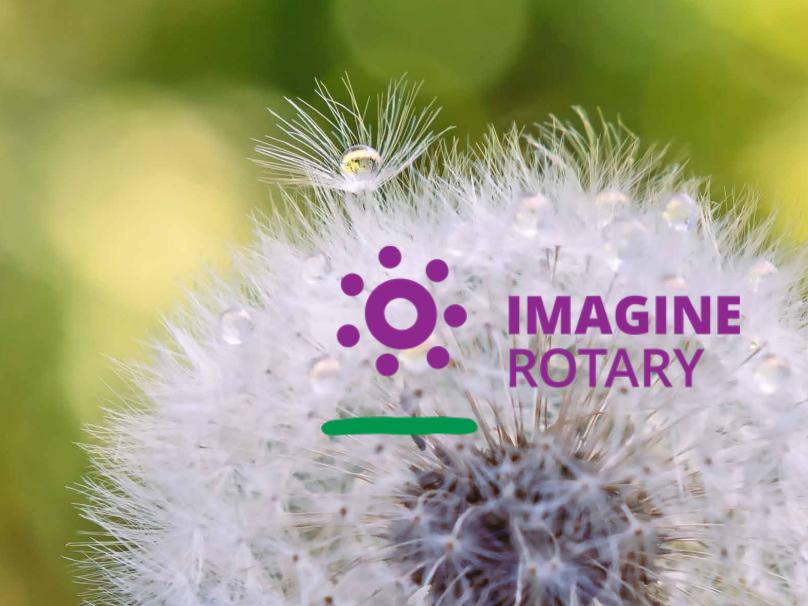
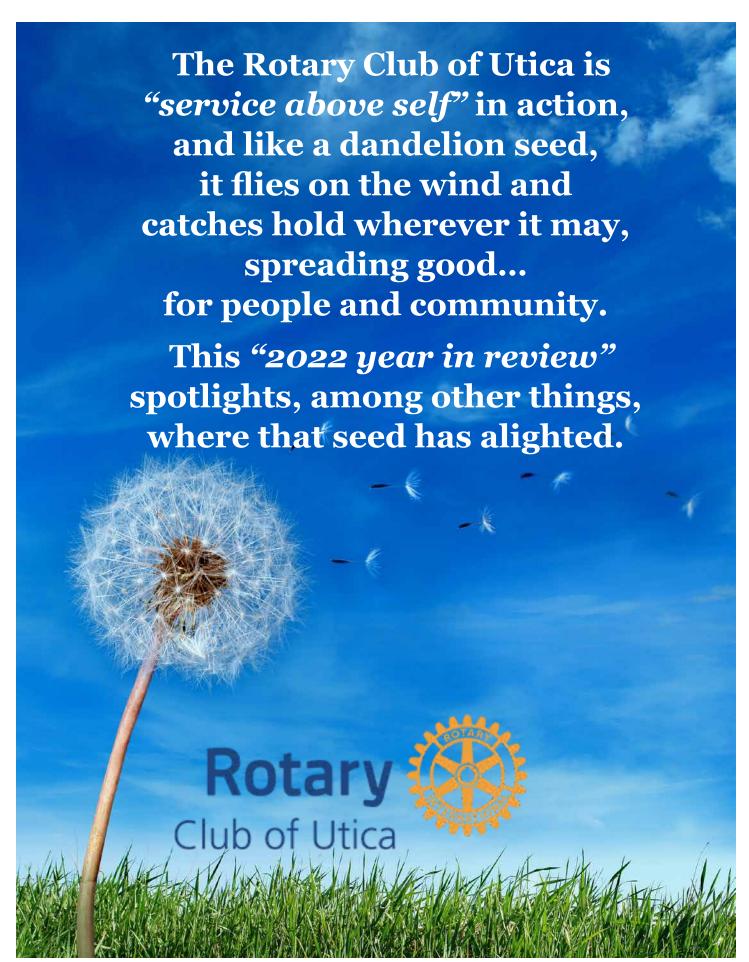


Rotary

2022 in review





We're growing!

The Rotary Club of Utica kicked off 2022 announcing a bevy of new members who joined before the new year.

Introduced at January's meetings were:

Jim Friedel

Patrick Johnson

Christine Kisiel

Isabelle Alexander-Klaboe

Ashley Paolozzi

Brett Shippee

David Smith

Heather Sweet

Clyde Vanderpool

Then 2022 saw the following new members:

January:

Christine Kisiel

Caitlin Matwijec-Walda



March:

John Reese Kyle Tuttle Ashley Paolozzi David Smith **August:**

Vin Cannarelli Stacev Kattato

September:

Alisha Robinson

Heather Evans

October:

Colin Hubbell

November:

Holly Saupp

Paul Harris Fellows

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

In June PDG Don Reese presented Michelle Brandstadt with her second Paul Harris Fellow.

•••

In September President Tina Pavlot presented long-time club member Brymer Humphreys with his three-stone Paul Harris Fellow, and PP and PDG Dana Jerrard presented PP and PDG Don Reese with the Paul Harris Fellow Plus Five award.



Service, service, service!

Despite winter's lingering breath, club members dove right into service projects.



Students
and Rotarians at
Morrow
Warming
Center in
March.

Serving at shelter

Club members Roger Frank, Dave Jones, David Bagley, Brett Shippee, and Travis Rabbers volunteered at the Morrow Warming Center on Saturday evening, Feb. 12.

They began by cleaning the dining tables and preparing food as well as doing a few loads of laundry at the shelter. They also sorted and organized some boxes of clothes that had been brought to the center. When people started to enter, the volunteers served sandwiches, potatoes, soup, and cookies. Afterwards, they cleaned tables and washed dishes.

Noted Travis: "The people there were very grateful and appreciative," including shelter director Rev. Mike Ballman.

Rooting at the farm

The March 12th service project consisted of helping with syrup and greenhouse work at Root Farm, a 100-acre complex in Sauquoit that provides educational, recreational, therapeutic, and vocational experiences. Volunteers dressed warmly and donned close-toed boots.

Back to the shelter

Then on March 25, Utica Rotary returned to help out at Morrow Warming Center, along with Utica University students. Four students and five Rotarians volunteered to help with various cleaning and food preparation tasks.

The students members of the university's Rotaract and International Club. Vasyl Yurkuts (Ukraine), Milena Aguayo Ucedo (Paraguay), Noy Adler (Israel), and Farhad Ali Shah (Pakistan) plowed through Morrow Warming Center Managing Director Cathy Marsh's wish list of tasks to be done. The students sorted and organized the pantry, supply, and clothing closets as well as the kitchen area. Additionally, a couple of the students assisted Morrow Warming Center volunteer Meredeth Reed with processing food for freezing, and Noy showed off her baking skills by making several loaves of bread for the evening meal.

The students were assisted throughout the day by Club members Elizabeth Nassar, Dave Jones, Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka, Jill Koch and Michelle Brandstadt.



Rotary members and friends unloading firefighting equipment at CABVI.
Pictured (l-r):
James Friedel, Mark
Turnbull, Dan
Buono, Roger
Frank & Paul
Nandzik.

BELOW: **Equip**ment boxed on

Donations for Ukraine

With the District 7150 Foundation Committee allocating \$8,000 from District Designated Funds to the Rotary Foundation Disaster Response Fund to be used for expedited grants to provide relief to refugees and other victims of the crisis in the Ukraine, then-District Governor Dana Jerrard (Utica) encouraged Rotarians to join in this support.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 21, the Utica Rotary board voted to donate \$300 to Rotary International's Disaster Response Fund in support of Ukraine, and encouraged Rotarians to make individual donations as well.

Firefighting gear to Africa

Firefighting gear collected by Rotary Club of Utica is finally on its way to help firefighters overseas, the club announced March 30.

Originally intended to be donated to firefighters in Kosovo, and then in the Ukraine, transportation issues prevented that. But now the 90 sets of jackets and pants are in the hands of Africa Fire Mission, a Cincinnati-based nonprofit organization that provides training and personal protective equipment to under-resourced fire departments across Africa and to other developing communities.



The gear had been collected over a period of a year. Then in September 2020, Club members helped move the protective equipment out of a storage locker in Waterville and transported it to Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) in Utica, where it was boxed, placed on pallets, wrapped, and weighed for international shipment. And there the equipment remained until March 2022.

It is now in the hands of Africa Fire Mission. Currently, the organization serves firefighters in Zambia, Kenya and Malawi, and it has partnered in other countries to provide quality training and equipment.



Rotarians and friends at April's Saquoit Creek cleanup project (above and below).

2 cleanup projects in April

The club's biannual Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup took place Saturday, April 9, on the east side of Route 12 (arterial) between Court Street and Burrstone Road. The volunteers donned gloves, safety hardhats and vests.

The second April service project was the cleanup of Sauquoit Creek on April 23.

Rotary Club of Utica, New Hartford Rotary Club, and Sauquoit Rotary Club members spent a beautiful morning cleaning up three different areas along Sauquoit Creek.

Representing Utica Rotary was Elizabeth Nassar, Clyde Vanderpool, Travis Rabbers, Farhad Syed (Utica University exchange student and guest of Dave Jones), Dave Jones, Karlie Wolf, and Bill and Sue Luley along with their grandson Mathew Luley.

Dave Jones reported that it was a great cleanup day with Travis taking the grand prize in finding a 100 dollar bill!



May project at RCIL

Club members volunteered at Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) by doing some garden cleanup at RCIL's Dorothy Smith Center for Advocacy on May 5. Travis Rabbers was the point person for this effort.

Rotary Club of Utica | 6 | 2022 Year in Review



Rotarians, students and teachers at the Outstanding Educators awards luncheon.

Honoring 6 area teachers

The Rotary Clubs of Utica, North Utica/Whitestown, and Sauquoit honored six area teachers on Friday, June 3, at their annual Outstanding Educators Awards Program. The program, presented during a Utica Rotary luncheon at the Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford, is an annual event of the area Rotary Clubs' community service committees.

The 2022 recipients of the Outstanding Educators Awards are:

- Kathleen Washburn of Clinton Central High School.
- Tim Papienuk of New York Mills Junior/Senior High School:
- Noah Howard of Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School:
- Master Chief Mark Williamson of T.R. Proctor High School.
 - Brett Cardillo of Sauquoit Valley High School:
- Charles Hamilton of Whitesboro Central High School.

The awards luncheon culminates a year-long program during which area Rotary clubs host two students from each of six area high schools. At each of two Rotary membership meetings over the past school year, the students had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the Rotary members, and to learn about Rotary's community, regional and international services, which are the fulfillment of the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

At the end of the school year, the students from each school are asked to select the teacher whom they believe exemplifies the Rotary motto, and the values of Rotary, as exemplified in its Four Way Test: Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and better Friendships? Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?



Rotary Club of Utica | 7 | 2022 Year in Review



Inaugural 'Service Above Self' Gala benefitted "Camp Abilities"

Inaugural service gala

Over 165 people enjoyed fine fellowship, dining, and music on Friday, June 24, to raise \$12,000 for CABVI-Camp Abilities.

Attendees were first welcomed with a red-carpet photo opportunity and a glass of champagne. After an hour of mingling, guests were seated to a three-course meal, during which **President**Stephen Turnbull and **President-elect**Tina Pavlot welcomed attendees and presented awards to Club members Darby O'Brien for Paul Harris Fellow and Jerry Kraus for Quiet Giver.

Member Joe Caruso introduced Trinh Truong, nominator of **Sister Elizabeth Greim** for the *Service Above Self* community award.

Next, Dylan Drexler, Adaptive Sports and Recreation Manager for CABVI, briefly spoke about the Camp Abilities program and then introduced Taylor Mitchell, a participant in the program. In a question-and-answer format with Dylan, Taylor explained to the audience what the camp experience has meant to her.

Two surprises occurred during the evening—a hilarious roast of President Stephen and a live auction of a signed Utica Comets hockey stick and a High Tea Party for 10. The auction brought in an additional \$1,025!

The rest of the evening was spent dancing —and there was a lot of it—to the music of *Soul Injection*, featuring District Governor **Dana Jerrard**.

New York State Tool and the Wilsey Family were presenting sponsors.



Sister Elizabeth Greim



Refreshing the runners

Sunday, July 10, was a perfect day for the 45th Boilermaker Road Race, reported Mary Joan Foresti.

"Utica Rotary Water Stop at the Parkway Center was a huge success. We couldn't have done it without Rotary members, family and friends showing up, working together, and supporting the race. Volunteers are truly the backbone of the 'best 15K in the USA'."

Volunteers included:
Jack & Debra Altdoerffer
David Bagley
Brymer Humphreys
Jerry Krause
Tina Pavlot
Travis Rabbers
Denny Williams
Dawn Stanton
Sampathkumar Patil
Jeremy Chamberlain
Renee Marchant
Ava Russo
Dorothy Gilmore
Aaron Albright, Angel Albright

Drew DeBlasis
Jack Chiers
Amelia Hood, Olivia Hood, Sarah Hood
Dominick Nieves
Jaadi Romero
Joshua Martinez
Rhdhames Emhriel
Clyde Jaylcs
Mason Russo
Bobby Jack
Michael Olivadoti
Anthony Mason
Joey Marino



Rotary Club of Utica | 9 | 2022 Year in Review



Supporting humane society

In August Utica Rotary assisted Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society with housekeeping and grooming and interacting with the cats (they have 200!).

Then the club followed up in the fall with a \$1,300 donation towards the purchase of an industrial washer-dryer combo that was greatly needed by the shelter.

They are not everyday household washer-dryer

units, rather these machines are oversized and built to take the constant usage that is necessary to keep the shelter animals in comfortable, clean conditions on a daily basis, seven days a week.

Utica Rotary encourages all who are looking to add a four-legged pet to their family, to go see the many cats and dogs up for adoption at the shelter off Rt. 12N in Utica (just past the Riverside Center). "Please adopt, don't shop."



Rotarians staff the check-in station at the 'Tees for Trees' Golf Tournament.

'Tees for Trees' raises \$2,000

It was a beautiful day on Sunday, August 14, at the Hidden Valley Golf Course in Whitesboro as Rotary Club of Utica hosted a golf outing to help raise funds for the Urban Tree Project.

The 2nd annual Tees for Trees tournament featured lunch, a golf scramble, dinner and door prizes. Trophies were awarded to the winning foursome, Team Turnbull, (featuring Past President Stephen Turnbull), who shot a red-hot 61, which was 10-under par.

A total of 16 teams (including Rotary golfers Jerry Kraus, Darby O'Brien and Mary Lou Reape) helped the club raise over \$2,000 to help with the planting of 29 trees in the city of Utica this fall.

Also helping at the golf outing were Rotary Club

President Tina Pavlot and club members Michelle Brandstadt, Linda Iannone, Travis Rabbers and David Jones.

District grant for trees

Thanks to the effort of member Dave Jones, Rotary Club of Utica was approved for a \$1,600 District Rotary Grant to help fund the Utica Urban Tree Project. The grant is funded by The Rotary Foundation.

A matching grant, it will be coupled with the \$2,000 raised from the Tees for Trees Golf Tournament. The grant and fundraiser enables the Utica Urban Tree Project committee to purchase and plant 29 trees in the city of Utica in the fall.



Rotary members, family and friends planted trees around the City of Utica.

Planting good will with trees

A combination of appreciative homeowners and pleasant weather "made for an enjoyable service project day!"

That's how President-elect Michelle Brandstadt summed up the Urban Tree Planting Project, which saw Rotarians, family members and friends plant 26 trees around the City of Utica on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Project Chair Dave Jones reported that the volunteers included Rome Rotary Club arborist Christ Mercurio; Mohawk Valley EDGE staffer Chris Lawrence; Utica University international students Zainab, Dasha and Dunali; Proctor High School student Kare Ramahar; and from Utica Rotary: Tina Pavlot and husband Ryan, Michelle Brandstadt, Greg Benincasa, Jerry Kraus, Laura Williams, Joe

Caruso, David Bagley and nephew Joe from Colorado; Jill, Bill and Sam Koch; Stew Williams, Bill Luley, Heather Evans and husband Dennis.

Planning for the urban tree planting project was done over the past few months, to determine the Utica homeowners and locations for the 26 trees, delivered and planted for free on Nov. 5. Funding for this project was made possible through money raised during a Rotary Club of Utica golf outing (Tees for Trees) held in August and a Rotary Grant.

This Urban Tree Planting project is a cooperative program with The Rotary Club of Utica, Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, The Unitarian Universalist Church's 'Climate Action team' and the City of Utica Parks Department.



(L-R) Rotarians Jerry Kraus and Tina Pavlot, Utica Mayor Rob Palmieri, Rotary Tree Project Chair David Jones, homeowner Lynne Morinitti, and Barbara Freeman from Unitarian Universalist Church of Utica Climate Action Team.

Mayor hails tree project

On Dec. 6 Utica Mayor Rob Palmieri met with a Utica homeowner who had a free tree planted through the Rotary Club of Utica's 'Urban Tree Project'. The Morinitti family in West Utica had a cherry tree planted.

Twenty-five other Utica homeowners selected from a variety of available trees in this project involving The Rotary Club of Utica, The City of Utica and the Climate Action Team. The funds for this project came from a Rotary Club Golf Outing (Tees for Trees) and a Rotary Community Project Grant. Mayor Palmieri noted: "The City of Utica is blessed by a magnificent treescape that beautifies our city and its neighborhoods. It's critical that we not only preserve but enhance these gorgeous natural resources. I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Utica and our residents for making sure that our city remains beautiful and unique in addition to environmentally friendly."

This is the second year of the Rotary Club's Urban Tree Project with a total of 42 trees planted in Utica so far.



Some of the Rotarians cleaning up the Route 12 arterial.

School supplies for kids

On Wednesday, August 31, member Michelle Brandstadt dropped off approximately \$400 worth of back-to-school supplies for the children of People First, formally Utica Municipal Housing Authority.

The supplies were donated by club members.

Helping Utica Zoo

On Saturday, October 1, Rotary Club of Utica spent three hours assisting with grounds cleanup at the Utica Zoo.

The cleanup crew consisted of members, family,

and friends, including friends from Young Scholars LPP of Utica.

Highway cleaned up

A hard-hatted, brightly vested crew of Rotarians and friends turned out for Rotary Club of Utica's biannual Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup on Saturday, Oct. 15. "It was a beautiful morning as we headed out to clean up the Rt. 12 Arterial, northbound between Court Street and Burrstone Road," reported member Jerry Kraus.



Bowlers raise over \$8,000

Rotarians from four clubs hurled balls down the lanes, sending pins flying and raising more than \$8,000 for Polio Plus.

The 4th Annual Pin Down Polio event was held Oct. 26 at Vista Lanes in Yorkville during the week of World Polio Day (Oct. 24). Over 65 bowlers and guests participated, representing four Area 2 and 3 clubs – Utica, North Utica-Whitestown, New Hartford, and Sauquoit.

Co-Chairs Stephen Turnbull (Utica Rotary) and

Stephen Karboski (North Utica-Whitestown Rotary) reported that the event itself brought in \$2,762, and with 2-for-1 matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the actual total raised was \$8,286.

Added Utica Rotary President Tina Pavlot:

"Collectively these clubs have raised over \$20,000 in the past five years to help eradicate polio. Big thanks to Steve Turnbull and Steve Karboski for championing this event again!"



Joseph Sageer of MVHS, Diana Stefanovich of MVCC, Jennifer Camello of RCIL, and Todd Stokes of 50 Forward Mohawk Valley were the honorees at the Pride of Workmanship Awards luncheon held Oct. 20 at the Ft. Schuyler Club.

Rotary honors workers

Utica Rotary honored four local workers at its 31st annual Pride of Workmanship Awards Program during a luncheon on Thursday, October 20, at the Ft. Schuyler Club in Utica.

The 2022 recipients of the Pride of Workmanship Awards are:

- Jennifer Camello, self-direction program generalist with Resource Center for Independent Living.
- Joseph Sageer, lead respiratory therapist with Mohawk Valley Health System.
- Diana Stefanovich, senior custodian with Mohawk Valley Community College.

• Todd Stokes, case manager with 50 Forward Mohawk Valley.

"We are inspired by these area employees who are nominated by their managers or co-workers," Club President Tina Pavlot said. "They are recognized and honored for going above and beyond their normal work duties to make an impact at work and in our community."

Pride of Workmanship Committee Chair Roxanne Mutchler noted that the awards program comes after a request for nominations from area businesses. The committee reviews all the nominations to determine the top area employees deserving the award.

Sheets and pillows galore!

It's not often that a Rotary Club of Utica meeting is filled with sheets, pillows, comforters and blankets. But that's what greeted Steve Sperbeck Nov. 1 when he arrived to talk about *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* (SHP), a program that provides beds for children in need.

The club's service fund donated \$250, with members adding about another \$125 for the purchase of 12 bed-in-a-bag sets (comforters/sheets) and 10 blankets. Plus, members donated approximately another 15 sets of bedding, and to top it off, Michelle Brandstadt contributed 20 pillows.



Rotary members and family help remove flags at the conclusion of the "Flags for Heroes" project.

'Flags for Heroes'

The club's service project for the month of November was assisting The Good News Center with its Flags for Heroes project – an annual tribute to active military, veterans, first responders and families.

In addition to the club sponsoring a flag "in honor of all service men and women,"

Rotarians and family members assisted with taking down the fl ags – which had been waving in the

wind on the Memorial Parkway from Nov. 2 to Nov. 14 in conjunction with Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

"There were so many helping that we finished in 30-40 minutes," noted PP Jack Altdoerffer.

The Rotarian contingent included Jim Turnbull, Dave Jones, Bill Luley, Jack and Debbie Altdoerffer, and Heather Evans and husband Dennis Blom, MD (an Army veteran).



Jerry Kraus and Steve Turnbull shout bids and encourage more at the "Not So Silent Night" Auction. BELOW: The night ended with a check presentation to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" representatives.



'Not So Silent Night'

The "Not So Silent Night" Gift Auction on Dec. 7 definitely was not quiet.

In fact, it dominated the 72 Tavern and Grill, with Jerry Kraus and Steve Turnbull taking turns shouting out bids and trying to entice the crowd into warring over 29 items.

The end result -- Rotary Club of Utica raised \$3,000 to benefit *Sleep in Heavenly Peace's* mission

to provide beds for kids in need.

The wrapped gifts were donated by Rotarians and friends of Rotary, with most of them coming with clues to spark the imagination and spur the interest in bidding.

The event attracted over 50 Rotarians and friends. Even some of the normal dinner crowd couldn't help but get involved, raising hands to make a bid.



Rotarians and family members turned out to ring the bells for the Utica Salvation Army.

'Thank you… You're a saint.'

Hoisting paper bells sporting the words "Ding" and "Dong", Utica Rotarians volunteered Saturday, Dec. 10, as bell ringers for the Utica Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign at Chanatry's Hometown Market on French Road in Utica.

In fact, Rotary Club of Utica adopted the kettle for the day.

With the kettle located inside the store, rather than out in the 29-degree cold, the silent bells saved the nearby cashiers and lined-up shoppers from having a constant ringing in their ears.

Rotarians engaged shoppers in friendly greetings and banter as they came and left, offering heartfelt thanks and "Merry Christmas" to persons stuffing bills and coins into the red kettle.

Occasionally shoppers turned the table and thanked Rotarians for volunteering for the Salvation Army.

One woman put it this way: "Thank you for doing this. You're a saint."

The Rotarians who signed up as bellringers included: Jim & Stephen Turnbull, Darby O'Brien, Jennifer DePasquale, Heather Beebe & family, Ralph & Maryann Imundo, Bob Stronach, Stacey Kattato, Elizabeth Nassar, Jerry Kraus, Travis Rabbers, Don Reese, and Clyde Vanderpool.

Speakers

The Rotary programs meetings are educational and informative, featuring a diverse array of speakers, topics and causes.

January: hockey

Just in time for icy weather, guest Adam Pawlick talked talked up hockey; specifically, the Utica Comets. A former college hockey player himself, Adam is vice president of the Comets.

February: TV broadcasting

Steve McMurray brought his years of experience as a news achor and news director to his presentation on the local broadcast industry. Steve is the vice president and general manager at NewsChannel 2,.



February: students, shelter

The Outstanding Educators program kicked off with two seniors from Notre Dame High School (Peter Cresci and Marina Cascini) and two seniors from New York Mills High (Ciara Lape and Noah Diskin).

In additional, the program featured Pastor Mike Bellman of the Morrow Warming Center shelter.

March: newspapers

Wes Cupp discussed the Rome Sentinel's expansion of local news coverage. Wes is director of business development for Sentinel Media Company.

March: cancer, students

Attorney Colin LaReaux raised awareness of the effort to help families battling pediatric cancer in Central New York as president of *315K For the Cure*.

In addition, the Outstanding Educators program featured two seniors from Proctor High School (Kris Joseph and Sie Sie), plus a Naval Jr. ROTC student (Haris Hajric) representing Proctor's Best Buddies Program.





Speakers

April: youth, students

Guest speaker Maria Maier put the spotlight on the John Maxwell Team Global Youth Initiative, which teaches children how to lead, among other things..

In addition the Outstanding Educators program featured Marina Cascini and Peter Cresci from Notre Dame for a second time as well as Erica Racioppa and Joseph DeTraglia from Clinton High School.

May: Camp Abilities

With Camp Abilities benefitting from the inaugural Service Above Self Gala, the program meeting featured speakers from the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) and its Camp program.

June: Chamber

A briefing on the public and behind-the-scene workings of the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce was provided by its executive director, Kari Puleo.

August: vintage

Michael Parent, owner of Utica Club & Jam Vintage USA, discussed vintage clothing, records, and rare books.

September: United Way

An overview of the workings of the United Way of the Mohawk Valley was provided by its development manager, Selma Lupardo.

September: Hispanic Heritage

Featured speaker Sonia Martinez, executive director of the Mohawk Valley Latino Association, helped Rotarians appreciate Hispanic Heritage Month.









Speakers



October: district focus

Special guest Rotary District Governor Jerry Seguin spoke about the district's focus on the environment (clean water and tree planting), child health care, and literacy.

November: beds for kids

Providing beds for kids in need was the the message of Steve Sperbeck, Utica Chapter president of Sleep in Heavenly Peace.



Guest speaker Steve Sperbeck and President Tina Pavlot with boxes of beddings donated by members.



November: AmeriCorps

While the AmeriCorps program in Utica is a leader in providing safe, affordable housing for low income families and individuals, the real focus is on putting people first, according to Program Manager Ricky Fuller. Thus the name, People First's AmeriCorps.



December: Arc

Heather Agricola Evans, vice president of development at Arc Oneida Lewis, described the vast array of services benefitting people with developmental disabilities.



December: small business

Want to start a business? There's help available, according to Chris "C.J." Hanrahan, associate business advisor at Mohawk Valley Small Business Development Center.



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Tina Pavlot

Treasurer

Darby O'Brien

President-Elect

Linda Iannone

Vice President

Elizabeth Nassar

Past President

Stephen Turnbull

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Stephen Turnbull

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Jim Day

RYLA

Jim Day

Rotaract Committee Chair

Elizabeth Nassar

Outstanding Educator Awards

Bart Gorman

Pride of Workmanship

Roxanne Mutchler

Veterans Outreach

Mary Ann Hallak-Serwatka

A number of members contributed to the content of this report. Among them

Secretary Jill Koch

Rotaract 100

were: Jerry Kraus, Michelle Brandstat, Stephen Turnbull, Tina Pavlot, Joe Caruso, Jim Turnbull, Jack Altdoerfer, Stew Williams, Heather Evans, Heather Beebe, and **Editor Bob Stronach.**

Cover photos: iStockphoto

