

# Rotary This Week!



Utica, NY, USA

Dec. 11, 2023

## The bid-ness of doing good



*Jerry Kraus and Stephen Turnbull auction off items at the “Not So Silent Night” Gift Auction. Photo / Joe Abraham.*

*By Joe Abraham*

Utica Rotary’s “Not So Silent Night” Gift Auction returned to the 72 Tavern and Grill on Thursday, Dec. 7, raising funds for the Midtown Utica Community Center (MUCC), on a night full of fellowship, friendship and holiday spirit.

**The auction raised a total of \$3,315, Chair Travis Rabbers announced.** Veteran “unsilent auctioneers” Jerry Kraus and Stephen Turnbull teamed up to hawk gifts and entice bidding.

“Utica Rotary thanks Mohawk Valley Wellness, the presenting sponsor of the event, as well as all of

the local businesses, Rotarians and club members who donated items and/or attended the event, making it a great success,” Travis noted.

He offered a special thankyou to Gabriel Broomfield who donated a one-night stay at Acadia Airbnb, and to “Midtown Utica Community Center, our beneficiary, for coming out and supporting the event.”

“One last thankyou to all our committee members for organizing and planning a successful event.”

MUCC strives to create a multicultural, refugee-friendly space that fosters safety, health, and educational opportunities for all.

Moreover, the mission is rooted in Utica’s rich tradition of embracing immigrants and refugees, a legacy spanning over two centuries.

MUCC explains that governmental support extends for just 90 days upon refugees’ arrival, with many grappling with persistent language barriers, economic hardship, trauma-related challenges, and cultural nuances long after resettlement.

MUCC steps in to address these issues, offering extended support to empower refugees in accessing essential resources and integrating into their new home.

Deadline for next newsletter (12/18) is Saturday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

*Editor Robert Stronach*



**TAKE ACTION:** [www.uticarotary.org](http://www.uticarotary.org)

# The 'Not So Silent Night' Rotary Spirit



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*Jerry Kraus, Stephen Turnbull, Travis Rabbers, and President Linda Iannone (right) flank representatives from Midtown Utica Community Center. “Santa” Travis is holding a check for \$3,315 that he presented to MUCC. Photos / Joe Abraham.*



# The 'Not So Silent Night' Rotary Spirit



## Calendar of Events

- 12/16 Service | Salvation Army Kettle  
12-6 | Chanatry's
- 12/20 Board Meeting  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber
- 12/21 Meeting |  
noon | Mid-York Library

**Bring your holiday spirit**  
to the next meeting at noon Thurs., Dec. 21.

"All are invited to bring a little treat or a dish for others to sample," says President Linda Iannone. "In lieu of a speaker, members are asked to share a holiday memory or a story of their heritage celebrations!"

"Hope to see you there to share in holiday fellowship and festivities!"