The Orange Peel

2026-2027 | President Steve Blair | Rotary Creates a Lasting Impact!

Next Meeting
Friday, Nov 20, 2026

Speaker - Casa Roble Interact Club
Greeter - Steve Blair
Invocation - Bert Smith
Vocation - Cindy Hill-Morris

The Four-Way Test

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to All Concerned?

Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

HART's Shower Program



Speaker Chair **Licia Green** introduced our guest speaker, **Roger Spencer** who is the Program Director of HART of Orangevale and Fair Oaks, a program of the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation. A Fresno State graduate, Roger retired from the California Department of Agriculture in 2020 and began volunteering with HART in 2023. He now leads HART's meal, shower and outreach programs for unhoused neighbors, as well as a new bicycle program. Roger enjoys golf, cycling and traveling the world with his wife.

Editor Note - the following article is a copy of Roger's notes from his talk.

Good morning everyone. Thank you for having me, and thank you for everything the Orangevale Rotary Club does for this community. My name is Roger Spencer. I'm the Program Manager for HART of Orangevale and Fair Oaks, HART stands for Homeless Assistance Resource Team, and it's a program of the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation.

I'd like to start with a simple question. When was the last time you went a full week without a hot shower? For most of us, the answer is never. A shower is so ordinary that we don't even think about it.

Recap of the Meeting Nov 06, 2026

Guests

Roger Spencer - HART

Steve Bartholomew - guest of Jeff Valtman

Ernie Womack - Katrina's husband

Visiting Rotarians

None

District 5180 Governor

Dave Veden
2026-2027

Rotary International President 2025-2026

Olayinka Babalola

The 2025-2026 Rotary International presidential theme is "Create Lasting Impact"

Now picture going weeks without one. Picture trying to apply for a job, meet with a caseworker, or just walk into a store, knowing how you look and smell. It wears down your dignity a little more every day.

That's where HART comes in. Every Thursday, our volunteers give our unhoused neighbors a hot shower, clean clothes, and a warm meal. And for a lot of people, that afternoon is the first step back toward something better.

Over the next 15 minutes or so, I'd like to tell you who we are, walk you through a Thursday with us, share what this year has looked like, and talk about how Rotarians can be part of it.

What is HART? HART of Orangevale and Fair Oaks offers a moment of comfort and care to the unhoused neighbors living in our community. We're not a shelter and we're not a government agency. We're neighbors helping neighbors.

We're part of the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Community Foundation. Many of you know the Foundation through the OVFO Food Bank, the Food Bank Farm, Big Day of Service, or Turkey Bowl. The Foundation's vision is to help everyone in our community flourish. HART is how that vision reaches the neighbors who have the least.

Our main program today is the **Freshen Up Shower Program**. Every Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30, we set up at Pathway Fellowship Church on Greenback Lane. We bring a shower trailer, clean clothing, hygiene items, and a warm meal.

We've also run a Midweek Meal, a home-cooked hot meal served at midday on Wednesdays. That program is on pause right now while we look for a permanent place to serve it. I'll come back to that, because it's one of the places you might be able to help.

The other piece I want you to know about is our Community Health Workers. They come to our Thursday sessions and connect people with health care, food resources, and housing.

A Thursday at HART. Let me walk you through a Thursday afternoon, because it's the best way to understand what we do.

A little before 12:30, our volunteers arrive at **Pathway Fellowship Church.** We hook up the shower trailer, set up a check-in desk, and lay out tables of clothing, toiletries, and food.
When a guest arrives, the first stop is the intake desk. A volunteer signs them in on our tablet and puts their name on the shower waitlist. That's also when we ask whether they'd like to talk with a Community Health Worker that day. If its a new client, we ask them to sign an agreement form. This agreement form suggests 10 items. Most importantly, to respect all volunteers and other clients and no drugs or weapons are allowed.

While they wait, guests choose their clothing and toiletries. Right now we're switching our clothing from summer to winter, so the tables are filling up with coats, jackets, sweatpants, and warm socks. They also get a warm meal and some conversation.

When their name is called, they get a fresh towel and step into the trailer. Each guest has 15 minutes, with a five-minute warning, so everyone on the list gets their turn. Between guests, volunteers clean and reset each stall.

Then they step out clean, in fresh clothes, with a full stomach. Some of them have just had their first real conversation in weeks with someone who knows how to get them into housing. It sounds simple, and in a way it is. But the guests tell us how much it means.

Impact. Now let me give you a sense of the scale. These numbers cover January through October of this year.

We've served 179 different neighbors so far this year, and 107 of them were new to us. All together, that's 1,531 service visits. We've provided 552 showers and 976 meals. In October alone, 72 neighbors came through. We gave 59 showers and served 123 meals.

The number I'm proudest of is this one. So far this year, 21 of our guests have moved into homes or shelters. That's 21 people who are no longer sleeping outside. A shower didn't do that by itself. But a shower got them in the door, and a Community Health Worker helped them take the next step.

None of this happens without volunteers. They've given 1,425 hours this year, including 150 hours in October. Some of them are retirees, some are students, and at least one is a retired emergency-room doctor who stayed after to help clean the shower stalls.

Partners. HART works because a lot of people in this community decided to pitch in.

First of all, **Rotary Club of Orangevale** purchased our shower trailer. Our trailer proudly exhibits Orangevale Rotary's Logo and we couldn't be more grateful.

Pathway Fellowship Church gives us our Thursday home. The Community Health Workers and Community HealthWorks turn a shower into a path to housing.

When the rain forced our Midweek Meal indoors, the **Fair Oaks Library** staff opened their conference room to us.

Last year, an after-school **Kiwanis** club of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders raised $2,000 and voted to spend it on the homeless in their community. They bought our shower program a new microwave, among other things.

Cameron Park Rotary Club's Bicycle Program has a ten-year partnership with Folsom Prison; donated bikes go to the prison to be repaired. The refurbished bikes come back to the community, and HART hands them out to people experiencing homelessness.
A bike can be the difference between making a job interview or a medical appointment and missing it. When we hand one over, the gratitude is something you don't forget.

Chamberlain University Student Nurses are on site to administer minor wound care. Yesterday they did the preliminary assessment on a client who actually needed to be hospitalized. Our retired Emergency Room Doctor - Jerry Oliaro works closely with these students. He even gives them homework assignments.

Other partners are - **Elica Health Care** provides Veterinarian care for homeless person's pets. **Sacred Barbers** volunteered haircuts and **Aaron Jimenez Hot Dogs** (AJHD) brings his hot dog cart to feed our clients once a month.

How you can help. So how can the Orangevale Rotary Club be part of this? Here are four ways.

First, come volunteer on a Thursday. We run every Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 at Pathway Fellowship Church, except Thanksgiving. You can work the check-in desk, sort clothing, serve food, or help reset the shower stalls. Even one afternoon a month makes a difference. The best way to understand HART is to spend two hours with us.

Second, help with winter clothing. This time of year our guests ask most for coats, jackets, sweatpants, good used winter shoes, and sleeping bags. A club coat drive in December would go straight to the people who need it. Donations can be dropped off any Thursday during program hours.

Third, keep the bikes coming. If you have a bike in the garage that nobody rides, bring it to us on a Thursday. We'll get it to the Cameron Park Rotary program for repair, and then into the hands of someone who needs a way to get around.

Fourth, help us find a place. Two of our biggest needs right now are about location. Our Midweek Meal is paused until we find a permanent spot to serve it.



And we're exploring a second shower site in Fair Oaks. That would need space for the trailer, a check-in desk, food and clothing tables, plus water and electrical hookups. We'd also need a volunteer driver with a vehicle big enough to tow the trailer.

Rotarians know this community and its business owners better than almost anyone. If you know of a place, or you're the person with the truck, please come talk to me.

For more information visit https://www.hartovfo.org

President Steve thanked Roger for his talk and presented him with a speaker's gift, a handcrafted pen made by member **Bob Kurtz**.

Announcements & Committee Reports

Mairy Droese gave **President Steve Blair** a Rotary Advent Calendar from Regensberg, Germany. Proceeds from the purchase of the calendar helps projects in the community. Later he auctioned it off and **Horacio Oropeza** was the high bidder.

Jeff Valtman said that he finally received the Dictionaries for the third graders. He passed around a signup for distributing the dictionaries.

Bill Wagner, TRF Chair, encouraged members to sign up **Rotary Direct.** So far 18 members of the club have signed up. A monthly deduction from your checking account is a convent way to donate to The Rotary Foundation. Another way is to leave money to Rotary in your estate plans. A Benefactor is a Rotarian who leave $1000 to Rotary in their will.

Mary Shear reminded everyone that today is the Vocational tour of the **Calwell Thundering Herd Ranch** to taste olive oil, honey, syrups and jams. We will meet at 10:30am. The address is 2500 Penryn Road, Penryn.

Dennis Sarkisian gave a report on our service last Friday at the Food Bank. "It was another good day for us, serving at the Orangevale - Fair Oaks Food Bank with our Fair Oaks Rotary counterparts today. We started this morning with bagging and boxing groceries for future distribution. Our volunteers had the privilege of serving **76 families, amounting to 235 people in need**. Once again, teamwork was on full display. We assisted 7 walk-up clients, providing a large bag full of food (not requiring refrigeration) that they received and carried away. Our crew of volunteers also assisted with processing **7 new applicants.** Thank you for your ongoing dedication to serving those struggling to get by."

Our next day of service will be Friday, December 4th. We will not work the first Friday in January because its New Year's Day. We will be rescheduled and Dennis hasn't received a date from Jan.

The Food Bank is collecting turkeys and they would like them to be 12 pounds of less. Dennis learned that if you spend $125 at Winco, you get a free turkey. So buy a turkey and the fixings for your family and get a turkey for the Food Bank.

Licia Green talked about the upcoming Crab Feed meeting that will be held at her home on the evening of November 17, 6:30pm. **Mary Shear** is collecting auction items so please bring your auction items to the weekly meeting meetings. She has forms for the items which need to be filled out and included with the item.

Janet Cahill said that the next trail clean up of the Black Miners Bar will be on Saturday, November 14, 9:00am.

Lorie Rheams said that its time to think about the Christmas Basket program. Lorie is looking for host families to make a Christmas basket for a family in need. Lorie needs shoppers and donations as well. The baskets will be handed out on December 19 and she especially needs help that morning at 11:00am.

Jim Buntin's International committee met and they allocated $200 to the Wheel Chair Foundation. The $200 will cover the cost of a wheelchair and the delivery of the chair.

Don Russell, Club Chairperson said that it's National Musician Day. What did the musicians name their daughter? Melody. Our **Christmas party** will be held Saturday, **December 5th**, 5:30pm at Don Glover's home. The Christmas Lights parade will be help on December 12. Steve's tractor will be enlisted again.

Vocational Talk



Steve Blair talked about what his family did for the community. When Steve and his wife Kim first moved to Orangevale, they wanted a house and horse property. They move from a four bedroom house into a two bedroom house that Steve enlarged.

The first Halloween they were in Orangevale, they decided to have a party. They invited 45 children and their parents. Steve and Kim made it a fun party by hanging donuts form the trees, holding a goo race, making the garage a creepy place to visit and they traditional bobbing for apples. There was also a cooking decorating area.

When Easter came, they held a big party and it was the same big effort - 1000 plastic eggs were filled with candy. Eggs were hidden in different parts of the yard according to age. There was a raw egg toss and horse rides. A "fortune teller" gave youngsters their future (which was written on a post-it by waiting parents). The children were amazed! There was cookie decorating and pony rides. Steve hooked a wagon to the tractor and pulled a wagon filled with children.

The Halloween and Easter parties became a local tradition. And that is what Steve and Kim did for the community.

Happy Fines

Jeff Valtman was happy that it only took one month to get the dictionaries.
Steve Bartholomew is happy to be applying to join Rotary.
Deana Maddock is happy to be at the meeting
Katrina Womack is happy to turn 52 yard old and paid $52. Of course the members of the club sang Happy Birthday to her!
Jim Buntin is happy to be at the meeting.
Don Glover is just happy.
Cindy Hill-Morris is happy to be recovering from her cold.

The Orange Ball Raffle

There were two balls and $236. **Ernie Womack** had the winning ticket and he pulled the white golf ball out of the basket. Looser! He will be selling raffle tickets at the next meeting.



Thought for the Day

"A community isn't built by the number of houses it has, but by the hearts of the people who live in them."

Photo Album

Trip to the Thundering Herd Ranch and cleaning up the American River Trail.






FOLSOM LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
Ernest Tschannen
Orangevale Rotary