



# Rotary This Week!

Utica, NY, USA

March 24, 2025

## Rotarians help build beds for kids

Utica Rotarians were among a handful of volunteers assisting the local chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) in a bed building effort on Tuesday evening.

SHP is group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Their organization has grown steadily over time, and they are work-

ing on opening more chapters in different states to serve more people.

According to the organization's website, SHP volunteers have volunteered nearly 600,000 hours and delivered over 263,000 beds. However, an estimated 154,171 children remain in need of a bed.

*RIGHT: Rebecca Cavoli (l) and Hanka Grabovica sand wood for a bed.*



*Rotarian Maggie Reed (r) preps wood for a bed along with another volunteer.*

Deadline for next newsletter (3/31) is Saturday, March 29 at 3 p.m.; submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org).

Editor Robert Stronach

## N. Utica center full of activities

By Travis Rabbers

If you have never been to the North Utica Community Center, it is full of activities and fun surprises! Kelsey Meredith, the director of the community center, gave Rotraians a tour and shared more about what they do on a daily basis. They have game nights, a fitness center, music and several types of yoga. They host kids from the Arc and the Utica Public library for learning activities. Whether you are a kid, adult or retiree, there is something fun for everyone. Their next event is an Easter egg hunt in April, in which they

are asking for donations of candy.

Jennifer Benn, the Director of Development and Public Relations at the Neighborhood Center in Utica, also shared more about their organization. Originally started back in 1905, they have always had strong female leadership. They have led many firsts in our community, including providing the first playground and Kindergarten in Utica. Their more recent focus has turned to behavioral health. They serve roughly 63,000 individuals annually and provide service in seven counties.



### Calendar of Events

3/27 Social | Nostro Bar & Lounge  
5 pm |

4/3 Meeting | Leslie Raney on  
bicentennial of Lafayette's farewell  
noon | Mid-York Library

4/16 Meeting | Rotary Board  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

4/17 Meeting | Gabriel Hage from  
Hage & Hage LLC  
noon | Mid-York Library

6/6 Gala | 'Service Above Self' Gala  
Stanley Theatre  
to benefit the Stanley

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**SIGN UP EARLY FOR THE 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF' GALA!**

**Individual registration: MyEventRunner**

**Sponsor registration: MyEventRunner**