



# The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating 30 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

May 18, 2025

## THE WEEK AHEAD:

**April 24: Board Meeting, 7:15 to 8:30 a.m.**



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

## District 5710 Governor Installation for Chuck Udell

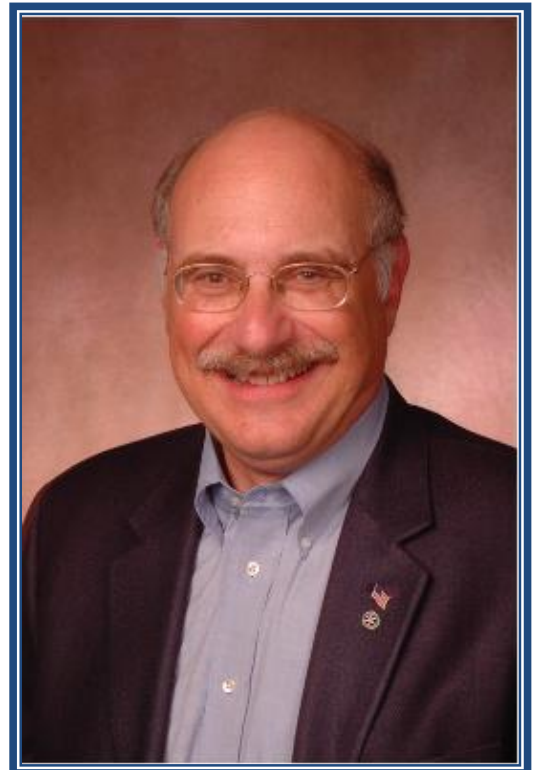
*You Are Invited  
to the*

*District 5710 Governor Installation  
for Chuck Udell*

*Thursday, June 19, 2025  
5:30 - 7:00 pm*

*Hallbrook Country Club  
11200 Overbrook Rd.  
Leawood, KS 66211*

*RSVP by June 10  
to Ester Udell  
esterudell@gmail.com*



**Please plan to attend this special evening.  
History will be made, as Chuck will become the  
first member of the Leawood Rotary Club to  
serve as District 5710 Governor!**

# LAST WEEK

## May 15 Program: JCCB Christmas in July

Nina Kimbrough, Executive Director, and Roseann Newcomer, JCCB 2025 President, joined us to discuss the organization's upcoming "Christmas in July" fundraiser. For more information on the event, click the links below.



For general information on the event, click this link below:

[July | Johnson County Christmas Bureau](#)

To register for one of the volunteer position at the Christmas in July event, click the QR code below to go to Sign Up Genius.



## May 12: We Make Pour Choices

Many thanks to Stephanie and Bryan Meyer for hosting another great gathering of our wine club! Stephanie is always a great host, and a great time was had by all!



Please take a few minutes to read this touching letter the club received in December from Doug Jackson, President of Project Cure.



December 6, 2024

Rotary Club of Leawood Ks  
PO Box 6608  
Leawood, KS 66206-0608

Dear Friend,

Hope is a powerful thing. It moves us toward the future. It changes the way we view the world and is full of possibilities and promise. Hope creates positive emotions, increased energy and inspired optimism. Hope is the emotion that brings about change. We love hope. In fact, at Project C.U.R.E., hope is central to our "tag line:" Delivering health and **hope** to the world.

There are lots of reasons our world needs hope right now. We have been witnesses to some incredibly difficult and often sad situations. In many ways, our world is more divided than ever. Negativity and discouragement can be all too common. We need people and organizations who can inspire us to create something better, more wonderful and yes, more healthy.

At Project C.U.R.E., 2024 has been a year of hope. And as we draw this year to a close, I want to share a couple of stories with you. These stories have inspired us with hope and they have increased our determination to continue the mission to change our world. I trust they will encourage you, too.

Just a few weeks ago, Project C.U.R.E. sent a team of medical professionals to the New Abirem Government Hospital in Ghana, West Africa. Their mission was to strengthen the local health system following the delivery of our semi-truck-sized cargo containers filled with medical supplies and equipment. On this trip, a team was on site to provide an Essential Newborn Care course to nurses and midwives. This course trains on how to address critical situations such as when a baby is born, but not breathing. There is a sixty second window to save that little baby called "the golden minute." Without training, many of these little souls don't make it. With training, these nurses and midwives can literally change the course of history by saving these babies and treating their mothers.

Isabelle Woodrum, our C.U.R.E. Clinics and College Manager, was on the Ghana trip. When she returned, she brought stories of hope. Isabelle shared, *"During the training, midwife Theophilia Acquah was called to attend to an urgent situation in which a baby was born not breathing. Theo, having just completed her first ENC course on helping babies breathe, jumped in and stimulated the baby. When that was ineffective, Theo used the bag-mask technique that she had just learned earlier that morning, and she successfully resuscitated the newborn. With the baby stable, Theo put the child skin to skin on the mother and quietly slipped back into class without any mention of what had just happened."*

Isabelle also shared the photo that I've included with this letter. This is a new mother, who also is also a nurse midwife. She came to the Project C.U.R.E. training with her own baby swaddled on her back. It is a picture of hope, the moment when one mom has determined to make sure that other moms deliver healthy babies and have a brighter future. It is her commitment to change her world for the better. And we are committed to provide the needed resources that these brave, hopeful nurses and midwives need to save lives.

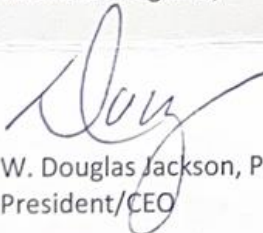
The second photo accompanied a message of thanks from our partners in Ukraine. It shows a Ukrainian priest offering a prayer and a blessing over the load of medical supplies and equipment that was delivered from Project C.U.R.E. In the face of 1,000 days of war, bombardment, attacks and violence, this priest takes a moment for gratitude and hope. I was moved that someone in Ukraine is praying for us at Project C.U.R.E.

Since the brutal Russian invasion on February 22, 2022, Project C.U.R.E. has delivered over 165 relief loads, worth nearly \$50 million, to the people of Ukraine. These loads have included trauma supplies, surgical instruments, emergency equipment, transfusion kits, beds, gurneys, physical therapy devices and consumable products. And much of these donations have been used on the front lines of the war, saving the lives of the victims of the violence. The cargo loads have carried more than health. They have brought a hope to the Ukrainian people that a small army of volunteers and donors half a world away cares for them and believes in a better tomorrow. This fall, Project C.U.R.E. received a very generous match. All donations earmarked for Ukraine will be doubled! That is jet-fuel for my hopefulness.

I could share scores of other stories and photos with you if we had the pages and the time. The people of Project C.U.R.E. continue to demonstrate hope. Over 200 containers of medical relief will be delivered, teams of doctors and nurses will be trained, and thousands of volunteers will create even more possibility, promise and change.

This is where we need you. I'm inviting you to be a part of hopefulness. Many of our friends have been incredibly generous with their investments in Project C.U.R.E.'s work this year. Please join us. Together we can touch lives at a level we have never experienced before. And on behalf of the people we serve, let me say "thank you" in advance for your part in changing our world.

Warmest Regards,



W. Douglas Jackson, PhD, JD  
President/CEO

*Thank you for  
your generous support of  
Project CURE's work. We are  
saving lives together! We  
appreciate you!*



# **Mark Your Calendars:**

**May 22: Leawood Rotary Social, 4:30 – 6:00 pm** at Plate Italiano Moderno in Park Place, 11655 Ash St., Leawood KS 66211

**May 28: International Committee Meeting, 7:30 a.m.** at The Breakfast Spot Place, 13164 State Line Road, Leawood KS 66209

**June 19: District Governor Installation, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** at Hallbrook Country Club

**June 21: Flourish Furniture Bank Volunteer Day, 9:00 a.m. to Noon** at The Breakfast Spot Place, 13164 State Line Road, Leawood KS 66209. Participants must register in advance. Please go to [flourishfurniturebank.org](http://flourishfurniturebank.org) to register.

**June 26: Leawood Rotary Annual Dinner, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at Hallbrook Country Club

## **Looking Ahead to June:**

### **Programs:**

June 5 – Greg Smith with Kelsey's Army

June 12 – David Ley with the City of Leawood Public Works Dept.

June 19 – Board Meeting / District Governor Reception that evening

June 26 – No morning meeting / Annual Dinner that evening

### **Greeters for June:**

Jim Rawlings

Mary Reed

Rick Robinson

Paul Rueschhoff

Chris Sagovac

Prasad Saraph



### **Invocators for June:**

June 5 – Carlos Vides

June 12 – Richard Wetzler