

GRIFFITARIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN, GEORGIA

SEPTEMBER 7 – 13, 2023

PROGRAM SPEAKER – JAROD JONES, LIFE RANCH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jordan Jones is a person with a passion, a vision, and loads of energy and drive. His passion is improving foster care. It all began when, as a young teen growing up in Colorado, his family decided to foster a teen who had to no place to go into their home. His older and younger sisters were part of that foster care program. Jarod cites that over 850,000 kids are trafficked in the U.S. each year with 80% of those coming through foster care. In Georgia, we have 11,000 kids in foster care; so, if the 80% statistic holds true here 8,800 of those are trafficked each year. Jones says that we must create communities with family structure to effectively impact foster care programs. To that end, his vision is to build Life Ranch to provide homes with family structure in nearby Meansville. He is poised to purchase 760 acres on which 9 family homes will be built to house a total of 30 foster care kids. He estimates that, within 20 years, the success of Life Ranch would result in every county in Georgia having such a facility. Visit the Life Ranch website at www.liferanchinc.com for more details. What can others do to help in solving the challenges of foster care? Jones lists three ways: (1) Know what is going on in foster care. (2) Process it all by thinking through and carefully considering the situation. (3) Act. For this final point, consider taking advantage of the foster care tax, a simple process that can make a huge impact. Use this link for instruction on how to contribute with the foster care tax - <https://youtu.be/XTGi0XDQJ7I>.

ROTARY MIND AND BODY BOXES PROJECT

By the end of the day Wednesday, September 13th, Rotarians will have 500 food boxes packed and ready to distribute to local food banks and food kitchens in our Mind and Body Boxes Project. These will be distributed on September 27th between 1 and 3 PM. If you wish to volunteer on the 27th, sign up at <https://x.gldn.io/e/nWdKLEtJBb> at least 2 days prior to that date. Another 500 boxes will be packed on October 11th and 18th, between 6 and 8 PM. Sign up in advance at <https://x.gldn.io/e/jhrcifRSJBb> to register to pack. Boxes packed on those 2 dates will be distributed on October 25th between 1 and 3 PM. To help with that distribution, sign up at <https://x.gldn.io/e/nWdKLEtJBb>. All this is happening at Midwest Food Bank (220 Parkade Court, Peachtree City).

WEEK 2 OF GRIFFIN ROTARY FOOTBALL 2023 IS IN THE BOOKS

Kathleen Smith announced that after Week 1, the team of Nat Doughtie and Bobby Wheaton led our fundraiser with Montana State scoring 63 points. Auburn (59 points), Washington and Alabama (56 points), and Tennessee (49 points) followed. With this past Saturday's scores, the rankings of those teams changed with Washington (99 points) now leading Alabama (80 points), Tennessee and Montana State (79 points), and Auburn (73 points). Did anyone's team surge past these teams this past weekend? Find out at our first Pep Rally of the season this Thursday.

SIGN UP TO RING THE BELL FOR OUR ANNUAL SALVATION ARMY KETTLE DRIVE

Businesses and organizations are being enlisted to assist us in covering the ringing of the bell at our Salvation Army Kettle this year. Signup sheets for individual Rotarians will be available at our weekly meetings to sign up (2-hour blocks of time).

UPCOMING DATES

September 13th – District Collaborative Project – Pack Food Boxes (register online in advance)

September 14th – Steve Ledbetter, County Manager for Spalding County

September 21st – District 6900 Governor Andre Marria