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

Monthly Newsletter

November 2026 — Service Above Self • Help Us Help Others

Dear Bristol Rotarians,

As we head into the Thanksgiving season, I find myself reflecting on just how much our club continues to accomplish. Whether it's supporting local organizations, raising funds for important causes, helping families in need, or welcoming new members, Bristol Rotary continues to demonstrate what *Service Above Self* truly means.

We have a lot to be thankful for, and much of it comes down to the generosity, commitment, and willingness of our members to step up whenever our community needs us. I want to thank each and every one of you for making Bristol Rotary such an incredible organization.

Here are a few highlights from the past month.

1. Bristol Match – $20,000 Presented to East Bay Recovery Center
Our first Bristol Match was a tremendous success!

We were proud to present a **$20,000 donation to East Bay Recovery Center**, accepted by George O'Toole and Maggie Lauriano. This was a wonderful example of what can happen when generosity, community partnerships, and a shared commitment to helping others come together.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported this effort, and especially to **Jacques de Labry and Jenn Little**, whose efforts helped make this initiative possible.

This is exactly the kind of community impact we hope to continue creating through Bristol Rotary and the Bristol Rotary Charities Foundation.



2. Friends of St. Elizabeth's Macaroni Dinner
Congratulations to the Friends of St. Elizabeth's Church on a very successful Macaroni Dinner, raising over **$5,100**!



A special thank you to all the Rotarians who volunteered their time, energy, and support to help make this event a success. These events remind us that when we work together, we can make a meaningful difference for organizations throughout our community.

3. Emergency Fuel Assistance – Helping Our Neighbors

At our recent Board meeting, the Board approved reallocating funds from the Emergency Dialer Program to the Town's Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund.

With the winter months approaching, this assistance is especially important for individuals and families who are struggling to keep their homes warm. We are proud to support this effort and help address a very real need in our community.

4. Look What You Have Done!

In last week's Club Board Meeting, the Board approved the following grant donations unanimously:

a) **End Hunger New England**. $500.00. This program provides 11,000 prepackaged meals to fight food insecurity.
b) **Food for Kids Program**. $4,000.00. EPFP provides, during the Christmas holidays, an extra initiative to help parents provide food for kids when they are home from school. During school breaks, the pantry is able to provide gift cards to the parents to S & S for the extra food.
c) **Friends of St. Elizabeth Food Pantry**. $1,370.00. GCs from S & S for food baskets.
d) **Town of Warren Social Services**. $600.00 GCs for the Holidays for seniors in Warren.
e) **Franklin Court Independent Living**. $2,375.00 GCs for the residents.
f) **Benjamin Church**, Foster a Senior. $2,000.00.

All of this because you care!

5. District Governor Dinner – A Great Success!

Our District Governor Dinner was a wonderful evening and a great reflection of the strength of our club. We had an outstanding turnout and were proud to represent the largest club in our district.

It was great to see so many members come together in fellowship and support of Rotary. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success!

6. Mount Hope vs. Barrington Homecoming Food Drive

We are excited to support the Mount Hope and Barrington High School Homecoming Food Drive, bringing together both Interact Clubs in a friendly competition to support those in need.

Both Interact Clubs are spearheaded by **Cesar Daponte**, and **Mary Jo Tavares**. We are proud to see our young leaders embracing the spirit of service and community involvement.

If you are unable to attend the game but would like to contribute, non-perishable food donations can be dropped off at **Mary Jo's office or John Birs' office**.

Let's help make this food drive a success and show our support for both schools and the families who will benefit from these donations!

7. Technology Notes – Download the ClubRunner App!
I encourage all members to download the **ClubRunner App** to their smartphones. It's a great way to stay connected with Bristol Rotary and everything happening within our club.

Through the app, you can:

- Call, text, or email fellow club members.
- Access our club newsletter.
- View the club calendar and upcoming events.
- Stay connected with club information and activities.

If you haven't downloaded the app yet, I encourage you to do so. It makes staying connected with our club easier than ever!

8. Nominations for FY 2027 Officers and Directors
It's that time of year when we begin preparing for the next Rotary year. We are seeking nominations for our Officers and Directors for Fiscal Year 2027.
If you would like to nominate a fellow Rotarian, or if you are interested in serving yourself, please submit your nominations to **John Birs by November 30th**.

The strength of our club depends on the willingness of our members to take on leadership roles, contribute new ideas, and help guide our organization forward. I encourage everyone to give this some thought.

9. Welcome Our New Members – Bristol Rotary Is 74 Strong!
We are excited to welcome two new members to our amazing club!

- **Vanessa Combs**, sponsored by Jacques de Labry.
- **Knowlton Walsh**, sponsored by John Birs.

We are thrilled to have Vanessa and Knowlton join us and look forward to their involvement in all that Bristol Rotary has to offer.

With these inductions, **Bristol Rotary is now 74 members strong!** We are building momentum, and it's exciting to see our club continue to grow.



Welcome to Bristol Rotary!

10. Bristol Rotary Charities Foundation Financial Brief Update

Financial status as of November 10, 2026.

1. Financial Accounts: Total Value of all accounts		**$188,317.96**
A. Bank of Newport		$81,297.31
a. BRCF #7942		$72,386.55
- EBRC $20,000		
b. Bingo #7551		$1,615.33
c. Emergency Dialer Program #6265		$7,295.43
- Emergency Fuel Fund $7,295.43		
B. Edward Jones Brokerage		$107,020.65
a. Main Fund #1743		$50,599.44
- Money Market Account	$25,602.55	
- Bank of America CD Matures 5/28/27	$24,928.75	
- Cash Account	$68.14	
b. Endowment Fund #4391		$56,421.21
- Bonds & CDs	$33,231.68	
- Exchange Traded Funds (ETF's)	$20,854.59	
- Mutual Funds	$2,315.28	
- Cash Account	$19.66	

Donations Made this Fiscal Year 26/27

Rotary District RILA	$800.00
Love RI (Warren Community Night Out)	$500.00
BFD Benevolent Association (Bristol Night Out)	$500.00
Looking Upwards, PAT Bridge Run	$2,000.00
EBCAP (Jessica Williams) on behalf of Bristol Police Officer	$1,000.00
Mt. Hope Science Olympians	$500.00
East Bay Community Action Program – EBRC	$20,000.00

Total Donated **$25,300.00**

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to thank you all for your continued commitment to Bristol Rotary and the communities we serve in Bristol, Warren, and Barrington. Your generosity, friendship, and willingness to serve are what make our club so special.

I hope you and your families enjoy a wonderful, healthy, and happy Thanksgiving!

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Warm regards,
John Birs
President, Bristol Rotary 2026–2027