



THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Imagine
Rotary*

SHARON MIRACLE YAKIMA VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Sharon Miracle was hired as the President and CEO of the Yakima Valley Community Foundation in late 2018. She brought extensive experience to the role as a former senior leader in healthcare, higher education, and in philanthropy. She has managed organizations ranging in size from two to 4,500 employees with revenues from \$350,000 to \$4 billion annually. Sharon's strong experience in the private sector and in government contracting has also served the Foundation well in developing systems, securing grants, and growing its services and programs to better serve the community.

The Yakima Valley Community Foundation is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. It is Washington State's first healthcare conversion foundation, created when the former non-profit Providence Health System sold to a for-profit entity. Thankfully, a group of Yakima leaders, many of whom are fellow Rotarians, had the foresight and dedication to create a community foundation and secure a portion of the hospital's sale to fund it. The organization is one of more than 800 community foundations in the U.S. serving a geographical area.

Sharon will describe the unique role of a community foundation and its growth and impact since receiving its first \$10 million in the hospital sale. She'll also describe several of the programs and projects the organization leads as well as plans to ensure it becomes a well-loved and highly regarded organization for generations to come.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Jessica Humphreys, Angela Gonzalez
Music – Andie Webb
Invocation – Jan Luring
Sergeant-at-Arms – Dana Dwinell
Program – Cragg Gilbert

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 20th – Kirk Schultz, WSU
April 27th – Vocational Scholarship Awards
May 4th – Cissy Reyes, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women
May 11th – Community Service Project

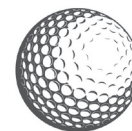
PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, April 14, 2023, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Magaly Solis
Executive Director
La Casa Hogar
Classification: La Casa Hogar
Proposed by: Rick Pinnell
Endorsed by: Quinn Dalan

SAVE THE DATE

Mollie Davis Golf Tournament
to benefit
Yakima Rotary Trust



Monday, July 17, 2023
Yakima Country Club

Registration at Noon
Shotgun Start at 12:30pm

“ROTARIANS AT WORK” DAY



Spring is here! That means it's time for "Rotarians at Work" Day. Started in 2006 as a joint effort between two Rotary Districts in the U.S. and Mexico and held on the last Saturday in April, it continues to grow year after year. Yakima Rotary has participated since day one.

This year's date is Saturday, April 29th. Yakima Rotarians along with their families and friends will be working to clean up three sites: Sarg Hubbard Park, the Welcome to Yakima Sign, and Rotary Lake on the Greenway. Volunteers at Sarg Hubbard Park will meet at the flower garden to weed, clean, bark, and paint the sign; the work at the Welcome to Yakima Sign will include weeding, cleaning, trimming, and spreading bark; and the job at Rotary Lake will consist of picking up garbage around the shoreline.

Work will begin at 9:00am and be done by noon. Sign-ups are underway. If you would like to help, please email, or call the Rotary office with your location preference.

YAKIMA ROTARY & SINGLE HILL BREWERY

In November, Single Hill donated a brewing experience and Rotary collaboration as part of their Beer Grows Community Program for our Rotary auction. A few weeks ago, the winning bidder (Field Group Marketing & Advertising) helped brew and name the collaboration beer – LOCAL IMPACT West Coast IPA with the Rotary wheel honored in the can art design.

To celebrate the new brew, Single Hill is hosting a Release Party on Tuesday, April 11th at 5:00pm at 102 N. Naches Ave. Ten percent of collaboration brew sold is being donated to Yakima Rotary Charities.

They also are matching the winning bid for \$1,000. Mark your calendar for a fun night out – We hope to see you there!



REVIEW

We are so lucky to have the best programs week after week – it is one of the things that make Rotary such a special place to be every Thursday. Our speaker this week was James Donaldson. Introduced by Doug Picatti, he was clearly the easiest person to recognize at 7ft, 2 inches tall. An alum of Washington State University and a former professional basketball player, the story he shared with us was one of personal loss, struggle with mental health, and overcoming suicidal thoughts to a place of peace today. He began with a video interview with Eric Johnson at KOMO News as one of Eric's Heroes. James was a big man who had it all as a star at WSU and a professional basketball player for the Seattle Sonics, San Diego/LA Clippers, Dallas Mavericks, New York Knicks, and Utah Jazz. In 1990, after a career that included being named as an NBA All-Star, he founded The Donaldson Clinic for physical therapy. Life took a turn in 2018. It all came crashing down after emergency heart surgery that left him in a coma for 2 weeks, and on his back for a full year. His mother passed away, his marriage ended taking away his stepson, and the money he had saved for retirement was used to keep his business going. It ended up closing that same year. He found himself alone, shut down, and swallowed up by darkness. He couldn't think straight or logically; telling his doctor that no one loved him or would miss him if he was gone. He thought about hanging himself or attacking a police officer hoping that he would be shot - something happened that shook him to the core. It was the suicide of WSU quarterback Tyler Hilinski. He watched as people struggled to tell Tyler's story. He decided to stay alive to tell his own story; he saw a specialist, got on medication, and called his friends for support. Today he is dedicated to helping others fight through depression and mental illness.

He spends a lot of time talking to middle and high school students where he often has students come up afterwards sharing that they are suicidal right now – they haven't even begun to live yet. He encourages them to reach out for help and talks to school counselors and principals to make sure they aren't alone. He spends a lot of time talking to men. 50,000 people a year commit suicide. 25 veterans commit suicide every day. Most of those suicides are committed by men. Men feel like they can tough it through - it is okay

not to be okay. Men have to do a better job of talking to each other. As the biggest boy in the room, James cries.

There is a lot of help out there, but there is so much that needs to be done to destigmatize the topic of mental health. September is National Suicide Month. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It is easy to tear ourselves down, we have to love ourselves to help others. James wrote the book, *Celebrating Your Gift of Life* chronicling his journey. He also founded Your Gift of Life Foundation as a platform to help others, allow him to talk to others, and create a scholarship for students of color to go into the mental health profession. His words were powerful, poignant, personal, and needed to be said!

What else happened? The meeting started off with fun as Nancy Leahy, Charlie Robin and Bob Hamilton joined forces to lead us in a sing-along of *Right Field* by Peter, Paul, and Mary. Patti Powers followed with a reflection on listening to others with openness and mercy. President Rick welcomed our guests, presented a blue badge to Raul Martinez, recognized Reverend Trimble for being chosen to be part of an Honor Flight to Washington D.C., and invited members to participate in the District Spring Training Experience taking place next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Announcements were made by Celisa Hopkins, Mike Hummel, Nicole Donegan, and Margaret Filkins. Celisa invited everyone to participate in "Rotarians at Work" Day on Saturday, April 29th with clean-up at three sites: Sarg Hubbard Park, Welcome to Yakima Sign, and Rotary Lake on the Greenway. See details in article above. Mike Hummel is the co-chair of next year's Program Committee along with Laura Crooks. They are looking for program speaker ideas that you may have. Nicole Donegan announced a launch party for a Rotary collaboration brew in partnership with Single Hill Brewery. The date is Tuesday, April 11th at Single Hill at 5:00pm. Margaret Filkins continued the party theme with an invitation to attend a ribbon cutting for the new Wellness House location on Thursday, April 13th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Yakima Rotary provided a grant to the project. Doug Rich wrapped it all up with sergeant-at-arms.