

April 1, 2026



From Our District Governor

A Season of Growth, Service, and Connection



DG Steve in Honduras

As we move into April, we find ourselves in one of the most exciting and active seasons of the Rotary year. With spring in full swing, this is a time of renewed energy, continued service, and strong momentum across District 6900.

I have now completed official visits to all clubs across the district, with my last visit to the **Emory Druid Hills Club** for a board meeting and special presentation. It has been an incredible journey witnessing firsthand the impact, passion, and commitment of our Rotarians. Over the coming months, I am still available for service projects, special presentations and visits to your club.

Recently, I joined a group of Rotarians from eight different clubs traveled to Honduras with Outreach International. This impactful trip included a variety of service projects focused on literacy and community

development and providing them with clean water. One highlight was visiting a remarkable school that has been supported and developed over the years through the dedicated efforts of **Atlanta Rotarian Bob Hope**. The experience was a powerful reminder of Rotary's global reach and our ability to create lasting change.

I had the distinct honor of attending two special events this month. One was the Rotary Club of Roswell's 75th Anniversary, where I was able to help present the club its award for \$2M in lifetime giving to The Rotary Foundation, a tremendous honor. You can read about this event and see pictures later in the newsletter. I also attended the Dekalb Rotary Council meeting with DGE Cynthia Edwards to see many teachers and Rotary leaders receive well deserved accolades.

Looking Ahead

We have a major service opportunity coming up May 6-9 at Camp Tanglewood in Augusta. This hands-on project will focus on repairs and improvements at the camp, and volunteers are encouraged to participate in what promises to be a meaningful and rewarding experience.

Our district continues to grow, with several new clubs being chartered or in development. These include the **Southern Crescent Rotaract Club, the Rotary Club of North Atlanta Professional Alliance**, and a new club forming that will meet at the Georgia Tech Hotel. This emerging club already has approximately 35 prospective members, thanks to the outstanding efforts of Audley Knight and the District Membership Committee. Additionally, Rotary International has introduced new leads software that we will begin implementing to help us better connect with prospective members and expand our reach. Companion clubs are also being explored as part of our growth strategy.

Education and leadership development remain a priority. The **District Learning Assembly will take place on April 11** in Columbus and is open for registration. This event is especially important for club officers and leaders as we prepare for the upcoming Rotary year.

Finally, **there is still time to register for the District Conference, which will be held April 16-19 at Lake Lanier Islands**. This year's conference promises to be an outstanding event filled with engaging speakers, fellowship, and fun activities for all. From golf, pickleball, boating, beach time, and the vibrant Margaritaville atmosphere, there will be something for everyone. Please remember that we are having a "Parade of Service Heroes" and costume contest on Friday at GameChangers. There will be awards for the Best club participation and the best individual service hero costumes.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Rotary and for all that you do to serve your communities and the world. Let's continue to Unite for Good and make this a strong finish to an incredible Rotary year.

PHOTOS:



Honduras





DeKalb Rotary Council Breakfast



Peach State PELS - training our leaders for the 2026-27 Rotary Year

Posted by Steve Ivory

March 30, 2026

District Conference 2026

Almost Time for Fun and Fellowship at Lake Lanier!



Looking for inspiration, connection and fun, your 2026 District Conference is designed to balance meaningful Rotary content with relaxation and fellowship. Join us April 16-19, 2026 at Lake Lanier Island for all this and more! You can [register now on the District 6900 website!](#)

Thursday evening begins with the Presidents dinner while other attendees enjoy dining at one of the resort restaurants. The night continues in our three lakefront Mega Hospitality Suites- Metro North, Metro South and Georgia at Large.

Friday morning offers choices to fit every interest: golf, spa, nature walk, pickleball or a scenic lake cruise. We gather for lunch at GameChangers featuring axe throwing, virtual reality sports and arcade games. Friday evening includes our first general session with dinner, speaker, dessert reception and more fun in the Mega Hospitality Suites. Please remember that we are having a "Parade of Service Heroes" and costume contest on Friday at GameChangers. There will be awards for the Best club participation and the best individual service hero costumes.

Saturday starts with a breakfast session celebrating Rotary Youth followed by the best practices Breakout forums. The afternoon is free for beach time and boating. Saturday night brings our Club Awards Celebration with a plated dinner, speaker and dancing with a live band.

We close Sunday morning with breakfast and a look at the future of Rotary.

Join us for learning, laughter and unforgettable fellowship. All the best of Rotary!

PHOTOS:



Posted by Lisa Carlisle
March 30, 2026

Our Rotary Foundation

Up and Over!

by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair



How wonderful it is that month after month we have something to celebrate! This month it may seem oddly self-serving, but I certainly am pleased to do so for this. My home club, the **Rotary Club of Roswell**, has exceeded the \$2 million mark for total giving all time. Roswell is the second club in the district to attain that level. The first to do so, very appropriately, was the **Rotary Club of Atlanta**, as they are the oldest club in Georgia.

One of the areas I am most pleased with in that \$2 million dollar figure is how nicely it is split between dollars to the Annual Fund versus the dollars to Polio Plus. Of the \$2 million dollar figure just north of \$480,000 has landed in Polio Plus. As most of you know, the Polio Plus program in general, and Polio eradication specifically, is a true passion of mine. So, to have such a nice portion working in that arena is particularly comforting to me. As the District Foundation Chair, my role is to help raise and track the funding coming into the district. Both sides have such significant effects on the world. The Polio dollars receive a \$2 to every \$1 raised match by the Gates Foundation to continue the fight to eradicate Polio from the world, whereas half of every dollar that comes into the Annual Fund ends up coming back to the district three years later in the form of Global Grant dollars. Therefore, both sides of the equation are vital to the role Rotary plays, both worldwide and locally.

As our Rotary year winds down, it is good to keep in mind the wonderful ways our Foundation reaches different areas of the world and why it is so important to finish the year strong. Here are a few facts for you to keep at the forefront of your thoughts when considering a donation. Did you know that it only takes \$3 as an average cost to fully protect a child against polio? \$50 maintains water filters that help fight waterborne illnesses and \$200 to develop work opportunities by replacing livestock for people impacted by disasters.

Let's look at what the dollars were in 2024/25 to see where we should be headed in 2025/26 as this year ends off in a few months. In 2024/25 we had 468 district grants amounting to \$29 million dollars in program awards. There were 74 disaster recovery grants amounting to 1.9 million dollars and 1,423 global grants awarded amounting to \$88.2 million dollars. In addition, there was one program of scale grant for \$2 million dollars. All those figures come from our Rotary International website. The RI website is a place I encourage all Rotarians to look at from time to time to see the impact of your dollars.

There are always great articles to peruse that are not only uplifting but invigorating and should be pointed out to any potential prospect thinking of joining Rotary. It will give them a very good feeling about the organization they are thinking of joining. For instance, there is a wonderful article about the relief aid brought by Rotary after a devastating earthquake in Turkey. The article takes the reader through the continuing efforts made by Rotary that the people of Turkey see as the only path out of the devastation. You'll find another article on how Rotary is affecting the education system in Panama classrooms and how Rotarian efforts have raised the technology level of the classroom learning in the country. Examples go on and on.

In the end, it is hard not to carry a bit of pride in oneself, but more importantly in the organization we are all a part of - an organization called Rotary. All of you reading this article now are a part of that legacy. Keep pushing to close this year off strong, strong for all the people we serve in our local communities and around the world!

If I can personally assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via cell or email. I'm here to help and together we will....Unite for good!

Posted by Bob Hagan
March 26, 2026

RYLA Update

One Day for RYLA

RYLA

Chaperones Rock!

**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 be a Chaperone?

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

**6-10
June 2026**



Give Us

#OneDayforRYLA

ryla6900@gmail.com

www.RYLA6900.com

Hey Rotary District 6900 members! Do you ever wish you could experience RYLA for yourself? Do you want to peak behind the curtain and see where all the magic happens each summer? If you answered yes, and if you can give us just *One Day* of your summer we can make the magic happen for you too!

We are always looking to bring new Rotary members into the wonderful world of RYLA, offering the opportunity to experience the RYLA energy and explore a new avenue of Rotary service. Chaperones help us keep things running smoothly each night and each morning but have no assigned duties during the day. We think you are perfect for the job! If you are willing and able - even just for 1 day out of the 4 - to give us One Day for RYLA we would love to have you! And you never know, it just might change your life too. Reach out to Jaclyn Donovan or Susan Ruckman for more details and they'll sign you up!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
March 19, 2026

Join Rotary Friendship Exchange to India - December 2026

JOIN US FOR A



**Friendship
Exchange
Trip to India**

Rotary

Club of North Cobb



Partnership with
District 3182 and 6900



**Leaving December 1st and returning
December 10th.**

See preliminary
program in the back

Contact Ada Wikina ph.
404-421-5825 ,Ranjit
Panigrahi ph. 412-600-
6388 or Lao Rimanelli ph.
781-844-0667



Come along on this fantastic adventure. India's Rotary District 3182 is ready to welcome us with open arms during the first week of December 2026. An extraordinary combination of vibrant city life, profound Rotary fellowship, meaningful service projects, cultural immersion, vocational exchange, and stunning landscapes creates a journey that is not just a visit—but a transformative experience. Participants will leave Karnataka not only with incredible memories and photographs, but with lifelong friendships, renewed inspiration, and a deep connection to the spirit of Rotary in India.

The detailed itinerary follows. We have six spots left. If you'd like to join us for this amazing trip or you have added questions, email me on awikina@hotmail.com or call me on 404-421-5825.

RI DISTRICT 3182 - ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE (RFE) ITINERARY

Day 1 - Thursday, December 3 | Bengaluru

- Arrival of RFE Team at Bengaluru International Airport
- Transfer to host families (RID 3191) and rest
- Evening: Rotary Meeting followed by Dinner

Day 2 - Friday, December 4 | Bengaluru

- Vocational Visits (IT, Healthcare, Education, etc.)
- Evening: Joint Rotary Meeting followed by Dinner

Day 3 - Saturday, December 5 | Bengaluru - Hassan

- Travel to Hassan
- En route visit to Shravanabelagola
- Lunch on the way
- Arrival in Hassan and transfer to host families
- Evening: Joint Rotary Meeting followed by Dinner

Day 4 - Sunday, December 6 | Hassan

- Visit to Halebeedu and Belur (heritage temples)
- Lunch Meeting at Belur
- Return to Hassan
- Evening at leisure / fellowship

Day 5 - Monday, December 7 | Hassan - Chikmagalur - Hassan

- Visit to Coffee Estate in Chikmagalur

- Lunch at estate
- Evening: Joint Rotary Meeting followed by Dinner
- Return to Hassan and rest

Day 6 -Tuesday, December 8 | Hassan - Sakaleshpur - Hassan

- Vocational Visits in Sakaleshpur (plantations / eco-projects)
- Evening: Joint Rotary Meeting followed by Dinner
- Return to Hassan and rest

Day 7 - Wednesday, December 9 | Hassan - Bengaluru

- Breakfast Meeting
- Farewell Program followed by Lunch
- Packing and departure to Bengaluru

Day 8: Thursday, December 10 | Departure

- Early morning transfer to Airport
- Departure of RFE Team

Posted by Ada Wikina
March 30, 2026

Laws of Life

Announcing Your 2025-26 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest School Winners



We are proud to announce the school-level winners of the 2025-26 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest! View the complete list of this year's School Winners on our [website](#).

Each year, high school students across Georgia participate in this powerful character education program, developing self-awareness, strengthening communication skills, and reflecting on the values that guide their lives. Through personal storytelling, students explore principles such as perseverance, integrity, and compassion—building skills essential for future leaders.

This year, more than 28,000 students from 65 schools shared their personal stories and life lessons. Their insight and reflection are a powerful reminder of the role character plays in shaping strong individuals and communities.

We extend our sincere thanks to the 136 volunteer essay judges who dedicated their time and thoughtfulness to reviewing more than 1,300 submissions. Through their efforts, 138 Grade Winners and 48 School Winners were selected and recognized for their exceptional writing and reflection. In total, \$19,250 in cash awards and honorariums was distributed to students and educators.

This program would not be possible without the commitment of our educators, volunteer judges, donors, sponsors, and 65 Rotary Club partners. Their support ensures students across Georgia have the opportunity to reflect, write, and grow.

In the coming weeks, Rotary Clubs across the state will host student recognition events, celebrating these

young leaders alongside their families and teachers. Follow us on [Facebook](#) , [Instagram](#) , and [YouTube](#) for highlights from these celebrations.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also recognize every student who participated. Every essay represents a voice, a story, and a step toward stronger character—and for that, every student is a winner.

To bring the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest to a school in your community, contact Executive Director Carol Gray Walker at carol@georgialawsoflife.org.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
March 30, 2026

Our Rotary Foundation

Inspire Generosity - Giving by Receiving



DG Steve Ivory & DFC Bob Hagan with North Atlanta Club President Catherine Bernard, Major Donors Christopher Drew, Mike Emanuele, Tom Friedrichs and Major Donor 2 Don Millen.

How can a 22-member Club LEAD the District in per capita Foundation giving? **Do a great global grant project!**

Grants are thought of as “getting” money. They are also a way to inspire generosity: ***Giving by Receiving.***

Having a specific global grant project - where the District matches Foundation giving lets the donors:

1. Know exactly where the funds are going
2. Participate in the project, and
3. Travel to the project site to feel the gratitude of prayers being answered.

Through its Spina Bifida project half a world away, the **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** saw three Rotarians become Major Donors, one of them at Level 2 (\$25,000). Incredibly, they lead the District by far with \$1,189 in per capita giving to The Rotary Foundation through March!

North Atlanta Rotarian Ralph Peeler said, "Our club's global grant to prevent spina bifida birth defects in Ethiopia has certainly had a dramatic effect on the level of Foundation giving in our club."

Want to increase your club's giving? Think big and inspire participation!

Email lee@leehollingsworth.com, District Gifts Officer

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth
March 26, 2026

Club News

Roswell: Celebrating 75 Years of Making a Difference



"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others." Cicero

There are moments in life when "thank you" doesn't feel like an adequate response. Saturday night, March 14, was one of those moments. As I stood in a room filled with more than 200+ Rotarians celebrating the

75th anniversary of the **Roswell Rotary Club**, I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of appreciation. Appreciation for the people in that room, for the generations who came before us, and for the privilege of leading this club during such a meaningful year.

For 75 years, this club has lived out Rotary's motto of Service Above Self in extraordinary ways. Millions of dollars raised to support charities in our community. Lives changed through scholarships, youth programs, and Interact Clubs in our schools. Children around the world are protected through Rotary's fight to eradicate polio. We have honored veterans, helped families in need, and strengthened our community through service projects too numerous to count.

And on that particular Saturday night, all of that history was in one room.

An evening like that does not happen by accident. It happens because people step forward to serve. Bob Clarkson, Bob Hagan, Alicia Hughes and Kathy Igou worked tirelessly to make sure such a great night came together. And, as is so often the case in our club, there were so many more working quietly in the background, solving problems, filling gaps, and making sure everything ran smoothly so the rest of us could simply enjoy the celebration. Thank you to Chris Patterson (valet), the PP video team, the goodie bag and the registration teams, and so many others whose efforts made the evening truly unforgettable.

I am grateful. To that end, I think it's important to remember to be grateful for the big gestures and for the small. And if I can be honest for a moment, I lost sight of that for a period of time on Saturday night. As I got ready for the celebration, my mind wasn't on the milestone but it was on the details. The small things. The things that I didn't believe were quite right. A timing issue here, a setup detail there, the little imperfections that, in the moment, felt bigger than they really were. I carried those thoughts with me into the evening. It probably wasn't noticed by all, but it certainly was to me, and it had its effect...

But as the night unfolded, I began hearing a very different story from everyone around me. People were smiling, laughing, and celebrating. They spoke about how special the night felt, how meaningful it was, how proud they were to be part of something so much bigger than themselves. To them, it wasn't a night of small flaws, but it was a perfect celebration of 75 years of service, fellowship, and impact.

Somewhere along the way, I realized the problem wasn't about these small things of the night. The issue was my perspective. I had been staring at the small dots, missing the wide, beautiful canvas around them. I missed the forest for the trees as the saying goes....And when I finally stepped back and chose gratitude, I saw what everyone else had seen all along... It wasn't just a good night. It was a perfect one.

When I chose gratitude, when I intentionally looked for the blessings around me, it shifted my perspective and made me a better man that night! Perhaps the greatest feeling of gratitude I carried home that evening was the honor of serving as president of this remarkable club during its 75th year. Leadership in Rotary is never about one person. It is about standing on the shoulders of those who came before us and doing our best to carry the torch forward. Seventy-five years ago, a group came together with a simple idea: By serving others, they could make Roswell a better place to live.

To every member of this club, thank you for the honor of leading during this historic 75th year. Thank you for your support, your service, and your friendship. And most of all, thank you for continuing a legacy that began 75 years ago and will continue long after us.

That is something truly worth being grateful for today!

Sic Vos Non Vobis

Trummie Lee Patrick III

2025-26 President, Roswell Rotary Club

PHOTOS:





Posted by Trummie Patrick, III
March 25, 2026

Rotary Means Business

Engage Rotary Means Business to Grow Membership



Rotary Means Business is a great way to grow and retain your Club's membership. RMB helps club leaders in several specific ways:

- **Member Retention and Attraction:** It helps attract and retain strong club members, particularly business owners and leaders who are looking for professional synergy alongside service.

- **Engaging Younger Professionals:** It provides a dynamic, fresh space for younger professionals to connect, which is crucial for the long-term survival and vitality of our Rotary community.
- **Value-Added Programming:** Incorporating RMB concepts adds immediate value to your regular club programs and gives your Vocational Chairperson clear activities to meet annual goals.
- **Mentoring:** It creates natural mentoring opportunities between veteran business leaders and newer members. It creates natural mentoring opportunities between veteran business leaders and newer members.

If you're interested in growing your Club's membership then get involved with District 6900's Rotary Means Business. Contact Carter Stout, cstout@stoutkaiser.com or 770-349-8201

Posted by Carter Stout
March 26, 2026

Club News

Join Senoia's "Aim for Impact" Charity Clay Shoot

The poster features a central graphic of a target with two crossed rifles and a clay pigeon. The text '2026 AIM FOR IMPACT' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'CHARITY CLAY SHOOT' on a banner below. To the left, 'May 8th' is written in a stylized font. At the top, a blue banner reads 'TEAM REGISTRATION OPEN' with a clay pigeon icon. Below the target, an orange banner says 'SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE' with a trophy icon. A list of event highlights is on the left, and the Rotary Club of Senoia logo and a QR code are on the right. The bottom section has a red banner with 'REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY' and an arrow, followed by a blue banner stating 'Benefiting Backpack Buddies & i58 Mission'.

TEAM REGISTRATION OPEN

May 8th

**2026
AIM FOR
IMPACT**

CHARITY CLAY SHOOT

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

At Beautiful Big Red Oak Plantation

Team & Individual Awards

Raffles & Prizes

Great Fellowship for a Great Cause

Rotary Club of Senoia

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY →

Benefiting Backpack Buddies & i58 Mission

The **Senoia Rotary Club** invites fellow Rotarians across District 6900 to join us for our “Aim for Impact” Charity Clay Shoot on May 8, 2026, at the beautiful Big Red Oak Plantation.

This event is shaping up to be a fantastic day of fellowship and friendly competition, featuring a professionally hosted shoot, team and individual awards, raffles, and great camaraderie—all in support of meaningful local causes.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Backpack Buddies and i-58 Mission, organizations that are making a real difference in the lives of families facing food insecurity in our communities.

We invite Rotary clubs across the district to form a team and join us for a great day outdoors while supporting two incredible missions. Whether you’re a seasoned shooter or just coming for the fellowship, this is an event you won’t want to miss.

To register your team, simply scan the QR code in the picture.

Posted by Beth Hughes
March 19, 2026

Celebrating an Atlanta Southern Crescent Rotarian



The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** celebrates the recognition of Dr. Annapurna Bhat, Rheumatologist, who received the National Women's History Month Award - "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" from the City of Stockbridge.

This recognition highlights the contributions of women who are helping move communities forward

through leadership, service, and dedication. Dr. Bhat's work in healthcare and her commitment to improving lives reflect the type of leadership that strengthens communities across our region.

Congratulations to Dr. Bhat on this well-deserved honor, and thank you to the City of Stockbridge for recognizing individuals who continue to make a difference.

Rotary is proud to celebrate leaders in our community who embody the spirit of Service Above Self.

Posted by Trina Kolawole
March 20, 2026

Club News

Buckhead Serves Dinner at Shepherd Center



Patients recovering from spinal cord and brain injuries at the Shepherd Center enjoyed a family-style dinner served by 15 **Buckhead Rotarians** and their guests who turned out for an evening of volunteering serving a family-style dinner for the patients and their families before joining in on a spirited game of bingo. Everyone enjoyed a little friendly competition over Bingo and plenty of joyful moments were had by

all. It was a simple but meaningful night of service that left everyone smiling.

Buckhead Rotary Immediate Past President Denise Starling selected this as her signature project, through which the club invests both time and financial support over a three-year period. Her inspiration came from her neighbor, a multiple national and world record holder in water skiing, who experienced a life-altering spinal cord injury.

For 50 years, Shepherd Center has been on a mission to redefine rehabilitation, empower patients, and inspire hope. From a six-bed unit to a world-renowned neurorehabilitation hospital, their journey has been filled with groundbreaking innovations, life-changing care, and a steadfast commitment to their patients and families.

Posted by Shelley Hammell
March 20, 2026

Club News

A Night of Gratitude: Peachtree City Celebrates Rotary Foundation Major Donors



The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** continued a cherished tradition this week as we gathered for our annual Major Donor Dinner — graciously hosted by the *“hostess with the mostest,”* Mary Chapman. This special evening is our opportunity each year to celebrate the extraordinary generosity of our club members who make significant contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

With a little Irish spirit in the air ahead of St. Patrick’s Day, the evening featured a festive menu of cabbage, potatoes, and corned beef — along with a toast or two of Irish whiskey. The warm fellowship and lively conversation made for a wonderful celebration of the impact our members are making locally and around the world.

This year’s gathering was especially meaningful as we celebrated two new **Arch Klumph Society members**, Mary and Steve Ivory. Named for Rotary’s founder of The Rotary Foundation, Arch Klumph Society recognition represents one of the highest levels of giving in Rotary, and Mary and Steve’s commitment reflects an extraordinary dedication to Service Above Self and Rotary’s global mission.

We were also proud to recognize two new **Major Donors**, Donna and Amos, who joined the growing circle of Peachtree City Rotarians making transformational gifts through The Rotary Foundation.

In total, more than 40 Rotarians gathered for the evening — a powerful reminder that our club truly puts our **wallets where our hearts are**. Through these generous contributions, Peachtree City Rotarians help support life-changing initiatives around the world, including clean water, education, maternal and child health, disease prevention, and Rotary’s ongoing effort to eradicate polio.

Thank you to Mary Chapman for hosting such a memorable evening and to all of our Major Donors whose generosity allows Rotary to continue **Doing Good in the World**.

Posted by Jason Aldrich
March 20, 2026

Club News

Vinings Downhill 5K Fuels Nearly \$100,000 in Support for Children’s Charities



The Vinings Downhill 5K, an annual community tradition hosted each second Saturday in August, continues to make a meaningful impact across Atlanta and Cobb County. Thanks to strong community support, the Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club was able to distribute nearly \$100,000 from the 2025 race to organizations dedicated to serving children in need.

Over the years, the race has grown into one of the area's most anticipated summer events, drawing more than 1,300 participants, from competitive runners to families and even dogs participating in the popular "Doggie Dash." Held alongside a lively festival at Vinings Jubilee, the event has become a celebration of both community and purpose.

At a recent Rotary meeting, representatives from several beneficiary organizations were awarded their funds and shared how the funds are being put to work. Their stories highlighted the real and lasting impact of the race, supporting programs that provide critical resources, educational opportunities, and stability for children and families throughout the region.

What sets the Vinings Downhill 5K apart is not just its scale, but its sustained commitment to giving back. Year after year, the event channels local enthusiasm into tangible outcomes, reinforcing Rotary's broader mission of service and community engagement.

Organizers have already set their sights on the future, with the **2026 Vinings Downhill 5K scheduled for August 8, 2026**. With continued support from sponsors, volunteers, and participants, the event is

poised to build on its legacy and extend its reach even further. You can read more about it and [register to run on the race website](#) .

More than just a race, the Vinings Downhill 5K stands as a powerful example of how a community can come together to create lasting change.

Posted by Thomas House
March 25, 2026

Club News

Peachtree City, Tyrone and Senoia Make Beds for Children



Rotarians experienced an incredible day of service in action this March. Our friends at Sleep in Heavenly Peace are on a mission to make sure no child sleeps on the floor, and the need is real — they built and donated over 400 beds last year, yet more than 200 children in Fayette County are still waiting for a bed of their own.

Thanks to a **Peachtree City Rotary** grant, we were able to fund materials for 20 beds, and we were proud

to host the build at Cooper Lighting Solutions. We also loved partnering with the **Rotary Clubs of Tyrone and Senoia**, The Eden Project and Senoia Baptist Church and so many other volunteers including DG Steve and DGND Amy (who coordinated the event) bringing together 100+ volunteers ready to serve.

We even had a little “God wink” — surrounding storms cleared just long enough (about two hours!) for our teams to complete 28 beds and begin prep work on 10 more that will be finished soon.

This is what Rotary is all about: seeing a need, bringing partners together, and turning service into real impact for families in our community. Proud of the hands, hearts, and teamwork shown by everyone involved — and especially grateful to be part of the service legacy of the Rotary Club of Peachtree City.

PHOTOS:







Posted by Jason Aldrich
March 30, 2026

Club News

South DeKalb Dedicates Peace Pole

“May Peace Prevail on Earth”



Earlier this year, the **Rotary Club of South DeKalb** proudly dedicated a Peace Pole at Privi' at Stonecrest, marking a meaningful milestone in the club's ongoing commitment to service, unity, and global goodwill on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

The Peace Pole stands as a permanent and visible symbol of Rotary's mission of "Service Above Self." Inscribed with the message "*May Peace Prevail On Earth*," the pole features four languages—English, French, Hindi, and Spanish—reflecting the diversity of our local community and the international reach of Rotary. Each language represents a bridge across cultures and a reminder that peace begins with understanding and shared purpose.

The dedication ceremony was a moment of pride and reflection for club members and community supporters. The installation reinforces Rotary's long-standing commitment to promoting peace—one of Rotary International's key areas of focus. Through projects like the Peace Pole, the club continues to foster goodwill and strengthen relationships within South DeKalb and beyond.

Steve Ivory, District Governor of Rotary District 6900 and District Governor-Elect Cynthia, visited our club meeting and some of the board members gathered for a group photo alongside the newly installed Peace Pole, celebrating both the dedication and the continued growth of the club's community presence.

The Peace Pole at Privi' at Stonecrest now stands as a daily reminder that peace is not merely an idea, but a shared responsibility. As residents and visitors pass by, they are invited to pause, reflect, and recommit to the values of harmony and respect that Rotary champions worldwide.

The Rotary Club of South DeKalb remains dedicated to advancing peace, supporting youth, strengthening partnerships, and creating lasting community impact. Through projects like this Peace Pole installation, the club continues to demonstrate that when Rotarians come together with purpose, meaningful change follows.

Posted by Yolanda Dixon
March 25, 2026

Club News

Three Columbus Clubs Partner to Raise \$50,000



On February 28, the three Rotary Clubs in Columbus came together as one to host the Run for MercyMed 5K, raising more than \$50,000 to support the mission of **MercyMed** and to benefit **Georgia Rotary Student Program (GSRP)**.

This marked the first time the **Rotary Club of Muscogee-Columbus**, **Rotary Club of Columbus**, and the **Rotary Club of North Columbus** partnered together to lead the event. Through this unified effort, the clubs more than doubled the funds raised in previous years.

The event welcomed more than 200 registered runners, along with volunteers, organizers, sponsors, and community supporters who contributed to a successful and high-energy morning in downtown Columbus. The race began at **Iron Bank Coffee**, bringing together participants from across the region in support of a shared cause.

This collaborative effort was led by Rotary leadership across the three clubs, including **Alan Harkness**, **Sara Jewell**, and **Mac Cantrell**, whose shared vision helped bring this impactful event to life.

The success of this year's event reflects the strength of collaboration and a shared commitment to service. By focusing on a common purpose—supporting MercyMed and GSRP—the Rotary clubs demonstrated the power of working together to expand impact, increase participation, and strengthen community connections.

While each club has its own identity, the broader community experiences Rotary as one unified force for good. The Run for MercyMed 5K stands as a powerful example of what can be accomplished when organizations come together in service of others. MercyMed provides high-quality, compassionate

healthcare to uninsured and underserved individuals in the Columbus region, ensuring access to care for those who need it most.

The Rotary Clubs of Columbus look forward to continuing this collaborative approach in future initiatives that benefit both local healthcare access and global education initiatives.

PHOTOS:





Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris
March 25, 2026

Club News

Roswell Hosts 31st Roswell Relays Track Meet



The Coaches' Hospitality Suite for the Roswell Relays is the reason you want to volunteer by itself! Celebrating over 30 years of collaboration between the Roswell HS Track & Field team, the Booster Club and the **Roswell Rotary Club**, Saturday, March 21 was a great day to be at the track for the largest AND longest continually running track meet in the State of Georgia. This year we hosted 27 teams from across the state who threw, jumped, and ran. The elite competition saw over 1100 tickets sold! When you combine that with almost 1000 athletes, 47 coaches and 50 Rotarian Volunteers, you have a packed house of 2,250+/-enthusiasts. RRC President Trummie Patrick III would like to congratulate Roswell Rotarians Michael Curling, chair of the event, with Mindy Jones overseeing the Hospitality Suite and James Stone corralling the volunteers (not in the Hospitality Suite) for their continued commitment to this incredible annual event.

Roswell Relays is a true community-wide event with over 25 restaurants donating food for both breakfast and lunch items to the Hospitality Suite. The coaches are met with smiles, a place to sit out of the weather, eat, charge their phones and catch-up with their fellow coaches. Roswell Rotarians not only set up, staff and break-down the Hospitality Suite in the RHS cafeteria but also monitor parking all day, serve as line judges and gate-monitors throughout the events. The RHS Interact Club student members sign up to help run food to coaches and volunteer on the field during the event.

Every Spring since 1996, the Roswell Rotary Club and Roswell High School have sponsored this invitational track meet. The goal is to not only provide a high-profile opportunity for high school track & field athletes to compete but also a robust fundraiser for the booster club! A full slate of field events is held in the morning like shot put, discus, high jump, pole vault, etc. This is then followed by track and relay events in the afternoon. The strong emphasis on relay events builds a spirit of teamwork among the athletes and creates a high energy atmosphere during the daylong event.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Becky Nelson
March 25, 2026

Club News

Atlanta Southern Crescent Enjoys Pizza Night



In February, the **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** hosted a memorable Club Social.

The evening featured a fun and interactive homemade pizza-making experience, where members had the

opportunity to create their own personal pizzas. With a wide variety of fresh toppings, including assorted meats, garden vegetables, and a selection of flavorful cheeses, everyone enjoyed crafting a meal to their own taste. The hands-on activity created a relaxed and welcoming environment that encouraged conversation, laughter, and connection among members.

It was an evening filled with fellowship and camaraderie, as Rotarians came together to enjoy one another's company in a meaningful and engaging way.

We were honored to have Rotary District 6900 Assistant Governor, Cedric Hill, join us for the evening. His presence added to the significance of the gathering. We extend our sincere appreciation to Club President Mahli Lowder, whose leadership continues to guide our club with consistency and care. Her presence is felt in every interaction, event, and meeting. And a special thank you as well to our esteemed club member and PDG Claudia Mertl for her continued support and presence.

This Club Social was held at B'Mari Events & Art Studio in Jonesboro, Georgia, (owned by fellow Atlanta Southern Crescent Rotarian Tammery Scott). We are grateful for the beautiful space and welcoming atmosphere that contributed to such an enjoyable evening for our members.

Posted by Trina Kolawole
March 20, 2026

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Senoia Installs Raised Garden Beds at Park of Hope



The **Senoia Rotary Club** recently completed a community service project at the Park of Hope in Senoia, installing raised vegetable beds with support from a Rotary District 6900 grant. Club members worked together to prepare the site, install landscape fabric, set the beds, and spread gravel, creating a space designed to support community gardening and hands-on learning.

The project also included participation from a future Rotarian, highlighting Rotary's continued investment in the next generation of community leaders. The Club extends its appreciation to J. Rhett Contracting of Senoia for generously donating the use of a skid steer, which provided valuable assistance throughout the installation process. This project reflects Rotary's commitment to strengthening communities through service and collaboration.

PHOTOS:







Posted by Beth Hughes
March 19, 2025

Club News

North Cobb Competes in Adult Spelling Bee to Support Students



On March 13, the **North Cobb Rotarians** stepped up to the microphone - competing in the Adult Spelling Bee to support Communities In Schools of Georgia in Marietta/Cobb. Rotary members are known for their dedication to service and leadership in our community, and now they're bringing that same energy to the spelling stage. Will their teamwork, quick thinking, and spelling skills carry them all the way to the championship?

This family-friendly evening includes teams of costumed contestants who put their spelling skills to the test in a lively and entertaining competition. Audience members can get in on the action as "Buzz Lines," stepping in to assist when teams need a lifeline for tricky words.

Communities In Schools helps empower students to stay in school and achieve success in life - serving more than 27,000 students each year with essential wraparound services, basic needs, and financial

literacy education.

PHOTOS:

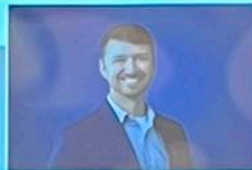


Bee Challengers

North Cobb Rotary

Kelli Phillips, Brian Moore
and Charlie Darrien

Team: ROTARY GRAMMARIANS





Posted by Jose Gonzalez
March 27, 2026

Buckhead Holds Paws in the Park, a Family of Service Day



Buckhead's recent Dog for a Day outing brought together 28 volunteers, (22 Rotarians and guests plus six girls from Scouting America), and seven shelter dogs (with three extra pups joining the fun) for a 2½-mile stroll. It was truly a walk in the park, filled with fresh air, wagging tails, and lots of laughs. The dogs enjoyed a well-deserved break from the shelter and the chance to explore new sights and smells.

Volunteers gathered for donuts and coffee, along with plenty of treats for our furry friends, as we spent the morning strengthening friendships and building community. Members, their significant others, youth, and parents all came together in service, promoting goodwill while enjoying building fellowship. The Scouting America troop girls also earned merit badge credit through their participation, making the experience even more meaningful. It was a paw-some time for people and pups alike!

Based in Atlanta and the largest animal welfare organization in Georgia, LifeLine Animal Project's mission is to end the shelter euthanasia of healthy and treatable animals. They look at the root causes of animal homelessness and work with the community to provide accessible pet care. Their goal is to keep people and pets together. President Shelley Hammell chose this as her three-year signature project due to the importance animals play in people's lives and stated, "When we feed pets, we feed people and their families." This is important, with 95% of pet owners who think of their pets as part of their family, and with 58% of families who experience "pet poverty" skipping meals to afford food and medical care for their pets.

Posted by Shelley Hammell
March 20, 2026

Club News

Columbus Partners with Jordan Vocational High School



In partnership with students and faculty from Jordan Vocational High School College and Career Academy, the **Rotary Club of Columbus** recently completed the construction of a new storage shed at the Girls Rise Home, a program of Micah's Promise, meeting a tangible and meaningful need for the organization.

Funded through a grant secured by Rotary Club of Columbus President Alan Harkness, the project was designed to provide essential storage space for sports equipment, lawn tools, and other resources that support daily life at the Girls Rise Home.

Earlier this year, students at Jordan Vocational High School began work on the project by building the foundation and trusses as part of their classroom instruction. The effort culminated this past Saturday, when Rotarians and students worked side by side to complete the structure. Through hands-on collaboration, the group brought the project to life, demonstrating teamwork, skill, and a shared commitment to service.

This initiative reflects Rotary's ongoing dedication to identifying and meeting real needs within the community. Each year, the Rotary Club of Columbus partners with local organizations like Micah's Promise to create meaningful, lasting impact through service projects.

What began as a classroom project is now a functional and lasting addition to the Girls Rise Home, made possible through collaboration, generosity, and a shared heart for service.

PHOTOS:





Club News

North Cobb Rotarians On the Go!



North Cobb Rotarians were on the go in the month of March:

- Turning out with Ackworth City Mayor Allegood, Alderman Tim Houston, Alderwoman Kimberly Haase, and the City Team for a ribbon cutting at the newly renovated **North Cobb Rotary Club Learning & Leadership Center** for the Acworth Expanding Horizons Program! This space, which had not been renovated since 2013, serves as a home-base for the Expanding Horizons and Acworth Achievers, and will continue to offer a positive and supportive environment to students for years to come. The Acworth Expanding Horizons Program was created in 2006 to provide unique learning opportunities and mentorship through educational field trips, recreational activities and servant-leadership for Acworth's local youth. The program is funded entirely from grants and donations
- Supporting community seniors by helping to serve lunch and call bingo at the Ben Robertson Community Center in Kennesaw, GA.

- Unloading shipping trucks, stocking shelves, and breaking down boxes to fully restock the student food pantry at Kennesaw State University
- Stopping to socialize and unwind at the Broken Anchor Winery - enjoy each other's fellowship while celebrating all we accomplished in March.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Jose Gonzalez
March 30, 2026
