



Community Service



Rotary holds the vision of
a better world, starting in
our own back yard.

Rotary Founder Paul Harris

"Much that there is in Rotary today can be traced back to the good old New England family table." –Paul Harris

Nothing was more important in Paul Harris's life than going at age three to live with his grandparents in Wallingford, VT. Grandpa knew everybody. And whenever there was trouble like sickness, injury, lack of food, shelter, Grandma took care of it. They encouraged his love of learning.

After Paul completed a University of Iowa law degree, a professor urged him to travel for five years "to get a feel for different kinds of people." Paul worked at numerous jobs: newspaper reporter, actor, Montana ranch hand, stone salesman in Florida, deck hand on a boat shipping cows to England. He also visited France and Germany.

In 1905, Harris shared with three business friends his idea for the first Rotary Service Club to include: forming friendships, helping each other in business and providing service to the community.

Today—worldwide—there are 35,000 Rotary clubs in 22 countries with 1.2 million members.

Membership fees: Annual dues of \$300, including support of Rotary International, are billed semi-annually. Additional lunch charges of \$16 (including gratuities) can be paid weekly or with the dues.

For more information: Interested people are welcome to be in touch about getting involved by visiting montpelier-rotary.org and by clicking on any of the officers listed under "Club Executives."

HELPING NEIGHBORS AROUND THE CORNER & AROUND THE WORLD



NETWORKING

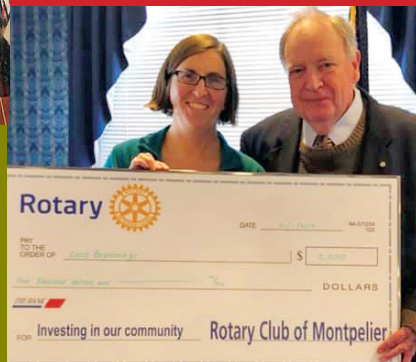
TAKING ACTION CHANGING LIVES

Montpelier Rotary Today

Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and take action to create lasting change.



- Mud Season Raffle
Annual Fundraiser
- Karen Kitzmiller Coat Drive



- "Backpack Program"
- Monthly Service Day



- Annual Picnic for Elders
- Toys for Tots



Rotary offers committed people of diverse backgrounds the chance to come together in comradery and community service.

Community Service

We have a near 100-year record in the Central Vermont community of getting things done that help bring us together, including:

- **Weekend food for kids** through our "Backpack Food Program" serving local Elementary school students who qualify for school lunches.
- **Service Work Projects** options for members to help in our community.
- **Scholarships**, totaling over \$50,000 annually, go to local graduating students pursuing higher education. These scholarship awards by our Rotary Club now exceed one million dollars since this program began in 1997.
- **Annual Picnic Cook-Out** for the pleasure of elders is held at Pioneer Apartments.
- **Toys for Tots** provides playthings for children of low-income families.
- **Guest Speakers** present wide ranging informative and engaging talks at our lunch meetings, to which interested public are welcome, especially possible via zoom.
- **Karen Kitzmiller Coat Drive** benefitted over 200 people in 2019 when our Rotary accepted responsibility for continuing this long-standing community event.

- **Fundraising** from our annual Mud Season Raffle supports the Backpack Food Program, with additional organizations selected each year to also receive funds. In recent years we have also helped organizations such as Good Beginnings, Lost Nation Theater, Kellogg Hubbard Library, Just Basics Food Pantry and Good Samaritan Haven.

Networking

Our Monday Lunch Meetings at Capitol Plaza have showcased a wide variety of speakers and have provided a chance to socialize and network. Attendance is welcomed but not required.

Rotary International



Joining Montpelier Rotary also brings you membership in **Rotary International**, with 1.2 million people and over 32,000 clubs in 168 countries worldwide.

Our Montpelier Club's international efforts have included:
support of a **Peace Center Project** in Rwanda Africa;
funds for **Hurricane Dorian Disaster Relief** in the Bahamas;
support of Rotary's help in global effort to eradicate Polio.