

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF CUPERTINO

2023 - 2024 Annual Report



# SERVICE ABOVE SELF

## Sources of Charitable Funds

Rotary Club of Cupertino charitable projects are both conducted and financed by our club. We orchestrate an annual cycle of events organized by club members whose own contributions of funds, talent and time are leveraged by the support and participation of community partners and sponsors. All of our fundraising events are designed to reinforce the principle value of “service above self” that is the foundation of Rotary International. Our events have proven over time to be sustainable community-wide festivities that are enjoyed and supported by the community at large.

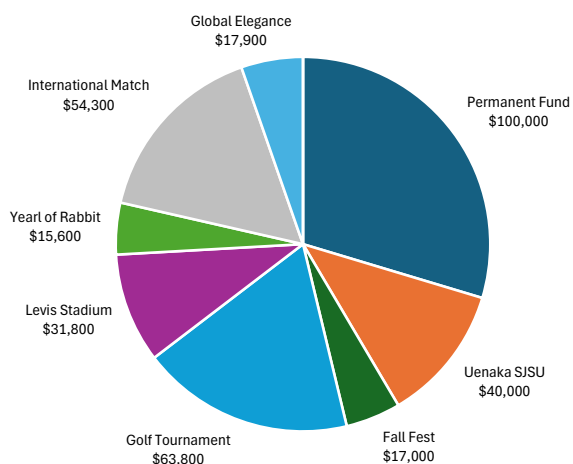
Distributions from the Cupertino Rotary Endowment Foundation (CREF) Permanent Fund further expand our club’s ability to conduct charitable projects in our local community and region. Having grown to over \$3,000,000 in size, the CREF Permanent Fund earnings now constitute the largest single source of charitable funding for our club.

Matching grants made through The Rotary Foundation (TRF) also expand our ability to have impact throughout the world. Cupertino Rotary is particularly known as a worldwide leader for the scale and diversity of our international projects, and it starts with the significant level of support that our members annually give to The Rotary Foundation and its remarkable work around the globe.

In all that we do, corporate sponsorships, individual donations, and partner participation are critical to the success of our fundraisers. Contributors appreciate the ability to support Rotary’s work both at home and abroad, knowing that by supporting the club, the financial contributions they make are leveraged by the “boots on the ground” contribution of time and talent (as well as funds) contributed by our members.

### Sources of Funds: \$340,400

Raised in RY 23-24

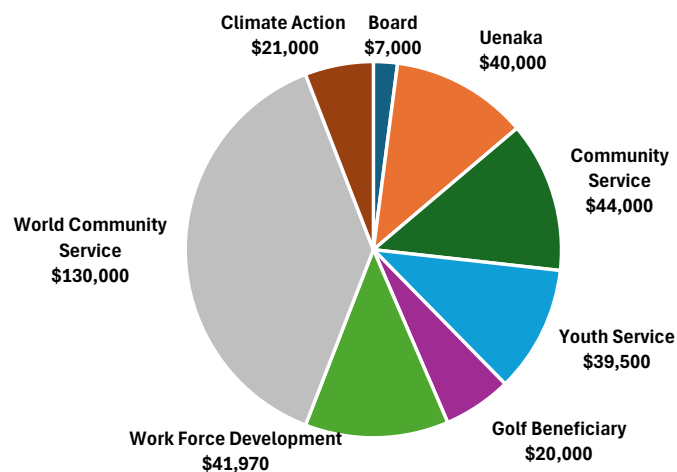


## Uses of Charitable Funds

100 percent of the money we raise from our fundraisers goes to charitable causes. The majority is used for a wide variety of International, Community, Youth, Climate Action, and Workforce Development projects championed by our club members. See the breakdown of project areas below.

### Charitable Giving: \$343,470

Budgeted in RY 23-24



### Over 12,000 volunteer hours spent

As significant as the dollars raised, is the amount of time committed by Cupertino Rotarians to accomplish our goals. Cupertino Rotarians spent countless hours organizing and operating fundraising programs, doing hands-on community and youth projects, and traveling to distant countries to visit our international projects. The time commitment of our Rotarians is a testament to our dedication to the Rotary motto of *Service Above Self*.



The Rotary Club of Cupertino was fortunate to again be the home club of the Rotary District 5170 District Governor. Our own **Hung Wei** served as the 2023-2024 District Governor.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Alysa Sakkas



I am immensely proud of our club's unwavering commitment to serving our community and the world. With a thriving and diverse membership of over 200, we led more than 55 community projects, nine global grant projects, and we supported numerous other endeavors. In alignment with the

Rotary International President's goals and theme, "Create Hope in the World," we added attention to mental health and continued our global humanitarian effort to eradicate polio.

Cupertino Rotary's strategic goal is to be a visionary organization making significant impacts in our community. We introduced new initiatives to address food insecurity, amplified support for Cupertino programming amid city budget cuts, and increased our attention on housing needs through our Cupertino Rotary Housing Corporation.

We nurtured our partnerships with other non-profits, completing hands-on projects such as:

- Staffing the Sunnyvale Homeless Shelter monthly to distribute dinners, preparing meals monthly for Bill Wilson Center at-risk teens, and serving meals weekly at Our Daily Bread.

- Installing solar panels at local non-profits to promote climate action and reduce energy costs, working with SunWork.
- Engaging with local senior facilities to organize activities such as pumpkin carving and animal therapy.
- Conducting career discussions/workshops for high school, college, and adult education students.
- Collaborating with local businesses, West Valley Community Services, Safeway, and Hunger at Home to both glean and distribute food to those in need.
- Partnering with Song for Charlie to educate the community and raise awareness about the fentanyl crisis.

Our successful fundraising efforts enabled new projects such as the establishment of wellness centers in our two school districts. Community Cycles of California was selected as this year's golf tournament beneficiary with our pledge to support their workforce development job-training center.

Guided by our Rotary motto, Service Above Self, we are working together to make a significant impact and create lasting hope in our community and beyond.

**Alysa Sakkas**  
President

Cupertino Rotary 2023-24  
[www.cupertino Rotary.org](http://www.cupertino Rotary.org)



# PRESIDENT ELECT - Jeff Moe



Welcome to the new Rotary Year 2024-25! It is my honor and privilege to serve as your club president. I am excited for the year ahead and at the same time, humbled by our club members' talent, generosity, and dedication. I look forward to our club's

continued service to our community and the world, while we enjoy each other's fellowship.

Our club theme for this year is "Birds: Soaring to new heights." Birds symbolize new beginnings, hope, and freedom. They also symbolize prosperity, peace, and joy. Additionally, some bird species symbolize traits such as intelligence, strength, and courage. All these traits and symbols are manifest among our club members.

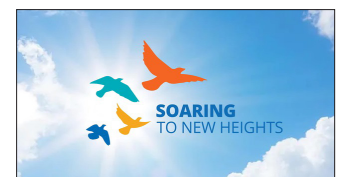
Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick established a priority, "healing a divided world." One way our club can

support that priority is by modeling civil discourse during a challenging national election year. Our club will host two campaign panels in the Fall.

Another club priority is to enhance external communications so that the community can know more about Rotary. Also, we will continue to focus on partnerships.

Let us share the fun and our club spirit by inviting friends and neighbors to our weekly meetings or to our service projects. I look forward to another great year!

**Jeff Moe**  
President - Elect 2024-25



# AVENUES OF SERVICE

## Community Service

*Service Above Self*, one of Rotary's most cherished axioms, is clearly demonstrated through the activities of Community Service. While we donate funds to various community programs, our focus is on hands-on projects that build club spirit and connect us directly with those in need in a safe and welcoming way.

This year, we continued to increase our hands-on participation, utilizing hundreds of hours of volunteer work and \$44,000 devoted to over 20 projects that fed the homeless, delivered Thanksgiving turkey and trimmings to 173 community families, sent care packages to our overseas troops, purchased toys, books, and art supplies for foster youth, brought comfort animals to visit several senior facilities, and assembled over 60 volunteers to make individual homes safer, healthier, and aesthetically pleasing for low-income seniors. We also provided funds and volunteers to organizations that help children and young adults with various challenges.

## Youth Service

Committed to serving the amazing young people in our community by working with our many partners providing support and financial assistance, creating opportunities for our members to serve and interact with the younger members of Cupertino, and providing opportunities for our youth to learn and grow into future leaders!

This year we completed 23 projects with over 15 champions, with a budget of \$37,000. Along with our 12 established partners, this year we added Bill Wilson Center, Morgan Autism Center and Kara Grief. Continuing projects included Back to School with Dignity shopping with West Valley Community Services, Winterfest with Via Services, Dr Seuss Read Across America for First graders in CUSD schools, and support for two local scout troops.

In keeping with the Rotary International President's focus on mental health this year, our committee was very pleased to support wellness centers in our two school districts.

## Climate Action

The Climate Action Committee serves our community with projects that reduce our carbon footprint while materially aiding our beneficiaries. Our projects include building electrification for nonprofits, including rooftop solar and heat pump water heaters; we bring our beneficiaries' typical payback time down to 1-2 years by leveraging our volunteer labor plus grants from our committee, private foundations and public agencies. We are partnering with the City of Cupertino to deploy artistic bike racks around town, and with FUHSD to sponsor Earth Day. We help Hunger at Home to recover and distribute edible food for the food-insecure and to reduce methane emissions.

## Club Service

Our Club Service AOS is the heart of our club, creating the climate and culture that makes our club inviting, appealing, and interesting. Responsible for the logistical activities that ensure the smooth operation of our club, these committee members are the backbone that make all of our charitable work possible.



*Senior Animal Therapy*



*Rotary Youth Leadership Award*



*DeAnza e-Bike Dedication*



*Making Meetings Fun*

# AVENUES OF SERVICE



*Re-Entry Program Support*



*Cambodian Educational Project*



*Hunger at Home Food Recovery*



*Operation Care and Comfort*

## Workforce Development

Workforce Development enables our Rotary Club to be a driving force for individual success in work or career by supporting:

- BEEP - Business Entrepreneur Encouragement Program
- De Anza Adult School Cross Cultural Partnership for English skills
- De Anza Veteran Students to leverage their military experience into civilian jobs
- Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN)
- Fremont Union High School District (FUHSD) Adult School
- FUHSD Educational Options Program Springboard into Careers
- FUHSD Community Resource Event
- FUHSD Adult School Principal's Scholarship
- Hope Drop-In Center CR Financial Awards
- The Reentry Program - reintegration of formerly incarcerated women into society
- DeAnza Career Technical Education (CTE) through eight \$1500 scholarships
- Two annual \$7,000 Jackson Family Education Scholarships to a DeAnza college student planning to transfer to a four-year university
- The annual \$4000 Professor Kang Chao and Jessica Chao Memorial Scholarship to a DeAnza college student transferring to UC Berkeley
- The annual Its and Marion Uenaka Memorial SJSU Scholarship, a \$40,000 Scholarship paid out over 4 years for a SJHS student transferring to SJ State University

## World Community Service

Cupertino Rotary collaborates with other Rotary clubs on international projects that address access to clean water, child and maternal health, primary education, economic development, environmental change, peacebuilding, and disease prevention and treatment. The Rotary Foundation matches our club's funding and provides fiscal oversight.

Our international projects this year include:

- Enabling vocational support for a domestic violence shelter in Ecuador
- Establishing a mobile dental clinic in Chile
- Supporting the establishment of a piggery for economic development in Uganda
- Supporting English education through Feeding Dreams in Cambodia
- Providing pre and post-natal care to a marginalized community in Nigeria
- Supplying dialysis machines for a hospital in India
- Equipping a blood bank to serve tribal people with congenital Thalassemia in India
- Delivering clean water via a borehole in Kenya
- Training government school teachers to teach remedial English in India
- Enabling cleft lip/palate surgeries in Guatemala

This year, Cupertino Rotarians traveled to monitor and explore potential projects, engaging with local Rotarians to understand the culture and economic conditions in Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Uganda, and Vietnam.

Additionally, we build strategic partnerships supporting the international projects of other Rotary clubs in Cote d'Ivoire, China, Guatemala, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nicaragua, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Uganda.

# FUND DEVELOPMENT

Our club fundraisers had a record-setting year, raising more than \$340,000 for charitable purposes.

Cupertino Rotary's high-profile presence in effectuating Rotary Foundation Global Grants allowed us to leverage relationships with more than 40 other Rotary clubs/districts and a leading NGO, World Vision, to finance an \$800K+ project to improve water and sanitation infrastructure for four communities in Guatemala. The work is expected to be initiated in calendar year 2024.

The Cupertino community Fall Festival returned for the 42nd year, providing a showcase for local talents and organizations that make Cupertino such a rich, diverse and inclusive community.

Our 31st annual Golf Classic event contributed \$20K through a special grant to Community Cycles of California, and an additional \$43K for a variety of charitable projects conducted by our club service committees.

The Year of the Rabbit auction pulled in \$38K over two years, and our volunteer work at Levi stadium raised almost \$32,000.



This year our club earned Rotary International's EREY Award (Every Rotarian Every Year) in recognition of donations to The Rotary Foundation and our club organized a Polio Plus Fundraiser to support Rotary International's goal of eliminating polio world-wide.

All of these fundraisers contribute to the ongoing charitable work that is conducted throughout the year through initiatives led by our Climate, Workforce Development, Youth, Community, and International Avenues of Service committees.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our weekly programs encompass a wide spectrum of speakers, as well as community celebrations and fellowship events. We strive for balance in our programming and speakers that appeal to our diverse membership.



Featured is a small sampling of our great programs this year:

Desmond Tutu desk project: *Thandeka Tutu-Gxashe, Rotary Ambassador for Women & Girls Empowerment*  
Meet our Congressman: *Rep. Ro Khanna*  
San Jose Museum of Art: *Sayre Batton, Executive Director*  
Being on "Jeopardy": *Daniel Ngyuen, Jeopardy Champion*  
Black history month: *Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, West Valley Community College President*  
Addressing Food Insecurity through Food Recovery: *Ewell Sterner, Hunger at Home CEO*  
MethaneSAT: Solving Climate Challenge from Space: *Ed Irvin, Project Director*  
Stanford Jazz Workshop: *David Miller, Executive Director*

## ROTARIANS IN THE NEWS



**Kalpana Aroda:** received the Festival of Globe Award for Women in Leadership from the Federation of Indian Americans of Northern California (FIA).



**Diana Ding:** received the 2023 Santa Clara Citywide Community Award, the 2024 Assembly District 26 Woman of the Year Award, and the 2024 Chinese American Woman Role Model Award.



**Padma Chari:** received the 2024 Rotary District 5170 Karl Stucki Rotary Ideals Award for exemplifying the greatest contribution to Rotary ideals by serving the community with professional expertise and integrity.



**Orrin Mahoney:** received the 2024 Rotary District 5170 Dave Heagerty Award for the promotion of Rotary's message.



**Maria Segal:** was honored for her years of service for public education with the Circle of Believers award at the FUHSD Foundation dinner.

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## PARTNERS LIST FOR THE 2023-24 ROTARY YEAR

It is through partnerships both locally and world wide that we fulfill the Rotary mission to do good in the world.

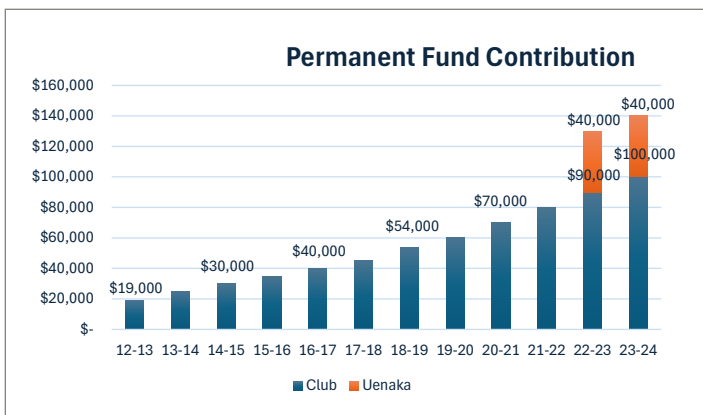
Academy of Music and Arts for Special Education  
Bill Wilson Center  
Billy DeFrank LGBTQ+ Community Center  
City of Cupertino  
Community Cycles of California  
Cupertino Chamber of Commerce  
Cupertino Education Endowment Foundation  
Cupertino Inner Wheel  
Cupertino Library Foundation  
Cupertino Rotary Sponsored Interact Clubs  
Cupertino-Bhubaneswar Sister City  
Cupertino-Cupertino Sister Cities Assoc.  
Cupertino-Hsinchu Sister City Assoc.  
Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities, Inc.  
Cupertino Union School District  
De Anza College  
Foothill De Anza Foundation  
Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN)  
FCSN - Job Readiness program  
Fremont Union HS District  
FUHS Foundation  
Home First Dinner Service  
Hunger at Home  
Joint Venture Silicon Valley  
Kara Grief Services  
KMVT Silicon Valley Community Media

League of Women Voters  
Life Services Alternatives  
Morgan Autism Center  
Northwest YMCA  
Operation Care And Comfort  
Our Daily Bread  
Pacific Autism Center of Education  
Pacific Clinics  
Parents Helping Parents  
Partners In Community Service  
Pratham  
Rebuilding Together  
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards  
Safeway  
Sankara Eye Foundation  
Santa Clara County Reentry Resource Center  
Scouts BSA: P492, T479, T492, C479, T2400  
Shin Shin Education Foundation  
Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action  
SJ State Univ  
SunWork  
VIA Rehabilitation Services  
World Vision  
West Valley Community Services  
Walk Bike Cupertino

# PERMANENT FUND

## CUPERTINO ROTARY ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

The Cupertino Rotary Endowment Foundation (CREF) was created to increase funds available for Rotary’s charitable giving. A separate entity from both the Rotary Club of Cupertino and Rotary International, CREF’s 501(C)(3) status affords individuals, families, trusts, foundations, and corporations the ability to contribute to charitable causes and realize tax benefits from such contributions. Now with a corpus of over \$3 million, the annual contributions from the Permanent Fund have increased yearly and are now the largest component of Cupertino Rotary’s annual charitable giving.



# MEMBERSHIP



We added 22 new members in 2023-24. As the third largest Rotary club (200+) in District 5170, Cupertino Rotary is a strong vibrant club, with an active and engaged membership that reflects the rich ethnic fabric of our community. As a first, this year our club reached gender parity. Cupertino Rotary provides opportunities for our diverse members to come together, exchange ideas, and take action to benefit communities both locally and worldwide. At Cupertino Rotary, we serve together to foster goodwill while building long-lasting friendship.

# CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-24

President 2023-2024 ALYSA SAKKAS	Director LOUISA ROBERTS
President Elect JEFF MOE	Director DANA DRYSDALE
Secretary JEAN GASPERINI	Director HELENE DAVIS
Chief Financial Officer CRAIG CUMMINGS	Director MAURI OKAMOTO-KEARNEY
President, CREF JIM DAVIS	Director JAGI SHAHANI
Strategic Dev. Officer PADMA CHARI	Director JUDY WILSON
Immediate Past President STEVE ONISHI	Fund Development Officer KATHY YATES



The RCoC was the recipient of the Rotary District 5170, 2023-24 DEI Committee Inclusivity Recognition Award for work done to ensure our club is welcoming and inclusive.

# Rotary Club of Cupertino



To learn more about The Rotary Club of Cupertino visit the Club’s website at:  
[www.cupertino Rotary.org](http://www.cupertino Rotary.org)

Please join us as our guest

We meet every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. at  
**Quinlan Community Center,**  
**10185 N Stelling Road,**  
**Cupertino, CA.**

*Meeting in person and via Zoom: See website for details.*

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