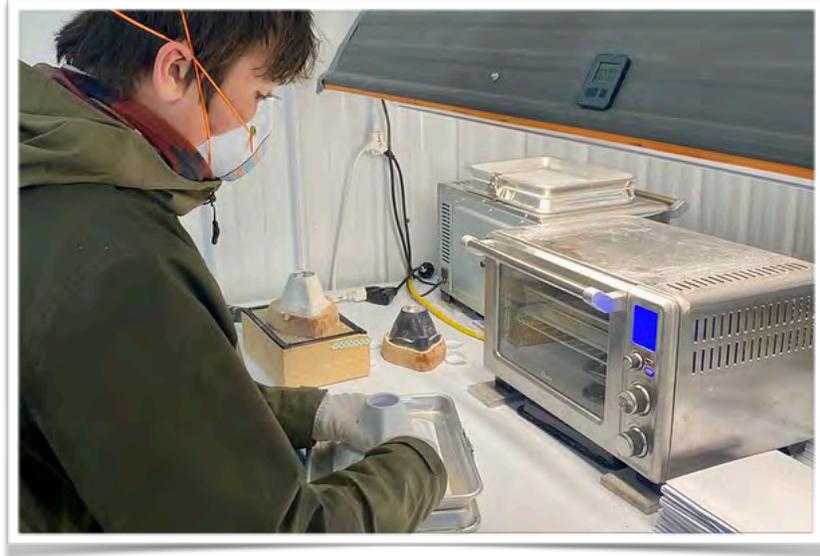

Fletcher, a Bozeman Field School senior, has been interning at a local mechanical engineering shop for the past two years. Recently, the shop switched over to N95 mask production, which Fletcher has been helping with. Fletcher will attend Montana State University in Fall 2020 to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.



Vocational Services Update

Serving others through vocations and high ethical standards

Vocational Services is one of the Five Avenues of Rotary Service.

- It is defined as services that encourage Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards.
- The second Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

• *In this issue...*

Our Spring issue focuses on how the Coronavirus pandemic has affected successful vocational services programs in Montana, how programs are adapting creatively to social distancing, and how they continue to help support their constituents with Rotary support.

The Need for Change

Community, Vocational and Youth Services in the Age of Coronavirus

In the November 2019 issue of Vocational Update, we noted that the newsletter would provide a vehicle to encourage exchange of ideas among Rotary clubs in Montana to help fulfill goals for the Vocational Avenue of Service. We asked that clubs share their best projects.

In the March/April 2020 edition, we highlighted the Vocational Services programs of three entities that provide opportunities for Rotarians to participate in vocational projects.

The programs we featured were Thrive Inc. which administers mentoring programs for students in grades K-12; Montana State

University Wonderlust Program which sponsors adult education programs; and The Field School which provides an alternative form of high school education.

Like many other entities, these three rely upon volunteers to help them present their programs. Who better than Rotarians to assist these and other organizations that provide such services? In addition, as our District Governor Sandy Wong noted in her communication to fellow Rotarians, the societal conditions created by the Coronavirus provide special opportunities for Rotarians to once again practice "Service Above Self."



Bozeman Field School faculty member Terry Hollingsworth, and his three children gathered large amounts of trash in their neighborhood on May 1 as they participated in Give Big and Give Back.

As Rotary clubs consider how to meet increased service

opportunities resulting from the changes in societal conduct, we asked the entities previously featured in our newsletter to share how their core functions may have changed since the start of the pandemic, and offer advice about how Rotarians might help given the adjustments to their programs and services. In separate articles, each of these organizations responded.

It's clear that Rotarians may need to alter plans to still provide community, vocational and youth services. Consider the following:

Think outside the box. Traditional methods for providing services to our communities have been altered dramatically. Rotarians must think creatively, adapt to the changing environment, collaborate

with partners and accept the need to modify past practice. As Rotary International has noted, Rotary clubs need to focus on remaining vibrant and relevant in changing times.

How do clubs do so? Start by analyzing current processes. Ask clients how they would prefer to change the process. Collaborate with all involved. Make sure your process meets current pandemic safety guidelines.



Thinking “outside the box”, Zoe, 3, draws her brother inside a box ... all part of learning about the letter “B” via online education.

Many projects require presentations in group sessions, such as career counseling, adult education, current events seminars, Four-Way Test citizenship contests or student assistance in the classroom. To continue a new version of these types of projects requires Rotarians to adapt technology that allows presentations to be conducted online, thus complying with social distancing guidelines for the safety of all.

As our world is changing, our clubs must change along with it. Our partners are adapting to the new environment. Let’s share ideas about how our clubs can also adapt and continue “Service Above Self” for years to come.

How is the pandemic affecting Rotary Vocational Programs?

Thrive supports families in tough times

Like many other non-profit organizations within our community and around the world, Thrive Inc. in Bozeman has had to adapt and be creative in continuing to provide connections and support to children and families in Montana’s Gallatin Valley during the current pandemic.

One way that Thrive has been able to continue its Child Advancement Project (CAP) mentoring program has been shifting the program model to connect CAP Students and their CAP Mentors through email. At least once each week, CAP Mentors write an email talking about how they are doing and what they have been doing and send it to a Thrive employee who then passes along the email to the CAP Student, who may choose to reply to their mentor via email. Although it is not the same as meeting

face-to-face, it still allows the CAP Mentors to be able to support their Mentee through these times of uncertainty and provide some normalcy to the students' lives. Mentors have also found creative ways to share drawings, poems, and messages of hope to their students -- many of whom reply with the same.

The staff at Thrive have been working tirelessly to come up with ways that safely support families through these not-so-easy times. The Thrive teams have been able to connect families to food resources, provide interactional and active activities online (such as the confidence-through-running program for girls grades 3-8, Girls on The Run (GOTR)), and develop new ways to keep families and staff connected.

While there have certainly been obstacles during this transition, that has not stopped Thrive from staying connected and providing support for the families and kids in the Gallatin Valley area in a time when people need connection the most.

To learn more about how a club or individual members might assist in these programs, visit www.allthrive.org/cap or call the Thrive office at (406) 585-7929.

Online learning and virtual social interaction reflect the new reality for lifelong learning programs.

MSU Wonderlust / OLLI out and about ... virtually



In the span of one month, most of us went from never having heard of the phrase

“social distancing” to living a new lifestyle defined by “social distancing.” For MSU Wonderlust/Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, this has meant a dramatic shift from traditional in-person lifelong learning programs to online learning and virtual social interaction.

Another now ubiquitous word that has redefined MSUWL/OLLI programming is “unprecedented.” In addition to defining our current global situation,



“unprecedented” directly relates to the measures many members have taken to stay connected, keep engaged and remain cognitively active. From phone trees to internet meet-ups and online classes and entertainment, MSUWL/OLLI has been offering creative ways to continue to reach out to and connect with its members, and equally important, facilitating ways for members to connect with each other.

These new virtual programming outlets and opportunities have been both welcomed and met with reluctance. The digital landscape can feel intimidating for those who have lived their lives relatively unplugged. MSUWL/OLLI’s new online programming has pushed the lifelong learning envelope for many members, as well as offered opportunity for the more physically- and winter-homebound members to now stay connected with their peers and learning cohort year-round.



Live classes like the one above are no longer possible during the pandemic as MSUWL/OLLI must be creative in online offerings.

To meet these virtual outreach and lifelong learning needs, and address the resulting financial shortfalls from spring program cancellations, MSUWL/OLLI is seeking individuals interested in volunteering to facilitate online programming. Our virtual lifelong learning needs include the following: 1) One hour presentations or lectures of interest to MSUWL/OLLI

members (world and local history, arts, science, literature, current events, economics, nature, hands-on workshops), 2) facilitate small topic-specific discussion groups, 3) share musical or literature entertainment during a “Happy Half-hour” once a week, 4) facilitate online training and coaching for members and presenters (MSU uses the Webex online learning platform).

We look forward to the opportunities and global outreach the current “social distancing” directives have gifted our organization and members. These “unprecedented” times have decidedly stretched our definition of lifelong learning and strengthened our need for social connection, of all kinds. If you are interested in

applying your vocational services to MSUWL/OLLI programs and services, please reach out to bobbi.geise@montana.edu and/or submit a program proposal to: <http://www.montana.edu/wonderlust/>.

Contact: Bobbi Geise, bobbi.geise@montana.edu, MSU Wonderlust / Osber Lifelong Learning Institute, 406-994-5240

Bozeman Field School — teaching and learning in the face of uncertainty

Our world looks different now than it did two months ago. The streets are quieter. Neighbors are forgoing handshakes and hugs.

We have grown accustomed to standing six feet apart. At Bozeman Field School, all of our classes have transitioned online.

However, in many ways, student learning and our sense of community at Bozeman Field School has remained unchanged. Students are still taking their full course load and they meet twice a week on video with their instructors. Real-world, hands-on learning is still happening. In chemistry, students are designing and building a cell phone charging device powered by renewable energy. In our nature awareness class, students are spending time every day in the woods, and journaling about and discussing their experiences. Each day students have a morning check-in with their advisors, and we come together virtually every Wednesday morning for a community meeting.

Perhaps one of the most notable changes in this time of physical distancing has been our school community's re-commitment to service. We are

offering a service elective course this spring in which students are designing and executing their own service project. Some students have been making masks on their 3-D printers, others are writing letters to senior citizens in isolation, while others spend time each week picking up trash in their neighborhood. On Friday, May 1, our



Bozeman Field School sisters Bella (10th grade) and Liberty (12th grade) pick up trash on Give Big and Give Back day to support their local community.

entire school community participated in Gallatin Valley's community-wide day of giving called Give Big. At Bozeman Field School, we called it "Give Big and Give Back" and we asked our students to either donate to a nonprofit of their choice or perform

an act of service. One hundred percent of our students and faculty gave back in some way on May 1!



There are a number of ways that Gallatin Valley community members can get involved and volunteer with Bozeman Field School. Our students participate in a three-week internship program in the month of January, and we are always looking for businesses and mentors who would like to host our students for their internship. Furthermore, we offer more than twenty six-week elective courses each

During our week-long March expedition, Bozeman Field School students completed a snow science unit in Hyalite Canyon with support from our science faculty.

school year, and those courses are often taught by community members who are experts in their fields. Lastly, we always welcome a phone call or email from folks who are interested in getting involved with Bozeman Field School in some way.

As we look ahead to graduation and next year, there remains uncertainty. However, we have come together to learn and serve our community in meaningful ways over the past two months, and we are optimistic about what the future holds!

Kate Anderson, Co-Head of School

Editor's Note: Vocational Services Update is published quarterly by the Vocational Services Subcommittee of Montana Rotary District 5390, Foundation Committee, as a service to Rotary members and Rotary Clubs in the District. Contact Dick Holper at rdholper@gmail.com for submissions.