



February 1, 2019

Dear

### Can you guess who makes all of this happen?

- **6224** kids, **410** seniors age 70+, **2200** half-marathoners, **2000** marathoners, **2100** volunteers actively engage in **Clarence DeMar Marathon**
- **2866** 2<sup>nd</sup> graders taught the importance **Moving Everyday** through video and instruction, plus given new sneakers
- **950 food boxes** stave off childhood hunger during school breaks
- **3000 dictionaries** support education for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
- **99 wheelchairs** provide mobility to kids and adults in Jamaica
- **45 education scholarships** totaling \$60,000 awarded to 'unsung heroes'
- **450+ Monadnock Interact Club students** from Monadnock Regional High School taught leadership, tolerance and volunteerism
- **25 Greater Keene Rotoract Club** (college age+) mentored, exposed to and immersed in Rotarian projects
- **13 trips to El Salvador, 3 trips to Nicaragua and 1 planned trip to Puerto Rico** where Rotarians, Interactors and Rotoractors physically build communities and make personal relationships
- **Thousands of hands-on volunteer hours:** Washington to Sullivan Street roadside clean up, Island Street Pocket Park, serving dinner and delivering holiday food boxes for the Keene Community Kitchen, heavy lifting for the Keene Public Library annual book sale, organizing and supporting the Clarence DeMar Marathon.
- **New in 2019:** DeMar leadership adopted a portion of the rail trail between the North Bridge and Whitcomb Mill Road which will be kept clean and neat.

**You and I do.** -- The dedication and hard work of the 65 members of the Keene Elm City Rotary combined with the generosity and compassion of our community.

### We're asking for your help today.

Each year, our club hosts the Clarence DeMar Marathon and Half Marathon which starts in Gilsum, NH and ends on the campus of Keene State College. It is the City of Keene's premier athletic event attracting runners, from all over the world, pouring out all of their strength for the 26.2 miles course that winds through our beautiful community. They are joined by half-marathon runners who start their run in Surry, NH.

Adding to the marathon excitement, Super Seniors, ages 70 and up, join us on race day to finish their months' long goal of logging their marathon-length physical fitness program by running the last 1.2 miles, on the DeMar course, to the finish line.

Close on their heels come the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade school kids of every size and shape, rounding out this community celebration of fitness, involvement and spirit.



### Need more convincing?

There's nothing like being part of the community. Your sponsorship provides the Keene Elm City Rotary with financial support to keep our charitable activities effective and far-reaching.

For example, it's never been as important to help America's youth learn and adopt fitness habits they can practice their entire lives. For the kids in our Region, the club has designed a program called "Follow ME," a fun message about Moving Everyday. We visit each 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class to educate and motivate children in the Monadnock Region to be physically active every day. Thanks to a special connection with New Balance, we are able to provide a new pair of sneakers to every student. Often, this is the first new pair of sneakers some children have ever received.



Follow "ME" – a video by kids, for kids – promoting the importance of Moving Everyday was a huge success in 2018. Working with local partners we created an educational song with simple dance moves. Watch our video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmYrysZmk7Y>

Ask us about our Follow ME challenge.

As you can imagine, it's no small task to deliver the message of movement to 29 classrooms and fit over 750 kids with sneakers. Our members and volunteers do it with enthusiasm because our community is worth it. But it's only possible if you feel the same way.

### Can we count on you?

Our work also puts us in touch with basic human needs --

Proceeds from the DeMar support Monadnock Understands Childhood Hunger (MUCH), the project that provides over 400 food boxes for the area's neediest families so that area kids won't go hungry when school breakfast and lunch programs shut down during vacation times. An empty stomach can't be ignored when you are trying to learn how to read or solve math problems.



Speaking of poverty, in nearby Jamaica, victims of accidents, gun violence and disease are often left paralyzed and crawling in the streets. The mobility of a wheelchair gives the recipient independence to get from place to place, if only to the bathroom, work or grocery store.

Your support allows us purchase, ship, and personally deliver new wheelchairs to our brothers and sisters of the global community. Who would have imagined that a wheelchair could change someone's life, but it does.

### You and I can help.

For 15 years, we have exposed over 400 local young people to Rotary service projects in El Salvador and most recently, Nicaragua, building homes and schools, establishing fresh water resources and new perspectives on the world.



### Need another reason to make your donation?

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“While the DeMar may appear to be an athletic event, we view it as a large scale celebration of our community with opportunities for everyone to participate.”

Mark Bodin, President  
Savings Bank of Walpole

There is a mounting body of evidence that suggests that altruism has beneficial physical and emotional health benefits to the giver, not just the receiver. Some people say that giving is the most satisfying thing you will ever do.

Please consider a donation to the Clarence DeMar Marathon to support not only the races, but the projects of Keene Elm City Rotary Club and our community. Your kindness is the financial fuel that helps us bring good things to others, here at home and in other places in our global community.

Yours in Service,

Keene Elm City Rotary

[www.ElmCityRotary.org](http://www.ElmCityRotary.org)

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The Clarence DeMar Marathon Inc is a designated 501.3C tax ID: 02-0454040