

Russian Jack Rotary Club

Highlights and Service Activities from the 2022-2023 year ending June 2023.

Anchorage Russian Jack Rotary again has had a great year of service to the community, friendship and fellowship, and involvement in the greater Rotary community. We meet each Tuesday for breakfast at 7:00 am, and each week have inspiring meetings and outstanding speakers on a wide variety of topics.

Here are some of the highlights for this past year through June 2023. More detail can be found at our “Russian Jack Rotary” Facebook page.

Russian Jack Rotary Club service activity highlights and the great local organizations we worked or partnered with to make our community a better place over this past year:

- We do periodic Trash Pick Up and Clean Up on a designated stretch of Lake Otis, each spring with the **Anchorage Chamber of Commerce** as part of the City wide Spring Clean-up, and a final clean up each fall before winter sets in.
- House painting for a deserving low income home owner, through the **Neighborworks** “Paint the Town” Program, also working in partnership with other Rotary clubs and local businesses.
- In the fall of 2022, Russian Jack Rotary organized a grant and initiated a new program, along with participation by the **Anchorage International and East Rotary Clubs**, and a matching **Rotary District 5010** grant, to start a regular training program for youth in the skills of Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution. This was conducted and administered through the **Anchorage Youth Court** organization. This project pursues the Rotary goals of both Peace and Conflict Resolution, as well as Youth Education and Training. The program was successful, and the remaining funds are being administered by the Anchorage Youth Court to continue the program next year. There will also be a presentation on this training to the statewide meeting of Youth Court organizations which will be meeting in Anchorage in October 2023. This has been a successful start to this training program for young people in an important professional and life skill.

- Fall Clothing drive to make clothing and winter coat donations to the **Anchorage Native Medical Center Emergency Dept.**, for use by indigent emergency room patients upon their discharge.
- Toy donation drive, for in-patient children hospitalized at **Anchorage Native Medical Center** over the holidays.
- The Club provided donations of Turkeys and all the fixings for a full Thanksgiving dinner, to five families in the **Abbott Loop Elementary School** community.
- Russian Jack Rotary members received training, and presented in partnership with **Junior Achievement of Alaska**, the “J.A. in a Day” program, to train sixth graders at our partner school **Abbott Loop Elementary** in the concepts of financial literacy, budgeting, and career choices.
- Yarn donation, to be knitted into hats and scarves, through the **Retired Senior Volunteer project**, now administered through the **Aleutian-Pribilof Island Association**, for distribution to **Covenant House** and other outlets.
- Russian Jack Rotary club was the largest single donor of Wine for the **American Cancer Society of Alaska’s** Annual Wine Auction, which its largest fund raiser of the year.
- The Club spent many hours in its fund-raising activity of raffle ticket sales, and had its best fund raising year ever. We raised well over \$20,000, which has been used to fund three \$6,000 scholarships awarded to graduating seniors from **West and Service High Schools** in Anchorage, as well as providing some of the funding for the **Anchorage Youth Court Mediation Training, Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA)** held in Anchorage this past March, and other local programs.

Thanks to all of the members of our small but dynamic Rotary Club for their commitment to the ideals of Rotary and to the community of Anchorage; for all of their involvement and hard work; and for their interest, energy and inspiration at our weekly meetings. We look forward to continued success and community involvement as we move into the new year of 2023-2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Peterson, President Russian Jack Rotary

