

Service Above Self Gala a huge success

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. Trinh read her letter of nomination then introduced Sister Elizabeth for her award. Trinh's letter and Sister Elizabeth's bio can be read on page 2.

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.

Photos from the evening can be viewed on page 3 and additional photos can be viewed on the [Club's Facebook page](#) (no Facebook account needed).

MEETING NOTICES

No meeting this Friday, July 1

Date for the next meeting the week of July 3 is TBD

Golf tournament to support Urban Tree Planting Project

Rotary Club of Utica is again holding a charity golf tournament to support the Club's Urban Tree Planting Project, in cooperation with The Unitarian Universalist Church and Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency.

The Tees for Trees golf tournament will be held Sunday, August 14, at Hidden Valley Golf Club in Whitesboro, NY.

Additional information can be obtained by emailing [Jerry Kraus](#) or see the 2021 Golf Tournament Registration Form and 2021 Tee Sign Hole Sponsorship Form at the end of this newsletter. The forms can also be downloaded from our Club website at [Tees for Trees Charity Golf Tournament](#).

The goal of the Urban Tree Planting Project is to aid urban homeowners in enhancing the value of your property, improve the air quality within their community by reducing carbon emissions, and provide a canopy of shade to lower the heat index during summer months.

Volunteers, door prizes, and hole sponsors are needed. Contact [Jerry Kraus](#).

Deadline for next newsletter (7/5) is Monday, July 4, at noon; submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org

Trinh Truong's Nomination Letter

Name of nominee: Sr. Elizabeth Greim

City: Utica

Activities for which the person is being nominated:

1. Community volunteer serving refugees from African countries through her work as a St. Vincent de Paul Daughter of Charity affiliated with St. John's Catholic Church
2. Volunteer Cultural Orientation Coordinator at The Center for Refugees

Essay describing the nominee:

I first met Sr. Elizabeth through as she arrived in Utica few years ago, hoping to serve the community by building programs that could serve unmet community needs. We met at the DeSales building in the Cornhill neighborhood, and I was immediately impressed by Sr. Elizabeth's approach of working hand in hand with directly impacted community members to identify and address their needs.

Sr. Elizabeth is passionate and selfless when it comes to serving the refugee community. After her arrival, she organically met the refugee families being resettled close to the DeSales center, on Summit Place, due to her proximity to the neighborhood and involvement in The Center as a Cultural Orientation volunteer. These refugees hailed primarily from South Sudan, and while they received support from The Center, sometimes it was not enough due to the extreme culture shock and language barriers they faced navigating life in America.

Sr. Elizabeth quickly stepped in and helped these families navigate complex bureaucracies, social services, taxes, and the small things, like how to send their children on the bus to school. During the pandemic, as schools shut down and these families were left to fend for themselves, she got computers and school supplies together, and set up a makeshift home learning program for the refugee students in her neighborhood, who critically depended on school learning for their integration. She also ensured that the refugees in her neighborhood received their stimulus checks, and even brought expectant mothers to prenatal appointments, waiting outside in the car and calming them down by talking through a translator on her cellphone. One time, a refugee woman on Summit Place went into labor and delivered her baby by surprise in her bathroom, and the first person she thought to call for support was Sr. Elizabeth, which goes to show how much trust she has earned.

More importantly, Sr. Elizabeth has been the friend and confidant of many, and is always looking for ways to not only support peoples' needs, but also their dreams. Upon realizing that many of these African women and families loved to sew and farm, and did not have access to a resource to practice their crafts and gardening, she reached out to me. Together, we wrote a grant to renovate the DeSales Center, and the basement is now a sewing laboratory, and there are raised beds in the neighborhood garden. She's also throwing jubilant birthday parties for the children in her neighborhood, where everyone is invited, and there are presents and cake. For a lot of these kids, it's their first birthday party in America.

The resettlement process is such a delicate one, and I have witnessed firsthand how much of an impact Sr. Elizabeth has made on the lives of the refugee families she's worked with through her selfless service. As a refugee myself, I know how important it is to have a Sr. Elizabeth in the beginning, to make things easy, and how hard it can be when you don't get that support. Sadly, Sr. Elizabeth is leaving to take on a new project later this summer in Missouri. The community will sorely miss her, but she leaves a renovated building behind, and she's helped so many families get on their feet. I know they will help other families in return, extending the legacy of Sr. Elizabeth's work of welcome.

Sister Elizabeth Greim's Bio

Sister Elizabeth Greim grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. She received a Master of Education degree from Suffolk University.

In 1996 she entered Daughters of Charity. Her ministries have combined her experience in social services and her skills as an educator through work with men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, hunger, illness and other situations of poverty and vulnerability.

She has been on mission in Richmond, Virginia; Baltimore, Maryland; Macon, Georgia; and Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sister Elizabeth returned to her roots in the northeast with her current mission in Utica, New York, where she and her sisters spend their days assisting refugees from many different countries as they settle into their new lives in the United States. The development of the Bakhita community at St Francis de Sales has grown out of the desire to be welcoming neighbors.



*Past President Joe Caruso,
Trinh Truong,
Sister Elizabeth Greim,
President Stephen Turnbull*



*Dylan Drexler,
Taylor Mitchell,
Taylor Mitchell's mother*



President Stephen Turnbull & Paul Harris Fellow Darby O'Brien



President Stephen Turnbull & Quiet Giver Jerry Kraus



Service Above Self Gala Committee

2022 ROTARY CLUB OF UTICA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



SUPPORTS OUR CLUB'S URBAN TREE PLANTING PROJECT

TOURNAMENT INFO

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

Date

Sunday, August 14, 2022

Time

Check-in & Lunch: Noon

Shotgun Start: 1 p.m.

Place

Hidden Valley Golf Club

189 Castle Rd.

Whitesboro, NY

Questions

Phone: 315-723-2429

Email: JKrausUtica@aol.com

Hole Sponsorships Available

18"x24" Tee Sign - \$100

See separate 2021 Tee Sign Hole Sponsorship Form for information.

Contests

Closest to the Pin

Long Drive

- Trophies for 1st, 2nd and last!
- Hole in One: 2-year lease on a vehicle from Steet Ponte Ford

REGISTRATION FORM

Completed form and check are due by JULY 29, 2022.

Your Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Email:* _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

*Please provide an email address; this will be the main contact method used.

Team Information - Foursome

Player 1 Name: _____

Player 2 Name: _____

Player 3 Name: _____

Player 4 Name: _____

Fees

☐ Individual - \$95

☐ Team - \$380

Golf Entry: \$ _____

Tee Sponsorship(s): \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Rotary Club of Utica Service Fund*

Mail form with check to: Utica Rotary Club

Attn: Jerry Kraus

PO Box 8586

Utica, NY 13505

Registration fees include:

Lunch, greens fees, cart fee, dinner, team photo, 50/50, and chances to win GREAT door prizes!

Dinner Choices (steak is cook your own):

Enter # of Steak: _____ Chicken: _____

*Rotary Club of Utica Service Fund is a 501(c)(3) charity organization.



2022 ROTARY CLUB OF UTICA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SPONSORSHIP FORM



IT'S A DAY OF GOLFING FUN TO HELP SUPPORT
OUR CLUB'S URBAN TREE PLANTING PROJECT — **TEES FOR TREES**

Where: Hidden Valley Golf Course

Date: Sunday, August 14, 2022

Time: Noon – Lunch & Registration
1 p.m. – Shotgun Start

Fee: \$95 per Person – Scramble Format (4-Person Team)

Includes: lunch before golf, golf fees and cart, dinner after golf,
door prizes, trophies, team photos and more!

(Use 2022 Golf Tournament Registration Form to register your team)

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS: \$100

18" x 24" Tee Signs

Your Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

If you have a logo, please email it to Jerry Kraus: jkrausutica@aol.com

Sign Specifications: full color; for best results, images should be at least 600 dpi and about the size it will be printed. Printer can take your business card or logo to create your sign.

☐ Use logo (email) ☐ Use business card (attach) ☐ Use wording (specify below):

Wording: _____

Completed form and check are due by JULY 29, 2022.

☐ Check if payment included with team registration payment.

Make checks payable to: Rotary Club of Utica Service Fund*

Mail form with check to: Utica Rotary Club

Attn: Jerry Kraus

PO Box 8586

Utica, NY 13505

*Rotary Club of Utica Service Fund
is a 501(c)(3) charity organization

Thank you for your sponsorship!

Rotary
Club of Utica

