



Inter-Lakes Interact Club 2022 - 2023 Activities

Inter-Lakes Interact Club, sponsored by the Meredith Rotary club, was chartered on March 27, 2015 with twenty-seven members. Inter-Lakes Interact Club was very active this past year with service activities that clearly demonstrated Rotary's motto - *Service Above Self*.



The club started the new academic year with a new faculty advisor, Cristina LaRue. The club promoted Interact during the School Activities Fair and inducted Meredith Rotary's Youth Exchange student Nacho Alvarez from Argentina.



In October the club held its annual Socktober project to collect socks for those in need. This year the club collected over 3,300 pairs of socks. Also in October the club held its annual Moulton Farm Corn Maze fund raiser on a beautiful fall Saturday. Numerous Meredith Rotarians sponsored Corn Maze stations and Rotarian John Moulton contributed all of Saturday's corn maze entrance fees to the club.

SOCKTOBER



club held its annual Moulton Farm Corn Maze fund raiser on a beautiful fall Saturday. Numerous Meredith Rotarians sponsored Corn Maze stations and Rotarian John Moulton contributed all of Saturday's corn maze entrance fees to the club.



In honor of Veterans Day in November the club hand wrote cards for veterans in the New Hampshire Veterans Home. Also on November, the club wrote a letter to Samuel – the student in Rwanda that the club supports by funding his annual schooling.

The club's annual Fall Ceremony was held on November 17 at the Meredith Community Center. During ceremony new members were inducted and the Socktober socks were distributed to The Santa Fund of the Lakes Region, Isaiah 61 Café, The Belknap House, Laconia Salvation Army, Lakes Region Boys & Girls Club, St. Vincent de Paul, Bridge House, and New Beginnings. Each of the organizations told the Interact members about the 'good things' that each of their organizations do.



In early December club members worked the phone bank for the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction where two of the members had two people on the phone in a bidding war - with the final bid of \$12,000!

Also in December, club members assisted Meredith Rotary Club in its annual Rotary Senior Dinner – this year the dinner was held as a ‘drive-through’ where over 350 guests were given holiday dinners.



During Meredith Rotary’s annual Ice Fishing Derby, Interact members assisted in selling tickets and ‘handling fish’.

In March club members participated in the Rotary District’s Youth Conference at Souhegan High School in Amherst, NH. The day-long conference was attended by 70 Interact and Rotary Youth Exchange



students. Members Nacho and Lillian were on the panel to discuss the conference’s focus on ‘unity’. Of note, president Sophia was part of the conference’s planning team.



In April the club went grocery shopping and prepared a meal for the residents of the Pemi Bridge House. The Bridge House provides emergency shelter, food, job training, and transitional living for those in need.



The club donated \$975 to Rwanda Children Educational Foundation. This is the club’s fifth annual donation to RCEF to fund Samuel Mugabo’s annual tuition. This year’s donation will fund Samuel’s 10th grade starting in September 2023.





The club also donated \$1,000 to Rotary affiliated ShelterBox which provides lifesaving shelter and supplies when disaster strikes.



The club's year ended with president Sophia receiving her gavel and Lillian receiving her Member-of-the-Year plaque.



At the beginning of the academic year, the Rotary District gave the club \$300 to promote international good will and understanding through making Kiva micro-loans. Throughout the year the club lent out \$355 micro-loans ranging from \$25 to \$75. The extra \$55 of loans beyond the original \$300 was possible due to the fact that as the loans were paid off, the funds were again used for new loans. The club made ten loans in the following countries...



- Kenya - A loan helped to enhance his yield, diversify his crops and to adopt sustainable farming practices through buying quality farm inputs.
- Guatemala - A loan helped a member to buy metal sheeting, lumber and nails to construct shelving and more for her chocofrutas and beverages business.
- Albania - A loan helped to pay his son's medical expenses at a hospital in Turkey.
- Samoa - A loan helped to buy a box of chicken, a box of sausage, mushroom soy sauce, onions, plates, aluminum foil, banana, and sack of rice to help her run her business.
- Rwanda - A loan helped to pay for laptop computer required for his college work.
- Ecuador - A loan helped an 18 year old to buy perfumes, creams, foundations, costume jewelry and other products. She sells her products door to door, from home and by phone.
- Costa Rica - A loan helped to buy a greenhouse for coffee and supplies.
- Philippines - A loan helped to purchase more sacks of rice to sell.
- Egypt - A loan helped to buy a head of cattle and sell dairy products in the city where she has customers.
- Peru - A loan helped to buy display cabinets and merchandise for her business.