



WHAT IS THE “FAMILY OF ROTARY?” In pursuing the first Object of Rotary, we seek “to encourage and foster the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.” Friendship and fellowship was the foundation, the bedrock on which Rotary service was built.

WHY IS “FAMILY” A FOCUS OF ROTARY? Because Rotary is about community. The community we live in, the worldwide community and the community of Rotarians. When we share in community, your problems become my problems and your joys - my joys. Therefore, Rotary families matter to Rotary, the family of Rotarians and the Rotarian's family. If we are to live out the Rotary ideal, to create a better world, we must start with the family. We need to care for all the members of our Rotary family, because without each other there is no community. Because we want to increase Rotarian satisfaction, improve retention, involve more people in Rotary events, make service projects more successful, and have greater support for The Rotary Foundation and International projects, we place emphasis upon:

- Enjoyment
- Retention
- Recruitment
- Foundation support

WHO COMPRISES THE “FAMILY OF ROTARY?”

- Rotarians (Active and Honorary)
- Spouses, widows/widowers, children, grandchildren and other relatives of Rotarians,
- Rotary Foundation Alumni (Ambassadorial Scholars, Cultural Scholars, Peace Scholars, Rotary Grants for University Teachers and Group Study Exchange Members)
- Rotary Youth Exchange Students
- Rotaractors and their sponsors
- Interactors and their sponsors
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) participants
- Global Networking Groups
- Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) Scholars

WHO SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF YOUR CLUB’S FAMILY OF ROTARY COMMITTEE?

- Rotarian
- Spouse of a Rotarian
- Deceased spouse of a Rotarian
- Child or Grandchild of a Rotarian
- Rotaractor or GRSP Student
- Interactor or RYLA Student
- Foundation Alumni

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE FAMILY OF ROTARY COMMITTEE? To promote the understanding that:

- Rotary is a family
- Families of Rotarians are important
- Encouraging generations of Rotarians is an important part of Rotary’s future
- Encouraging clubs to share joys of being a Rotarian with their families is key to retention, and
- Encouraging clubs to share joys of families in their Rotary activities and events is vital to our future.

HOW DO WE INVOLVE OUR OWN FAMILIES IN ROTARY? Welcome and include non-Rotarian family members into the Family of Rotary through service and fellowship activities to promote club wellbeing. Rotary should make time for families, not take time from families, and we do that by involving our Rotary Family in:

- Special family oriented social events
- Club meetings for special programs
- Fundraisers
- Community service projects
- Hosting Youth Exchange and GRSP Students and GSE Teams
- Surveys seeking fellowship ideas/needs
- Father/Daughter and Mother/Son Events
- Club Bulletin/Club website updates on family members’ achievements

HOW DO WE CARE FOR AND TREAT FELLOW ROTARIANS LIKE FAMILY?

- Ensure that there are greeters at each Rotary meeting
- Assist when they are sick, lonely or having difficulties
- Visit them in their homes and ensure that their needs are met
- Share their grief during and after a death in their family
- Celebrate births, weddings and graduations
- Promote diversity of membership
- Find ways to honor or memorialize Rotarians in the community
- Recognize individual Rotarian's successes, job changes, and family news in the club bulletin
- Encourage Rotarians to sit at tables with guests, new Rotarians and other Rotarians they don't know

HOW CAN WE CARE FOR SPOUSES OF DECEASED ROTARIANS?

- Attend funeral/memorial services of deceased Rotarians and be supportive in their moment of grief
- Plan an annual memorial event to recognize and remember deceased Rotarians
- Invite them to join Rotary (if they qualify; if not, consider making them Honorary Rotarians)
- Invite them to special club events
- Send them "The Rotarian" magazine, the District newsletter "Rotations" and the club bulletins
- Call on them regularly – by phone, e-mail or in person
- Celebrate their birthdays

HOW CAN YOU TREAT ROTARY AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARS, YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS AND GRSP STUDENTS LIKE FAMILY MEMBERS?

- Club members should invite them to join them for family functions
- Communicate with the student's family back home
- Maintain lifetime contact after the student has returned home

HOW CAN ROTARY AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARS, RYLA, INTERACT, ROTARACT and GRSP STUDENTS JOIN OUR ROTARY FAMILY?

- By participation in projects, fundraisers, club and district social events, District Conferences, Interact Conferences, Rotaract Conferences and RYLA Camp.
- Clubs should support the annual World Interact Week in November
- Clubs should support the annual World Rotaract Week in March

HOW DO WE KEEP ROTARY FOUNDATION ALUMNI INVOLVED IN THE ROTARY FAMILY?

- Invite them to join Rotary
- Invite them to speak at meetings
- Ask them to participate in club projects
- Communicate regularly when abroad
- Welcome them upon their return
- Inform them

CELEBRATE FAMILY WEEK (Second Week of February)

- Recognize the importance of Rotarians' families and their contribution to your club's success
 - Develop and initiate a new project in support of the Family of Rotary
 - Sponsor a seminar for new parents or for emphasis on "Family values"
 - Encourage parents to read to their children with the First Foundation Childhood Literacy initiative
 - Raise awareness on child abuse and family violence prevention programs in the community
 - Promote a safe and fun weekend activity for the community's teenagers
 - Create a park or recreational area where parents can spend time with their children
 - Arrange inter-city meet, inter-city forum or seminar on family values
 - Have a Party in the Park with entertainment, clowns, games, food, booths, petting zoo, rides, inflatables, etc.
 - Arrange for an Annual Family of Rotary dinner, luncheon or fun get-together
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