

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR DECEMBER, 2020

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Save The Date

Join Us for District Conference ... April 29 - May 2, 2021

By Dave Schmit

We all missed seeing our Rotary friends and family at the beach in 2020 so let's make up for it in 2021! So mark your calendars April 29 through May 2 and plan on being in San Destin for the return of District Conference. Registration will open in January so be on the look out for more details soon. [\[more\]](#)
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From Our District Governor

Celebrating Rotary's Commitment to a Healthier World

By Kirk Driskell

I hope that you all had a great Thanksgiving. It was great to gather with family and friends giving thanks. I had mixed emotions throughout the day as it was different than years past. While I could have focused on what and who was missing, I chose to focus on the opportunity that we had and who was there. As this year comes to an end, I have confidence that next Thanksgiving will look more like years past. In part that is because of Rotarians like you who are dedicated to fighting and preventing disease. [\[more\]](#)

From Our District Chaplain

### Words of Inspiration This Holiday Season

By Gregory Adams

I always like to give honor to whom honor is due - and that includes my wife Jacqueline as well as District Governor Kirk Driskell, the Assistant Governors and all the Presidents of Rotary, especially Lawrence Short, the Interim President of South DeKalb Rotary. I call him a friend, and a true leader who considers others above himself. I'm reminded that to whom much is given, much is required. So with that being said, we expect nothing but greatness under the leadership of all of these people. I'm also thankful that Rotary has been at the front of helping and providing for so many families during this Holiday season by giving so that others may have. This organization has helped so many people young and old, male and female , and of all nationalities, showing what brotherly and sisterly love is all about.

As we prepare for the New Year, we trust and hope that everyone stays safe and enjoys time with family and friends. Thank you Rotarians and Happy Holidays!

[\[more\]](#)

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Introducing Rotary Works ... a Program to Support Career Transitions

By Mary Ligon

Hello family of Rotary! As Rotary International Director of Zones 33-34, I am pleased to announce a very special vocational service project, "Rotary Works"- an initiative to benefit Rotarians and Rotaractors within our Zones who are experiencing career transition. Three distinct programs will provide education, networking, and/or financial resources for participants. Our first "Rotary Works" program will be a "Career Development Series", offered monthly via Zoom beginning at Noon on December 9, 2020, and at Noon Eastern Time on the second Wednesday of each month thereafter. [\[more\]](#)
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Rotary Leadership Institute

Check Out Y our RLI Learning Opportunities for December

By Jackie Cuthbert

RLI is now offering courses in English and Spanish. In December alone, you can participate in these one-hour sessions:

- December 7, 10 am: Session 1.2 of RLI Online in Spanish - Rotary Opportunities.
  - December 7, 8 pm: RLI Online Session 1.3 in Spanish - Ethics & Vocational Service.
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GRSP Perspectives

A Traditional Russian New Year

By Ian Bond

New Year is a big holiday in Russia. Families gather for a big feast and a celebration. Christmas is celebrated on January 7, but usually it is just a quiet family evening. The celebration usually begins in the evening because December 31 is not a holiday. Families get together and around 9:00 pm when the feast begins. Many people believe that the tables must be overloaded with food so that the New Year will be rich and fruitful. The main dishes on the table are salads, potatoes, meat, often red caviar, and champagne. There is a belief that the better you "greet" the New Year, the better it will "treat" you. So, people dress up in their best outfits, throw away old and broken things, and try not to borrow or return money around the holidays. [\[more\]](#)

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Thomasville Rotary Ignites A Spark

By Carol Jones

Many who know Thomasville will agree it is an incredibly special and beautiful community. What seems to set it apart is a spirit of commitment by its citizenry to provide opportunities in all facets of life to those who wish to participate. One important contributor to this commitment is the **Rotary Club of Thomasville**. This year Rotary Club President John Brown has chosen to direct the club's \$1,500 District Grant funds to do good locally. John tapped SPARK Thomasville to receive these funds which will assist budding minority entrepreneurs to launch their businesses from a solid foundation. Also highly involved in SPARK Thomasville are Rotary past presidents Andre’ Marria and Teri White, as well as a host of other local Rotarians who serve the program as mentors, coaches and judges. [\[more\]](#)

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Columbus Area Rotarians Finding Ways To Meet Today’s Challenges

By Julie Bond

In September, **Rotarians from Columbus, North Columbus, Muscogee and Rotaract Clubs** met enthusiastically and safely at the Trade Center Parking garage, to carry out our collaborative club service project. The venue provided an ideal open-air setting. All club members wore masks and packaged boxes for Hope Harbour, the third largest domestic violence shelter in the state of Georgia. [\[more\]](#)

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Greetings from

By Kathy Brandt

Global Grant Scholar Jared Hampson has started his studies for a Masters degree in Peace and Security at King’s College London. Jared is sponsored by District 6900, recommended by the **Rotary Club of North Columbus**. Robbie Green, Past President and Past AG from North Columbus is the District Scholarship Committee member who serves as Rotary Mentor for Jared. His wife and son are with him in London. Check out Jared’s progress here. [\[more\]](#)

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Serving During the Pandemic

Fayette Daybreak Partners with Real Life Center

By Lee Dodds

These are challenging times for all of us, and like other Rotarians, our **Fayette Daybreak Club** has been looking for ways to serve our community while staying safe during the pandemic. In September, we held a food drive and all of our members took part. Some of us collected canned goods, others made online donations or donated gift cards. Some made donations through food drives at their churches, collected items from neighbors and friends, or checked with local schools about families in need. One of our newest members contacted her friends at Delta Cargo who donated \$500 plus several large boxes of non-perishable food items. [\[more\]](#)

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Club News

Roswell Golf and Tennis Tournament Raises \$140,000

By Trummie Patrick

The 42nd Aubrey Greenway Golf and 8th Hagan Cup Tennis Classic Tournament was held this September at Country Club of Roswell; 130 golfers and 100 tennis players participated. The day also included an auction and the annual golf ball drop. Roswell Rotary raised \$140,000 to support local charities and international projects. This tournament had its start in 1978. [\[more\]](#)

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Club News

Douglas County Helps Support Shop with a Copy

By Samantha Rosado

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** donated \$2,800 to the first annual Shop with a Cop hosted by the Douglas County School System Police Department. The money will sponsor 56 children for the holidays. We look forward to joining the children, police officers and others in the community later this month to help the children shop for Christmas ... [\[more\]](#)

### Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, December 8th, 2020	<a href="#">Jackson-Butts County Board &amp; Official Visit</a>
Wednesday, December 9th, 2020	<a href="#">Atlanta Brasil Board &amp; Official Visit</a>
Thursday, December 10th, 2020	<a href="#">Milton Official Visit &amp; Board Meeting</a>
Tuesday, December 15th, 2020	<a href="#">Quitman County Board &amp; Official Visit</a>
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Save The Date

## **Join Us for District Conference ... April 29 - May 2, 2021**



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Posted by Dave Schmit  
December 4, 2020

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From Our District Governor

## **Celebrating Rotary's Commitment to a Healthier World**



I hope that you all had a great Thanksgiving. It was great to gather with family and friends giving thanks. I had mixed emotions throughout the day as it was different than years past. While I could have focused on what and who was missing, I chose to focus on the opportunity that we had and who was there. As this year comes to an end, I have confidence that next Thanksgiving will look more like years past. In part that is because of Rotarians like you who are dedicated to fighting and preventing disease.

Disease Prevention and Treatment is one of Rotary's Areas of Focus, as well as Rotary's focus for the month of December. Rotary has a long history with fighting disease and remains committed to the eradication of Polio. Rotarians like you are committed to helping educate and create opportunities for people to live healthy. Prolonged illness, pain and addiction create misery worldwide, affecting everyone's quality of life, not just the person with the illness. As it relates to COVID-19, Rotarians have been on the front lines and will remain there supporting all the needs in their communities. As I have visited with many of you throughout the District this year, I continue to be amazed by all that you are doing.

I am happy to announce the formation of a new Rotary Club in District 6900. Restoration Rotary is a cause-based virtual club whose primary focus is addiction and mental health as well as fighting the sources that contribute to these epidemics facing humanity. Many of the issues that both contribute to and create substance abuse disorders and mental health issues are also the thieves of peace from our communities and society at large. Crime, theft, violence, and domestic abuse all play their part in creating community environments that are vulnerable to addiction and disruption. Please check out the video at



<https://restorationrotary.com/> to hear more about this new club.

I am excited to share this news with you and grateful for the opportunities that Rotary has given me. I wish you, your family and all those you care about blessings this holiday season.

*Pictured: DG Kirk with members of Peachtree City Rotary Club. Kirk with District leaders, enjoying dinner in early December after a day of planning.*

#### PHOTOS:



Posted by Kirk Driskell  
December 2, 2020

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From Our District Chaplain

## **Words of Inspiration This Holiday Season**

I always like to give honor to whom honor is due - and that includes my wife Jacqueline as well as District Governor Kirk Driskell, the Assistant Governors and all the Presidents of Rotary, especially Lawrence Sharp, the Interim President of South DeKalb Rotary. I call him a friend, and a true leader who considers others above himself. I'm reminded that to whom much is given, much is required. So with that being said, we expect nothing but greatness under the leadership of all of these people.

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As we prepare for the New Year, we trust and hope that everyone stays safe and enjoys time with family and friends.

Thank you Rotarians and Happy Holidays!

Posted by Gregory Adams  
December 2, 2020

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Rotary Leadership Institute

## **Check Out Your RLI Learning Opportunities for December**





RLI is now offering courses in English and Spanish. In December alone, you can participate in these one-hour sessions:

- December 7, 10 am: Session 1.2 of RLI Online in Spanish - Rotary Opportunities.
- December 7, 8 pm: RLI Online Session 1.3 in Spanish - Ethics & Vocational Service.
- December 8, 10 am: RLI Online Session 2.6 - Service Projects
- December 8, 4 pm: RLI Online Session 2.2 - Strategic Planning
- December 10, 4 pm: RLI Online Session 1.4 - Rotary: The Bigger Picture
- December 10, 7 pm: RLI Online Session 1.5 in Spanish - The Rotary Foundation
- December 11, 10 am: RLI Online Session 1.2 - Rotary Opportunities
- December 11, 2 pm: RLI Online Session 1.1 - I am a Rotarian!
- December 14, 7 pm: RLI Online Session 1.1 in Spanish - I am a Rotarian!
- December 15, 10 am: RLI Online Session 2.3 - Fundraising
- December 16, 9 am: RLI Online Session 1.4 in Spanish - Rotary: The Bigger Picture

All these online sessions are scheduled for one hour. These sessions are *\*not\** a lecture! You will be expected to participate in discussion and work with classmates. You will receive your participant manual, log in information, and any preparation materials via email. There are 5 sessions to complete Part 1. Each session covers a different topic. For Spanish classes, materials are in English and discussions are in Spanish.

You can learn more about the courses and register for classes at [rlilearning.org](http://rlilearning.org) - advance registration is required.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert

December 6, 2020

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GRSP Perspectives

## **A Traditional Russian New Year**

by Lida Kalustova, Russia (GRSP Class of 2014-2015)



New Year is a big holiday in Russia. Families gather for a big feast and a celebration. Christmas is celebrated on January 7, but usually it is just a quiet family evening.

The celebration usually begins in the evening because December 31 is not a holiday. Families get together and around 9:00 pm when the feast begins. Many people believe that the tables must be overloaded with food so that the New Year will be rich and fruitful. The main dishes on the table are salads, potatoes, meat, often red caviar, and champagne. There is a belief that the better you “greet” the New Year, the better it will “treat” you. So, people dress up in their best outfits, throw away old and broken things, and try not to borrow or return money around the holidays.

It is a tradition to watch “The Irony of Fate” (a popular movie made in 1975). Just before midnight all TV channels broadcast the President’s speech. Then the countdown begins, the glasses of champagne are raised and at 12 am sharp you can hear nothing but the clinking glasses and the fireworks. A little later children go to bed to give Ded Moroz (Russian Santa, literally: Grandfather Cold) a chance to deliver presents. The unwrapping starts in the morning.

However not only Ded Moroz brings the holiday cheer. Rotarians are also doing an incredible job. Many Rotary Clubs have New Year parties where they raise money for The Rotary Foundation. Some do service projects. For example, the RC of Saratov and the RC of Ulyanovsk decorate Christmas trees with pictures of children from orphanages. People bring presents for these children and can sign a Christmas card to go with it. The kids write back to the Rotarians. Thanks to the project four children were adopted. Isn’t this a holiday miracle?

*Photos: Lida and her sisters Anita and Alisa preparing for the holidays.*

**PHOTOS:**





Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Thomasville Rotary Ignites A Spark



Many who know Thomasville will agree it is an incredibly special and beautiful community. What seems to set it apart is a spirit of commitment by its citizenry to provide opportunities in all facets of life to those who wish to participate. One important contributor to this commitment is the **Rotary Club of Thomasville**.

This year Rotary Club President John Brown has chosen to direct the club's \$1,500 District Grant funds to do good locally. John tapped SPARK Thomasville to receive these funds which will assist budding minority entrepreneurs to launch their businesses from a solid foundation. Also highly involved in SPARK Thomasville are Rotary past presidents Andre' Marria and Teri White, as well as a host of other local Rotarians who serve the program as mentors, coaches and judges.

SPARK Thomasville, which is the brainchild of several local leaders, copies tried-and-true programs such as LAUNCH Chattanooga. According to respected Thomasville businessman Harry Jones, "SPARK Thomasville addresses challenges specific to low-wealth individuals who are launching businesses and who live in economically disadvantaged communities." Jones explained to the first graduating cohort of 19 in 2019 that the SPARK Thomasville tagline had become "A business incubator for the underestimated."

Jones noted that this undertaking was born of a community effort to change negative public emotions following a tragic 2017 local police incident. He and Rotarian Nathaniel Abrams and others discussed ways to derail the destructive undercurrent before it boiled over. The group decided the best approach would be to provide the pillar of economic viability to an underserved and underestimated segment of the community. True to the spirit of commitment, several Thomasville families, individuals, and churches provided the seed money to establish the SPARK initiative.

Sybol Rembert, a graduate of the first SPARK Thomasville cohort, enthusiastically credits the program

with putting her on the right track by offering resources and mentors who have encouraged her to leave her comfort zone to grow her cosmetology and barbering school, Top Notch Training Institute. Sybol does not hesitate to return to the program to seek advice and guidance as her business grows.

<https://topeducationtraining.com/>

Statistics show that most new businesses fail within their first few years. Under 50% make it to the fifth year and only 40% turn a profit. Thus, it makes perfect sense to offer a program like SPARK Thomasville which provides a range of resources and support to launch credible business proposals. SPARK Thomasville offers a twelve-week cohort-based program to approved candidates that equips them “with insights, relationships, and tools needed to turn ideas into action and a passion into a sustainable and thriving endeavor.” In the current environment of Covid-19 SPARK Thomasville’s CEO, Sharon Edwards, like everyone else, has had to be creative. The organization continues to rebuild curriculum to safely offer its mission to its consumers. Sharon and her team refuse to be stymied, especially now with support of the Rotary Club of Thomasville.

### **PHOTOS:**







Posted by Carol Jones  
December 3, 2020

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The Rotary Foundation at Work

## **Columbus Area Rotarians Finding Ways To Meet Today's Challenges**



In September, Rotarians from **Columbus, North Columbus, Muscogee and Rotaract Clubs** met enthusiastically and safely at the Trade Center Parking garage, to carry out our collaborative club service



project. The venue provided an ideal open-air setting. All club members wore masks and packaged boxes for Hope Harbour, the third largest domestic violence shelter in the state of Georgia.

The shelter's greatest needs are new pillow and sheet sets, personal hygiene packs, various toiletries, cleaning supplies, and books and toys for kids. Hope Harbour maintains an undisclosed address in Columbus; in 2019, according to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, "7,530 victims made a request for shelter in our state, but their request was not met due to lack of space." We're proud to say that our clubs' efforts contributed to supporting the sheltering at Hope Harbour of 396 mothers and children annually.

In addition to the nice turnout of many club members, Club Presidents Joe Young (Columbus), John Harford (North Columbus), and Alan George (Muscogee) were all on site. We were honored by the presence of Assistant Governor, Tracy Van Norman and District Governor, Kirk Driskell.

Our collaborative group also looks forward to partnering again soon to help meet the needs of our Feeding the Valley competitive grant. We'll be packaging meals for children in need, a cause which has only increased with the spread of COVID-19.

#### **PHOTOS:**







The Rotary Foundation at Work

## Greetings from



*Global Grant Scholar Jared Hampson has started his studies for a Masters degree in Peace and Security at King's College London. Jared is sponsored by District 6900, recommended by the **Rotary Club of North Columbus**. Robbie Green, Past President and Past AG from North Columbus is the District Scholarship Committee member who serves as Rotary Mentor for Jared. He reports:*

For the last month England has been in a second national lockdown with no leaving the house except for a few reasons. So there aren't a whole lot of highlights to report. But here are a few:

As class was already online when the lockdown happened, there was no effect. We have continued our regular lectures and small group discussions just like we did pre-lockdown. I am also taking an additional course outside of my program called the Associateship of King's College (AKC) which was the original degree King's offered in 1829. Each week the program provides a lecture on a theme that we respond to in a weekly exam. This term, the AKC theme has been mental health, which I found an interesting topic especially in regards to COVID and lockdown. As the term comes to an end in the middle of December, I am busy finishing papers exploring topics of secret diplomacy and the factors that led to the end of the Algerian War of Independence in 1962, while also preparing for an end of term final.

On the Rotary side, I was the guest speaker for my host club, the rotary club of Edmonton, where I talked about my journey thus far. I participated in an online fundraising event to raise money for the KidsOut organization that brings uplifting experiences to disadvantaged children. Next week I will be the weekly speaker at the Rotary Club of Enfield Chase.

As for other highlights, before we entered lockdown we toured Oxford and caught up with old friends who live there. We celebrated Jamie's first birthday on the 4th of November. We were able to celebrate a wonderful American style Thanksgiving from our flat with Turkey and all of the regular fixings, despite the lockdown. (See attached picture) All in all, we are doing well! Now that we are out of lockdown, we are planning on getting out of London and traveling throughout the UK during the holiday season. Though the changing restrictions are keeping us on our feet with planning!

Posted by Kathy Brandt  
December 6, 2020

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Serving During the Pandemic

**Fayette Daybreak Partners with Real Life Center**





These are challenging times for all of us, and like other Rotarians, our **Fayette Daybreak Club** has been looking for ways to serve our community while staying safe during the pandemic.

In September, we held a food drive and all of our members took part. Some of us collected canned goods, others made online donations or donated gift cards. Some made donations through food drives at their churches, collected items from neighbors and friends, or checked with local schools about families in need. One of our newest members contacted her friends at Delta Cargo who donated \$500 plus several large boxes of non-perishable food items.

One of the recipient organizations for the food drive was The Real Life Center ([reallifecenter.org](http://reallifecenter.org)), a well-established nonprofit providing social services to residents of Fayette and Coweta counties. We invited their Marketing Coordinator, Lina Martin, to speak at one of our online meetings in October. She invited us to come tour their facility and volunteer while we were there. We gladly accepted and put it on our November calendar.

The morning of the tour we all wore masks, and the large open spaces in the warehouse made it a relatively safe environment. It felt great to be together in person and we loved doing a service project. Lina set us up putting together items for Thanksgiving meals and we filled over 120 bags in half an hour — we had a blast! And we had invited a prospective new member to come along and he seemed to have a great time too.

We had also donated a gift basket for the center's online auction fundraiser, and were happy to hear it went for \$550. The basket included items from our members, plus donations we had collected from local businesses and individuals. We believe The Real Life Center shares our dedication to "Service Above Self"

and we value the partnership developing between our two organizations.

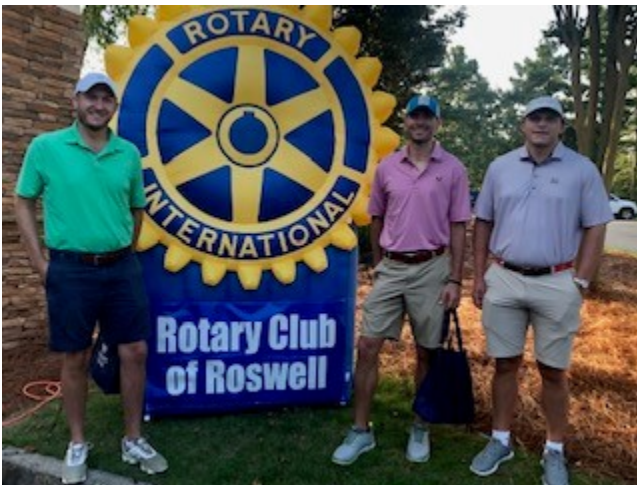
We look forward to continuing to grow the relationship as we support our community together. In fact, we've already talked to Lina about our next service project for them: a blanket drive during the upcoming winter months.

Posted by Lee Dodds  
December 3, 2020

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#### Club News

## Roswell Golf and Tennis Tournament Raises \$140,000



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In 1978, Roswell Rotarians Frank Brown, Judge Maurice Hilliard and Aubrey Greenway, former mayor of Roswell saw the need for a community fundraiser and began a golf tournament which netted \$3,500 for North Fulton charities the first year. In 2013, the Hagan Cup Classic was added named after Past District Governor Bob Hagan in honor of his service to the community. The tournament has grown into one of the largest all volunteer community fundraisers. Roswell Rotary would like to thank the volunteers and multiple sponsors who gave from their hearts to make a difference.

Posted by Trummie Patrick  
December 3, 2020

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#### Club News

## Douglas County Helps Support Shop with a Cop





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Posted by Samantha Rosado  
December 3, 2020

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