

ITHACA ROTARY CLUB

SERVICE PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Share the Warmth

November-December

Beginning in November, we put out about a dozen big collection boxes at various locations around town, to collect donations of gently used winter clothes and blankets. Donated items are collected with the assistance of Finger Lakes ReUse, and taken to a central location for sorting. Rotarians participate in the sorting of items – according to suitability (some donations have to be given away elsewhere), and type (coats, hats, etc.). When the drive is over, the donated items are taken to the Samaritan Center on Seneca Street, where they hold well publicized give-away days (Rotarians help on these days). The donated items are given to any who ask.

Linen Closet

As needed

The Rotary Linen Closet is a permanent part of the Samaritan Center, which offers free clothing as well as household items for any who ask. The closet is marked with a Rotary Logo, so that recipients recognize that we support the work of the center with donations. We collect items from club members three times a year. As we prepare for a collection drive, we consult with the coordinator of the Samaritan Center to determine what their needs are, and then ask our members to donate the needed items.

Highway Cleanup

Spring and fall

We are committed to maintaining the sides of Route 13 from just south of the Cayuga Heights exit up to the Mall exit. Twice a year, we schedule clean-up for a Saturday morning. Safety vests and hard hats are provided, as are some refreshments for the dedicated volunteers. It takes at least a dozen volunteers to clean our area!

Rotary Harvest

August

The Ithaca Rotary Club works with the Ithaca City School District to identify families who are at risk of food insecurity during the last few weeks of August, when there are no other food assistance programs available. Rotarians visit the Ithaca Farmers Market early in the day on Saturday to collect food donated by vendors. Donations are supplemented with purchased items to round out the nutritional value of the food. Sometimes bunches of flowers are donated, and for the last week of the program, the Family Reading Partnership provides a book for each child in the recipient families. Rotarians deliver the food to the families.

Youth Soccer

September

The Ithaca Rotary Club provides tee shirts for all the youth who participate in the Soccer Program. Members can help distribute shirts on the first day of the season. There is also the opportunity for Rotarians to coach.

Immunization Clinics

Seasonal

A member acts as liaison with the Tompkins County Health Department, and organizes volunteer help for flu shot clinics around the county. Rotarians can volunteer to help with directing parking, getting paperwork filled out appropriately, and occasionally giving small stuffed animals to children who are less than thrilled to be given yet another vaccination. When our assistance is needed, we usually send out a email to all club members.

Bell-Ringing

December

Rotarians who enjoy staffing the Salvation Army Kettle at the holiday season can volunteer to ring the bell for an hour or so. We usually staff the kettle for two days during December, and usually are at an inside location.

Pride of Ownership

December

This committee of three Rotarians work in conjunction with three members of the Ithaca City Hall staff to identify and honor those who have improved property in Ithaca. The recipients are recognized at a Rotary meeting, and then again at a ceremony at City Hall. Because membership is limited to three, club members who are interested should contact Scott in the event of an opening.

Books for the World

Open

This program works with a Rotary Club in Texas, which has coordinated the transportation of donated books to South Africa, and then on to other countries in Africa. Boxes are purchased from the local coordinator, and are then filled with books. We have purchased books at the last day of the Friends of the Library Book Sale (for .10 each!), and are currently asking local doctors to donate used medical texts. Once the books are collected and boxed, they are put on a pallet and arrangements are made for a trucker to pick them up. The truckers donate the space on their trucks, and transport the books to the collection center in Texas at no cost. From Texas, the books are given donated space on containers being shipped to South Africa. Once they arrive in South Africa, a distribution system allows the books to be distributed to several countries in the region. Visit the website: <http://www.rotarybooksfortheworld.org/>. Club members can help collect books, and pack books.

Handwashing Bookmark

October

Working in cooperation with the Tompkins County Health Department, the Ithaca Rotary Club sponsored bookmarks which instruct students on the importance of proper handwashing. 15,000 bookmarks were distributed throughout Tompkins County on Oct. 15 (National Handwashing Day).

Magazine collection

Open

Magazines may be dropped off at the Secretary's desk on meeting days. Donated magazines are then passed on to the Ithaca Sunrise Club, who then distribute the magazines to the hospital and various doctor's offices. If you donate, please do not cut off the address information – Sunrise Club members put a Rotary sticker on the front of the magazines which covers any address information.

RYLA

Spring to Fall

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards is a program that selects potential leaders from the junior class of local high schools to attend a Leadership Program at Hartwick College in Oneonta. It is usually the intent of the selection committee to identify students who are not necessarily identified leaders already, but who show potential. We invite the participants to talk to the Ithaca Rotary Club afterwards, to tell us about their experiences. Club members can assist in the panel that selects participants.

CLUB SERVICE

Pancake Breakfast

October-November

This longtime Rotary tradition falls on Election Day. The Ithaca Rotary Club serves pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, and more ALL DAY LONG. It's a marathon 12 hour serving session, flanked by set up and clean up. We have a really good time, but it definitely requires all hands on deck.

Little Apple Fall Follies

September

This variety show is produced in cooperation with the Savage Club, a local all male choral group. Launched in 2010, it is a family friendly event that features performers from the Savage Club, the Rotary Club, and the community at large. Ithaca Rotary Club members were involved in everything from booking the venue (the State Theatre) to promotion to performance.

Dozen Dinner Draw

January-February

The International Committee raised money in support of international service projects with a raffle of dinner ticket packages (top prize of 12 \$100 value gift certificates to local restaurants). Two hundred tickets, sold for \$50 each raised \$10,000. First year profits were donated to hurricane relief in Puerto Rico.

Road Rally

Summer

Participants begin at an established location, follow a map of clues, and convene at the end at a single location. Prizes are awarded for those who excel!

Ithaca Rotary Club Community Fireworks

June-July

This committee, begun in 2017, is responsible for the Annual Fourth of July fireworks display at Stewart Park. Responsibilities include solicitation of sponsors, scheduling of additional entertainment and food service at the event, parking management, and donation collection.

Community Grants Committee

Late Summer

This committee solicits grant proposals from the community, then evaluates the proposals and selects the recipients. The evaluation and selection process is usually done in a single two hour meeting, and new members are always welcome.

Weekly meetings

Program Chairs –

- work with the Vice President to schedule speakers for the weekly meetings.

Additional opportunities to help include:

- Meeting set-up (banners, flags, projector set-up, etc)
- Meeting “secretary” – take notes at the meeting for the newsletter and website (talk to Ted Schiele)
- “Host” for guests and visiting Rotarians (be sure they are comfortable at their table, introduce them to people)
- Serve as Sargeant-at-Arms – keeper of order, protocol, and time.

Event Photographers

take digital photos of club activities for posting on the website

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Youth Exchange

Year-round.

Hosting Youth Exchange Students is an enormous responsibility for the club, as well as a wonderful opportunity to learn about our students and their cultures. Opportunities for members to be involved include (in no particular order):

- providing transportation to special events
- serve as a mentor for a student (sometimes referred to as being an “aunty” or “uncle”)
- hosting a student in your home (for up to three months)
- invite a student to attend an activity with you
- offer a student an opportunity to earn money by working on small jobs for you (usually the students are looking for ways to pay for the cross-country bus trip they can take at the end of the school year)
- work with the coordinators to identify and recruit host families
- work on the interview teams (which talk with potential outbound students)

VOCATIONAL

Pride of Workmanship

October

This committee solicits nominations to recognize outstanding contributors in the workplace. The award is intended to honor the workers who are not generally the most visible, but whose contributions are vital to the success of the work being done.

Gibbs Scholarship

June

This scholarship, named in honor of former Ithaca Rotary Club President James L. Gibbs, is awarded to a local graduating High School Senior who has been active in promoting positive interracial relations. Members of the committee interview the candidates and select the award winner in a single meeting.

World of Skills Job Fair

Spring

The Ithaca Rotary Club helps sponsor a job fair held in the Spring. Club members serve as hosts at the event, assisting both the vendors and those who are seeking employment.