



Bristol Rotary among top donors to The Autism Project at Imagine Walk

On Sunday, April 30, The Imagine Walk fund-raiser, annually run by The Autism Project of Johnston, was at Goddard Memorial Park. The walk contributes to the project's mission to "support children to young adults with autism, their families and the many professionals who work to support them." They touch more than 7,500 people each year through their programming, training and outreach. Bristol Rotary raised funds in 2015-16 to bring The Autism Project to the East Bay to provide closer support to the over 2,000 families in the East Bay affected by autism spectrum disorders. Support is still critical, as the rate of children born with autism has grown from 1 in 68 in 2016 to 1 in 36 today (per the CDC). Pictured are Joanne Quinn, executive director of The Autism Project, and Bruce Cox, president of Bristol Rotary's Charities Foundation.



Mt. Hope High School DECA team competes at nationals

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is an association of marketing students that encourages the development of business and leadership skills. At Mt. Hope High School this year, 26 students competed at the R.I. DECA Career Development Conference. Of those, 17 placed in the top three of their events, with 11 students earning an invitation to compete with over 18,000 students in April at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Fla. Of the 11 students who qualified, eight represented R.I. DECA and competed at the conference, including Reyn Ferris, Olivia Labonte, Madison Charest, Sydney DiChiappari, Bridget Williams, Emma Serbst, Claudia Green and Amelia Piper. Pictured with the students are (back, center) Maureen Gauthier, DECA advisor for Mt. Hope, and Paul LaFleur, president of the Bristol Rotary Club, who delivered a donation to help the team get to Orlando. At the far left is Christina Vieira, a Bristol Rotarian who participated in DECA when she was a student at Mt. Hope.

Rotary Club helps Little League sound great

King Philip Little League was founded in 1952 and believes in the power of youth baseball and softball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities. The league is in the beginning of its playoff season and then will jump into its all-star season. During these games, baseball families and fans from around the state attend. But, the league needs an upgrade to its sound system. Paul LaFleur (left), president of Bristol Rotary Club, presents a donation of \$1,400 to league volunteer Jennifer Mello (center) for an improved sound system. At left is Bristol Rotarian Ken Watkinson.



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Bristol Rotary plugs the gap for town's Summer Camp program

Bristol Parks and Recreation noted that the Summer Camp registration has increased to close to 450 children this year, up 10 percent. The fee (\$300 per child) includes a T-shirt, busing from five locations, if needed, and lunch daily. The program offers scholarships for families who would have difficulty paying the fee, and were able to cover 15 families through grants and donations. But, three more families came forward asking for help. The Bristol Rotary Club donated the last \$900 needed to provide for everyone. Pictured (from left to right) are Parks & Rec Director Warren Rensehausen, Assistant Director Tim Shaw, Bruce Cox, president of the Bristol Rotary's Charities Foundation, and Mary Jo Fidalgo-Tavares, president-elect of the Rotary Club.

Bristol Rotary Supports Art Programs in Elementary Schools

Due to budget cuts, Bristol Rotary donated \$1,000 each to the three elementary schools in Bristol to restore more fully their art programs. Below, Paul LaFleur presents a check to the school to support the art teacher's program: center picture is Rockwell School, teacher Sarah Jacobs; upper left is Guiteras School, also Sarah Jacobs; upper right Colt Andrews, teacher Lynne Ramos. See full story below.



Rotary Club distributes donations

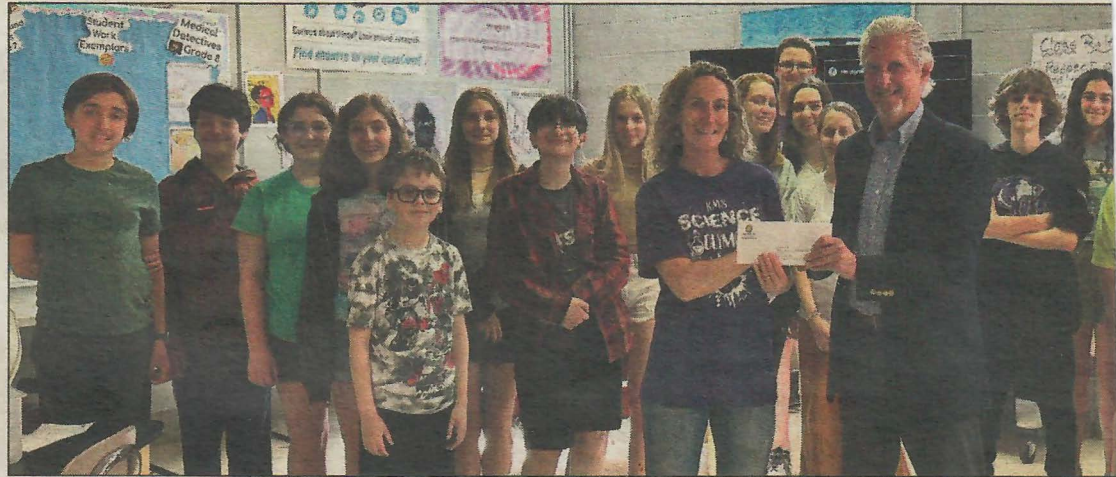
The Bristol Rotary Club yearly makes donations to a number of charities in the community. Requests made for donations come in by the end of March and are considered in a board meeting in April.

This year over \$36,000 was donated to the following charities and organizations: Women's Resource Center, Rogers Free Library, Linden Place, educational grants for Mt. Hope graduates, The Autism Project, East Bay Food Pantry, Tomorrow Fund, Centre River of

Hope Orphanage - Haiti, school art programs at Guiteras, Rockwell and Colt Andrews; Community String Project, Bristol County Chorus, Second Baptist Church - Ukraine, Franklin Court Independent Living, DECA Club of Mt. Hope High School, U.S. Sailing (for underprivileged), Friends of St. Elizabeth's Food Pantry, Boy Scouts of America, Dorcas International (Ukrainian Refugees), and Rotary Foundation - Disaster Response Fund.

Kickemuit Middle School Science Team gets a boost from Bristol Rotary

Kerri Krawczyk (front left), the veteran Science Olympiad coach at Kickemuit Middle School, recently led her team to a spot in the 39th Science Olympiad National Tournament which was on May 19 and 20. As reported in a recent Phoenix, the team is seeking donations to transport the team and parents to Wichita State University, at a cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000. Paul LaFleur (front right), president of Bristol Rotary, contributes to the ride with a check from Bristol Rotary for \$4,000 and encourages other businesses and local organization to help. "We are all proud of these outstanding local students!"



Bristol Rotarians are helping to save lives in Uk

Ken Watkinson, from the Bristol Rotary Club, working with Tom Carroll, president of Paramedic Systems & Alert Ambulance, managed to donate an ambulance to be sent to Ukraine through the Second Baptist Ukrainian Church.

Alert Ambulance is donating the ambulance and all the necessary equipment inside. Life of an ambulance in Ukraine is 60 days. The ambulance will be brought over to Ukraine via container, painted in camouflage and go right into the battlefield. Wounded soldiers are transported from the war zone via pickup truck, then placed into an ambulance and brought to the hospital.

The Bristol Rotary also donated \$1,000 for wound VAC kits to be placed in the ambulance. Vacuum-Assisted Closure kits (VAC) assist in the closure of wounds, which help wounds heal faster.

The church has already sent four large containers of donations to Ukraine. Bristol Rotarians Ken and Mary Watkinson, with help from Bristol Rotary, have brought 50 truckloads of supplies to the church for soldiers and civilians in the war-torn country, including PPE defibrillator, heart monitors, winter jackets, hygiene bags, and warm clothes. The church packages the goods for shipment.

Ken and Mary Watkinson (center) deliver a check to Slavik Krishchuk (right), mission director for the Second Baptist Church, and his brother Leonid Krishchuk (left), pastor of the New Life Church in Lutsk, Ukraine. The ambulance will be brought to Ukraine via container and painted in camouflage



Bristol Rotary Club offers Ukraine support there

Rotary International initiated a program asking all Rotary Clubs to offer financial support to Ukraine early in the invasion by having Rotary Clubs around the world contribute to Rotary's Disaster Relief Fund.

This fund was to be dedicated to Ukraine and sent to Rotary Clubs in-country as well as in neighboring countries. Bristol Rotary's members donated over \$3,000 at the time. But, wanting to continue the support as more and more refugees were sent to our area, Rotary teamed up with Dorcas International to help and integrate Ukrainian families locally.

Through a fund-raiser, Bristol Rotary donated a total of \$5,000. But, then through-

out 2022, Bristol Rotary focused on local help to Ukrainians, not only families arriving during the current conflict, but those left homeless during the first Russian invasion of Crimea in 2014. Both groups of refugees still had families left behind and were eager to help them, too.

Working with the local 2nd Baptist Ukrainian Church, Bristol Rotary, led by Ken and Mary Watkinson, and other Bristol donors, collected, packaged and delivered to the church over 45 truckloads of medical equipment, hygiene kits, warm clothing, bedding, winter coats and other vital items. These were processed at the church and distributed to refugee families with the

remainder sent to their families and friends in Ukraine.

These shipments in containers were paid for by donations from many other supporters, including Bristol Rotary. The containers make their way into Ukraine by special underground routes using air, trains and trucks.

The support to the local congregation of Ukrainians will continue to be one of Bristol Rotary's charitable projects for as long as it takes.

Ken Watkinson loading medical backpacks to be sent to Ukraine.

and locally





Rotary Club of Bristol
Rhode Island U.S.A.



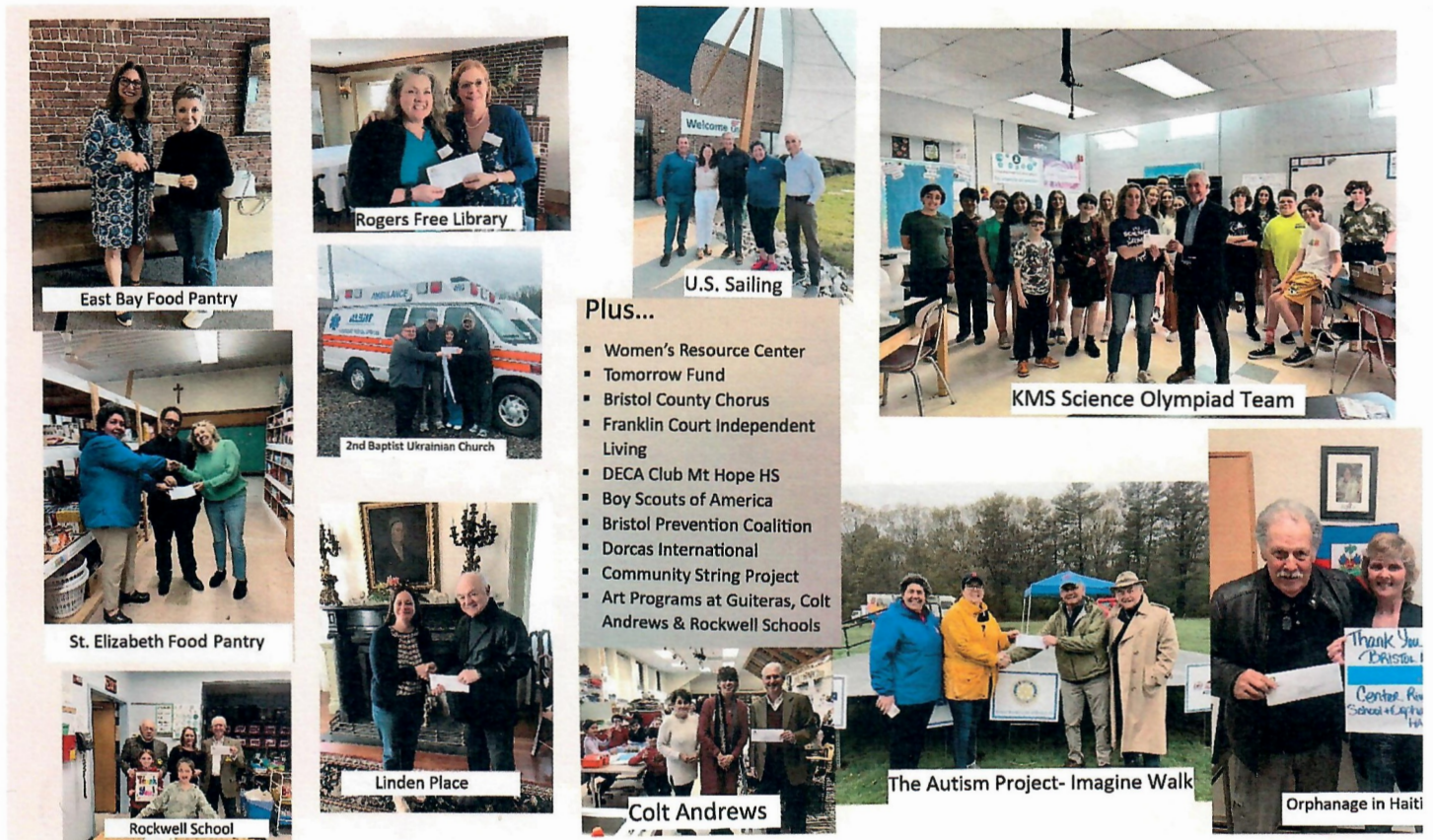
Bristol Rotary's April Giving Program

This year, due to our generous donors, (who have responded to our motto "Help Us Help Others"), Bristol Rotary donated over \$40,000 to a variety of charities that help our community. That also includes charities that are helping Ukrainian refugees resettle here - like Dorcas International and the 2nd Baptist Ukrainian Church. The latter not only helps refugees from the current conflict but also from the takeover of Crimea in 2014.

Bristol Rotary not only makes donations during the year, but sets aside a Board Meeting in April as our April Giving event - using funds donated to Bristol Rotary from a variety of fundraisers for that purpose.

In the pictures below, one or more Bristol Rotarian is bringing a donation to the representatives of the charity or project. There are some familiar names, but this year we have emphasized several school projects. Due to a shortfall in funds, we donated to supplement the budgets for Art programs at Guiteras, Colt Andrews and Rockwell schools. In addition, we contributed to the DECA program at Mt. Hope HS, the Kickemuit Science Olympiad and, a student competition established by MADD. In the center is a list of other donations made this year. It includes organizations that help both young and old, mentally challenged or physically challenged by war or relationships, music and art. And, thanks to one Rotarian couple, we even managed to send an ambulance, full of medical supplies and winter clothing, to Ukraine!


It's been a very good year - help us help others - next year.



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Bristol Rotary presents two financial awards



Annually, the Bristol Rotary Club gives financial awards to outstanding and deserving students. Honored this year are Marina Abrev (top left) and Shivani Mehta. Marina is a graduate of Saint Mary Academy - Bayview. Marina is planning to go to Fordham University in the fall to study brain and cognitive sciences, and communications. While Shivani will attend Georgia Institute of Technology and major in neuroscience. Both women have excellent academic records, have been leaders in their respective schools, and have helped their communities.