



Bristol Rotary – Help us Help the Community



Bristol Rotary was founded in 1929 and is a member of Rotary International which has over 34,000 clubs worldwide with over 1,200,000 members. Each club serves a community like Bristol and generally is made up of many of the businesses and professionals of the town. The motto of Rotary is “Service above Self” - doing something for the community over and above doing your job. Bristol Rotary has certainly been doing that for all the years of its existence.

In 2014, Bristol Rotary added another arrow in its quiver to step up its contributions to the community. It formed a 501(c)(3) public charity to provide tax deductions for its donors and to raise more funds to take on more and larger projects.

Annually, Bristol Rotary donates to over 20 local charities and some international ones as well. It set up its donation process to accept requests throughout the year for time sensitive needs but will review all Donation Requests that come in before by March 31 of each year. Then a special meeting for review of requests is held in April when requests are evaluated and funded based on available resources. On its website (bristolrotaryclub.com), there is a Donation Request Form in the lower left side of the home page by which donations can be mailed or given to a Rotary member. Last year (fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) Bristol Rotary sent out donations to the following organizations:

Bristol County Chorus – Outstanding local choral group

Bristol Fire and Rescue – contributing to a portable Jaws-of-Life

Bristol Warren Thrive by Five – providing family health and wellness programs

Brothers on a New Direction – personal growth and lead by example for men of color

Coggeshall Farm Museum – offsite educational instruction for local schools with historical artifacts

Camp St. Dorothy – summer day camp for under privileged kids

Community String Project - after school string instrument instruction to local public school students

East Bay Food Pantry – creating a hunger-free community

Emergency Dialer Program – free access to emergency services to the elderly or infirm in Bristol

Franklin Court Assisted Living – providing quality of life tools for senior citizens

Girl Scouts of Bristol/Warren – building courage, confidence and character

Mosiaco – Connecting Kids to Community

Mothers Against Drunk Driving – sending Mt Hope High School students to leadership conference

Parents as Teachers – for CPR training

Police Unity Tour - for Bristol Police raising awareness of police killed on duty

Rhode Island Veterans Home – providing services to our elderly local veterans

Sisters of Mercy - helping children with HIV or Aids

Stem Cell Foundation - on behalf of a Bristolian who lost her daughter

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition - with Warren/Barrington Rotary Club

Women’s Comprehensive Cancer Care Program – Support of local efforts

Women’s Resource Center – Services to individuals subjected to domestic violence



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In addition to its annual donations to local groups, Bristol Rotary, with the help of a community-based advisory council, raised funds to establish an East Bay Support Center for the Autism Project. The East Bay had been under-served in providing help and support to its over 2,000 families dealing with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Bristol Rotary raised over \$70,000 from local individuals and Town Councils to establish and sustain the Center. The Support Center was successfully launched in September 2015 and as a result of this grass roots, community support, the Autism Project received a grant for \$1.7 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services which will be used to further expand the East Bay Support Center.

Of special note, the Emergency Dialer program (EDP) has been funded almost totally by BRCF for the past 3 years. This program provides free dialers to the disabled, elderly or anyone in Bristol, regardless of means, so they can be assured emergency services when the need arises, and thus allowing them to live independent lives. Currently there are 330 users, growing at 1 or 2 per week. It is estimated to have saved 100 lives last year. This year we are adding “lock boxes” to the service offering, allowing emergency services easy access to the home to avoid unnecessary destruction when responding. Only the dispatch operator at the Police station will have access to the combination on the lock box and will pass it on to the responders.

Also last year, Bristol Rotary supported charitable work for Haiti’s Child by hosting a fundraiser that raised over \$16,000. Haiti’s Child sends missions to Haiti to provide services such as medical treatment, food distribution and clothing/shoes. The need for these services is overwhelming.

And lastly, 10% of the funds available for gifting per year are sent to Rotary International for, among other causes, the PolioPlus Fund. Rotary International with our partners has helped to reduce polio worldwide by 99.9% since 1979.

Help us continue to help the Community! Please come or donate to Bristol Rotary’s annual Charities Foundation celebration in late September 2018 - to be announced. All proceeds from this event will go to supporting our charitable giving for the following year. All donations are tax deductible.