

Next Meeting (12/1/22) — Muskegon Rotary Interact Program 2 Interact students & 2 Rotarians describe what Interact is, its benefits to youth and our community, & plans for the school year

This is it: the absolute edge of no return: to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim" - William Faulkner

MEETER - GREETER

Heidi Sytsema

REFLECTOR

Bill Loxterman	Nov 17
Kathy Moore	Dec 1
Joanie Smith	Dec 8
Eileen Stoffan	Dec 15

DEC 1 WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Kelsey Rhoda	Dec 4
Philip Dickinson	Dec 5
Lisa Metzdorf	Dec 7
Caring Connections	Fund

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

Nov 17 - United Way of the Lakeshore Nov 24 - THANKSGIVING – NO CLUB MEETING Dec 1 - Muskegon Rotary Interact Dec 1 - ReWine @ Burl & Sprig Dec 8 - AvaSure Dec 15 - Lazarusman Consulting Dec 22 - Holiday Break – NO CLUB MEETING Dec 29 - Holiday Break – NO CLUB MEETING



VISITORS & GUESTS



Club Coordinator **Kim Boersema**, wanting to keep us on schedule, quickly hands off the mic after introducing her guest Loganne Glendenning



Darlene Collet and Bill Loxterman, pressed into service by the otherwise busy John Noling, hosted North Muskegon Interact students Bear Brewer and Raina Nickle.

> Missed a week? Watch the entire 11/17/22 meeting <u>here</u>.

Rob Taylor and his guest Andre Williams.





Christine Robere introducing her United Way team of (from left) Jana Routt, Miranda Paggeot, & Dominque Bunker.

Other Duties as Assigned:

President Jane holds up the Club Banner so as not to interrupt the introduction of this week's guests.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



November – Rotary Foundation Month

November is the Rotary Foundation Month, and we ask all Rotarians to demonstrate their support of The Rotary Foundation. The Every Rotarian Every Year Annual Fund campaign is the best way to show your financial support of the humanitarian and educational programs of The Rotary Foundation that save and invigorate the lives of people around the world and enhance international friendship and understanding. Thank you to the many Muskegon Rotarians who contribute to the Every Rotarian Every Year campaign; we appreciate your generosity.

Each year Muskegon Rotary sets a goal to increase the number of our members who support the Every Rotarian Every Year appeal. Our aspirational goal is to have 100% participation in this vital initiative to support The Rotary Foundation. Muskegon Rotarians give generously of their time, talent, and treasure to help our community. Every Rotarian Every Year allows you to support programs around the world. Please consider a donation to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund through Every Rotarian Every Year program. You will find the contribution form at the end of this RIM newsletter or please get in touch with Ginny **Sprague** with any questions about contributing to Every Rotarian Every Year. We appreciate your consideration.

https://www.rotary.org/en/aboutrotary/rotary-foundation

Brave Rotarians Poetic License Contest



Jules Terry, Ginny Sprague's able assistant this week for the latest rendition of Poetic License Brave Rotarians Contest. This week's two Rotarians who were thanked for their contributions and eliminated were Jim Fisher (under the Imagery category) and Heidi Systema (under the Sonnets category). It is believed Heidi left the meeting early to recite sonnets as she was nowhere to be found when her name was called.

Interact News from North Muskegon Middle School



We heard from North Muskegon Middle School Interactors Bear Brewer and Raina Nickle who shared with us some of the great activities they've been doing on the Northside. In addition to collecting 3,000 food items and cash for the Turkey Trot Food Drive to be presented to the Muskegon Rescue Mission, they have raised over \$900 for the Water Will Trust, \$1,500 raised for suicide prevention awareness and planted 50 trees in the Bear Lake Preserve. And these folks are middle schoolers. Way to go!



Rotary Youth Exchange



The District 6290 Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Conference was a huge success thanks to so many Rotarians and friends. The RYE Committee would like to thank Rotarians Lin Turnage, Alan Alpert, Eileen Stoffan, Kim Keesen, Craig Pirrotta, Claire Root-Benson, Annette Smedley, Ammy Seymour, Heidi and Marty Sytsema, Melinda Mitchel-Mills from Sault Ontario Rotary, Catherine Ristola from Holland Rotary, and community host parents Doug and Betty Wood and Bryan and Casey Ross for all they did to make this event so special for these extraordinary kids! We also thank District Coordinator Peggy Harold for her leadership!

A special thanks to Boys and Girls Club Keystone student volunteers and their leaders, Laura Hardy and Virginia Taylor for their efforts in working on a Nelson Neighborhood service project during the weekend.

Thank you Muskegon Rotary YE Committee:

Chip Chipman, John Noling, Kristi Pawlak, Joanie Smith, Lin Turnage

For an inside look at more pictures from this group— CLICK HERE



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: United Way of the Lakeshore



Speaker: Christine Robere Reporter: Roger Morgenstern



It's always fun when a Club presentation comes from one of our own, and **Christine Robere** did not disappoint. Christine has been the CEO of the United Way of the Lakeshore since January 2003. (A quick aside...has it really been that long?? This RIM correspondent was a United Way campaign volunteer at the time...but I digress). She has been a United Way professional for 29 years, serving in Midland and Gaylord before coming to Muskegon. A MSU graduate (which got the usual "Go Green, Go White" and mumblings of "Go Blue" from the audience), Christine smiled and said "we're the United Way, not the divided way."

She thanked Rotary for its longtime partnership with United Way, which is now in its 104th year. Our Club provides the largest group of volunteers for the annual Day of Caring which kicks off each annual fund-raising campaign in the fall (we all know it's hard to tell **John Noling** no) and we've partnered with United Way on a number of things over the years.

Christine played the United Way's current campaign video which highlights three areas: Mental health (with a focus from Catholic Charities of West Michigan), youth mentoring (with a focus from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Lakeshore) providing stability to families with childcare (focused on the Muskegon YMCA's Learning Center).

"These are three programs we're highlighting among our 54 agencies and 78 programs that are part of a family of partners that deliver our collective impact work," Robere said.

Link for all the programs:

https://www.unitedwaylakeshore.org /Our-Programs

Numbers tell the story of United Way of the Lakeshore's reach, which encompasses Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo counties:

- Last year, 114,878 individuals were served;
- \$1.4 million was invested in programs that improve education, remove barriers to income stability for families like housing, child care and transportation and improving health and community.

• These funds leveraged an additional \$3.2 million for grants and other resources.

- More than 17,500 volunteer hours were logged by more than 6,000 volunteers.
- United Way's 2-1-1 helpline reported 21,000 calls for assistance.

In addition to all the Rotarian volunteers for group activities, Christine also thanked member who have served and currently serve on its Board of Directors, including current board chairperson **Kathy Moore**, immediate past chair **Gary Nelund** and vice chair and incoming chairperson **Rich Houtteman**. When she asked folks to raise their hands as former board or campaign volunteers, a lot of arms shot up!

United Way's focus on early childhood literacy has achieved proven results. First created in 2012, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library got off the ground with several initial gifts and then broader community support. Today, more than 6,000 children ages 0-5 receive a book a month in their home which includes their name. She said 100 percent of the parents report reading more frequently to their children and 71 percent saying they read daily.

The programs focused on improving the graduation rate in Muskegon County is another success. Since 2010, Muskegon County's high school dropout rate has decreased by 19 percent.

As these successes took hold, Robere said housing emerged as the most challenging issue. With financial support from Muskegon County Veteran's Affairs, the city of Muskegon, the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and Trinity Health, United Way created a Housing and Homeless Network Coordinator and hired Miranda Paggeot, who has nearly a decade of experience in this field. Robere also thanked fellow Rotarian Jamie Hekker, for her tireless volunteer work to chair the United Way's Homeless Continuum.

Among the statistics that show the housing challenge:

• 52 percent of Michigan families with children spend more than 35 percent of their income on housing;

• Only 26 percent of black families with children owned their own home.

• According to the Muskegon County Homeless Continuum of Care Network, 492 individuals experienced homelessness while 377 households experienced homelessness "and we know these numbers are underreported," Robere said.

Christine thanked the Community Foundation for its leadership of a Muskegon County housing study, which is now getting underway. "This study is so needed. Data is needed so we can talk to our elected officials to direct governmental funds so our donor dollars can go to needs elsewhere."

She closed by telling the Club "Thank you for your support through the toughest two years of our history."



Thank You Muskegon Rotary Club!

United Way of the Lakeshore



New Member:

Danielle Risley



Danielle Risley is from Alpena and moved to Muskegon in 2010 for her first teaching job at North Muskegon Public Schools where she met her husband, Ryan Risley when he was working part time in the district. They have been married since 2013 and have a four-year-old son named Remy and a two-year-old son named Eli.

She earned her Bachelor of Science through Central Michigan University, completed a chemistry endorsement through Baker College of Muskegon, and is currently more than have way through her Master of Science in Administration.

At North Muskegon, she has taught all grade levels and a variety of subjects with a primary concentration in Health and Physical Education. Beyond the classroom, Danielle has been involved with Union Leadership, Wellness Committees, participates as a Lead Teacher and is a member of the Sexual Education Advisory Board.

New this year, she is the middle school Interact Class teacher and the high school Interact mentor. She asked for this role because she has a history of volunteering such as running can drives, going to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and going to Honduras for eye care. Danielle is excited for new service opportunities and projects as a Rotarian. **Curt Babcock** is Danielle's sponsor and was pleased to introduce his friend and colleague as our newest member. He said "she's one of the busiest people I know" and most recently has added North Muskegon's Rotary Interact adviser to her duties. "I'm really proud that Danielle is joining Rotary," Curt said. "She's volunteered her whole life and this is just the next step."

This Week's Spotlight: Eric Seifert



We heard from **Eric Seifert**, who among his financial services clients are the Muskegon Angels, a group of 25 investors formed in 2013 to provide financial support for both startup and existing businesses. He said many of the participants make up a "Silver Tsunami" of retiring business leaders who want to make Muskegon a great place to do business. "Our main goal is to keep businesses locally owned," Eric said.

Watch Eric's full interview here.

At Rotary, efforts are directed for local and global impact. The most successful and sustainable projects and activities tend to fall within promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment. Some of our local efforts organized to fulfill those goals are through Angel Investors. Contact Eric for more information.

Paul Harris Fellow Plus One Award:



Ginny Sprague presenting Christine Robere with her Paul

Harris Fellow Plus 1 pin recognizing her contributions to the Rotary International Foundation.





Holidays in the City is a collaboration between the Downtown Development Authority, the City of Muskegon, the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, and downtown businesses and organizations to bring you the very best of our downtown during the holiday season. Every weekend from Thanksgiving through Christmas, there are fun and exciting holiday events taking place! Explore all the great things downtown Muskegon has to offer this holiday season! Holidays in the City kicks off on November 26 with Small Business Saturday and the community Christmas tree lighting in Hackley Park.

Click here for more information.

Contributed by John Noling

All the Latest and Best:



• 23 active Interact clubs in District 6290, 4 more tinkering with restarting

• 6 are Muskegon clubs: North Musk, Mona Shores, Muskegon High, Orchard View, Reeths-Puffer, and Oakridge at various stages of organization

- 12 or more local Interactors signing up for El Salvador service trip Mar 29-April 6 from 5 clubs at cost of \$1300 plus passport fees
- Building five more homes in Talnique, El Salvador is the goal with approx 55 total participants on trip

• POP CANS NEEDED! for helping many students finance the trip, so please help and bring to Rotary or call John Noling or Blake Cramer

- At least 3 more Rotary chaperones from Muskegon going on trip
- Get Your Chili J On! scheduled for Feb 9 to raise funds for materials for one complete house in Talnique is the goal (\$4000)
- North Muskegon club voted \$400 to Red Cross for Hurricane Ian Relief recently!
- North Muskegon Middle School Interact classes partnering with us for Turkey Trot to provide food items for Muskegon Rescue Mission pantry
- Orchard View pursuing purchase of wheelchair for polio victims through Wheels of Hope!
- Congrats to former and amazing NM Interactor Bella Lindsay for her \$16,000 fundraising efforts for upgrades to medical clinics in Gambia
- Thanks to Muskegon Rotary for community grant to help bring national speaker Molly Kennedy to 5 area high schools
- Thanks to Rotarian Craig Pirrotta for generous donation to Mona Shores Interact for planting 100 trees on his property
- Look for Dec 1 Rotary Program on Interact with impressive panel of Interact Presidents sharing their stories.

Muskegon Rotary Board

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Jason Piasecki Don Hutchins Kim Boersema Asaline Scott Marty Gerencer

Please email Club Board Members through this link:

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Shop Small Saturday, November 26, 2022

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE











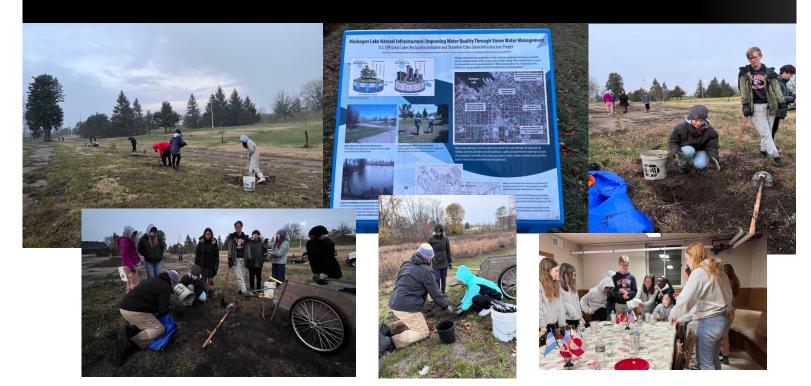












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EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

Giving Made Easy

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Online Giving

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□ \$25

28\$ 🗆

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(Annual Fund-SHARE) Providing clean water Supporting education

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Where the need is greatest

Please direct my gift to (choose one):

Visit rotary.org/donate to make a one-time or recurring gift online.

Rotary Direct

Support our work year-round by making a recurring gift through Rotary Direct. You choose how much and how often you want to give. It's a simple and secure way to make a big impact. Visit my.rotary.org/rotary-direct

Matching Gifts

Double the good your gift can do by having your employer match it. Visit rotary.org/matchinggifts or ask your human resources department about your company's matching gifts and volunteer grants programs.

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TAKE ACTION:

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Rotary

DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

YOUR GIFT AT WORK

Saving mothers and children
Promoting peace
Growing local economies
Responding to disasters

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives close to home and around the world.

By giving to the Annual Fund, you make these life-changing projects possible so that together, we can keep Doing Good in the World.



Annual Fund-SHARE

The Annual Fund is the main funding source for Foundation programs. Your gift empowers Rotarians to carry out sustainable service projects in your community and around the world. At the end of each year, contributions directed to Annual Fund-SHARE from all Rotary clubs in the district are divided between the World Fund and the District Designated Fund.

Rotary

Foundation

The Rotary Foundation uses the World Fund to support Rotary's highest-priority grants and programs, which are available to all Rotary districts. Your district uses the District Designated Fund to pay for Foundation, club, and district projects the clubs in your district choose.

We're an organization you can support with confidence. We've dedicated about 90 percent of our total spending to programs over the past 10 years, far exceeding the efficiency standards set by independent charity-rating services.

We Appreciate Your Support

The Rotary Foundation offers the following individual and club recognition to express our gratitude to Annual Fund donors. Visit rotary.org/recognition for a complete list of our donor recognition opportunities.

Sustaining member	When you give \$100 or more in a year
Paul Harris Fellow	When you give \$1,000 or more in your lifetime
Paul Harris Society member	When you elect to give \$1,000 or more annually
Every Rotarian, Every Year Club	When club giving reaches \$100 per capita or more and all dues-paying members give \$25 in a year



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

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