

SPCE ROTARY

2025-26 YEAR IN REVIEW

HOW WE SPENT OUR TIME

“HANDS-ON’ SERVICE PROJECTS

South Portland Food Cupboard – food processing; collect
food at Sounds by the Sea concerts

Paint for Preservation – park cars

Bug Light Open House Tours & Anniversary Celebration

Greater Portland Family Promise – assembling first aid
kits

Habitat for Humanity – constructing a home

Winter Special Olympics – timing races; distribute
lunches

Winter fireworks – park cars

South Portland Middle School World Cultures Day –
distribute food from around the world

SPRINGFEST!

SP Parks & Recreation Department – appreciation lunch

CE Public Works Department – appreciation lunch

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (“OFFICIAL”)

Lobsterbake (July 23)

Holiday Party (Dec. 18)

Potluck Dinner (Feb. 11)

Changeover (June 24)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (“UNOFFICIAL”)

Pickleball

Foundation Football

World Polio Day bridge walk (Oct. 16)

Lions Club Dinners

HOW WE MADE OUR MONEY -

FUNDRAISERS

Art in the Park

Christmas Tree Sale

SpringFest Sponsorships

Family Fun Day

WHO JOINED US THIS YEAR

Diane Robinson

Renee Burch

Paul Harrison

Rin Cox

Maggie Williams

Adrian Kurre

Bob Flynn

HOW WE SPENT OUR FUNDS

SCHOLARSHIPS (\$12,000)

We have a long history of awarding scholarships to local high school students planning to attend college.

For the second year, we also awarded Yerxa scholarships - named in honor of our founding member Dick Yerxa – to students seeking vocational training after high school.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS (\$4,500)

We were proud to sponsor World Cultures Day at South Portland Middle School, as well as supporting Cape

Elizabeth Robotics, SOPO Hoops and a musical at South Portland High School.

OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS (\$21,271)

We sponsored 15 rising high school juniors at RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), a leadership camp described by its alumni as “life-changing.”

We received a Rotary Foundation grant to support a Youth-to-Youth camp in Canada which brings indigenous and non-indigenous students together and celebrates indigenous cultures.

We provided funding for at least 50 youngsters from the Redbank & Brick Hill areas to be bused to the Boys & Girls Clubhouse in South Portland this summer.

We also awarded grants to:

- ❖ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine
- ❖ South Portland Little League
- ❖ Iris Network
- ❖ Hope Squad
- ❖ South Portland Football Hall of Fame

- ❖ Side x Side
- ❖ Wabanaki Youth in Science
- ❖ 4-Way Test essay contest winners
- ❖ Interact Clubs

LITERACY (\$2,450)

As part of 2026 SpringFest we honored our local libraries, including monetary donations to each library.

We also awarded a grant to Maine Health Pediatrics to install a story walk in their reception area to entertain children while they wait.

FOOD INSECURITY (\$11,951)

We applied for a Rotary Foundation grant and, along with several other Rotary clubs, purchased a refrigerator unit for the South Portland Food Cupboard at their expanded new location.

We also supported food assistance for students & families:

Public school students via the Locker Project, and SMCC students via sponsoring “Empty Bowls” at SMCC to benefit the college’s Captain’s Cupboard.

LOCAL HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH (\$5,500)

We supported organizations which assist the elderly (Love in Living Action) new Mainers (Greater Portland Family Promise) and residents at risk of losing their homes (Project Home).

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH (\$21,500)

We committed funds toward a Rotary Foundation grant to equip a maternity hospital in Uganda with beds & equipment.

We donated to The Rotary Foundation, which awards grants to Rotary clubs for projects both locally & internationally; a portion of our donation was earmarked for the eradication of polio.

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION & RECOVERY (\$6,000)

Our donations in this area were three-pronged:

- ❖ Prevention of substance use in children (SoPo Unite)
- ❖ Support for family members & scholarships for treatment (The Family Restored)
- ❖ Contribution towards the construction of Maine's first Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (Sweetser)

ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS (\$8,800)

We have a long history of donations to a few Maine charities which provide assistance to veterans, especially disabled or homeless veterans.

- ❖ Vet2Vet Maine
- ❖ VOA Northern New England (Huot House)
- ❖ Maine Vets in Need
- ❖ Durham Warriors
- ❖ Westbrook-Gorham Rotary



HISTORIC PRESERVATION (\$5,480)

The 150th anniversary of Bug Light was the inspiration for re-painting the lighthouse and a day-long celebration of the occasion at Bug Light Park.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT (\$20,183+)

We organize or sponsor several activities to benefit our communities by bringing free entertainment and fostering community spirit, chief of which is SpringFest at Redbank & Mill Creek Park. Other events include winter fireworks and “Sounds by the Sea” concert series at Fort Williams. We awarded grants to the sponsors of the Earth Day Resource Fair & the Handmade Pride Market & Festival.

We also held appreciation lunches for employees of South Portland & Cape Elizabeth who assisted with many of our events.

