



# Rotary This Week!

Utica, NY, USA

Dec. 9 2024

## Utica Rotarians join in the Jingle Jam



*Utica Rotarians had a wonderful time at the Catalyst Group's annual Jingle Jam fundraiser at Five Points Public House on Thursday night!*

**Bring a wrapped gift to help make the  
'Not So Silent Night' Auction a huge success**



*Contact President Travis if you plan to attend. The fun starts at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Fort Schuyler Club.*

Deadline for next newsletter (12/16) is Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach

# Rotarians brave snow to learn about Empowered Pathways

By Joe Abraham

Snowy weather didn't deter Utica Rotarians from attending Thursday's meeting. President Travis Rabbers made sure to keep things running at an efficient manner so that everyone could get home safely. Before introducing the afternoon's guest speaker, Timothy Lyons, Travis reminded Rotarians of the upcoming *Not So Silent Night Gift Auction* coming up this week at the Fort Schuyler Club on Dec. 11, as well as the bell ringing service project on Dec. 14.

Lyons, who is director of the Community Dispute Resolution Center at Empowered Pathways, gave an overview of Empowered Pathways Inc., which was formed in 2018 through the merger of two long-established agencies: the Peacemaker Program and the Women's Employment & Resource Center (WERC). The Peacemaker Program, founded in 1994, focused on helping individuals and families resolve conflicts, while WERC, established in 1989, supported women in ac-



quiring skills to enter or re-enter the workforce. Both organizations served the Mohawk Valley and surrounding regions, providing specialized, client-centered services to empower individuals facing complex challenges. In 2016, discussions began on a potential merger, with support from the Community Foundation and the New York State Council on Non-profits. The merger allowed the organizations to pool resources and expand their reach, creating a stronger, more effective agency.

Today, Empowered Pathways offers services in four key areas:

Restorative Practices (mediation and conflict resolution), Alternative Dispute Resolution (improving communication and relationships), Surrogate Decision-Making (providing non-court medical and end-of-life care decision-making), and Women's Employment & Resource Center (job readiness and skill-building programs for women). The organization remains committed to helping clients navigate challenges and achieve positive outcomes, with a strong track record of success, including an 80% employment rate for WERC graduates within six months.

## Calendar of Events

**12/11** Event | 'Not So Silent Night' auction  
6-7:30 | Fort Schuyler Club

**12/14** Service | Red Kettle 'Bell Ringing'  
10-4 | Chanatry's

**12/18** Board | Greater Utica Chamber  
noon

**12/19** Meeting | Jennifer Hagen  
Catholic Charities  
noon | Mid-York Library

**1/23** Social | Rotary Ski Trip



**NOT SO**

**SILENT NIGHT**

**GIFT AUCTION**

**Rotary Club of Utica**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**WEDNESDAY,**  
**DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
**6:00-7:30PM**

**FORT SCHUYLER CLUB**  
 254 GENESEE STREET  
 UTICA, NY 13502

Presented By:  
**MOHAWK VALLEY WELLNESS**

Proceeds to Benefit:  
 Creating Hope. Transforming Lives  
**Catholic Charities**  
 DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE  
 Oneida/Madison County

Scan the QR Code to make a donation for the *“Not So Silent Night” Gift Auction* -- to benefit Catholic Charities' Christmas Assistance Program.