

Rotary InMotion

Rotary
Club Of Muskegon



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 30, 2023

Next Meeting (December 7, 2023, 12-1:30pm) — Soup & Sandwich Buffet at the Delta
Program topic – Trinity Health Heart Center

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

Nov 30—Department of Health & Human Services
Dec 7—Trinity Health Heart Center
Dec 7—**ReWine at 5:15 pm**
Dec 14—Holiday Lunch with board elections (guests are encouraged)
Dec 21—No meeting
Dec 28—No meeting
Jan 4, 2024—Welcome Back

Upcoming Birthdays

Mary Anne Gorman	Dec 8
Kathy Moore	Dec 9
Meredith Smillie	Dec 9
Jay Wallace	Dec 9
Melissa Moore	Dec 13

Caring Connections Fund

(Remember to donate \$10 on your birthday for this great cause!)

Meeter - Greeter

Heidi Sytsema & Walter Mrotz

Reflectors

Jill Bonthuis	Nov 30
Meredith Smillie	Dec 7
Darlene Collette	Dec 14
OPEN	Jan 4

Muskegon Rotary Board

Ginny Sprague, President
Tim Arter, President-Elect
Dave Alexander, President Nominee
Jane Clingman-Scott, Past President
Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer
Don Hutchins, Secretary
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

Directors:

Aaron Maike	Roger Morgenstern
David Ramos	Asaline Scott
Marty Sytsema	Brandon Turnbull

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

VISITORS & GUESTS



Meredith Smillie introduces her guest and co-worker Tim Nolan.



Laura Lorenz introduces her guest, Dustin Napper.



Kirk Hallman introduces his guest and co-worker Ruby Charse.



Rachel Gorman shares a laugh, saying they're both from the Green Table, and introduces her guest, Amy James.



Rob Mathis introduces his guest, wife and business partner, Reyna Mathis.



John Rupert introduces his guest, co-worker, and prospective member Nick Green.



Marty Sytsema introduced our guests from the Career Tech Center, which serves all public, private, & home-schooled students in the county. From left are students Chloe Welch, a senior from Whitehall High School, Stephon Oakes, a senior at Orchard View High School and their CTC counselor Laura Wiles.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Muskegon County Department of Health & Human Services



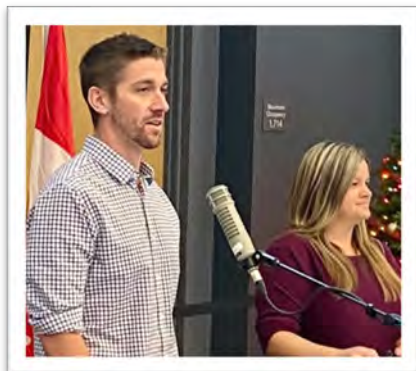
Speakers: Brian Charron &
Tasha Merlington

Introduced by: **Kris Collee**

RIM Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

RIM Photographer: **Roger Morgenstern**

The Muskegon County division of the state's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides critical programs to keep families, and especially children, safe in our community. Our presenters were Brian Charron, program manager of Child Protective Services, and Assistance Payments Program Manager Tasha Merlington. DHHS is divided into two sections, assistance payments and child protective services.



Tasha said a new program launching next February will improve efficiencies but will be a big change for assistance clients. Called Universal Caseload, when clients contact DHHS, any case manager can assist them, not just the one assigned to them. "That will be a big change and take some use time to get used to it."

Brian said on the child protective services side, he thinks the biggest misconception is that children are

Muskegon County Services Array

Program	Providers	Service	Contract	Comments
In Home Family Services	CCWM	In Home CPS/FC	Local	6 month program
Families First	Samaritas	In Home CPS	Lansing	28 day program
Family Together Building Solutions	Wellspring	In Home CPS/P2P	Lansing	90 day program
Family Reunification Program	CCWM	In Home FC	Lansing	4 month program
Parenting Time Support Services	CCWM	In Home FC	Lansing	6 month program
Domestic Violence Informed Parenting	CCWM	In Home CPS/FC	Local	3 month program
DV Support Services	Every Woman's	CPS/FC	NA	NA
Mental Health Referral	Health West	CPS/FC	NA	NA
Substance Use Disorder Referral	Health West	CPS/FC	NA	NA
Prevention Program	MDHHS	In Home	NA	NA
Pathways to Potential	MDHHS	In Home/School	NA	NA

Service Gaps/Needs in Community:

Housing, residential substance abuse/detox, domestic violence, services for adopted families, additional mental health services

(This slide shows the array of services offered by DHHS and its local partners.)



removed whenever CPS is called. In fact, as data he presented showed, only about 25 percent of the investigated cases result in a child's removal. The data also show that the percentage of cases of neglect and abuse, where CPS is involved, are essentially the same across the county and not confined to certain geographic areas.

Charron made a plug for a need for more foster families in Muskegon. The slide below shows the need. If you are



interested in becoming a foster parent, please contact Wendy Mansfield, foster home licensing supervisor, at (231) 327-6798 or Mansfield@michigan.gov.

*** To watch their presentation, please [click here](#) for last week's YouTube video of our meeting. ***

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Lori Weiler

Reporters: Jackie Farrar, Kathy Moore

Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie

Photographers: Mark Alpher &

Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: Bill Johanson, John Noling, & Mike Vogas

11/30/2023 – Editor: **Susan Besteman**
Reporter & Photographer:

Roger Morgenstern

We NEED Muskegon County Foster Parents!

Currently, there are around 400 children in foster care in Muskegon County.

Our agency has 60 total foster homes.

The number doesn't add up!

Other placement options; private agency foster homes, relatives, residential treatment facilities, and independent living placements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminders

President Ginny

shared with us some important reminders. Our annual meeting, featuring a special lunch where members can bring along their spouse or significant other at **no charge**, is December 14th. We won't meet Dec. 21 or 28 and will be back January 4th.



New Member Orientation



According to **Doug Wood**, the next new member orientation session is Dec. 6 at 8am at the Shoreline Inn.

RIM Newsletter Changes



RIM co-editor **Susan Besteman** stepped out from her admittedly "behind the scenes" role to both ham it up for RIM's photographer (**Roger Morgenstern**) and to share with the Club that the weekly newsletter is getting a fresh look and other improvements (if you're reading this, you know what some of the changes are!). This RIM correspondent (**Roger Morgenstern**) personally passes along many thanks to Susan and co-editor **Lori Weiler** for their work on the revised format and for all they do every week to keep all of us informed. Feedback is welcome by clicking [HERE](#) or let Susan, Lori, or other intrepid RIM staffers know what you think of the changes! Susan thanked **President Ginny** for her support of the changes and sharing that our Club's newsletter is mightily praised when she chats with other clubs across the sprawling Rotary District 6290.

Brave Rotarian Wheel of Misfortune



Meredith Smillie, with help from our presentation guru **Mike Vogas**, spun the Brave Rotarian Wheel of Misfortune. While we "kicked off the island" **President Ginny** and **Jules Terry**, we thanked them for their \$100 contribution and learned about two more areas of Rotary International's work, "rebuilding lives" and "supporting education." Good news for President Ginny though as she won \$10 back in the weekly raffle, leaving her to remark, "you win some, you lose some. Ninety more bucks and I'm even!"

Member Spotlight Don & Nancy Crandall



This week's member spotlight featured **Don** and **Nancy Crandall**, two past presidents of our club who have been very involved with the Rotary Foundation and World Community Service. Nancy said they have had the privilege of attending several RI conventions and have seen the power that individual contributions make to the Foundation's work across the globe. "It is impressive what can be done in lots of places around the world with combined funds." Watch the whole video [here](#).

New Member Induction: Rich Francisco



Mark Eisenbarth formally introduced and helped induct his fellow Muskegon County co-worker, Richard Francisco. Rich is the current Executive Director/CEO at HealthWest where he started in June of 2023. Prior to that, he worked at Ottawa County Community Mental Health as the Deputy Director for 10 years and 3 years as the IT Director. He also worked as the GIS Systems Analyst for Ottawa County for 6 years. As previous Deputy Director for Ottawa County CMH, Rich oversaw the Provider Network, Quality Improvement, Information Technology, Compliance, and operations.

Rich completed his master's in business administration with concentration in Strategic Planning from Davenport in 2013 with honors, and as a member of Sigma Beta Delta and the National Association of Leadership and Success. Rich completed his bachelor's from Calvin College (now Calvin University) with a major Geography, as well as minors Environmental Science, Third World development and computer science in 1996. He pursued a career in GIS – Geographic Information System after completing his undergraduate and is now in the humanities. Rich was born in the Philippines, but moved with his family to Zambia, Africa in the 80's. He later went back to the Philippines to attend an international boarding school before attending Calvin in 1992.

Rich's professional goals are to continue to foster efficiency, quality and develop a premier public mental health system in Muskegon County (HealthWest) to serve as many people in the community as possible. This includes developing and building partnerships with existing agencies who share the same goals in being that safety net. Rich loves spending time with his wife, Jill Francisco, and 3 kids: Isaak, Claire and Mathias. He is involved at his church and volunteers at Young Life and WyldLife youth organizations.

Interact Insider

By John Noling



Oakridge High School Interact club is back on the map! This brings the number of Interact Clubs sponsored by the Muskegon Rotary Club to six!

- First, we welcome Physics teacher Michele Weavers as a Co-Advisor to work together with our veteran club Advisor, Becky Mathis, to build a stronger club
- Interim Co-Presidents Jazmine Nguyen and Maddie Bowen are presiding and planning formal elections and Rotary certification for the club in coming weeks
- Meetings take place both before school and during the school day and help more students stay in touch
- Over 55 students attended the recent organizational meetings with lots of freshmen and sophomores
- Currently working on adoption of Interact constitution and bylaws, nominations process for upcoming election, plus brainstorming projects
- recently cashed in \$425 of Rotary and friends pop cans to get their treasury established with seven students arriving to help!



The people leading the charge at Oakridge
(L to R): Maddie Bowen, Becky Mathis, Michele Weavers, Jazmine Nguyen

