

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary

InMotion



Club 16 (2809) District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916
<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

*Is it the truth?
 Is it fair to all concerned?
 Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
 Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*



Celebrating the people, events, and actions of the Muskegon Rotary Club November 20, 2025

Next Meeting (December 4, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — at the Delta
Program Topic – Update from Stuart Jones of GVSU’s Water Resources Institute

What’s Coming

- Nov 20 – ICCF Community Homes
- Nov 27—No Meeting
(Happy Thanksgiving)
- Dec 4 – AWRI (Robert B. Annis Water Resources Institute)

Upcoming Birthdays

- Nov 27 Kirk Hallman
- Nov 28 Gary Nelund
- Nov 30 Roger Morgenstern
- Dec 5 Philip Dickinson
- Dec 8 Mary Anne Gorman
- Dec 8 Scott Roodvoets
- Dec 9 Kathy Moore
- Dec 9 Meredith Smillie
- Dec 9 Jay Wallace

Caring Connections Fund



[Click this link to donate \\$10 on your birthday](#)

Greeters This Week

Cynthia Maynard & Michele Lipka

Stage Manager This Week

Joanie Smith

Reflector This Week

Susan Crain



It was another full meeting at the Delta this week!



President Dave brings the meeting to order and admits there is no good rock n roll play list with Thanksgiving themes!

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
 RIM Reporter – Jackie Farrar
 RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

Muskegon Rotary YouTube Video Links: [CLICK HERE](#)

Muskegon Rotary Board

- Dave Alexander, President
- Roger Morgenstern, President-Elect
- Lisa Tyler, President Nominee
- Tim Arter, Past President
- Kimberly Taylor, Treasurer
- Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary
- Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator
- Directors:
- Esther Ricco Brandon Turnbull
- Melissa Moore Tom Palmer
- Arlen-Dean Gaddy Dimitri Poland
- Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga Lisa Kraus

Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):



No Meeting November 27th

Visitors & Guests



Rich Houtteman introduces his guests, from left, Angela Delost and Kara Novack



Rob Taylor introduces his guest David Strate



Doug Wood, one of the Interact Committee leaders, introduced members of the Reeths-Puffer Interact group: Ryan England, Manuela Ribeiro, Olivia Yonkman and Grace Cosens



Amy Deming introduces her guest and work colleague Kaytlyn Honore



Jim Fisher introduces his guest Domenica Montalvo

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, & Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

If interested in joining the RIM team, [click here](#) to email the editors. 😊



Tom Palmer introduces his guest, Adam Birchmeier



Pete DeBoer introduces his guests, from left, Katie McLaren and Nokomis Lavine



Bill Loxterman, himself a former North Muskegon city council member, introduces the city's new Mayor Chris Nance



Marcia Hovey-Wright introduces her guest Christine Cleary



Arlen-Dean Gaddy introduces our speaker

This Week's Program:



ICCF Community Homes

Presenter: **Ryan VerWys**

Introduced by: **Arlen Dean-Gaddy**

RIM Reporter: **Jackie Farrar**



Our speaker, ICCF Community Homes Chief Executive Officer Ryan VerWys

Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF) has been in the Grand Rapids area since 1974. It all began when they received a single donation of a home. They gathered a group of volunteers to help renovate the house and later sold it to a low-income family. Decades later, the work has increased, and they have expanded services to the Muskegon area.



ICCF acquired 29 rental homes from the closing nonprofit Community enCompass. ICCF provides Homebuyer Education classes that focus on affordable housing and creating homeownership opportunities for low-income households. The ICCF vision is to have vibrant communities in West Michigan with connected neighbors, housing justice, and abundant opportunity. To learn more about ICCF or ways to volunteer [Click here](#)

What's next?

Listening

Building relationships

Homebuyer Ed and Housing Counseling



Kendrah Robinson was one of several Rotarians with questions for our speaker.

Rotary ReWine Schedule

1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
5:00-5:15pm Social time
5:15pm Meeting start time at the Core Plaza (Vault)

Contact **Kaytie Drake**
at kaytieely@aol.com for more info

Rotary In Action The Rotary Foundation

The
Rotary
Foundation



Rotary's own charity

This video is a narrated version of The Rotary Foundation Showcase. It showcases many of the areas benefitting from Rotary projects funded by The Rotary Foundation including the seven focus areas (Promoting Peace, Fighting Disease, Providing Clean Water/Sanitation/Hygiene, Saving Mothers and Children, Supporting Education, Growing Local Economies, and Protecting the Environment), Polio Eradication, and Disaster Relief.

Watch the video [here](#).

For more information, see page 6 of this RIM Newsletter.



Announcements

Brave Rotarians



Nancy Crandall, a Rotarian since 1995 and former Club President, shared with the Club why she and her husband, **Don**, support the Rotary International Foundation each year. She said it all began with a "clean water" trip they took to Honduras in 2007. "We saw first-hand how Rotary makes a difference in the world," she said. November is Rotary International Foundation Month and **President Dave** also showed a video outlining the work funded worldwide by the Foundation. In one of our local "contests" to help support the RI Foundation and raise awareness, 10 Rotarians each contributed \$100. The final "Brave Rotarian" left after we nicely eliminate others from the "wheel of fortune" highlighting photos of President Dave's favorite Muskegon area locations, will be given a \$1,000 Paul Harris Fellow. This week it was time to say farewell to the Susans, with **Susan Holkeboer** and **Susan Besteman** both eliminated. If you have questions about the RI Foundation, please see **Nancy**, **Meredith Smillie**, **Ginny Sprague** or other members who regularly share with us the RI Foundation's good works.



Muskegon Rotary Environmental Committee



While *RIM* went to press after this event, **Pete DeBoer** of the Environmental Committee outlined the good work that was planned for several hours Friday Nov. 21 at Muskegon County's Dune Harbor Park in Norton Shores. Twelve students from the Orchard View and Muskegon High School Interact clubs were joined with up to 75 Interactors from Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change to plant **3,950** native tree seedlings that will enhance habitat and improve long-term environmental health. This is a project working with Muskegon County Parks and Muskegon Soil Conservation District to improve our newest County Park.



Please see **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** if you are interested in the June 21-28 Library Build with Chispa Trip to Honduras. The cost (minus airfare) is \$850 per person. This is the third year our Club and others, including the Grand Haven Club, have assisted Chispa in creating new libraries in Honduras.



Giving kids their first books

In Spanish, "chispas" means "spark", which is exactly our goal: to inspire and empower Honduran students with access to books.

Chispa Project works to create school libraries and spark a passion for learning that will grow and be nurtured through a community driven approach. Since 2016, over 70,000 books have been delivered to more than 100 schools and organizations.

What's next? Read about the NEXT CHAPTER for 2025, as the Honduran school year starts in February. We have 10 new libraries planned, and we'll continue supporting our 2025 schools for another whole year to enhance the sustainability of their Chispa libraries.



New Member Orientation

The next New Member Orientation is being moved a week later than usual to Dec. 10. It will still be at the Shoreline Inn from 8-9:30 a.m. Contact **Doug Wood** if you have questions.

Food Donations Needed



Rob Mathis of Citiboi shared how the food pantry they run is getting very low on supplies because of the recent upsurge in need caused by the federal government shutdown. Please contact Rob if you can help. www.Citiboi.org



Thanksgiving Dinner Drive



NEEDED DRY GOODS:

- Canned Vegetables
- Stuffing Mix
- Instant Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce
- Pasta & Rice

DROP-OFF LOCATION:
318 Center St., Suite 8
North Muskegon, MI 94445

CALL FOR SUPPORT! Schools,
Volunteers & Community
Partners Needed!

Contact: 231-284-9932 | www.citiboi.org

Annual Meeting – Dec. 11

The club annual meeting will be on Thursday, December 11th when the membership will vote on a slate of officers and new board of directors who will take office on July 1, 2026.

The Nominating Committee has provided this slate of officers and new members of the board of directors for the 2026-27 Rotary year. The Board of Directors has presented this slate for the Dec. 11 election.

The Slate of Officers and new Directors terms starting July 1, 2026

President: **Roger Morgenstern**

President Elect: **Lisa Tyler**

Co-president Nominees: **Arlen Dean-Gaddy & Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**

Treasurer: **Kim Taylor**

Past President: **Dave Alexander**

Board of Directors

Martha Fohlbrook -- 3 year term

replacing **Brandon Turnbull**

John Selmon -- 2 year term

replacing **Arlen Dean-Gaddy**

Kelly DeVos -- 2 year term

replacing **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**

Holiday Lunch – Dec. 18

Thursday, December 18th, Rotary will serve a holiday celebration luncheon. This will not be a formal meeting but a social time to share fellowship with Rotarians, their significant others, and guests. More information to come later in the upcoming RIM editions.

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E46: Dan Tavernier - City of Whitehall



From the Coast Guard to City Hall.

In the latest episode of Muskegon Rising, host Aaron Maiké sits down with Dan Tavernier, the new City Manager of Whitehall, to talk about his journey from a 20-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard to leading one of West Michigan's most charming lakeshore communities.

Dan shares how military leadership, crisis management, and teamwork prepared him for civic life, why he keeps an open-door policy for residents, and what's ahead for Whitehall, including:

- The West Colby Connector and connecting downtown to the marina
- Investments in roads, water, and infrastructure
- Growing tourism, retail, and manufacturing while protecting Whitehall's small-town feel

If you live, work, or play in Whitehall (or just care about strong local leadership), this one is worth a listen.

Listen to S2E46 with Dan

Tavernier: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18213138-dan-tavernier-city-of-whitehall>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

NEW TEAM MEMBER BONUS!

Don't miss out on these offers for you and your household members!

- Free, Full-access Day Pass
- Waived Member Initiation Fees Save \$50/membership

Celebrate our partnership and join us!
★ Redeem within 30 days of your start date ★

NEAL FITNESS CENTER

nealfitnesscenter.com



Every Rotarian Every Year

November is a special time of the year as we celebrate our Rotary Foundation and the impact that we are having around the world. And our impact is significant! The **Muskegon Rotary Foundation** is the philanthropic arm of the Rotary Club of Muskegon.

Its primary purpose is to **fund programs and projects** primarily within **Muskegon County** for the betterment of its citizens.

- **Funding:** The Foundation's grants are typically derived from annual earnings and various fundraising efforts like Harvest Fest and Parties in the Park. Grants often range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.
- **Priorities:** They look for fresh, innovative approaches to community needs that align with the Rotary Four-Way Test (Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?).
- **Impact:** The Foundation supports a variety of local charitable and community organizations, focusing on creating broad, sustainable impact in the Muskegon area.

Essentially, it is a dedicated source of funding for community improvement initiatives driven by the values of the Muskegon Rotary Club.

Rotarians are encouraged to donate to the Muskegon Rotary Foundation for a combination of personal commitment, local impact, and alignment with the global mission of Rotary.

Here are the key reasons why Rotarians should support their local foundation:

1. Direct Local Impact in Muskegon County

The Muskegon Rotary Foundation is the primary engine for the club's local service projects.

- **Funding Community Projects:** Your donation provides the capital for the Foundation to issue grants (typically \$5,000 to \$15,000) directly to local non-profits and community groups.

Yes! I want to help The Rotary Foundation keep Doing Good in the World!

If you are a Rotarian, please complete:

Name _____
 Rotary Club of _____
 Club Number _____

If you are a Rotarian, please complete:

Billing Address _____
 City _____ State/Prov _____
 Postal Code _____ Country _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Please direct my gift to (choose one):

Where the need is greatest: Saving mothers and children
 Promoting peace
 Promoting economic development
 Supporting education
 Fighting disease
 Responding to disasters

Gift Amount (US\$)

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other: \$ _____

Please send your contributions to:

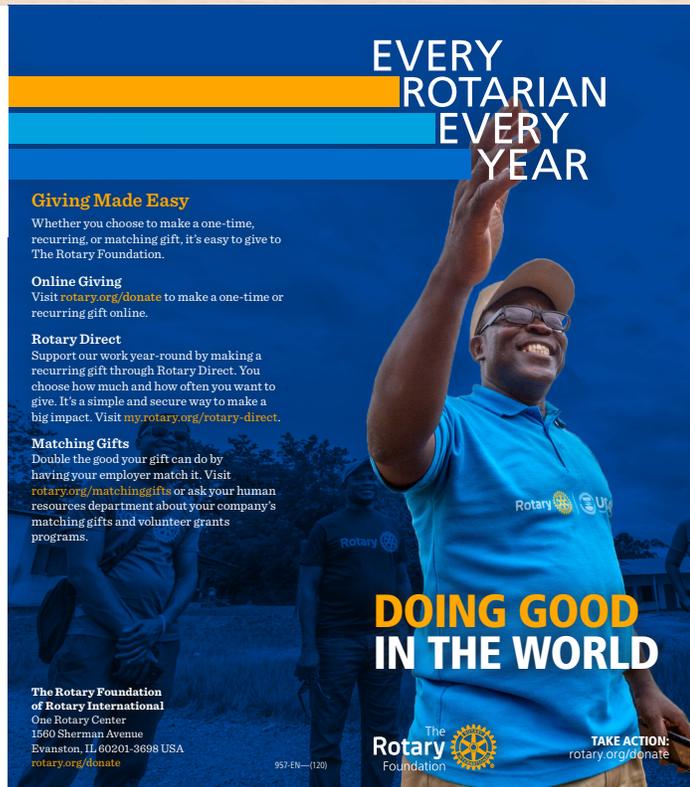
The Rotary Foundation
 1560 Sherman Avenue
 Evanston, IL 60201-3898 USA
 rotary.org/donate

International Office Locations:

Brazil: São Paulo, Brazil
 Canada: Toronto, Canada
 Japan: Tokyo, Japan
 Korea: Seoul, Korea
 India: New Delhi, India
 South Pacific and Philippines: Manila, Philippines
 Panama: Panama, Panama
 and other: Accra, Ghana

Check enclosed, payable to The Rotary Foundation. Contact me about joining the Paul Harris Society. Contributions are tax deductible where allowed by law.

FORM 00004



- **Addressing Local Needs:** It supports initiatives that specifically align with the needs and values identified by the Muskegon Rotary Club, such as education, civic improvement, and fresh approaches to social challenges in the greater Muskegon area.
- **Tangible Results:** Donating locally allows you to see the tangible results of your charitable giving in the community where you live and serve.

2. Upholding the Rotary Value of Service

Rotary's core mission is "Service Above Self." Contributing to the Foundation is the financial component that makes this service possible.

- **Leveraging Fundraising:** Donations from Rotarians complement the funds raised through club activities like Harvest Fest and Parties in the Park, maximizing the total pool of money available for good works.
- **Sustainability:** Your contribution helps build the Foundation's endowment, ensuring a steady, long-

term source of funding for future projects, making your impact last beyond your tenure.

3. Financial and Recognition Benefits (Part of Rotary International)

As a component of the broader Rotary movement, donations offer specific recognition and tax benefits:

- **Tax Deductions:** Donations to the Foundation are typically tax-deductible (consult a tax advisor).
- **Donor Recognition:** Contributions can count toward various recognized giving levels within Rotary International, such as being a **Paul Harris Fellow** or a **Sustaining Member**, which acknowledges your personal commitment to the cause.

In short, donating to the **Muskegon Rotary Foundation** is the most direct way for a Rotarian to financially support the club's mission to "**Do Good in the World**"—starting right here in Muskegon.

Contact **Meredith Smillie** – [CLICK HERE](#)

By-Laws Amendment



The Board this week established some important dates for the end of the calendar year. There will be a membership vote on a club by-laws amendment at the Thursday Dec. 4 meeting.

Muskegon Rotary Club members:
Please see the attached proposed by-law amendments to allow for co-presidents. Co-presidents were proposed by the Nominating Committee and supported by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has approved the by-law amendments and is now sending them on to the membership for review and a final membership vote at the club lunch meeting on Thursday Dec. 4, noon at The Delta. Please reach out to Muskegon Rotary Club President **Dave Alexander** by phone or text for any questions or clarifications.

Muskegon Rotary Club bylaw amendments approved by the board 11/11/2025, published and shared with members for a membership vote at the Club meeting on 12-4-2025. Amended language is underlined.

Article 2— Board

Section 1— The governing body of this Club shall be the Board of Directors, consisting of thirteen members of this Club, namely eight directors, elected in accordance with Article 3, Section 1, of these Bylaws, and the president, president-elect, president-nominee, treasurer, and the immediate past-president. With co-presidents, there would be 14 members of the board and in the case of a tie vote, the outcome of that vote would be determined by the immediate past-president.

Article 4— Duties of Officers

Section 1— President/Co-Presidents

- (a) It shall be the duty of the president to preside at meetings of the Club and the Board and to perform other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of president.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall have the option of nominating, and the members shall have the option of electing, two (2) co-presidents in any Rotary year. Each co-president must meet the requirements of the office of president, and both will move through the progression of president nominee, president elect, president and past president. Each co-president will be a member of the Club Board of Directors through the presidential progression with each having individual votes on the board. The sharing of presidential duties will be determined by the co-presidents between themselves, but may be subject to approval by the Club Board of Directors, and any disagreements between the co-presidents shall be resolved by the Club Board of Directors.

Muskegon Rotary Foundation Grants

We are happy to announce the 2025-26 round of Muskegon Rotary Foundation Grants. These grants are available to Muskegon area non-profits for activities and projects that are consistent with the Muskegon Rotary Principles and Priorities.

The Grant Guidelines and Timeline are attached and can be found on our Website - [MuskegonRotary.org](https://www.MuskegonRotary.org) - in the Our Club tab. Please contact us at muskegonrotary@gmail.com with any questions or clarifications.

Please pass the word on to any Muskegon area non-profits who may

need support in the good work they are doing in our community.

The Letters of Inquiry are due on Friday, December 19, 2025, at 5:00. If the letters are accepted a completed grant application will be due on Friday, January 16, 2026.