

JOIN LEADERS. EXCHANGE IDEAS. TAKE ACTION.

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF EVANSTON



## COME JOIN US!

Rotary is a worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes to change lives in communities. We believe in service, integrity, leadership, diversity and having fun!

The Rotary Club of Evanston consists of action-oriented local business and professional leaders who take an active role in our community while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives.

Together we act – combining our passion and resources to address pressing issues, both in Evanston and globally.

For nearly 100 years, the Rotary Club of Evanston has served as our city's "gathering place for leaders."

### Membership benefits

- Connection and networking with Evanston leaders.
- Weekly luncheon programs, with presentations from business experts, educators, entrepreneurs and others.
- Hands-on local service projects.
- Opportunities to participate in international service programs and to travel globally.



# THE ROTARY STORY

The world's first service club – the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois – was founded in February, 1905 by Paul Harris.



Harris, a young lawyer, founded the club in an effort to recapture the spirit and friendliness he felt in the small town where he had grown up. Harris and three friends, a coal dealer, a merchant and a mining engineer were the first members.

It was important to Harris and his three friends to encourage fellowship and have friends in other vocations. To further this ideal, the early practice of 'rotating' meetings between members' offices led to the name Rotary.

By the end of 1905, the club had expanded to 30 members and within three years a second Rotary club was established in San Francisco. Rotary's popularity spread, and within a decade, clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York to Winnipeg, Canada. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents. The organization adopted the Rotary International name a year later.

The organization continued to grow through the following decades. Today, there are 1.2 million Rotarians in 34,000 clubs around the globe.



## Our motto is 'Service above Self'

The Rotary Club of Evanston is one of our community's most active hands-on volunteer organizations. Each year we provide help ranging from delivering food to the sick and homebound to refurbishing homes for those in need. We also organize beach clean-ups and other community improvement projects, and we provide manpower to help other local not-for-profit initiatives.

Globally, we send volunteers to assist with projects such as building schools or digging water wells. We have completed projects recently in Uganda and Guatemala.



## Funding Worthy Causes

The Rotary Club of Evanston maintains its own charitable fund, a 501c3 organization, which provides monetary grants directly to local charitable organizations.

During its years of service to the community, the Charitable Fund has raised and distributed many thousands of dollars in Evanston. For many years we have also provided major vocational and academic scholarship assistance for graduates of Evanston Township High School.



## Membership Duties

There are some things that we ask every member to do.

- 1. Get involved and have fun!** Volunteer for a service project, sign up for a committee, attend an after-hours networking event... the opportunities are endless.
- 2. Be engaged in the club.** We ask that you participate in our weekly meetings or volunteer activities. There are many ways to become involved.
- 3. Pay dues.** Members are assessed a yearly membership fee. There many options and levels, making membership affordable for anyone interested in joining.
- 4. Contribute to The Rotary Foundation and our club's Charitable Fund.** Contributions to both funds are totally voluntary and are not required but any level of contribution is welcomed.
- 5. Tell your friends!** Rotary succeeds when the community knows who we are and what we are trying to accomplish.

Our club is very flexible in working to meet the unique needs of each member. If you have questions about these duties, just ask!

## Club Meeting Information

**Weekly:** Every Thursday, at noon.

**Place:** Rotary International headquarters, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL .

Our meetings feature interesting speakers and presentations. We end our meetings promptly at 1:15 p.m.

## ABOUT CLUB ACTIVITIES

As one of Evanston's leading charitable and service organizations, The Rotary Club of Evanston has provided countless hours of volunteer service and significant monetary support for a variety of local causes since it was founded in 1920. For more than 90 years, the club has divided its service to the community between hands-on, volunteer projects, and fund raising to help organizations and causes. It has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for not-for-profit organizations, helping Evanston cope with pressing issues ranging from illiteracy to HIV/AIDS to homelessness and poverty.

The club's philosophy is to provide general assistance wherever it is needed -- thus it has provided volunteers for everything from building homes for low-income families to cleaning up Evanston's beaches to delivering hot meals to the needy.

Over its history, the club has supported a wide variety of causes – both international and domestic – all with the end goal of improving communities and building peace.

### We have served internationally recently by:

- Providing construction in Guatemala.
- Building water wells, building economies and fighting disease in Africa.
- Providing disaster relief in Haiti and Pakistan.
- Supporting The Rotary Foundation through annual contributions.
- Helping end polio by contributing to Rotary's global effort to immunize children.

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## ABOUT CLUB ACTIVITIES *Continued from previous page*

### **We have served locally by:**

- Serving meals to the needy in Evanston and helping out at food pantries.
- Donating books, assisting with literacy campaigns and helping needy children.
- Distributing thousands of dollars annually in community grants to Evanston charitable organizations.
- Providing thousands annually in scholarships to local high school students.
- Funding a scholarship at Northwestern University annually.
- Planting and maintaining the International Friendship Garden -- part of Evanston's 23-acre Ladd Arboretum.

- Hosting special events to raise awareness of issues in Evanston, including our "Heads Up, Evanston" networking luncheon and special programs during our weekly meetings.

### **We promote relationship-building by:**

- Convening a fun and entertaining weekly luncheon meeting, which includes informal networking with fellow members.
- Hosting Tuesday Toasters, a once-a-month reception for networking.
- Planning occasional social gatherings and hosting two great annual fundraising events open to the public each year.

## Interested in joining? Here's how the process works

The strength of every club is membership – we need more hands to do more work and we are always looking for more community-oriented individuals to join us.

Membership is open to qualified adult business and professional leaders.

Rotary club membership is by invitation only, so please talk to the friend or sponsor who introduced you to Rotary (or the current club president if you found us on your own!) To qualify for membership, you should:

- Be a person of good character and good business, professional and/or community reputation who lives or works in the Evanston area.
- Have a demonstrated interest in community leadership and be in a position of leadership professionally.

If you decide you want to pursue membership in the club, you'll need to take a few steps:

- Come to a couple of our weekly meetings, social events and/or service projects.
- Confirm with a club member, who will become your sponsor, that you are interested in joining and discuss the responsibilities of membership.
- Your sponsor will submit your name to the club president in writing, by completing a membership proposal form.
- The club president will review your proposal and confirm your eligibility to join.
- The club board will consider your application and, if approved, you will be elected for membership.
- Your sponsor will let you know the outcome and if elected as a member, you will be formally inducted and asked to pay dues.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Evanston, please send an email to [rcevanston@gmail.com](mailto:rcevanston@gmail.com).