



THE STRATFORD ROTARY CLUB

Meeting every Tuesday at 12:15 – 1:15 PM, Riverview Bistro Restaurant & Banquet Facility - 946 Ferry Blvd, Stratford, CT

The Stratford Rotary Club came into being on May 17, 1958, at a gala event that had the distinction of being Rotary's first international Charter Night. More than 700 Rotarians, of whom approximately 70 were from other countries, attended the Shakespeare Theatre for the chartering ceremonies. Since it was chartered, hundreds of business owners, corporate leaders, professionals, educators, public servants, civic leaders, clergy, and persons from a variety of other disciplines in the working community have come together as members of the Club to contribute their time and talents for the betterment of humankind and, in the process, have been enriched by the experience.

Over the years, the Club has undertaken several service projects which have benefited the Stratford community. The Club donates approximately \$50,000 each year to the Community.

- College scholarships to an outstanding graduate from the Town's two high schools (over \$80,000 awarded as we entered the new millennium); Vocational Scholarships and the Bruce Carr Civic Engagement Scholarships at each high school.
- Establishing "Tiny Tot" playgrounds at four locations in Town.
- Sponsoring cultural events at the Shakespeare Theatre for many years.
- Undertaking an initiative to establish emergency medical response services for the Town.
- Establishing the Stratford Community Fund, a non-profit endowment dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in the community.
- Programs to benefit special education students, physically handicapped, and disadvantaged individuals, participating in the initiative and providing funding for establishing an after-school childcare program for the Town's students in public grade schools.
- The establishment of the Club's endowment will provide an ongoing source of funds for our community and international service projects.
- Collaboration with and financial support to worthwhile programs sponsored by other community organizations such as Sterling House, the YMCA, Shakespeare Theatre, the Stratford Library, the public education system, Americares, Square One Theatre, and a host of other civic groups; and a variety of other undertakings to address the many needs of our community.
- Presidential Project(s) each year totaling \$10,000.

As is the case with all Rotary Clubs, our membership comprises men and women who have succeeded in their chosen fields, have subscribed to honorable and ethical standards in their personal and vocational conduct, and desire to do good things for others.

The Club has also participated in numerous activities associated with Rotary's international aspects, including the Holiday Youth Exchange Program, the Foreign Student Exchange Program, business exchange groups, support of projects to assist underdeveloped countries, and participation in a variety of other programs and appeals initiated by Rotary International and our Rotary District.

Finally, the Club allows each member to become acquainted with bright, accomplished, and good people, some of whom will likely become lifelong friends. Besides the weekly luncheon meetings, the Club has over the years had many social gatherings for Rotarians and their families and guests, such as theater dinner parties, day trips, dinner dances, picnics, visits to other countries, golf and tennis outings, clam bakes, new member receptions, Christmas parties, and other similar affairs.

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, recognizing the worthiness of all useful occupations, and dignifying each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service