend host Rotarians and families as well as other GRSP scholars. The group returned to their respective campuses Sunday with the aid of GRSP Trustees, sponsoring Rotary Club host families and club coordinators. Scholars are scheduled to visit historic Savannah for the Hue Thomas, Jr., GRSP Student Weekend October 13-15.

PHOTOS:

ROCKIN
SPACE EDUCATION
SINCE 1996
COLUMBUS STATE
ROCKIN
SPACE EDUCATION
SINCE 1996
COLUMBUS STATE

GRSP
GEORGIA ROTARY
STUDENT PROGRAM
Rotary
Districts
6900, 6910, 6920

Posted by Katheryne Fields
October 2, 2023

Join Us In Singapore

May 25-29, 2024

The Rotary International Convention will be in Singapore from May 25 to May 29, 2024. We hope you will consider joining the Rotarians from our district who are already registered and can't wait to go. These conventions bring together 10's of thousands of Rotarians from around the world in a unique destination. There are unique opportunities to experience local culture, see the sights around town and explore the surrounding countries before or after the convention. We have a hotel room block setup so we can stick together, we will host a district dinner during the convention and have a suggested trip for afterwards. Visit the **convention page** for more information.

Posted by Gordon Owens
September 30, 2023

Club News

Thomasville - Home of GRSP - Welcomes New Student

The **Rotary Club of Thomasville** is proud to sponsor Allen-Amin Hollander, a promising young student from the vibrant island of Curaçao, for this year's Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP). Amin Hollander will be pursuing his higher education at Thomas University, marking a significant step forward for both him and the university.

GRSP, a unique initiative that has been fostering international connections since 1946, was founded thanks to the ideas and support of Will Watt, a Thomasville Rotarian and Past District Governor in District 6900, to promote global understanding and peace through cross-cultural exchanges. What began with just four scholars has now grown into a network of over 3,692 alumni from around the world. The program's

profound impact on fostering global perspectives is evident in the diverse range of backgrounds and experiences represented by its participants.

A sports enthusiast from a young age, Amin Hollander immersed himself in baseball and tennis, ultimately dedicating himself to his true passion — baseball. His multicultural education enabled him to master four languages, including English, Dutch, Spanish, and Papiamentu. His fluency in these languages will undoubtedly be an asset as he embarks on his studies in Computer Systems Management at Thomas University.

The partnership between Amin Hollander and Thomas University exemplifies the institution's commitment to fostering cultural diversity and exchange. With students from over 20 countries already on campus, Amin Hollander's presence will further enrich the campus community and provide students with an unparalleled global perspective. "We are thrilled to welcome Allen to our campus and to the Thomasville community," remarked Kristy Wainright, Director of Compliance for International Affairs and State Authorization.

Scott Rich, an Assistant Governor and Thomasville Rotarian, noted the club's longstanding tradition of supporting GRSP students. Since 1947, the club has been sponsoring scholars attending Valdosta State University. However, this year marks a special milestone as Allen becomes the first GRSP student to attend Thomas University. "We are excited to have Allen join us and actively engage in our club's activities and service projects," shared Rich.

He expressed optimism in sustaining this collaboration, envisioning a continued partnership between the Rotary Club and Thomas University to sponsor GRSP students annually.

Posted by Shanna Derby
September 30, 2023

Be the Voice

Peachtree Helps Launch Be THE Voice at Local School!

What an awesome day at Booth Middle School recently with the kick-off of Be THE Voice (and anti-bullying campaign) sponsored by the What an awesome day at Booth Middle School this morning with the kick-off of Be THE Voice (and anti-bullying campaign) sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City**! These kids are the leaders at Booth Middle School and will be members of our new Interact Club at the middle school level this year as well. Be THE Voice® is a student-led movement for kindness, compassion, and inclusion in K-12 schools. The initiative revolves around a weekly video series, shown school wide, that features diverse peer influencers sharing first-hand experiences on topics ranging from bullying to exclusion, anxiety, mental health, stereotyping, serving the community, and other student-centric issues. These videos inspire and encourage students **"to do what is right, not what is easy"** in everyday situations – equipping them with the interpersonal skills to **be the voice** of kindness and inclusion within their schools and communities.

Thanks so much to Club President Amy and New Gen Director Donna for imagining and implementing this program this year at Booth Middle School - this is a great way to drive inclusion, kindness and compassion at an early age!

*Editor's Note: Be the Voice was started by **Roswell Rotarian Debbie Cwalina**. For more information about how your club could be involved, contact Debbie or the folks at Peachtree City.*

Posted by Holly Davanzo
October 2, 2023

Club News

Douglas County Speakers Highlight RYLA and New Concert Facilities in Douglasville

President Tekmekia Gilchrist is pictured with Rotary Counselor Zachary Adams, Alexsis Alfred, Nicholas Allen, Krista Brown, and NMHS Counselor and Interact Club Sponsor Pamela Cummings

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** enjoyed hearing from the three students they sponsored for this summer's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) leadership camp. Hosted on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University, RYLA features activities and speakers who help students understand their gifts and talents, improve communication skills, and consider life goals. The camp took place in June with over 100 students and many volunteers.

All three students who attended from Douglas County are students at New Manchester High School and members of the Interact Club. Students expressed that the experience was transformative for them, and one said, "I'm thankful for the opportunity and for everyone I met there." Another student said she and most of the others in her RYLA group were interested in the medical field, so they talked every day about how they will reach their career goals.

Rotary members also heard from Zachary Adams, a former RYLA attendee and a counselor there for nine years. "RYLA is an important part of my summer, and I look forward to volunteering every year."

Douglas County Rotarian Samantha Rosado, assistant conference center and tourism director for the city of Douglasville, updated us on the new GreyStone Amphitheater and Town Green. The Green holds 3,500 guests, with additional capacity on the bridge, patio, and roof. The amphitheater has received glowing reviews since its opening concert on September 2 with Gladys Knight. Last Saturday's concert featured Boney James, and LeAnn Rimes is up next on September 16. Artists for a spring concert series will be announced soon. The Town Green also features a splash pad and play area. The amphitheater is only phase one of Town Green. Plans for further development will be announced soon.

PHOTOS:

Rotary President Tekmekia Gilchrist, Samantha Rosado, and Douglasville Mayor and Rotary member Rochelle Robinson

Posted by Nell Boggs
September 16, 2023

Amplifying Rotary

East Cobb's 5K Run Celebrates 22 Years with 552 Runners and $100,000+ to Community

What a day it was! On August 5 at the McClesky YMCA, **East Cobb Rotary** marked the 22nd anniversary of our Dog Days 5K event with an extraordinary show of unity, determination, and support. We had a fantastic turnout of 552 runners that helped us raise over $100,000 to go toward local charities. This event is a testament not just to one day's achievement but to over two decades of our community coming together to make a difference for local charities in the typical Rotary way: service above self.

The Dog Days 5k exemplifies our Rotary club's dedication to our shared values and causes. Over these

years, we've witnessed countless moments of inspiration, unity, and the incredible impact we can make when we stand together as Rotarians. This year's 552 runners embodied the spirit of dedication that has defined our event for over two decades. They ran not just for themselves but to support our local non-profit organizations, carrying forward the legacy of giving.

The support from our community, sponsors, and local businesses has always been the heart of our event. This year we had 73 sponsors for the event, many of which showed up to bring brand awareness to the community. These business sponsors were able to be involved with the runners and families who came to celebrate. Some of these sponsors made this a team building event for their business, having multiple runners beat the heat together in a show of community comradery. The $100,000 raised, generously sponsored by our community partners, will continue to be given back to our community through our Dog Days grant program. We believe in our local non-profit organizations and by giving back, East Cobb rotary empowers them to continue their vital work.

This event is not just about the dollars raised but the inspiration it provides. It reminds us that when Rotary unites with a common purpose, we can achieve remarkable things. Not to say that the cheers, smiles, and high-fives were moments that will stay with us until our next Dog Days 5k! We are looking forward to continuing to build on this event with goals to increase sponsorship and runner attendance. This event has been steadily growing with the support of East Cobb Rotary, but we are always looking for ways to make a great impact through our service. Please feel free to reach out to our club to learn more!

PHOTOS:

Posted by Jonathan Rudolph

September 27, 2023

Club News

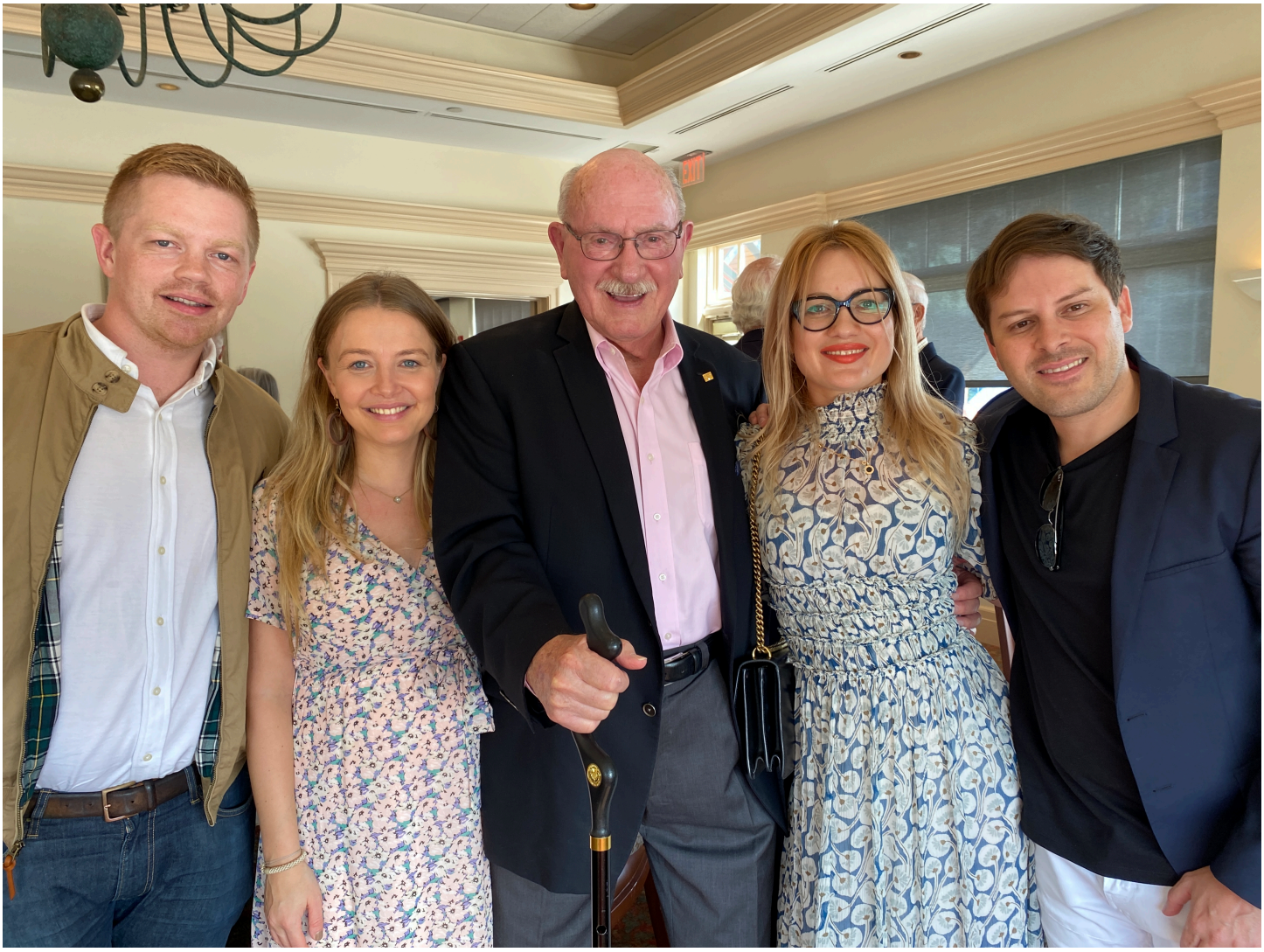
Cuthbert Rotary Sponsors STEM Breakfast

Cuthbert Rotary Club sponsored the first ever Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School Senior Breakfast which was held in the Private Dining Hall at Andrew College. Rotary Club President Patricia Goodman shared briefly the purpose of Rotary emphasizing service above self. Andrew College President Dr. Rusty Kennedy welcomed the students to the college and shared various opportunities available at Andrew College. School Leader Mrs. Ginger Almon (far right) is pictured with the senior class in front of the dining hall.

Posted by Patricia Goodman
October 2, 2023

Club News

Columbus Rotary and GRSP Alumni Honor Lamar Johnson on His 90th Birthday!



Rotary Club of Columbus member Lamar Johnson received guests, accolades and a Georgia Rotary Student Program award for his 90th birthday. About 80 of his family and friends toasted to Lamar's longevity last week including Rotarians from his current club, his good friend PDG Steve Stanfield, his prior North Fulton club along with two GRSP alumnae sponsored by Columbus, Bjorg Kilmarsdottir, Class of 2010-11 from Iceland and Olga Cajaichin of Moldova, Class of 2013-14. Bjorg and GRSP Vice Chair Ian Bond presented Lamar with the Kendall Weisiger Fellow, which represents cumulative donations of $5,000 or more to the GRSP Foundation. Donations were made in his honor as well. Bjorg also sang for the occasion.

For many years, Lamar and his wife Gloria have hosted GRSP scholars, visited their home countries and consider them their grandchildren. Bjorg is a music and voice teacher who travels abroad with choirs. She and her husband Pali have two boys and a third son on the way. Olga and her husband Fabio have two children and own their own businesses with operations in Georgia and Florida.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Julie Bond
October 1, 2023

Club News

Roswell Serves Up Thanks to 9-11 First REsponders

It was a beautiful afternoon when the fourth annual 9-11 First Responders Cookout was held Saturday, September 16th at Roswell Fire Station #24. Over 300 Roswell First Responders were served

hamburgers/hot dogs & brats by over 20 Rotary Members and 12 Interact students representing the Blessed Trinity and Roswell HS Interact Clubs.

During the September 11, 2001, attacks, 2,977 people were killed and more than 6,000 others were injured. Of the 2,977 fatalities, 2,753 were killed in the World Trade Center and surrounding area, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania. These deaths included 265 on the four planes. The attacks remain the deadliest terrorist act in world history.

We need to thank the Roswell Rotary Club 9-11 Committee Dave Young, Gene Beckham, and Jack Wyche.

Posted by Becky Nelson
October 2, 2023

Rotary Foundation at Work

Vinings Cumberland's District Grant Supports Dress for Success

Susan Bonds McCulloch, Executive Director of Dress For Success, Club President Matt Jarrard, Betty Smith, Jolene Northrop, Brenda Borden, Ross Henderson

The **Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club** presented Executive Director of Dress for Success Susan Bonds

McCulloch with a $2500 check recently - $1750 from Rotary International Foundation community grant funds. The grant funds are for technology resources available for women to visit Dress For Success to allow them to prepare resumes, search and apply for career opportunities and training. Susan toured club members around their new career center and expanded Atlanta facility and headquarters. The mission of Dress For Success is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Posted by Ross Henderson
October 2, 2023

Laws of Life

25 Years of Laws of Life Contest

2023 Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon

To kick off the 25th year of the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest, we hosted our annual Teacher & Rotarian Luncheon. It's always a joy to reconnect with the educators and Rotarians who ardently support student writers and the contest.

Keynote Speaker Brick Johnstone, PhD shared his research into the Neuropsychology of the Self which explores the biological factors that influence a person's sense of self and their resulting empathic response. As Director of Brain Injury Research at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, his findings will further enhance recovery for patients at Shepherd and beyond.

We also heard 6900 DGE Gordon Owens shared a humorous tale of how his grandfather motivated him to aim high, “You might amount to something yet.” Lassiter High School GLL Chair Anne Blanchard McGreggor, PhD shared how ,over the years, she has motivated colleagues in the English Department for the contest. Student winners Arik Tsfati (Lassiter High School) and Journey Allen (George Walton Academy) shared their inspiring essays that moved many in the audience.

If your Rotary club is interested in bringing the Laws of Life Essay Contest to your local high school's students, we’d love to come and share contest info with your club at a meeting. Contact District 6900 Laws of Life Chair Linda Hatten at linda@georgialawsoflife.org.

Posted by Linda Hatten
September 29, 2023

Club News

Griffin Daybreak Honors DG André with Multiple Community Service Actions

Rotary International District 6900 Governor André Hadley Marria discussed succession planning, building teams and growing membership when she addressed the **Griffin Daybreak Rotary Club**. She emphasized the importance of working together with financial resources toward a polio-free world. She also shared her passion for creating a more inclusive club that is a reflection of the community's demographics.

In keeping with RI President Gordon McInally's theme to "Create Hope in The World" and remove the stigma regarding mental illness and addiction, the club made a donation in Marria's honor to The Heritage Foundation, Inc., "Maya's House," a residential program for women with addiction and their children. In line with Rotary International's quest to End Polio Now and upcoming World Polio Day October 24, an additional donation was made to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus Fund in Marria's honor.

Griffin Daybreak also presented essential hygiene items that were collected from members from August to September as a donation to Midway Recovery Center. Midway Recovery Center is a private, non-profit organization in Griffin which offers a 90-day intensive residential recovery program providing professional care to treat alcohol and drug addiction for males 21 and older.

PHOTOS:

ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
Griffin
DAYBREAK
R. Gordon R. McNally
2023-24 President
Rotary International
Rotary
CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant
October 2, 2023

Sandy Springs Shares the Joy of Vision

Sandy Springs Rotarians - including President Rollin Richmond, Ashley Napier, Nancy Schroeder, Joe Jones, Gene Jordan - recently went to Ison Springs Elementary School to help distribute glasses to third and fourth grade students. The ability of young students to read is a major issue in our country and state. If you have trouble seeing words and letters, having glasses can make a big difference. The Ison School students were happy to have new glasses as you can see in the photo.

Posted by Zac Boswell
October 2, 2023

Club News

Fayetteville Sponsors Senior "Citizen" Prom

The **Rotary Club of Fayetteville**'s Senior "Citizen" Prom & Fundraiser at Whitewater Creek Country Club was created to honor and celebrate senior citizens in the community. The 2023 theme for the Prom was Reflections Ball–A Moment In Time, capitalizing on the desire for attending seniors to have a “glittering night of reflections”.

Area age 62+ citizens were invited to come out for some fun and relive their Prom night, or just attend the Prom they missed! While the event allowed people to dance the night away, for many event goers, there was a deeper meaning behind being able to experience a night of nostalgia. The Prom was FREE to seniors, and featured a dance ensemble by GlamourGals of Peachtree City, heavy hors d’ oeuvres, dancing, photographs, and crowning of the king and queen!

The Prom was sponsored by several local prominent organizations, citizens and businesses indicating their support of our senior citizens. The funds raised also benefit Two Sparrows Village at Christian City.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Vickie Butler
October 2, 2023

Club News

Newnan Welcomes 36th GRSP Student Since 1954

In 1952, the **Newnan Rotary Club** hosted its very first Georgia Student Rotary Program (GRSP) student from Korea. What began as an effort to engage with a younger generation and learn more about other cultures has now, more than 70 years later, become an annual tradition for the club.

Each year, the club has hosted these students with partner clubs and will partner once again this year with the **Senoia Rotary Club.**

Newnan has hosted students from 35 countries in every continent with the exception of Antarctica. This year, that number has reached 36. Our student is Favour Onwanuo, who

was born in Nnewi, Anambra State, Nigeria, and says she believes family values and traditions are her first valuable asset. Her father is a trader, her mother is a caterer and she has three siblings. Onwanuo is a freshman at the University of West Georgia, where she is studying nursing - a career she selected because it is a rewarding and fulfilling career path that has room for personal and professional growth.

“After my education, I would like to work in hospitals or clinics to assist in the care of patients alongside working with the medical practitioners to gain more knowledge and experience as I look forward to establishing mine,” she said.

While not spending time with studies, Onwanuo said she enjoys card games, watching TV shows and movies, baking, collecting art and singing, especially in church.

Posted by Nicholas Ramey
October 2, 2023

Club News

Peachtree City Grants Mean Support for Households and Students

The Real Life Center is one of the **Peachtree City Rotary** grant recipients for this year. In a little less than two hours and with just a few Rotarians, we were able to sort and pack about six pallets of food and household items which will amount to about one week's worth of supplies that RLC is able to donate to those in need. The mission of Real Life Center is to walk with those who are hurting in Fayette and Coweta counties by not only providing immediate needs of food / household items, but also working with individuals to help guide them through the struggles and get back on their feet again. We are proud to have an organization like this in our local community and were happy to help the cause! Visit **RealLifeCenter.org** for more information on how you can get involved!

Thanks to a grant from our club in July, 86 students from Spring Hill Elementary learned about Habitats and Impacts of the Eastern Box Turtle. The Fayette Environmental Education Center was thrilled to be

able to provide this program and take nature to the classroom.
#environmentalimpact #environmentaleducation #easternboxturtle #DoingGoodintheWorld #SupportingtheEnvironment #BasicEducationandLiteracy

Part 1 of our District Grant with Bloom Closet is complete. Club members joined the staff at the 'store' and helped removed all of the summer clothing from the teen/children's rooms to make room for an upcoming remodel and the new Fall/Winter line of clothing and supplies. Please visit **BloomOurYouth.org** for more details on how to get involved with this amazing foster care program!

PHOTOS:

Posted by Holly Davanzo
October 2, 2023

Club News

North Fulton Supports Local High School on Habitat for Humanity Build

The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** is helping Holy Innocents Episcopal School Habitat Club on a Habitat for Humanity Build this fall. The school club was charged with raising $120,000 of the needed funds to build the home and they have made great progress on their goal. Rotary Club of North Fulton was happy to provide a donation as well as a group of members to help with the exterior painting. The house should be complete this month, at which time, the new owner will move in with her two young daughters. We love working with young people who have a passion for service!

PHOTOS:

Posted by Lisa Gelber
October 1, 2023