

# Meet Joe Montgomery

*Introduction by Grace Chien*

It's my pleasure to introduce our newest Young Rotary Leader, Joseph Montgomery.

Joe grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, playing drums with jazz trios in Corvallis and Portland. He auditioned for and was accepted to Cornish College of the Arts where he graduated with a degree in Music. Although trained on the drums, Joe decided to switch instruments in his sophomore year at Cornish and taught himself to play piano, auditioned again, and was accepted into Cornish's piano program.



Joe's dream was to be a producer, go to LA, and learn the technical and engineering side to do studio sessions. During his junior year in college, he landed an internship at Atlantic Records in LA, an unpaid internship. While it was the opportunity of a lifetime, Joe turned it down as he realized that building a career in the music industry was going to be a steep climb. So, midway in his college career he switched paths, taking classes in finance and accounting and, after getting some business classes under his belt, was offered an internship at Northwestern Mutual, this time a paid internship. He fell in love with the work which provided him the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of people by helping them to create financial stability. It also didn't hurt that the income potential as a financial planner greatly exceeded that of musician. So, when he was offered a position with Northwestern Mutual at the end of his internship, he did not hesitate to accept.

Sponsored by Simone Loban, Joe has already jumped into Rotary serving as a 1st year Keek Counselor and enjoys participating in Young Rotary Leader activities. In fact, he was part of the team that recently built the Rotary Boys and Girls playground. He has not yet signed up for the music committee so Rotary Music Committee and Rotary Rogues, here's a potential recruit for you.

Never afraid to take on challenges, Joe spent summers during college fighting forest fires on a team that was deployed to fight fires on the West Coast. A rugby player since the age of 13, he played through his college days with the Eastside Axemen, a team based in Redmond and continued after college until he broke his shoulder. Although he has built a financial planning business with clientele in LA and Seattle, he hasn't abandoned his music roots and now plays percussion with the Rainbow City Band.

Outside of Rotary Joe serves on the board of Intiman Theater, Kin On Community Health Care Center's Community Engagement Committee, and enjoys working out at the Washington Athletic Club. Please join me in welcoming Joe Montgomery, Young Rotary Leader, musician and financial planner.