



# **Rotary Club of Houghton Lake, MI – USA**

Chartered: February 23, 1987  
Club: 24360

## **Club Report**

**Prepared for  
Gernot Runschke**

**2016-2017 District 6290**

December 20, 2016



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# ROTARY CLUB OF HOUGHTON LAKE

## **Background**

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake was chartered in February of 1987.

Current Rotary Club of Houghton Lake members Dick Follrath, and Tom Moreau were charter members of the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake when it was formed in July of 1986.

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has played a vital role in many community projects. The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has provided thousands of dollars to local college-bound high school students. Funding is derived from member contributions and the community's support of Rotary activities.

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake meets Tuesday at 12:15 pm at Buccilli's Restaurant with a current active membership of forty (40), seven which are Friends of Rotary, and six of which are 85 rule members.

Consistent with Rotary International philosophy, the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake, in addition to conducting weekly meetings, has major initiatives in Club, community, vocational, and international activities. Examples of each will be presented later with an explanation of how individual members have played a key role in meeting Club objectives. Our Rotarians are recognized as leaders within the Houghton Lake community.

More information about the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake can be found on the Internet at [www.hlrotary.org](http://www.hlrotary.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HLRotary](https://www.facebook.com/HLRotary).

## Long Term Plan

This plan was established in July 2008, following a Vision Facilitation Exercise carried out in May 2007. It reflects input from the Club on the output of the Vision Facilitation and was agreed prior to our annual plan being finalized.

1. Membership
  - a) Increase net membership by 10% each year
  - b) Implement orientation and induction program for new members
2. Become most visible organization in the area as judged by community and media
3. Hold at least 3 successful fundraising events each year raising at least \$30,000 net
4. Implement a program for continuity of leadership
  - a) Maintain rolling 5 year plan and insure annual plans coordinate
  - b) Put in place 'How To' Manuals for all events
5. Achieve 75% meeting attendance
6. Support Rotary Foundation
  - a) EREY - \$100 contribution by every Rotarian to the Foundation every year
  - b) Commitment of \$2000 contribution by Club every year to PolioPlus
  - c) Support Clean Water Project
7. Focus on programs to promote youth development
  - a) STRIVE
  - b) Scholarships
  - c) Food Projects
  - d) Bike Rodeo
  - e) Interact
  - f) Life Leadership
  - g) Inbound and Outbound Exchange Students
  - h) Park project enhancement and expansion
  - i) Career Day/Youth Development
8. Support the significance of the family
  - a) Family/Spouse events

**2016-17 Goal: Revisit the Long-term Plan and revise to meet current needs**

## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

The governing body of the Club is the Board consisting of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, 2 directors, and 1 two-year director. There are also chairpersons for Membership, Public Relations, The Rotary Foundation, and Local & International Service Projects. With the exception of the two-year director, all Club officer and director positions are elected for one year. They begin serving in July of each year.

### General Meetings

**Time:** 12:15 pm  
**Place:** Buccilli's Restaurant  
**Day:** Tuesdays

### Board Meetings

**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Buccilli's Restaurant  
**Day:** Third Tuesday of each month

Meeting locations, times, and dates are periodically reviewed by the membership to assure that meetings are conveniently scheduled. Meals are served, business is conducted, and an informational program is presented. (All in the spirit of great fellowship!)

**Quarterly Dues: \$114**

The above represents the routine cost for members.

\$25 Donations to the Rotary Foundation are encouraged with quarterly dues.

## CLUB LEADERSHIP PLAN

Under the current Club Leadership Plan, each area has a chairperson and Club members meet the last regular meeting of each month during "Club Assembly" to plan and discuss projects.

# MEMBERSHIP

## Membership

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has a current active membership of 40. In 2014-2015 we partnered with Roscommon and Grayling Rotary for a membership mixer. The membership committee also hosts an annual Rotary Awareness Day. Members are encouraged to invite a potential new member to a meeting and the meeting is dedicated to inform and educate the community regarding Rotary. We continue to encourage individuals to join Rotary as a Friend, if they cannot commit to being a full member. This allows members to participate in Rotary without the full-time commitment. We developed a Rotary brochure outlining the benefits of joining Rotary. This brochure is handed out at all community events and fundraisers.

**2016 - 2017 Goal:    Increase active membership by a net 3 active members.**

## Rotary Awareness Day

Rotary Awareness Day was a new initiative in 2008/09 and this will be our eighth year with the program. It is designed to help our Club gain new members as well as keep our community aware of what our Club accomplishes. Current Rotarians compile a guest list of community leaders to invite to a lunch meeting. We have presentations by Rotarians that show our guests what a wonderful Club we have and all the contributions we make both to the community and internationally. The 2016-2017 Rotary Awareness Day will be held in the fall prior to community members leaving for the winter months.

**2016-2017 Goal:    Gain 3 new members**

## Friends of Rotary

The Friends of Rotary Program began in 2010 and will allow members to be a part of the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake without the time that is required for a fulltime member. A Friend of Rotary would pay a nominal yearly fee of \$60.00 and be required to help with one fundraising event. Lunch meetings on Monday would not be mandatory but certainly welcomed any week. In return, the benefits will hopefully, increase awareness of the impacts of Rotary, increase full-time members, and generate increased participation at Rotary events.

**2016-2017 Goal:    Gain 2 Friends of Rotary members**

## **Interact Student Guests**

Each week (during the school year), two Interact students join Houghton Lake Rotarians at the regular luncheon meeting at Buccilli's restaurant, as their school schedule allows. This helps to keep the lines of communication open and awareness of the activities and projects of each Club. Rotarian Rhonda Lamberg chairs Interact.

**2016-2017 Goal: 100% Interact member participation.**

## **Spouse Appreciation Night**

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake holds a "Spouse Appreciation" night to thank the spouses of Rotarians for putting up with (and helping with) the hard work Rotarians commit to projects each year. Member, Anita Sheppard chairs this event. The appreciation nights include dinner and entertainment, allowing time for fellowship.

**2016-2017 Goal: 100% member and spouse attendance.**

## **Rotarian of the Year**

At the end of each year, the Club President, with input from the Club, chooses the Rotarian they believe has most demonstrated "service above self" as a tribute and thank you to the many hours that person volunteers to Rotary and other organizations. In 2016 this award went to Rotarian Anita Sheppard. Outgoing President Becky Yunker noted that Anita was her selection for "Rotarian of the Year" when she realized that throughout the year and with every difficult situation, Anita "had her back".

**2016-2017 Goal: Recognize a Rotarian of the Year.**

# PUBLIC RELATIONS

## Weekly Meeting Minutes

Each week, meeting minutes published and e-mailed to all members containing a recap of the previous week's program, Rotary International news, Club membership and project assignment information, and Interact Club membership and information. Rotarian and Club Secretary Denise Stefanko produces and distributes the weekly meeting minutes.

**2016-2017 Goal: Identify a Rotarian to serve as newsletter publisher and publish a weekly or monthly newsletter.**

## Weekly Program

The weekly greeter/program schedule was posted at the beginning of the year. Each Rotarian is responsible for the program during the week they are assigned to be the greeter. Programs that are entertaining, educational, or community oriented are scheduled by the individual. If a scheduling conflict arises, each Rotarian is to find a replacement or switch with someone to make sure a speaker is present. Once a month, Club Assembly takes the place of a guest program.

**2016-2017 Goal: Interesting & entertaining weekly programs scheduled at least one week in advance.**

## Club Web Site

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has maintained a web site at [www.hlrotary.org](http://www.hlrotary.org) since 1998. Rotarian and Webmaster Gary Gandolfi keeps the web site updated with Club membership, project information, Club history, and critical project documents for availability to Club members.

**2016-2017 Goal: Keep the club web site up to date and accurate.**

## Club Facebook Page

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake now has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HLRotary](http://www.facebook.com/HLRotary). Rotarian Taylor Akin created and maintains the social networking web page for the club.

**2016-2017 Goal: Keep the Facebook page up to date and accurate.**

## SERVICE PROJECTS - LOCAL

### **Annual Auction**

The largest fund-raiser for the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake is the annual Silent Auction held in the spring. The first Silent Auction took place in 2000 and each year it has raised over \$20,000 to help support The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake's various community and world projects. The 2016 Houghton Lake Rotary Silent Auction was held in April at the Houghton Lake Knight of Columbus with a Beatles Invasion theme. Rotarians are expected to procure a minimum dollar amount of auction items and assist in the set-up, operation, and clean-up of the auction. This past year's event raised over \$40,000 for the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake. The next Auction is scheduled for April 29, 2017.

**2016-2017 Goal: 100% member participation. Raise \$35,000.**

### **Camel Race**

The camel race is a joint project with the Kiwanis Club of Houghton Lake. Rotarians work with counterparts in the Kiwanis Club to plan and execute the event. This fun event involves local businesses who sponsor 'camels' which they name and decorate and then race at the event that took place last Fall. Proceeds from the event will be split 50/50 between the Clubs to be used for projects that support Houghton Lake youth.

**2016-2017 Goal: 100% member participation. Raise \$5,000.**

### **Adopt-A-Highway**

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake is an active Adopt-A-Highway sponsor for the section of M-55 running from US-127 to Federal Avenue in Houghton Lake. Rotarian Vickie Kalmbach maintains communication with MDOT and distributes the schedules and vests to Rotarians three times a year.

**2016-2017 Goal: 100% member participation.**

### **Rotary / Interact – Houghton Lake Area Bike Rodeo**

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake coordinates with Houghton Lake Public Schools during safety awareness week and sponsors a Bike Rodeo. Committee members Tom Moreau and Jim Raschke chair the event and supply Houghton Lake school children with new bicycle helmets to promote safety awareness. Helmets were supplied to Collins and Our Lady of the Lake Elementary students in Spring 2016. This event is next scheduled in the Spring of 2018. Mid Michigan Health has been a major donor to cover the cost of helmets.

## **Houghton Lake Rotary General Fund through the RCCF**

In 2000, the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake established a permanent endowment fund through the Roscommon County Community Foundation. An Advisory Committee made up of Houghton Lake Rotarians make recommendation to the Club for the distribution of these funds. The goal is to grow the fund so that our charitable giving is not susceptible to changes in our fundraising success. We have currently included \$1,000.00 in the 16-17 budget to support this fund which has a current fund balance of \$52,523.

**2016-2017 Goal: Continue building the RCCF fund to make our charitable giving independent of our budget.**

## **Houghton Lake Rotary Memorial Scholarship Fund through the RCCF**

In 2015, the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake established a permanent endowment fund through the Roscommon County Community Foundation. An Advisory Committee made up of Houghton Lake Rotarians made the recommendation to the Club to establish a fund in honor of deceased active members. The goal of this fund is to provide one or more annual scholarships to graduating Houghton Lake Community School Students to attend an accredited college, technical or skilled trade school. The goal in 2016 was to donate \$1,000 to the fund – instead, the club invested \$24,450 to bring the fund balance to \$29,682.

**2016-2017 Goal: Contribute \$10,000 to the RCCF memorial fund to make our scholarship giving independent of our budget.**

## **Houghton Lake Rotary Park Fund through the RCCF**

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has established a park endowment with the Roscommon Community Foundation to support park projects in the community. Over 15 years, the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake invested \$95,000 to complete soccer fields and a park in Denton Township. The club then partnered with Roscommon Township and donated \$8,000 to develop a picnic pavilion at Lakeview Park. In 2010, the club donated \$6000 to develop a T-ball field at the Graham/MacDonald Memorial Sports Complex. In May 2013, Trestle Park opened with the club donating \$5000 to the Denton Township Park. In 2016 the club donated \$2,500 each to the Happy Landings Playground renovation and the Our Lady of the Lake Playground renovation. The fund has a current balance of \$6,195.

**2016-2017 Goal: Continue to fund the endowment and support community parks.**

## **Citizen of the Year Award**

Each year, the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake recognizes a person in our community who exemplifies the Rotary motto "Service Above Self". Rotarians submit candidates with a description of why they would make a great "Citizen of the Year". The Rotary board approves a list of candidates. A Club committee selects the recipient who will receive a plaque to recognize this prestigious award. Last year's Houghton Lake Citizen of the Year was Judy Maass.

**2016-2017 Goal:     Recognize a local Citizen of the Year.**

## **Local Organization Support**

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake annually supports many local community service organizations with funds and/or volunteer support. In 2015-16, the club supported the following local organizations by donating a total of \$13,050.00:

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program
- Children's Miracle Network
- Children's Bereavement
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner
- HL Community Education
- Kids Helping Kids
- Lions Club Halloween Party
- Marguerite Gahagan Nature Preserve
- NM Children's Assessment Center
- Relay For Life
- Roscommon Literacy Center
- Russ Graham / Matt Grover Thanksgiving Dinner
- Shop with a Hero
- UPS Ed Charities
- Wertz Warriors

**2016-2017 Goal:     Continue using our grant system when awarding grant monies to the community.**

## SERVICE PROJECTS - YOUTH

### **Life Leadership Conference**

The Houghton Lake Rotary Club has provided scholarships for two local in-coming high school senior candidates to the Life Leadership Conference (LLC) held at the Kettenun Center in Tustin, MI every year. This year, the club has increased this number to three candidates for 2017. This past summer's attendees were Interact members, Lauren Haggart and Ashley Lee. Rotarian, Rhonda Lamberg, joined the LLC Staff and is a member of the LLC Board, as of June, 2016.

**2016-2017 Goal:      Send three students to the 2017 Life Leadership Conference.**

### **Student Scholarships**

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake annually presents \$4250.00 in scholarship money to graduating Houghton Lake High School students. The scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement combined with community service. One scholarship was given for participation in the Interact Club. Two scholarships are given for Service above Self. One scholarship was given for vocational studies. One scholarship is awarded for the Miss Houghton Lake Spirit award. We have formed a scholarship committee who developed guidelines and selects scholarship recipients.

**2016-2017 Goal:      Award \$4250.00 to Houghton Lake Graduates and continue to grow the Memorial Scholarship Endowment until the proceeds fund all Rotary Club of Houghton Lake scholarships.**

### **STRIVE**

STRIVE is a program that recognizes and rewards students, academically ranked in the lower one-third of the senior class, who demonstrate their desire for success by achievement in three areas: academics, attendance and attitude.

The top three scholars will receive scholarships. The third most improved scholar will receive \$250, the second most improved will receive \$500, and the most improved will receive a scholarship of \$750. 2016-17 Strive Chairpersons are Rotarians Taylar Akin and Kimberly Young.

**2016-2017 Goal:      Improve the academic standing of ten underachieving students and award three scholarships.**

## **INTERACT**

The Interact Club of Houghton Lake High School was chartered in 1995 and presently has 37 members from grades 9-12.

The purpose of the club is "to do good for others" while "serving above self". Another goal is to allow each member the opportunity to acquire leadership skills through brainstorming, hand's-on projects, good role models, and educational service opportunities. These leaders-in-training collect tools and resources (through planning, organizing, and serving others), that can be used during high school and beyond to help them identify areas of need and to help educate and encourage others as they serve people throughout the world.

The Interact Board of Directors includes a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and class representatives from each of the high school grade levels. The board meets once every month. The membership meet twice a month; for a morning and an after-school meeting. A minimum goal of the club annually, is to provide or support one school project, one community project and one international project.

Two members are invited each week to attend the local Rotary luncheon meeting to report on events, to network, and to observe and exchange leadership and service ideas.

Four of our Interact members represented our community at the Annual Interact District Conference on Saturday, November 12, in Muskegon. The members presented the success of our club's fundraising for our international service trip project that will take place in March 2017.

### **School and Community Projects for 2016-17 School Year:**

**Miss Houghton Lake Scholarship Program (Funding):** an award program for senior female students who apply themselves through an academic, talent, poise, and public-speaking presentation program to win scholarships for higher education. The club donated \$175 to this program held in October.

**Friends for Safe Schools Fund (Awareness Presentation):** Undersheriff Ben Lowe was invited to speak to the membership this November and he educated the group on an Adopt-A-Door program to assist in funding a security measure called "The Boot" at the high school and schools throughout our county. Members are discerning their participation in this program.

**UPS Ed Charities Coat-for-Kids Auction (Item Donations):** The local auction provides winter clothing for children in need. Interactors donated coats, scarves, hats, and mittens to benefit the children, and a Bobcat-themed gift basket (valued at \$55) to be auctioned at the event held in November.

**Kids Helping Kids Christmas Project (Funding and Hands-on Service):** a three-part foster care event that directly affects 45 youth and their families by providing a Christmas Program to benefit foster care children in Roscommon County. The program includes three evening events: a gift shopping event, a gift wrapping event, and a Christmas dinner event with Santa and Mrs. Claus, where Interactors are the elves who serve the meals and distribute the presents (that they had selected and wrapped) to the youth. This December, the club donated \$200 and provided a total of 23 volunteers over the three evenings of this project with great impact on 45 youth.

### **International Projects for 2016-17 School Year:**

**Children of the Dump (Awareness program and Fundraiser):** Children from underprivileged areas of Nicaragua make beaded bracelets to sell for their livelihood and the Interact Club purchases them for a nominal fee to assist the children. Club members, in turn, sell the bracelets in our local community for personal awareness of world needs and for club fundraising. The club has collected \$99 selling bracelets at a Rotary event in October and will make about \$200 total annually through bracelet sales and donations through this project.

**Educational Service Trip to El Salvador in March 2017 (Awareness, Fundraising, and Service):** Fourteen Interact members and their club advisor have volunteered to join fellow Interactors of our Rotary District to journey to San Salvador this coming spring to build concrete homes for those in need. Each volunteer is responsible for their trip cost of \$1300. Through the generosity of the Houghton Lake Rotary Club's donation of \$3000 to purchase the building supplies of one home, the cost per person for our members has been reduced to \$1000. Through awareness campaigns, in-kind donations and fundraisers (garage sales, change drives, returnable can/bottle drives, and bake sales), the club has raised over \$5100 so far, to help offset the cost of the trip for the students who participate.

### **Partial Plans for the Remainder of the School Year:**

- PolioPlus Awareness and Fundraising Project.
- Fiesta Funds Night at the local Taco Bell-a fundraising event to earn up to ~\$250.
- Friends For Safe Schools Fund-to possibly provide funds for one "Boot"~ \$250.
- Continued fundraising for the club's Educational International Service Trip.
- Donate an auction item to support the Annual Rotary Auction in April.
- Sell "Children of the Dump" bracelets- at the Rotary Auction as an awareness event and fundraiser.
- Beautify and Maintain the Bobcat Paw Landscape Area near the High School Football Concession Building.
- Relay for Life Cancer Awareness-Funding, and Participation for 2017 Campaign.



## **2016-2017 HLHS INTERACT OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN**

President	Courtney Ignat
Vice President	Lauren Haggart
Secretary	Madison Flick
Treasurer	Cameron Fulco
Senior Director	Ashley Lee
Junior Director	April Johnson
Sophomore Director	Joey Peterson
Freshman Director	Chloe Koupal

# SERVICE PROJECTS - INTERNATIONAL



## Long-term Inbound Exchange Students

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has sponsored eight long-term and four short-term inbound exchange students. Our last inbound student, Melanie Ruttkowski, was from Germany.

**2016-2017 Goal: Prepare one of our Club members to re-initiate the exchange student program in our club in 2017-2018.**



## Long-term Outbound Exchange Students

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has sponsored three short-term and two long-term outbound exchange students. Trisha Ancel was the Club's first outbound long-term exchange student in 1999. Trisha visited Brazil during her one-year exchange. In 2008-09 the Club sponsored Leah MacKenzie as the long-term outbound exchange student who has travelled to La Ligua, Chile.

**2016-2017 Goal: Prepare one of our Club members to re-initiate the exchange student program in our club in 2017-2018**



## Polio Plus

The Rotary Club of Houghton Lake has met and surpassed the District 6290 request for support. The club continues to meet the matching funds for Polio Plus.

**2016-2017 Goal: Provide \$2,000 to help eradicate polio.**



## **Rotary International Foundation Support**

Each July, the Rotary Club of Houghton Lake makes up to a \$1,000 donation to recognize the outgoing Club president as a Paul Harris Fellow. In July 2016, outgoing Rotary President Becky Yunker was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Rotarians are encouraged to add a \$25.00 donation to the Rotary Foundation when paying their quarterly dues.

**2016-2017 Goal: Have every member of the club donate to the Foundation.**

## **International Projects**

The Houghton Lake Rotary Club has pledged \$2,500 and will partner with the Cadillac and Roscommon Rotary Clubs to support Hands for Haiti with the purchase and renovation of an ambulance for a health clinic in Haiti.

**2016-2017 Goal: Complete the International Project with the Cadillac & Roscommon Rotary clubs.**



## 2016-2017 ROTARY OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

President	Jim VanSice
Past President	Rebecca Yuncker
President Elect	Denise Stefanko
President Nominee	TBD
Secretary	Denise Stefanko
Treasurer	Anita Sheppard
2 yr Director	Ann Cartier
1 yr Directors	Gary Gandolfi Susan Tyer
Sgt. at Arms	Susan Tyer
Membership	Koreen Hobbs-Pray
Public Relations	Gary Gandolfi
Rotary Foundation	Gary Gandolfi
District Interact Chair	Rhonda Lamberg
Service Projects	
-- Local	Tom Moreau
-- International	Rhonda Lamberg
Weekly Bulletin	TBD
Weekly Program	Each Rotarian
Interact	Rhonda Lamberg
Strive	Taylor Akin / Kimberly Young