The Rotary Club of Bristol, RI (*serving* Bristol • Warren • Barrington)

Monthly Newsletter

October 2026 — Service Above Self • Help Us Help Others

Dear Bristol Rotarians,

As I reflect on all that we have accomplished together, I am reminded of what makes our club so special: the generosity of our members, our commitment to serving others, and the difference we make in the lives of people throughout our community. There is so much to be proud of, and I am excited to share a few of our recent accomplishments and upcoming opportunities!

1. **Moving Bristol Rotary Forward**

We continue to strengthen our club not only through service, but also by investing in our organization's future. Our Committee Policies and Procedures Manual is complete and will soon be reviewed and ratified by the Board. In addition, our Bristol Rotary Bylaws are being reviewed and updated for Board approval. These important steps will help ensure that our club remains well organized, effective, and prepared for the years ahead.

2. **Saving Lives Through Blood Donations**

Our recent blood drives, held in collaboration with the Bristol and Warren Fire Departments, were a tremendous success! Together, we collected 37 blood donations, potentially helping save 111 lives.

This is a wonderful example of what can happen when community organizations work together toward a common goal. Thank you to everyone who helped organize, promote, and support these important events!



3. **Growing Our Rotary Family**

Our membership continues to grow, and that is something worth celebrating! In October, we proudly inducted Brian Jodoin, sponsored by Cynthia Larson, bringing our membership to 72 members. Even more exciting, we have two additional members scheduled for induction on November 4.

Every new member brings fresh ideas, energy, and opportunities to expand our impact. Thank you to everyone who continues to welcome prospective members and share the value of being part of Bristol Rotary.



4. **Recognizing Heroism and Giving Back**

One of our most meaningful recent moments was presenting Officer Zachary Kretchman with a Paul Harris Fellow award in recognition of his heroic actions in helping save the lives of six Bristol residents. Officer Kretchman's courage and quick response exemplify the spirit of service and selflessness that Rotary celebrates. In recognition of his actions, Bristol Rotary donated $1,000 in Officer Kretchman's name to the East Bay Community Action Program in support of the HEZ program, assisting Jessica Williams.

We are proud to recognize an individual whose actions remind us how one person can make an extraordinary difference in the lives of others.



5. **The Bristol Match Is Making a Difference!**

Our Bristol Match fundraising initiative supporting the East Bay Recovery Center concludes on October 31, and we are on track to raise $10,000 in community contributions! Bristol Rotary will match those donations dollar for dollar, resulting in a potential $20,000 total contribution to support the center's important work.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed, shared the campaign, and encouraged others to participate. Your generosity demonstrates the power of a community coming together to support a worthy cause. Every contribution helps strengthen the resources available to those who need them most.

Bristol Rotary Charities Foundation, Financial Status as of 10/13/2026

1. Financial Accounts: **Total value of all accounts**		**$177,847.83**
A – Bank of Newport		$ 70,484.88
a. BRCF #7942		$ 61,574.12
b. Bingo #7551		$ 1,615.33
c. Emergency Dialer Program #6265		$ 7,295.43
B – Edward Jones Brokerage		$107,362.95
a. Main Fund #1743		$ 50,520.33
- Money Market Account	$25,520.94	
- Bank of America CD Matures 5/28/2027	$24,931.25	
- Cash Account	$ 68.14	
b. Endowment Fund #4391		$ 56,842.62
- Bonds & CD's	$33,061.70	
- Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's)	$21,453.38	
- Cash Account	$ 12.26	

6. **Supporting the Next Generation of Leaders**

Bristol Rotary was pleased to assist the Barrington Interact Club with its homecoming fundraiser. Supporting our youth and encouraging the next generation of community leaders is an important part of our Rotary mission.

A special thank-you to Cesar Daponte and Tim Pray for their help and support. By working together, we continue to build meaningful connections between our Rotary Club and the young people who will carry the spirit of service into the future.

7. Bristol Rotary Named "Organization of the Year"!

I am incredibly proud to share that Bristol Rotary has been recognized as "Organization of the Year" by the Bristol Sports Club!

This is a historic honor, marking the first time the Bristol Sports Club has presented this prestigious award to an organization. This recognition reflects the dedication, generosity, and tireless efforts of our members, whose commitment to service continues to make a meaningful difference throughout Bristol, Warren, and Barrington. It is a wonderful testament to what we can accomplish when we work together, and I hope each of you shares in the pride of this well-deserved recognition.

Past Presidents Paul Lafleur, Mary-Jo Tavares, and Bruce Cox did an amazing job speaking about Bristol Rotary's past, present, and future.

Thank you for making Bristol Rotary an organization that truly embodies *Service Above Self*.



8. **Help Shape the Future of Bristol Rotary**

The Nominating Committee will soon be reviewing nominations for our 2027–2028 officers, Board members, and committee chairs.

Serving in a leadership role is a wonderful opportunity to contribute your ideas, develop new skills, and help guide our club's future. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please let me know so I can share your interest with the Nominating Committee.

Our club is strongest when members step forward, get involved, and work together. I encourage everyone to consider how they might contribute in a new way!

9. **Thank You for All You Do!**

I hope you enjoy this fourth edition of our Bristol Rotary newsletter. I want to thank each of you for your continued commitment, enthusiasm, and generosity. The accomplishments highlighted here are possible because of members who are willing to give their time, share their talents, and put Service Above Self.

I also welcome your feedback. Please let me know what you enjoy about the newsletter and how we might improve it. My goal is to keep everyone informed, connected, and inspired by the great work happening throughout our club.

Let's continue building on our momentum, welcoming new members, strengthening our community partnerships, and finding new ways to **Help Us Help Others**.

Thank you for being part of Bristol Rotary. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together!

Warm regards,

John Birs
President, Bristol Rotary 2026-2027