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**BOZEMAN SUNRISE ROTARY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**Community Recreation and Improvement**

**Glen Lake Rotary Park:** Since its development by Sunrise Rotary in 1992, Glen Lake Rotary Park (formerly known as the East Gallatin Recreation Area) has become a centerpiece in Bozeman’s park system. It is enjoyed by thousands of people year-round with its popularity continuing to grow. In that time, Sunrise Rotary has developed the beach, handicapped fishing access, a swimming and fishing dock and a kitchen/storage building.

Most recently, we have created a meandering spring creek through a newly acquired parcel of park land at the northwest corner of the lake. The City of Bozeman and Sunrise Rotary also co-funded a new paved entrance at the south end of the park, connecting both entrances via a new parking area.

Upcoming projects will include landscaping the new stream and parking areas, design and planning for a kids play area incorporating the natural elements of the lake and the beach and assisting the city in the design and planning for a new awning over the patio area by the beach.

**Fix Up Festival:** FUF is a community service project organized by Sunrise Rotary wherein service organizations and businesses repair homes for low-income, elderly, disabled, and Veterans at no cost to the homeowners. Over the past 15 years, more than 170 Gallatin County homes have been repaired utilizing more than 1,000 volunteers. These repairs are generally completed in one day. In 2024 alone, 150 volunteers repaired 12 homes through the efforts of 12 businesses and service organizations, and the MSU engineering department. FUF repairs range from replacing windows to building new wheelchair ramps to installing new rain gutters to minor roof repairs. In some cases, new roofs and furnaces have been installed.

**Kids Fishing Day**: Kids Fishing Day was established in 2010 to encourage more families to enjoy the amenities of Glen Lake Rotary Park. With the cooperation of the City of Bozeman, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and our business sponsors, as many as 300 kids and their families enjoy a day of fishing that includes: a waiver of fishing license requirements, all fishing gear, lunch and a goodie bag for each family. Hundreds of fish are caught in the freshly stocked lake with the kids often catching their first ever fish.

**Glen Lake Cleanup:** In early May, volunteers from both Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs collect trash, pull weeds, paint buildings, repair equipment and perform other duties at the lake property.

**Literacy & Education**

**Second Grade Book Giveaway:** For more than a decade, Sunrise Rotary has encouraged literacy in Gallatin County young learners by buying two books for second graders. Initially, the program served only kids in Bozeman School District but has since expanded to every public and private elementary school in the county.

In a typical year, approximately 1,200 students in almost 40 schools meet with Rotarian volunteers to learn a little about Rotary and select their two books from a selection of titles developed and vetted in cooperation with the schools and our generous benefactor, Country Bookshelf. In advance of the actual giveaway, Rotarians place a sticker on the inside cover of each book to allow the student to write their own names in what is often their first personally owned book.

Approximately 2,500 books (usually 50 copies of 50 different titles) are ordered annually with all remaining books donated to the various school libraries when we visit each school.

**Scholarships:** Sunrise Rotary provides four $2,000 scholarships annually to deserving Bozeman High School graduates. Three are awarded to grads of Bridger Academy, BHS’ alternative education program. The fourth is awarded to one of BHS’s nine Students of the Month who have been honored for their community service, among other criteria. The scholarships are administered through the Bozeman School Foundation and support post-HS education or training.

**School Supplies:** Through a partnership with Staples, Sunrise Rotary and the Bozeman School Foundation regularly distribute boxes of schools supplies to teachers in the Bozeman School District.

**Youth Leadership**

**Interact:** Interact is sponsored at the Bozeman High School to promote Rotary values and engage students in community service. Approximately 30 BHS students  participate in the Interact Club.  The Club raises money through events such as CandyGrams, Singing RoseGrams and a Dodgeball Tournament.  Interact members serve the local community and donate funds to local and international organizations.

**Rotaract:** Rotaract is a young adult club intended to get early career community members engaged with Rotary values and community service. Rotaract holds monthly service projects including a pet supply drive for Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter and assisting with Huffing for Stuffing and Sweet Pea community events.  Rotaract holds an annual Corn Hole Tournament to engage new members.

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards:** RYLA is an annual summer camp for high school sophomores which focuses on leadership development and Rotary values. This camp is held at Luccock Park in Paradise Valley every summer.  Bozeman Sunrise Rotary sponsors two students every year.  Campers learn leadership skills and build a support community with fellow campers.

**Students Experiencing Homelessness**

**Gift Cards:** Sunrise Rotary donates $6,000 ($18,000 total) in $25 gift cards to Bozeman, Gallatin, and Belgrade High Schools. School counselors distribute the gift cards to students in need. The cards are used by students to assist with food purchases and/or fuel for commuting to school or work.

**Warm Winter Outerwear:** Sunrise Rotary provides winter coats and boots to students in need as identified by local school districts. Annually, several thousand dollars in winter wear is purchased and distributed.

**Blueprint Obstacle Adventure Race:** BOARis a fundraiser for HRDC’s Blueprint house which provides housing for emancipated high school students experiencing homelessness. The race is run at Glen Lake Rotary Park in August and attracts hundreds of participants. Sunrise Rotarians and other community members work with HRDC to construct the obstacles and then volunteer on race day. BSRC provides the registration fee for as many as 75 low-income participants.

**International Activities**

**Rotary Youth Exchange:** Rotary International encourages Rotary clubs to sponsor high school students going overseas and to help host foreign students coming here. Students in recent years have visited from Germany and Italy. Sunrise Rotary provides financial support for participating students and local host families.

Whether our kids are overseas, or we are hosting an international student, they all fully participate in their high school communities. The bonds they create are strong.  Recently, an Exchange student from over 10 years ago returned to visit Bozeman due to her strong connections made while on the youth exchange program.

**Nepal**: We collaborate with the Rotary Club of Tripureswor, Kathmandu on an education-focused Rotary Global Grant project. Through this grant, we provide teaching training to six K-12 public schools in and around Kathmandu. In addition to the active learning training, the project is funding technology classrooms at each school. The schools were selected because of the needs and the existing relationship with the Rotary Club of Tripureswor. This three-year project started in 2022.

In 2019 seven Bozeman Sunrise Rotarians traveled to Nepal to conduct a needs assessment. In the fall of 2022 15 Rotarians visited Nepal to assess the progress of the first year and to meet with our partner club. Again, in the fall of 2023 and 2024, additional groups visited the schools. So far teacher training has been conducted at all of the schools in addition to several workshops held in Kathmandu and led by education faculty from Kathmandu University. Technology classrooms have been installed at the six schools and teachers have received training in the use of technology to enhance student-engaged learning.

**Kenya:** Sunrise Rotary recently joined the efforts of the South North Nexus to work with Blessed Community Empowerment Organization (BLEC) and Innovative Concepts to empower women to build resilient livelihoods in Turkana, Kenya through women-led actions that enhance the resilience of livelihoods and ecosystems. Access to clean water and preventing malnutrition arose as urgent priorities. In particular, goals include:

* Increasing women’s skills and expanding their roles through small business startups.
* Increasing access to water for human, animal, and horticulture production; and
* Diversifying livelihoods to adapt to climate and political shocks.

As a result, 200 households benefited from new water storage tanks, 105 women farmers received seeds to start healthy gardens, 20 women sold vegetables to markets and schools, 32 jobs were created on both farms and small businesses, women saw their incomes increase by 20% and more than 2,200 women and their families have benefited from the project.

**Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Foundation**

In 2022, Sunrise Rotary formed The Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Foundation, a Montana nonprofit corporation, recognized as tax-exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the foundation are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Since then, all proceeds from fundraising goes into the foundation’s accounts to help support the club’s many and various community projects described above. The immediate past of the club chairs the foundation board with four other members, all of whom also serve on Sunrise Rotary’s board of directors.

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