

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR FEBRUARY, 2022

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From Our District Governor

Focusing on Peace and Conflict Resolution ... and All We Can Do to Make Our World Better



Our leadership team enjoys GRSP gala

This month, Rotary International turns a **spotlight on Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution**, and I'm proud of what we're doing to instill the spirit of peace and understanding in our young people. We are in the midst of our inaugural year with Youth & Peace in Action - moving a little more slowly than anticipated because of day-to-day changes in school schedules due to COVID, but we still expect great results from this group of young peacemakers. In December, we selected five Georgia high school students to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange next fall, and we will plan to host seven incoming students too - after a two-year break. And last month in Thomasville, we celebrated 75 years of the Georgia Rotary Student Program "Building Peace through Understanding."

In April, we have another opportunity to celebrate - **a Jolly Holiday in Sandestin at our District Conference** - from April 28-May 1. You'll find all the information you need in this newsletter and on the district website. And don't forget about the Rotary International Convention in Houston this June; you can

read about it in this newsletter too.

As you know I've been focused all year on **"grow more so we can do more."** We're a little over halfway through the Rotary year, and I challenge each of you to introduce your friends and colleagues to the power of Rotary. Cheers to the clubs listed below for the results they have achieved - each up by at least three in membership. There's still time to join them!

Club	7/1/22 Members	2/1/22 Members	Net	Net %
Johns Creek-North Fulton	29	44	15	51.7%
South DeKalb County	22	31	9	40.9%
Carrollton-Dawn Breakers	62	70	8	12.9%
Alpharetta	146	153	7	4.8%
Camilla	41	47	6	14.6%
Columbus	279	284	5	1.8%
Midtown Atlanta	73	78	5	6.8%
Griffin	97	101	4	4.1%
North Cobb County	61	65	4	6.6%
Peachtree City	112	116	4	3.6%
Polk County	13	17	4	30.8%
Marietta	78	81	3	3.8%
North Columbus	36	39	3	8.3%
North Fulton	24	27	3	12.5%
Roswell	221	224	3	1.4%

Finally, keep The Rotary Foundation in your thoughts and make a donation if you feel able to the good work we do in our communities and the world. The amazing work it helps us do all contributes to the cause of promoting peace in the world.

Thanks for all you do.

PHOTOS:

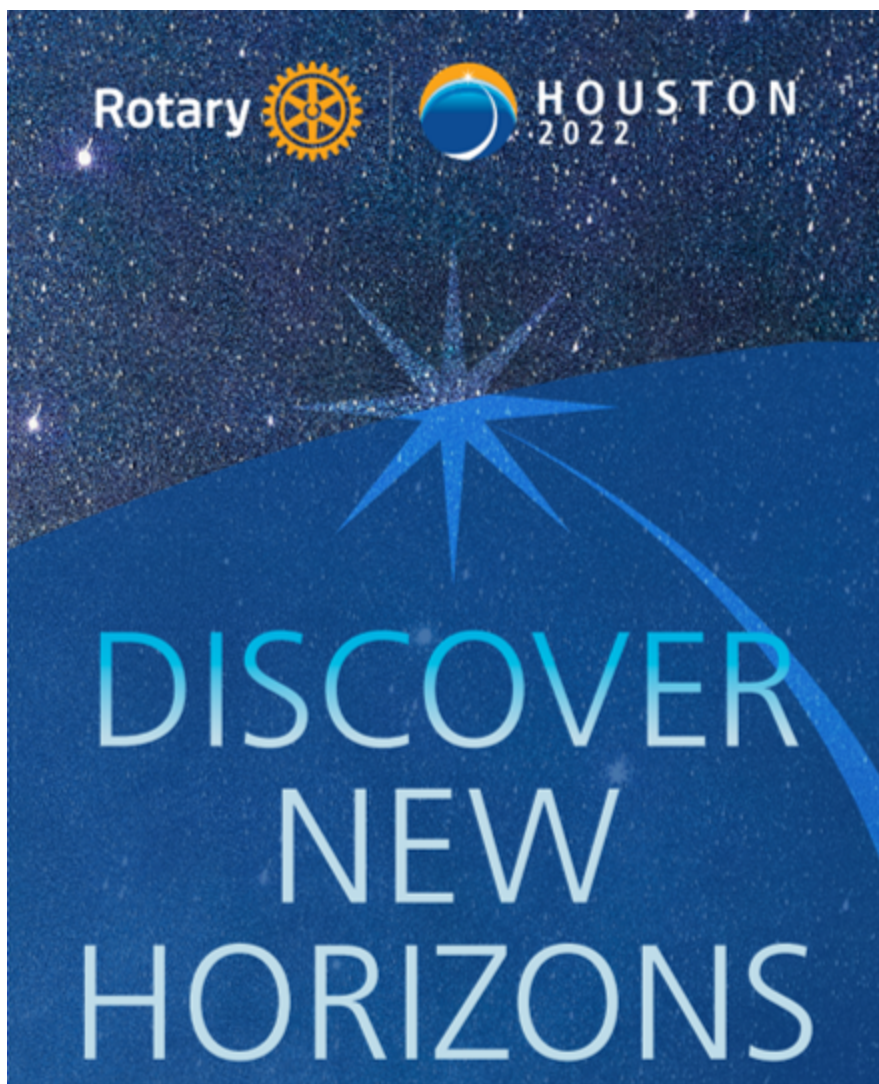


DG Mary presents Foundation awards for Dallas Paulding County to PDG Roy Strickland

Posted by Mary Ligon
February 7, 2022

RI Convention 2022

Sign Up Now for 2022 RI Convention - Live in Houston!



We are pleased to confirm that the 2022 Rotary International Convention will be an in-person event in Houston, Texas, USA, 4-8 June. Rotary International is offering a special registration rate of US\$495* through 28 February at convention.rotary.org/houston/register.

All Rotary International convention and preconvention participants must either be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 OR provide a negative result from a COVID-19 test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival at the convention.

Check convention.rotary.org for updates as we continue to determine what safety protocols are necessary, based on the current recommendations for safe gatherings from the CDC.

*Any registrations made at the US\$575 rate since 16 December will automatically be refunded the difference in price — no action is needed from the registrant. Read more about the U.S. CDC's definition of full vaccination at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/proof-of-vaccination.html>

Contact me - DGE George Granade - for more information about what the district plans in Houston!

Posted by George Granade

February 7, 2022

YOU'VE BEEN SERVED!

From RI Director Peter Kyle



RI Director Peter Kyle has invited each of us to participate in the Zones 33/34 You've Beens Served Event. Running from Wednesday, February 23 (Rotary's Anniversary) to the week of Paul Harris' birthday (Saturday, April 23), this event will allow clubs in the Zones to demonstrate Rotary's motto of Service Above Self by performing random acts of kindness and good deeds in their local communities. This is a "no barriers" event that ALL clubs, Interactors, Rotaractors and Rotarians can participate in to help local

communities, raise awareness of Rotary and local clubs, attract new members and engage current members. We also hope to inspire those we serve to pay it forward by serving someone else in the future.

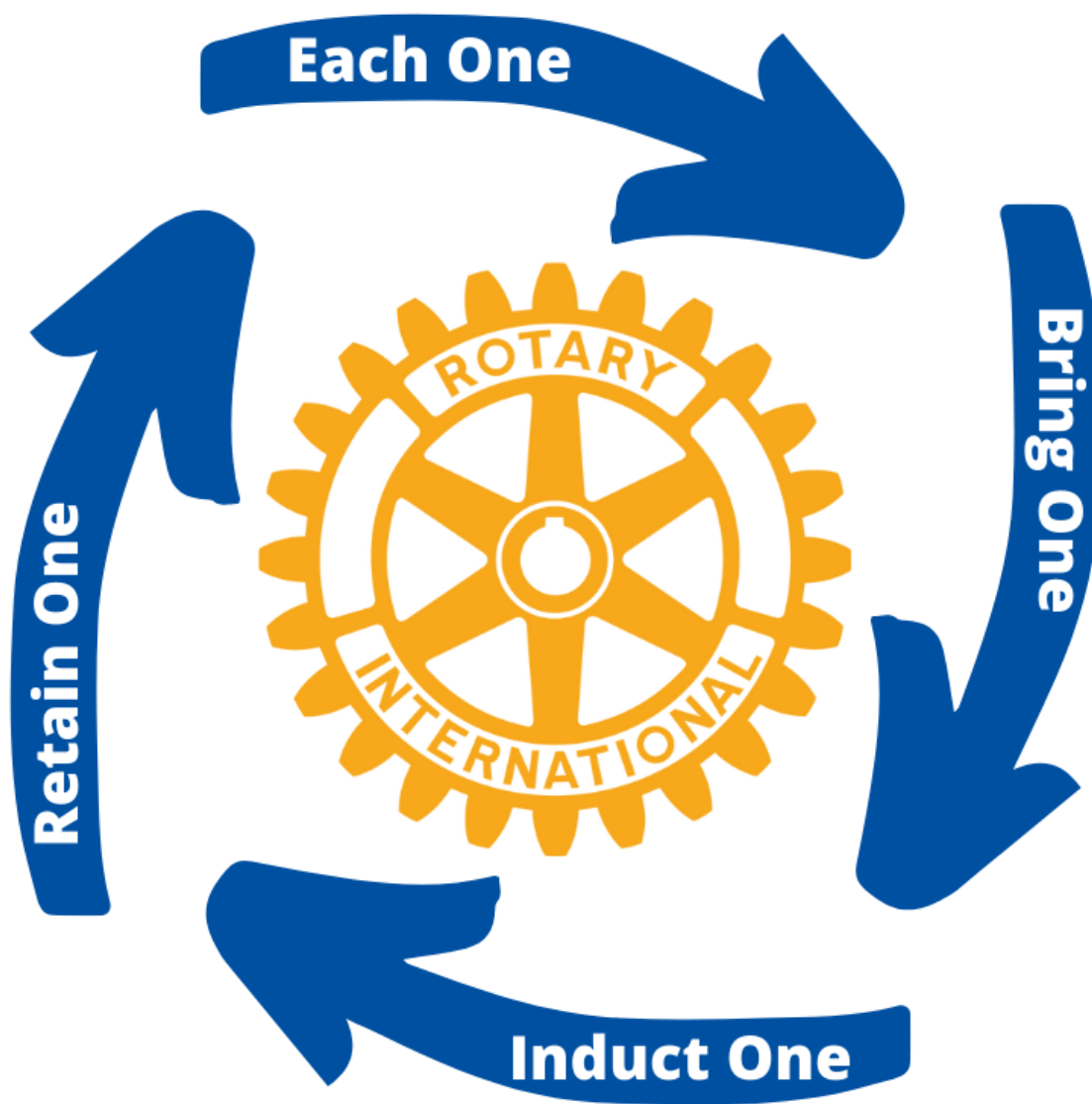
Clubs will work in conjunction with the Zones' Public Image team to advertise this event dedicated to service across the Zones. This event could become an annual event and may, one day, become international with Rotary Clubs all across the world participating.

Visit [Rotary Serves - You've Been Served](#) for more information, resources, and a special place to highlight acts of service and kindness performed during the event.!

Posted by Neill Ferrill
February 7, 2022

Membership

Finishing Strong



We're halfway through the Rotary year, and the finish line is getting closer. Every district in our Zone started the year strongly, but all fell off a bit in the past few months - even before Omicron. To help each club refocus and ***Grow More to Do More***, Zone 34 has created a membership competition.

The Competition/Challenge

If you do the stuff that helps grow a club, you get points:

- 1 point for each new visitor
- 5 points for each new member induction

- 5 points for a Member Retention Program
- 10 points for each Rotary Social Recruiting Event
- 20 extra points for doing all four of the above

The more your club does, the greater chance it has to win recognition and – more importantly – grow its impact. The details are in the [attached flyer](#) and you can contact me, Jaclyn Donovan, your District Membership Chair, with any questions.

The time is right. Our communities need a way to help after all the disruption... People need a place to find connection after isolation... We all need new and interesting people to keep our clubs thriving. We can do this!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
February 3, 2022

GRSP Celebrates 75 Years



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
February 7, 2022

GRSP 75th Anniversary

GRSP Celebrates 75 Years and Dedicates Peace Plaza & Will

Watt Memorial Fountain



The Georgia Rotary Student Program celebrated 75 years with a gala January 21 and dedication of the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Memorial Fountain on January 22 in historic Thomasville, home of GRSP founder Will Watt.

GRSP Chair Bert Guy said, "When we reflect on the past 75 years, we are aware of the many leaders who played a vital part in the history of GRSP. GRSP is credited for connecting many smaller Georgia colleges with international students, often their first in the college or town."

The gala featured a spotlight on student success and GRSP Foundation Fellow award recognitions for Trustees. District 6900 Rotarians Michael "Mike" Emanuele, **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** and William 'Bill' Smith, **Rotary Club of Brookhaven**, were honored for their distinguished service,

presented with resolutions and named Trustee Emeritus, along with District 6910 Rotarians Al Hombroek, Rotary Club of Lawrenceville and William “Billy” Kidd of Rotary Club of Hartwell; and District 6920 Rotarians Johnny Dukes, Rotary Club of Valdosta North, and Gerald Smith, Rotary Club of Dublin.

The GRSP Foundation partnered with the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** and the Courtyard® by Marriott® Thomasville Downtown in the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Memorial Fountain. The landmark will preserve the history of the program and provide a permanent marker for GRSP. Former GRSP Chair Emeritus and Treasurer J. Terry Gordon initiated the Generations of Generosity fundraising campaign, which raised more than \$160,000 for the project. The Rotary Club of Thomasville led the way with more than \$60,000 in contributions.

GRSP Foundation President Joe Jones recognized donors to the project, including a 1965 GRSP alumnus from Israel who graduated from Georgia Tech, Dr. Shlomo Barnoon. made a donation in memory of GRSP Chair Emeritus Hue Thomas, Jr of the Rotary Club of Savannah and Founding Committee Member Kendall Weisiger, an Atlanta Rotarian whose support of international students through the Rotary Education Foundation of Atlanta was merged into GRSP. Barnoon considered Thomas and Weisiger to be a visionaries who inspired him to support more than 300 international students of his own.

The Rotary Club of Thomasville made a \$1,000 contribution in honor of Jeremy Emmett, the chief executive officer of Southern Lodging, the Thomasville business that owns the Courtyard Thomasville Downtown. Emmett was named as Will Watt Fellow, which was presented at the dedication ceremony. Thomasville Mayor Jay Flowers read a resolution and dedicated January 22, 2022 as GRSP Day.

Will Watt III, grandson and namesake of GRSP Founder Will Watt, addressed the crowd, which included more than 20 members of the Watt family. He said Will Watt Sr.'s house at 714 North Dawson Street had an open-door policy for the Georgia Rotary Student Plan, the initial name for the Georgia Rotary Student Program.

"There are some wonderful pictures from the Thomasville newspaper of him enjoying the company of the kids," Watt said. "He even served as a stand-in 'Father of the Bride' for one student who couldn't return to her country to get married due to civil unrest that had just broken out. So he walked her down the aisle and she was married here in Thomasville."

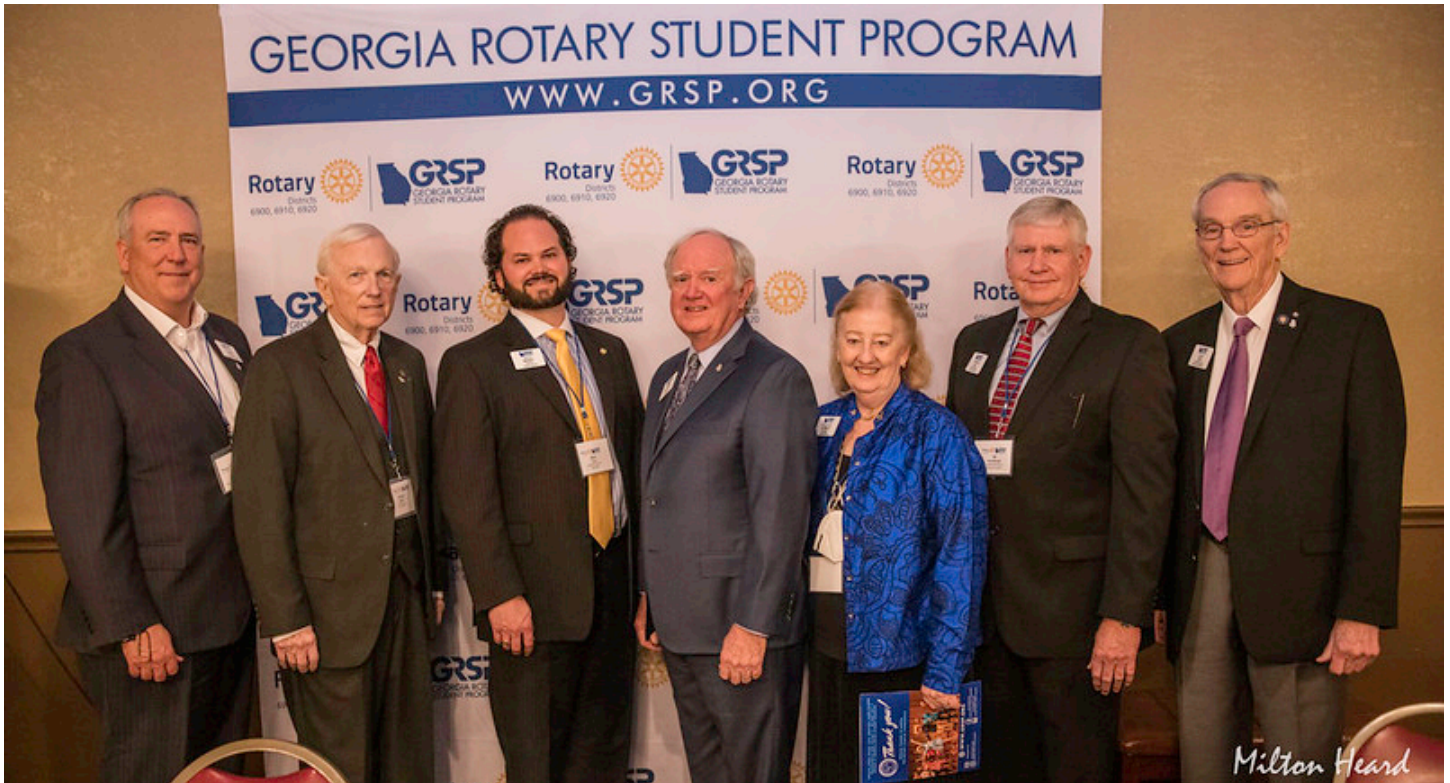
Guy closed the weekend with a toast stating, "We honor the legacy of our Founder Will Watt and the more than 3,692 alumni from 108 countries who have shared in the success of this program. We lift our glasses to honor the program that provides leadership, scholarship, excellence and service."

Thanks to the District 6900 leadership team - DG Mary, DGE George, DGN Andre and DGND Gordon - for taking part in the weekend. And to Thomasville Rotarian and District Treasurer Teri White who served as the local event coordinator for the GRSP Gala and the Peace Plaza Dedication.

To read Will Watt III's full remarks, get a glimpse of the weekend in photographs by GRSP District 6920 Director Milton Heard, review resolutions and view the full Generations of

Generosity Donor List in the GRSP 75th Commemorative Program, visit www.grsp.org/history.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Katheryne Fields
January 27, 2022

Membership

Welcome New Members



Clockwise: New Barnesville Rotarian Chris Cox, Carrollton Rotarian Susan Welch, Peachtree City Rotarian Heidi Becker, North Columbus Rotarians (unnamed on FB) and Johns Creek North Fulton Rotarian Ting Chiu

We welcome these new Rotarians in District 6900 - drawn from our January membership records - and we've included some pictures of individuals joining as recently as last week and celebrated on club Facebook pages:

- Atlanta Brasil - Jade Taylor
- Alpharetta - Brian Mould, Zachary Hipes
- Blakely - Jennifer Brown
- Atlanta West End - Patricia Pichardo
- Carrollton - Monica Cofield
- Buckhead - Todd Garlitz
- Columbus - Greg Countryman, Angelica Rozwadowski
- Dallas-Paulding County - Jana Stegall
- Griffin Daybreak - Jessica Mills
- Jackson-Butts County - Takemia Childs, Amy Fletcher, Andy Postell, Nicholas Terrell, Diane Snyder, Lisa Durden, Shannon McRae, Clayton Terrell, Carlos Duffey, Sharon Garrison, Joshua Donaldson, Robert Ravenell
- Johns Creek North Fulton - Shinjini Das
- Marietta Metro - Robert Brown, Jim Boone

- Newnan – Scott Katz
- North Cobb – Robert Masse
- North Fulton – Susan Cammack, Casey Baker, Brad Serff, Kathleen Peneguy
- Paulding County – Jason Summerour
- Peachtree City – Amy Fitzgerald, Michael Turner
- Polk County – Lydia Goodson, Chris Thomas
- Sandy Springs – Jay Brackman, Sr., Jack Willis, III
- Senoia – Allen Mercer
- South Dekalb – Kevin Harper, Omari Crawford
- Thomasville – John Bennett
- Tucker – Kirk Fordham

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
February 7, 2022

Interact Update

Celebrating Small but Impactful



The **Counterpane Interact Club** in Fayetteville is 13 members strong and committed to doing good in their community. Every month, club members volunteer at The Bloom Closet, which is an organization that provides Georgia's foster children and their families with free clothing, baby gear, books and school supplies. When clothes and other donations are dropped off, the Counterpane Interact Club members help unload, sort and organize them. They also help doing other tasks as needed by the staff.

Their efforts help do the hard work to make this whimsical children's boutique a wonderful experience for children that may be at the lowest point in their lives. Congratulations to Counterpane Interact Club for Serving to Change Lives and thank you to the **Peachtree City Rotary Club** for sponsoring this great Interact Club!

PHOTOS:



Posted by Becky Stone
February 3, 2022

Vinings Cumberland Celebrates 25 Years of Run for the Kids



In January, the **Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club** celebrated its 25th anniversary of donating to children's charities. This year, the club once again donated over \$100,000, this time to 15 charities for children's projects. Grant Recipients included The Calvary Children's Home and Good Samaritan Health Center, Atlanta Union Mission, Bankhead Boys Association, Boy Scouts of America Atlanta Council, Canine Companions, Center for Children and Young Adults, Cobb County Public Library Foundation, Girls On The Run of Atlanta, Hearts Everywhere Reaching Out to Children, Inc., Jason Cunningham Charitable Foundation, Inc. (JCCF), Kenrod, Inc., Lekotek of Georgia, Inc., MUST Ministries, and Youth Villages.

The 65-member Rotary Club in Cobb County, with Rotarian Todd Ash, President, held its live 25th Anniversary Vinings Down Hill 5K Run for the Kids last August. Over 600 runners ran in the Live Race (with some virtual) on that beautiful day one year after the 2020 Virtual Only race. Vinings, the historic village across the Chattahoochee River northwest of Atlanta, saw hundreds of Rotarians and volunteers starting the race at The Lovett School and finishing up at the Vinings Jubilee for the After Party. The race was almost cancelled completely because of the developing variants of the Covid pandemic.

In its 25th year the race was a success because of the persistent hard work of the Race Committee. Race Chair, Jolene Northrop, lead the club through the race for the second year which was very successful. Rotarians Assistant Committee Chair, Ann Hudgins, held an After Party that was exceptional as well as the 1K and Doggie Dash. Sponsor Chair, Betty Smith, Race Administrator, Paul Harris, Grant Chair-Steve Hughes, and Operations Chair, Kelly Gacutan and many others contributed many hours of volunteer time.

The Club recognized 133 Sponsors at the Ceremony. Printpack returned as the Presenting Sponsor, and 57 Sponsors were extremely generous in their donations. The rest of the sponsors donated in Memory of Charles Heinz, Founder and Director of the Run for the Kids for 23 years.

If you would like information about the Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club or about the 2022 race in August go to: viningsrotary.org or viningsdown5k.com. You can also contact Betty Smith at valleycreekbetty@aol.com or call 404-625-3287.

Posted by Elizabeth Smith
February 3, 2022

Club News

Come Play with Dunwoody to Support Alzheimer's



**THE ROTARY CLUB OF
DUNWOODY**
Atlanta's Friendly Breakfast Club
"Service Above Self" • District 6900



Come Play with Us!
May 16, 2022
Inaugural Dunwoody Golf Tournament
St. Marlo Country Club, Duluth

Proceeds benefit Georgia Alzheimer's
Association

Posted by Bob O'Brien
February 3, 2022

GRSP Update

Georgia Rotary Student Program Names New Program Director



The Georgia Rotary Student Program is excited to announce Katheryne Fields as its inaugural Program Director, a critical leadership position identified by GRSP's strategic plan. A member of the **Griffin Daybreak Rotary Club**, Katheryne spent the past year as GRSP's marketing and development director.

GRSP Chair Bert Guy shared the news at GRSP 75th Gala in Thomasville in January. Fields. He said, "Katheryne has demonstrated excellent communication and organizational skills.

She has proven her passion for the program and served as a resource for GRSP. I am certain she will continue to lead, collaborate, maintain and build relationships to enhance the fundraising and branding initiatives within GRSP's Strategic Plan."

In her new role, Katheryne will work closely with the GRSP chair, officers, directors, trustees, GRSP Foundation, Georgia Rotary Clubs, colleges, host families plus GRSP students and alumni promoting the cause of world peace through higher education. Her duties will include assisting students, overseeing office administration, software modernization plus raising funds and awareness for the organization.

Katheryne spearheaded the GRSP Foundation's Generations of Generosity Campaign in 2021, raising more than \$160,000 for the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Memorial Fountain, which was recently dedicated in January in Thomasville.

"I am very honored and proud to be a part of this great program that partners with Georgia Rotary Clubs to provide one-year ambassadorial scholarships to international students to attend colleges and universities in the state," Fields said. "I look forward to building on this incredible 75-year legacy that has already impacted our state and other countries around the world."

Guy said the search committee for this position reviewed more than 160 resumes and participated in interviews with many outstanding applicants for the program director position.

Katheryne brings more than 20 years of writing, communication, marketing, business, strategic planning and corporate events experience, with five of those years in higher education and non-profit foundations. Fields holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Berry College. She and her husband Dale, an avid golfer, reside in Griffin.

Katheryne can be reached at kfields@grsp.org

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
February 3, 2022

From Facebook

Alpharetta Makes a Splash



The 2022 Alpharetta Rotary Polar Bear Plunge raised over \$77k for the community. That's how you make a splash. Donors supported organizations from the Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation to Meals By Grace to Alpharetta's Downs Syndrome Education and Service Center project in Brazil.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
February 6, 2022

From Facebook

Making a Difference in Our Communities ... Part 1



Americus Rotarians (pictured) generously provided items used to assemble over 50 “clean care” hygiene bags for girls in our community. The bags will accompany mentorship and coaching in order to build a positive self-image. In the meantime, **Atlanta West End Rotarians** celebrated MLK Day by volunteering on trail maintenance at the Outdoor Activity Center with West Atlanta Watershed Alliance.

Cairo Rotarians Todd Harrell and Brooke Jones (pictured) enjoyed visiting Shiver School this week to deliver dictionaries to 3rd graders at the school. The Dictionary Project is one of the club's signature projects each year supporting education. And, **Jackson Butts Rotarians** (pictured) delivered a new Little Free Library to the City Hall in Flovilla, GA, replacing one that had seen better days.

Rotarians from East Cobb, Atlanta Brasil and Smyrna (pictured) joined together for a service project with LiveSafe Resources - an organization committed to providing safety and healing to those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse by offering services, creating awareness and fostering support within our community.

PHOTOS:



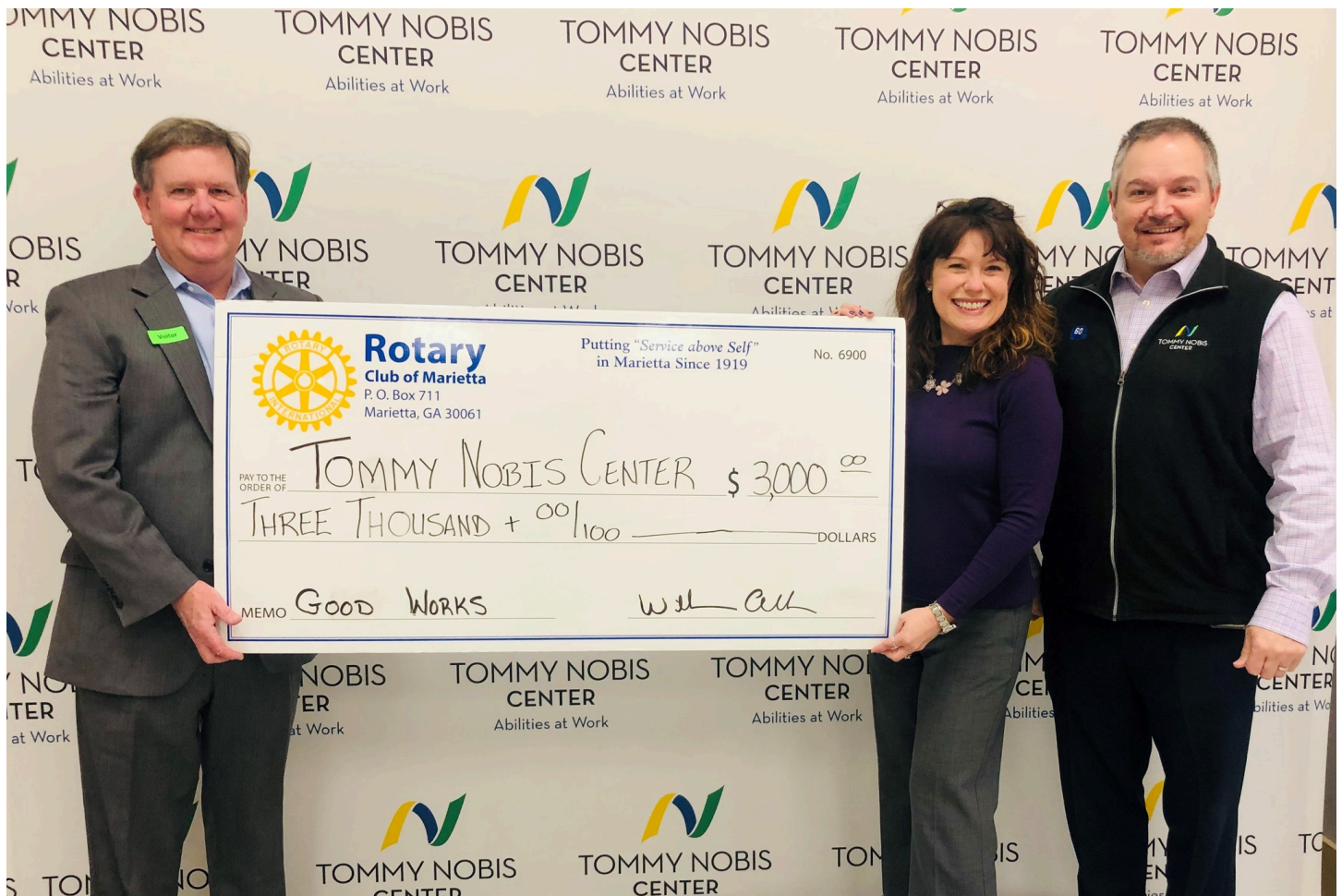




Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
February 6, 2022

From Facebook

Making a Difference in Our Communities: Part 2



The Rotary Club of Marietta (pictured) donated to the Tommy Nobis Center to support Early Youth Employment Services (EYES) inaugural Spring Break Camp that will provide local students with disabilities a fun, educational, and interactive camp experience this April.

In keeping with Rotary's commitment to Polio, the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County** and Starfish Ministry are serving the people of India affected by Polio and other life-altering disabilities. The club recently donated two wheelchairs for polio patients in Dehli. Both of these young men are polio survivors with residual disabilities of the lower extremities.

The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** held its 10th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to recognize these officers (pictured) who serve the area!

Newnan Rotarians awarded \$10,000 in grants to community nonprofits. Pictured: Rotary Member Kevin Barbee, Brown Powell, representing Corral; Ann Kerlin, representing One Roof; Sarah Walton, representing I-58 Mission, Ann Camp, representing FERST Foundation; Rotary President Jay Boren, Denise Buchanan, representing ELEVATE Coweta Students; and Lizabeth Andrew, representing Meals on Wheels Coweta.

North Cobb Rotary will be making another donation to our friends at Coats For Loving Arms (pictured) as a part of our annual coat drive! This round of generous donations includes a car full of jackets collected by Rotarian Nancy Prochaska and delivered with love by our very own Jeffrey and Paige Bass.

PHOTOS:





Rotary
Club of North Cobb

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
February 6, 2022

From Facebook

Making a Difference in Our Communities ... Part 3



Senoia Rotary (pictured) used its District Grant to provide laptop computers to Arise Recovery, a local Non-Profit dedicated to helping men recover from substance abuse.

Thomaston Upson Rotarians are calling on all youth of Upson County ages 13-18! The club is partnering with Thomaston Housing Authority to host a fantastic Youth Leadership Summer.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
February 6, 2022
