

ITHACA ROTARY CLUB
SERVICE PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES — 2015

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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)

Rotarians assist the Tompkins County Health Department, and organize 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 an 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 ring the bell for two days during December, and usually are assigned 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.

Hand washing Bookmark

(October)

Working in cooperation with the Tompkins County Health Department, the Ithaca Rotary Club sponsors bookmarks which instruct students on the importance of proper hand washing.

Magazine collection

(Year around)

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.

CLUB SERVICE

Pancake Day

(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 are involved in everything from booking the venue (the State Theatre) to promotion to performance.

Community Grants Committee

(Fall)

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

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

Event Photographers

Take digital photos of club activities for posting on the website

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Books for the World

(Open)

Rotarians help collect, sort, pack and tape cartons of surplus textbooks from the Ithaca City School District as well as general interest fiction and non-fiction titles, both adult and children's books for shipment to developing countries. 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 at no charge to schools, teachers and libraries.

YOUTH

Youth Exchange

(Year around)

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):

- provide transportation to special events
- serve as a mentor for a student (sometimes referred to as being an "aunt" or "uncle")
- host 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)

Rotaract

(Ongoing)

Ithaca Rotary Club sponsors this service club at Ithaca College students. Students assist with club service projects

Interact

(Ongoing)

Ithaca Rotary Club sponsor this service club at New Roots High School. Students assist with club service projects

Rotary Young Leaders Awards (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 one week Leadership Program. 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.

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/Marsh Scholarship

(Spring)

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.

TST BOCES Scholarships

(Spring)

Our club provides scholarship funding for high school seniors at the TST BOCES.

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.