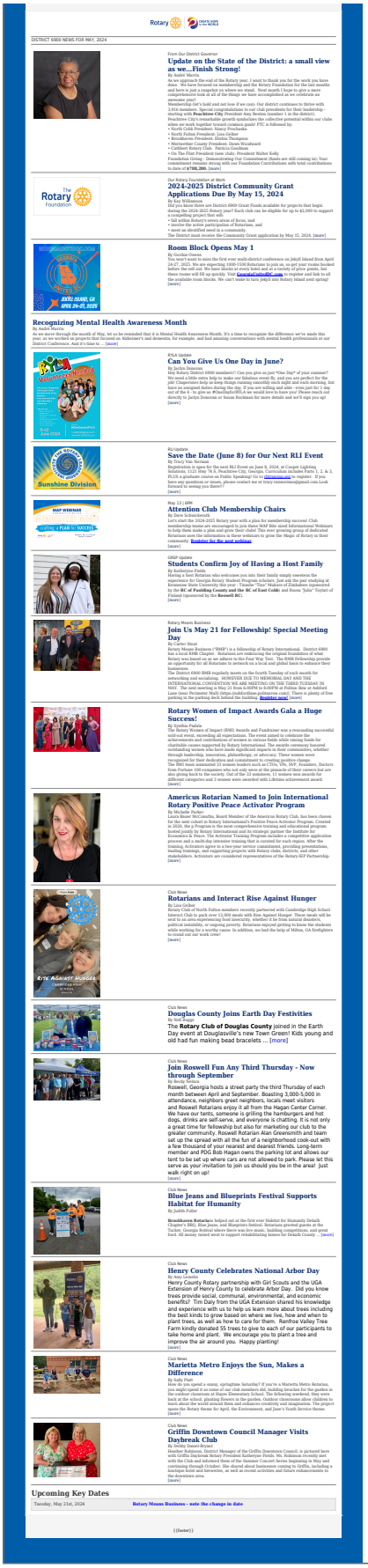
Rotary
District 6900

May 17, 2024



DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR MAY, 2024

From Our District Governor

Update on the State of the District: a small view as we...Finish Strong!

By André Morris

As we approach the end of the Rotary year, I want to thank you for the work you have done in your clubs and communities to make this year a success. Rotary is a marathon and here is just a snapshot on where we stand. Next month I hope to give a more comprehensive look at all of the things we have accomplished as we celebrate an awesome year!

Membership: Let's hold and not lose if we can: Our district continues to thrive with a net gain of 1,000 members compared to last year (at present time, 2,000 members), starting with **Peachtree City**! President Amy Heston (number 1 in the district). Peachtree City's remarkable growth symbolizes the collective potential within our clubs when we work together toward common goals! PTC is followed by:

- North Cobb President: Nancy Procharska
- Sandy Springs President: Ellen Ryan
- Brookhaven President: Elisha Thompson
- Meriwether County President: Dean Woodward
- Cuthbert Rotary Club: Patricia Gardman
- On The Flint President (new club): President Walter Kelly

Foundation: Our District Foundation is in great shape! Grant funds are still coming in; Your commitment remains strong with our Foundation Contributions with total contribution to date of **$788,280.** [more]

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

2024-2025 District Community Grant Applications Due By May 15, 2024

By Amy Williamson

Did you know there are District 6900 Grant Funds available for projects that begin during the 2024-2025 Rotary year? Each club can be eligible for up to $2,500 to support a compelling project that will:

- meet a clearly defined need, interest of focus, and
- involve the active participation of Rotarians, and
- meet an identified need in a community.

The District must receive the Community Grant application by May 15, 2024. [more]

Room Block Opens May 1

By Gordon Owens

You won't want to miss the first ever multi-district conference on Jekyll Island from April 24-27, 2025. We are expecting 1000-1300 Rotarians to join us, so get your rooms booked early! Jekyll Island is a Rotary Family Friendly Destination, so bring the family! Once these rooms will fill up quickly. Visit GeorgiaUnitedPC.com to register and link to all the available room blocks. We can't wake to turn Jekyll into Rotary Island next spring! [more]

Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month

By André Morris

As we move through the month of May, let us be reminded that it is Mental Health Awareness Month. It's a time to recognize the difference we've made this year; as we worked on projects that focused on Alzheimer's and dementia, for example, and had amazing conversations with mental health professionals at our District Conference. And it's time to ... [more]

RYLA Update

Can You Give Us One Day in June?

By Jaclyn Donovan

Hey Rotary District 6900 members! Can you give us just *One Day* of your summer? We need a little extra help to make our fabulous event fly, and you are perfect for the job! Chaperones help so deep things running smoothly each night and each morning, but have no assigned duties during the day. If you are willing and able –even just for 1 day – please, PLEASE, let us know! Contact Jaclyn Donovan or Susie Buckman for more details directly to Jaclyn Donovan or Susie Buckman for more details and we'll sign you up! [more]

RLI Update

Save the Date (June 8) for Our Next RLI Event

By Tracy Van Buskirk

Save the date and register for the next RLI Event on June 8, 2024, at Cooper Lighting Solutions, 1121 Hwy 74 S, Peachtree City, Georgia. Curriculum includes Parts 1, 2, & 3, PLUS a graduate course on Public Speaking! Go to rlimeeting.org to register. If you have any questions or issues, please contact me at tracy.vanburskirk@gmail.com.Look forward to seeing you there!!! [more]

May 13 | 6PM

Attention Club Membership Chairs

By Dave Schoolcraft

Let's start the 2024-2025 Rotary year with a plan for membership success! Club membership teams are encouraged to join these MAP Bite sized Informational Webinars to help them make a plan and grow their clubs! This ever growing group of dedicated Rotarians uses the information in these webinars to grow the Magic of Rotary in their communities. **Register for the next webinar** [more]

GRSP Update

Students Confirm Joy of Having a Host Family

By Katherine Fields

Having a Sort Rotarian who welcomes you into their family simply sweetens the experience for Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars. Just ask the pair studying at Kennesaw State University this year – Tinashe "Tina" Makaro of Zimbabwe (sponsored by the **Lake Paulding Sunrise and the RC of East Cobb**) and Rosso "Jaki" Toytari of Finland (sponsored by the **Roswell RC**). [more]

Rotary Means Business

Join Us May 21 for Fellowship! Special Meeting Day

By Carter Stunt

Rotary Means Business ("RMB") is a fellowship of Rotary International. District 6900 has a local RMB Chapter. Rotarians are embracing the original foundation of what Rotary was based on as we adhere to the Four Way Test. The RMB Fellowship provide opportunity for all Rotarians to network on a local and global basis to enhance their businesses.

The District 6900 RMB regularly meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month for networking and socializing. HOWEVER DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WE ARE MEETING ON THE THIRD TUESDAY IN MAY. Join us on May 21st at 11:30 AM at Ruby Tuesday's in the Kroger Shopping Center Lane (near Perimeter Mall) (https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZuLqbbcvcc1uMc7A8). There is plenty of free parking in the parking deck behind the building. Register now! [more]

Rotary Women of Impact Awards Gala a Huge Success!

By Synthia Fudala

The Rotary Women of Impact (ROI) Awards and Fundraiser was a resounding successful sold-out event, exceeding all expectations. The event aimed to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in various fields while raising funds for charitable causes supported by Rotary International. The awards ceremony honored exceptional women who have made significant strides in their respective fields, whether through leadership, innovation, philanthropy, or advocacy. These women were recognized for their dedication and commitment to creating positive change.

The ROI team nominated 23 women leaders such as CTOs, VPs, SVP, Founders, Doctors from Fortune 100 companies who not only were at the pinnacle of their careers but are giving back to their communities. The ROI Committee selected 5 women in five different categories and 2 women were awarded with Lifetime achievement award. [more]

Americus Rotarian Named to Join International Rotary Positive Peace Activator Program

By Michelle Parker

Laura Rose McCanless, Board Member of the Americus Rotary Club, has been chosen for the next cohort in Rotary International's Positive Peace Activator Program. Created in 2020, the p Program is the most comprehensive training and educational program hosted jointly by Rotary International and its strategic partner the Institute for Economics and Peace. The program includes a rigorous three-month application process and a multi-day intensive training that is curated for each region. After the training, Activators agree to a two-year service commitment, providing presentations, leading trainings, and supporting projects with Rotary clubs, districts, and other stakeholders. Activators are considered representatives of the Rotary-IEP Partnership. [more]

Club News

Rotarians and Interact Rise Against Hunger

By Lisa Gallant

Rotarians of North Fulton members recently partnered with Cambridge High School Interact Club to pack over 12,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger. These meals will be sent to an area experiencing food insecurity, whether it be from natural disasters, political instability, or ongoing poverty. Rotarians enjoyed getting to know the students while working for a worthy cause. In addition, we had the help of Milton, GA firefighters who need our work crew!

[more]

Club News

Douglas County Joins Earth Day Festivities

By Ted Prego

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** joined in the Earth Day event at Douglasville's new Town Green! Kids young and old had fun making bead bracelets ... [more]

Club News

Join Roswell Fun Any Third Thursday - Now through September

By Becky Nelson

Roswell, Georgia hosts a street party the third Thursday of each month between April and September. Boasting 3,000-5,000 in attendance, neighbors great neighbors, locals meet visitors and Roswell Rotarians enjoy it all from the Hagan Center Corner. We have our tents, someone is grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs, drinks are self-serve, and everyone is chatting. It is not only a great time for fellowship but also for marketing our club to the greater community. Roswell Rotarian Alan Greenesmith and team set up the spread with all the fun of a neighborhood cook-out with a few thousand of your nearest and dearest friends. Long-term member and PDG Bob Hagan owns the parking lot and allows our tent to be set up where cars are not allowed to park. Please let this serve as your invitation to join us should you be in the area! Just walk right on up!

[more]

Club News

Blue Jeans and Blueprints Festival Supports Habitat for Humanity

By Judith Fisher

Brookhaven Rotarian helped out at the first ever Habitat for Humanity Dekalb Chapter's BBQ, Blue Jeans, and Blueprints festival. Rotarians greeted guests at the Tucker, Georgia festival where there was live music, building competitions, and great food. All money raised went to support rehabilitating homes for Dekalb County ... [more]

Club News

Henry County Celebrates National Arbor Day

By Amy Lomelin

Henry County Rotary partnership with Girl Scouts and the UGA Extension of Henry County to celebrate Arbor Day. Did you know trees provide social, communal, environmental, and economic benefits? Tim Daly from the UGA Extension shared his knowledge and experience with us to help us learn more about trees including the best kinds to grow based on where we live, how and when to plant trees, as well as how to care for them. Renfroe Valley Tree Farm kindly donated 55 trees to give to each of our participants to take home and plant. We encourage you to plant a tree and improve the air around you. Happy planting!

[more]

Club News

Marietta Metro Enjoys the Sun, Makes a Difference

By Judy Hyde

How do you spend a sunny, springtime Saturday? If you're a Marietta Metro Rotarian, you might spend it as some of our club members did, building benches for the garden in the outdoor classroom at Hayes Elementary School. The following weekend, they were back at the school, planting flowers in the garden. Outdoor classrooms allow children to learn in a fun way while also providing beautiful enhancements and improvements. The project again the Rotary theme for April, the Environment, and June's Youth Service theme.

[more]

Club News

Griffin Downtown Council Manager Visits Daybreak Club

By Debby Dauer-Bryant

Heather Robinson, District Manager of the Griffin Downtown Council, is pictured here with Griffin Daybreak Rotary President Katherine Fields. Ms. Robinson recently met with the Club and informed them of the Summer Concert Series beginning in May and continuing through October. She shared about businesses coming to Griffin, including a boutique hotel and breweries, as well as event activities and future enhancements to the downtown area.

[more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, May 21st, 2024	**Rotary Means Business - note the change in date**

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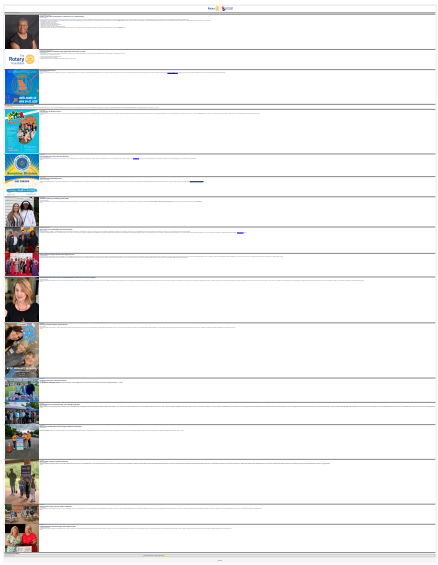

From Our District Governor

Update on the State of the District: a small view as we…Finish Strong!

As we approach the end of the Rotary year, I want to thank you for the work you have done. We have focused on membership and the Rotary Foundation for the last months and here is just a snapshot on where we stand. Next month I hope to give a more comprehensive look at all of the things we have accomplished as we celebrate an awesome year!

Membership (let’s hold and not lose if we can): Our district continues to thrive with 3,916 members.

Special congratulations to our club presidents for their leadership - starting with Peachtree City President Amy Benton (number 1 in the district). Peachtree City's remarkable growth symbolizes the collective potential within our clubs when we work together toward common goals! PTC is followed by:

- **North Cobb** President: Nancy Prochaska
- **North Fulto**n President: Lisa Gelber
- **Brookhaven** President: Elishia Thompson
- **Meriwether County** President: Dawn Woodward
- **Cuthbert** Rotary Club: Patricia Goodman
- **On The Flint** President (new club): President Walter Kelly

Foundation Giving - Demonstrating Our Commitment (funds are still coming in): Your commitment remains strong with our Foundation Contributions:

- Congratulation, **Peachtree City** in Giving over $126,000 this year!
- Our Annual Giving $560,298
- Polio Plus Contributions: $205,590
- Other Giving: $20,827
- Endowment Fund: $1,565
- **Total Contributions to date: $788,280**

A Few Words about a Few Things

I appreciate all you have done and appreciate all the new PAUL Harris, Polio Society, and Bequest Society Members who have been added to our number!

Collaborative Partnerships: I want to also acknowledge the work done to Create a more cohesive district! Thank you to all who have partnered with community agencies, and I am so proud of all you who have worked with the smaller clubs. One project is worth special noting - a collaborative grant which includes **Fayetteville, Tyrone, Lake Spivey, Griffin, and Griffin Daybreak**. This has led to greater resource sharing and new joint initiatives, amplifying our impact. District wide, programs like this have allowed us to collectively reach more than 5,000 lives.

Annual District Conference: We celebrated numerous members for their outstanding service and leadership, contributing to our district's reputation for excellence. Thank You to all for making it a “Fun Time” and a great learning experience. Our focus on Mental Health was well received. Over 475 were in attendance!

“I SEE YOU AWARD”: Congratulations! to Rory Robichaux for being seen this month for the Leadership provided to his club as they worked to effectively restructure the club’s organization at Johns Creek North Fulton.

Thank you to all our district members for your dedication and passion. Your efforts are essential to our success. Let's continue this momentum and make the upcoming year even more impactful!

ONE MONTH TO GO! Let’s Finish Strong by improving and/or maintaining our Membership Standing… and Increasing our Foundation Giving, as we Create Hope in The World, and The Magic of Rotary!

Posted by André Marria

May 17, 2024

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

2024-2025 District Community Grant Applications Due By May 15, 2024

Did you know there are District 6900 Grant Funds available for projects that begin during the 2024-2025 Rotary year? Each club can be eligible for up to $2,000 to support a compelling project that will:

- fall within Rotary's seven areas of focus, and
- involve the active participation of Rotarians, and
- meet an identified need in a community.

The District must receive the Community Grant application by May 15, 2024.

This grant program is part of The Rotary Foundation (TRF). TRF distributes funds for District Grants to Clubs, and the specific amount each year is based on how much the District clubs contributed to the Rotary Annual Fund three years earlier. Therefore, the dollar amount available for grants varies each year; increased giving to the Annual Fund increases the amount available for Grants.

Grant factors are critical to the grant application process. They state the problem, how your grant-funded project will alleviate or assist in easing the problem, how Rotarians will be involved (A MUST), and how your club will promote The Rotary Foundation.

Grant Factors for Community Grants: Please provide limited information, but enough so we will understand the problem. Stats are not necessary. Example: Prior requirements - "62% of our area is below the poverty level and 43% of high school students read at an 8th-grade level". Now, it can read, "Due to poverty and lack of home support, our high school students struggle to read at grade level."

Four Grant Factors

1. **Problem Severity** – Demonstrate the severity of the problem and the lack of other resources to address it.
2. **Project Impact** – Explain the project's impact on the beneficiaries. (How many will be impacted, how significantly, and for how long?)
3. **Volunteer Involvement** – Explain how Rotary volunteers will be involved in the project.
4. **Public Image Impact** – Explain how you will build community awareness of the problem and

Rotary's role in addressing it. Be sure to address the required signage issue.

Members of the District Grant Subcommittee will review all District Grant applications per TRF guidelines. TRF will then review and approve a single block District Grant; funds may be spent on grant projects only after TRF approves the plan. Don't hesitate to contact Kay Williamson, District Community Grants Chair, at 706.302.2614 if you have any questions.

Posted by Kay Williamson
April 24, 2024

Room Block Opens May 1

Join us in Jekyll Island next April

You won't want to miss the first ever multi-district conference on Jekyll Island from April 24-27, 2025. We are expecting 1000-1500 Rotarians to join us, so get your rooms booked before the sell out. We have blocks at every hotel and at a variety of price points, but these rooms will fill up quickly. Visit **GeorgiaUnitedDC.com** to register and link to all the available room blocks. We can't wake to turn Jekyll into Rotary Island next spring!

Posted by Gordon Owens

April 25, 2024

Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month

As we move through the month of May, let us be reminded that it is Mental Health Awareness Month. It's a time to recognize the difference we've made this year, as we worked on projects that focused on Alzheimer's and dementia, for example, and had amazing conversations with mental health professionals at our District Conference. And it's time to look around us at people in need and determine how we can keep our good work going in this area! Thanks to all of you for what you have done this year and will do in the future.

Posted by André Marria
May 17, 2024

RYLA Update

Can You Give Us One Day in June?

RYLA

Volunteers Needed

Join us as a Chaperone and be part of the greatest week of the summer!
Your time and skills can help make a difference.

Why Join Us?

- Rotary Service and Engagement
- Participate in Impactful Activities
- Leadership Development for Young Adults
- Invest in the Future of Your Communities

8-12 June 2024

Give Us
#OneDayforRYLA

ryla6900@gmail.com
www.RYLA6900.com

Hey Rotary District 6900 members!! Can you give us just *One Day* of your summer? We need a little extra help to make our fabulous event fly, and you are perfect for the job! Chaperones help us keep things running smoothly each night and each morning, but have no assigned duties during the day. If you are willing and able - even just for 1 day out of the 4 - to give us #OneDayforRYLA we would love to have you! Please reach out directly to Jaclyn Donovan or Susan Ruckman for more details and we'll sign you up!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
May 17, 2024

RLI Update

Save the Date (June 8) for Our Next RLI Event

Registration is open for the next RLI Event on June 8, 2024, at Cooper Lighting Solutions, 1121 Hwy 74 S, Peachtree City, Georgia. Curriculum includes Parts 1, 2, & 3, PLUS a graduate course on Public Speaking! Go to **rlitraining.org** to register. If you have any questions or issues, please contact me at tracy.vannorman@gmail.com.Look forward to seeing you there!!!

Posted by Tracy Van Norman
May 17, 2024

May 13 | 6PM

Attention Club Membership Chairs

Join the next MAP webinar

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Posted by Dave Schwickerath
April 26, 2024

GRSP Update

Students Confirm Joy of Having a Host Family

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director

Having a host Rotarian who welcomes you into their family simply sweetens the experience for Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars. Just ask the pair studying at Kennesaw State University this year.

Tinashe “Tina” Mukuro, 20, is from Zimbabwe and sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Paulding County** and the **Rotary Club of East Cob**b. She enjoys playing tennis, drawing, painting, reading and exploring local attractions, such as local cafés, restaurants and markets. Her goal is to make a positive, sustainable impact through her civil engineering degree. She says she used to struggle with math but right now calculus is her favorite subject. She said her involvement with GRSP has taught her how different people can be from one another but still have important history. She loves spending time with her host Rotarian Aaron Strimban and his family, who she says treats her like part of their own family, which has been amazing for her.

Roosa “Julia” Toytari, 25 of Finland, is sponsored by the **Roswell Rotary Club**. She credits her host Rotarian Nancy Alterman for showcasing both the state and other states to her during her time with GRSP. and with welcoming her into her home as her own. She said her host mom also taught her to cheer, “Go Dawgs!” Julia received her bachelor of business administration in March of 2023 and is now taking courses to help her career goal of working with a governmental organization such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or with a non-profit association. When the current class was asked who spoke the most languages, they all immediately replied, “Julia!” She speaks four languages and is familiar with a few more. “Understanding the world around us is essential for everyone,” Julia said. “It is richness to learn from other cultures, customs, and ways of living.”
Posted by Katheryne Fields
May 5, 2024

Rotary Means Business

Join Us May 21 for Fellowship! Special Meeting Day

Rotary Means Business ("RMB") is a fellowship of Rotary International. District 6900 has a local RMB Chapter. Rotarians are embracing the original foundation of what Rotary was based on as we adhere to the Four Way Test. The RMB Fellowship provide an opportunity for all Rotarians to network on a local and global basis to enhance their businesses.

The District 6900 RMB regularly meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month for networking and socializing. HOWEVER DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION WE ARE MEETING ON THE THIRD TUESDAY IN MAY. The next meeting is May 21 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM at Politan Row at Ashford Lane (near Perimeter Mall) (https://ashfordlane.politanrow.com/). There is plenty of free parking in the parking deck behind the building.

The Rotary Club of Roswell is our sponsor this month. Your first beer or wine is on us if you register in advance. You can register now by **following this link**.

Our events are on the District 6900 website calendar and the latest information is on our Facebook page **https://www.facebook.com/RMBDistrict6900**

I hope you will help promote RMB to your Club. We were averaging 25 people at an event but would like

to grow that to 40 to 50 people at each event. It would be great if you can announce our next meeting at your meetings and designate someone to promote RMB in your Club.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Posted by Carter Stout
May 17, 2024

Rotary Women of Impact Awards Gala a Huge Success!

The Rotary Women of Impact (RWI) Awards and Fundraiser was a resounding successful sold-out event, exceeding all expectations. The event aimed to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in various fields while raising funds for charitable causes supported by Rotary International. The awards ceremony honored outstanding women who have made significant impacts in their communities, whether through leadership, innovation, philanthropy, or advocacy. These women were recognized for their dedication and commitment to creating positive change.

The RWI team nominated 33 women leaders such as CTOs, VPs, SVP, Founders, Doctors from Fortune 100 companies who not only were at the pinnacle of their careers but are also giving back to the society. Out of the 33 nominees, 11 women won awards for different categories and 3 women were awarded with Lifetime achievement award.

Additionally, the fundraiser aspect of the event was successful, with generous donations pouring in from attendees, sponsors, and supporters. The funds raised will go towards supporting Rotary's initiatives aimed at empowering women, promoting education, healthcare, and economic development, both locally and globally.

Following the success of the Rotary Women of Impact Awards and Fundraiser, the organizers are keen on leveraging the momentum gained to continue their efforts in supporting women's empowerment and community development. Some next steps include

- Expansion of Initiatives: Utilizing the funds raised to expand existing initiatives and launch new projects aimed at empowering women, promoting education, healthcare, and economic development.
- Advocacy and Awareness: Increasing advocacy efforts to raise awareness about issues affecting women and girls, and advocating for policies that promote gender equality and women's rights.
- Networking and Mentorship: Facilitating networking opportunities and mentorship programs to support women in various fields and empower them to achieve their full potential.
- Community Engagement, Partnership Building, Evaluation and Feedback.

By focusing on these next steps, the Rotary Women of Impact committee aims to build on its success and create lasting change in communities around the world.

PHOTOS:

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WOMEN OF IMPACT

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Posted by Syd Padala
May 5, 2024

Americus Rotarian Named to Join International Rotary Positive Peace Activator Program

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Since 2020, 197 Activators from six regions and more than 70 countries have been trained. This year's Selection Committee was both surprised and delighted by the high number and quality of applications. Laura Bauer McConatha, Board Member of the Americus Rotary Club, recently received word that she had been chosen for the next cohort. Her first responsibility will be to attend training in Chicago this August.

Rotary members organizing and working at the community-level make it possible to create environments where lasting peace is possible, and, in turn, bring about more peaceful societies - from the local to the global. The Rotary-IEP Partnership equips and trains Rotary members in IEP's Pillars of Positive Peace framework - providing a unique structure to view peace as a process and a system versus a product or result, build capacity in how Rotarians think about peace and development, and provide educational resources to move initiatives forward.

IEP's Positive Peace research demonstrates that lasting peace cannot be built merely on the absence of violence, but rather requires a supportive social system inclusive of factors such as good governance, access to needed services, a sound business environment and respect for the right of others.
Rotary's Areas of Focus – peacebuilding, conflict prevention, disease prevention and treatment, water, sanitation and hygiene, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and community economic development - are all integral investments in Positive Peace.

Upon being named as a Positive Peace Activator, Laura shared, "Peacemaking is my passion, and I am excited for this opportunity to learn evidence-based methods of positive peacemaking from international change agents at Rotary International and the Institute for Economics & Peace. In addition to working in my local community, I am looking forward to providing education and coaching to others who are seeking to make meaningful change in their own community."

Posted by Michelle Parker
May 6, 2024

Club News

Rotarians and Interact Rise Against Hunger

From Amie
ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
RISE AGAINST HUNGER
CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
Milton, GA

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PHOTOS:

LINE 5
24
Rise
AGAINST HUNGER
Kraft Heinz

Posted by Lisa Gelber
May 5, 2024

Club News

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Posted by Nell Boggs

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Posted by Judith Fuller
May 5, 2024

Club News

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Posted by Amy Lemelin
May 5, 2024

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PHOTOS:

Posted by Sally Platt
May 5, 2024

Club News

Griffin Downtown Council Manager Visits Daybreak Club

Heather Robinson, District Manager of the Griffin Downtown Council, is pictured here with **Griffin Daybreak Rotary** President Katheryne Fields. Ms. Robinson recently met with the Club and informed them of the Summer Concert Series beginning in May and continuing through October. She shared about businesses coming to Griffin, including a boutique hotel and breweries, as well as recent activities and future enhancements to the downtown area.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant
May 6, 2024