

**Boston  
Rotaract**  
*Rotary Club Partner*



Annual Report  
2015 - 2016

## President's Statement

Rotaractors, Rotarians, and Friends:

Boston Rotaract is a young professionals' partner of Rotary International, and a vibrant presence in our community. This impressive cohort represents a range of professions, nationalities, backgrounds, and experiences. They have impressed me beyond measure in their dedication to community service in the Boston area and the kindness and grace with which they have made all visitors and newcomers feel welcome.

Boston Rotaract is a club that dedicates itself to service, professional development, and building better friendships. I am reminded, every time we gather, of the impact this group of young professionals has had on one another, as many of us have had the opportunity to grow and learn together.

Over the past year, we have welcomed twelve new members to our club, and have served with sixteen organizations in the Boston area, utilizing the massive non-profit network in our city to maximize our impact and lending a hand (or 20) where it's most needed. We have discussed and made steps to implement change in our club, and in the way that we connect with the Rotary International community, in hopes to expand not only our own horizons but the role of young professionals in Rotary as a whole.

This year-in-review is a snapshot of our collective experience this year and I could not be more proud to have been a small part of it. Today, Boston Rotaract is what all of these dedicated individuals have made it, and as we look back over the past year, I can't help but also look forward to see what the next has in store for us.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating our accomplishments, learning from our mistakes, and diving into the year ahead.

In service above self,



Mallory McCoy  
President, 2015-16



Club Photo - February 2016

**Executive Board 2015 - 2016**

PRESIDENT:	<b>Mallory McCoy</b>
VICE PRESIDENT:	<b>Hana Berke</b>
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR:	<b>James Boggie</b>
TREASURER:	<b>Daniel Thomas</b>
TECH & MEDIA CHAIR:	<b>Teddy Wolf</b>
LOCAL SERVICE CHAIR:	<b>Amy Collinsworth</b>
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE:	<b>Hanane Mansour</b>
SOCIAL CHAIR:	<b>Chi Luu Tran</b>
PROF. DEVELOPMENT:	<b>Victoria Prete</b>

## Club Statistics

- Number of service events  
21
- Approximate person hours of service  
355 hours
- Local Community Service Sites/Events
  - WGBH Funfest - 7/11
  - Allston-Brighton Walk for Recovery (hosted by the Allston-Brighton Drug Abuse Task Force)
  - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk (hosted by the American Cancer Society)
  - Haley House Bakery Cafe
  - Room to Grow Boston
  - TedXBeacon Street
  - Turkey Wahoo Event (hosted by the St. Stephen's After School Programs)
  - Boston Rescue Mission
  - Many Helping Hands MLK Day of Service
  - More than Words
  - Cradles to Crayons Boston
  - Brookline Rotary Annual Pancake Breakfast
  - Quilting for a Cause
  - Raise the Rim Basketball Tourney
  - Cambridge Rotary Chalk on the Walk
- Average attendance per meeting  
15 per meeting
- Number of new members inducted  
12
- Member countries of origin  
Algeria, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Turkey, USA
- Number of speakers  
8 speakers
- Funds raised for charity
  - \$3000 - Gala
  - \$720 - Salsa night
  - \$500 - Healthy Kids/Brighter Future



Amy and Chi and a visiting Rotaractor having a great time volunteering at Cradles to Crayons

### **Local Service Highlight - Haley House**

Volunteering at Haley House was one of our most popular service activities of the year. Haley House was established in 1966 to help “those made vulnerable by the harshest effects of inequality move toward wholeness and economic independence.” Boston Rotaractors have been volunteering with the Transitional Employment Program (TEP) at the Haley House Bakery Cafe since fall 2014. TEP supports men and women transitioning back to the community following incarceration through “building supportive peer communities, fostering healthy relationships, and encouraging self-awareness through group talk, mentoring, volunteering, mindfulness training, and opportunities for community interaction.” Rotaractors baked cookies with folks who work in the cafe and are a part of TEP. Each shift they not only baked enough cookies to sell at various locations across the Boston College campus (which ultimately funds TEP), but also had the chance to build relationships with TEP participants through conversation that established common ground between participants and volunteers. To learn more about the Haley House, visit [HaleyHouse.org](http://HaleyHouse.org).



Group photo at Haley House

### **International Service Highlight - Benin Project**

Salsa Night is our annual fundraiser for our international service project. Rotaractors and guests gathered at Ryles Jazz Club for a salsa lesson followed by hours of dancing. “Salsa night was a great time,” recalled attendee Daniel Kallen. “Learning how to salsa dance in a room full of the most uncoordinated people in Boston made for an interesting and entertaining night.” As popular as it was fun, Salsa Night 2016 attracted 40 attendees and raised over \$700.

This year, the money went to our Benin boat project. Boston Rotaract has partnered with the Rotaract club of Cotonou Rive Gauche Elite to purchase boats for the primary school of Ganvie. Ganvie is often called the Venice of Africa because the village is on the water with houses on stilts and the only way to move around is by boats. The school’s 1170 students currently have no safe way to get to school. In many cases, the kids have to paddle small non-motorized boats all the way to school and arrive already tired from their trip to the classroom. Our project is a pilot project to prove that school boats will increase educational attainment in Ganvie. Our clubs will buy four motorized boats and many life vests from Association de la securite en mer, which will be operated and maintained by the NGO "Sonagnon" (which means a "better tomorrow").

## Social Good: How Groups Make it Easier to Have Impact

In August, Boston Rotaract hosted an open house at General Assembly. At the event, Vice President Hana Berke and Membership Chair Chi Luu-Tran screened the polio eradication documentary *The Final Inch*, and discussed the service mission of Rotary International as well as their own experiences in the club. According to Hana, "our open house event was a really exciting and fun way to share our club, mission, and personal experience with Rotary with our community here in Boston."

## Boston Rotaract Autumn Gala

Boston Rotaract hosted a successful autumn charity gala in partnership with Impact Hub Boston as part of the City Awake Festival for local cultural arts organizations. The gala honored and raised funds to support ArtLifting, an organization which empowers homeless and disabled artists through the celebration and sale of their artwork, prints, and other products. Liz Powers, the founder of ArtLifting, spoke about starting the organization, and three artists shared their stories with us. The gala featured music by two member-led bands, from Berklee College of Music and The Boston Conservatory, and a silent art auction.

## Fellowship events

- The Final Inch Documentary Screening
- Attended Rotary's fellowship Halloween event

## Our Convention

<http://www.ourconvention.com/> - October 9



Fall 2015 Induction Ceremony



Spring 2016 Induction Ceremony

## Thank you to speakers

Boston Rotaract thanks all of the excellent speakers who have visited us in the last year. You taught us about important issues in our world, exposed us to new volunteer experiences, and offered professional development opportunities. Thank you for helping make 2015-2016 such a great year for our club!

Alicia Ridenour - Sole Train - 10/1/2015

Graham Porell - One Brick Boston - 12/3/2015

Lonnie Hackett - Healthy Kids/Brighter Future - 12/17/2015

Dave Manzi - Rotary District 7930 - 2/18/2016

Julia Phelps - Rotary International - 3/3/2016

Rebecca Davies - Wells Fargo Commercial Real Estate - 3/17/2016

Gisele Silberman - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay - 4/7/2016

BARCC Volunteers - BARCC - 4/21/2016



Director Julia Phelps from the Rotary International Board of Directors visited our club on March 3 and spoke with us about the history of women in RI, her experience on the board of directors, and ways we can strengthen the ties between Rotaract and Rotary.

## Looking Forward

In his theme speech for the Rotary year, 2015-2016 Rotary International (RI) President K.R. Ravindran challenged all Rotarians to use the year to "bring the work of Rotary forward -- to make *its* mark on the world." Boston Rotaract truly took this challenge to heart in the last year. With the RI theme, Be a Gift to the World, in mind, we aimed our efforts on serving in three of six RI areas of focus: fighting disease, saving mothers and children, and supporting education. This allowed us to use our members' unique talents and passions to maximize our club's impact and ensure that we met the needs of the communities we served.

In a state with over 33,000 nonprofits and countless opportunities to serve, our club is a go-to when someone needs a hand. We have spent the past year getting to know the Boston community better and serving where we have been needed most. We served 355 hours with local organizations and also completed our international project in support of school children in Ganvie, Benin, Africa who now have a new boat to provide them safe and reliable transportation to and from school.

As we look to the next year, we will continue to be an organization of servant leaders that organizations can count on for help when needed. We also plan to be more proactive in our service, finding ways to take the unique skills and backgrounds our members have to provide more tailored support in the community. We will do this by developing partnerships with organizations to consult or provide skills-based volunteer help in areas they have the most need.

Our club brings people together to do good in this world in ways that are greater than if they were working alone. We come together to serve our local community and to be engaged citizens of the place we live and work. We also recognize we are members of a global community, and thus will remain committed to serving internationally in partnership with our many sister clubs. In addition to a new international project, this will include efforts to support Rotary International's commitment to eradicating polio from the world, as this virus remains endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We believe that these focused efforts over the next year, both locally and internationally, will help us truly exemplify the 2016-2017 RI theme, Rotary Serving Humanity.

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If you are interested in becoming a member or are a visiting Rotaractor or Rotarian looking to join us, we welcome you for a meeting, to serve with us, or to get to know our members during fellowship events. All are welcome and we hope to see you soon!

In service above self,



Amy Collinsworth  
Boston Rotaract President, 2016-2017