



# Vocational Services Update

Serving others through vocations and high ethical standards

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Did you know...



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

In our November-December issue, we focused on one club's successful vocational services program and reviewed areas in which such programs could be developed. In this issue, we highlight three organizations that provide opportunities for Rotary Clubs to consider for vocational services programs that highlight members' unique skills and qualifications.

## Would students in your local community benefit from an Oratorical Scholarship?

District Foundation Vocational Services Sub-committee is weighing a recommendation to District leadership to consider the establishment of a District-wide High School Oratorical Scholarship program. In such a program, high school students would compete for scholarship awards first at the club level, then at an intermediate level and finally at the District level. Interested students would present an eight to ten-minute speech on “The uses of the Four Way Test to promote ethical behavior in society.” Participating clubs would establish and fund the local scholarship amount at a level acceptable to the club. In addition, clubs would sponsor and administer the local contests and contribute to scholarships awarded at the intermediate level. The District would conduct the contest for finalists, i.e., winners at the intermediate level. Additional funding for scholarships could be solicited from Montana colleges and universities for the first two place finishers in the District contest. If clubs indicate sufficient interest for the program, it could be implemented as early as the 2020-21 academic year.




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Learning to speak before an audience is a critical skill to learn for success.

Before we present the recommendation to District leadership, the sub-committee would like to garner feedback from clubs in the District, including any possible interest in participating in such a program. Please email your thoughts by March 30, 2020 to Dick Holper at [rdholper@gmail.com](mailto:rdholper@gmail.com).

## Vocational Programs to consider Thrive Inc. — Mentoring K-12 Students

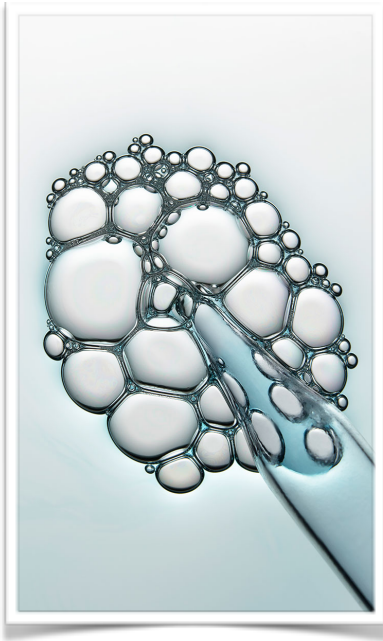
For over 30 years, a Bozeman-based nonprofit organization has matched adult community members as mentors for students in grades pre-K-12. The Child Advancement Project, also known as “CAP” Thrive, provides students the opportunity to grow, succeed and become valuable members of their community. The program assists students by recruiting community volunteers willing to donate one hour a week as a CAP mentor to students. Volunteers

work one-on-one with a student, helping him or her to discover and build upon individual strengths, encouraging a student to shape his or her future.

During the academic year, Thrive volunteers work with more than 550 students in school districts in Big Sky and Bozeman. Based on the success of these programs, Thrive hopes to expand its mentoring program throughout Montana. To accomplish that will require more volunteers.

Mentoring is successful. Research shows that over 85 percent of students with a CAP mentor report increases in positive attitude toward academics, friendships and participation in school activities. In addition, 97 percent of teachers within grades K-12 reported that CAP helped their students reach their goals. The data confirms that CAP helps improve students' academic scores, student attendance, and participation in their school community.

As Thrive seeks to expand CAP programs throughout the state, it offers a unique opportunity for Montana Rotary clubs and their members to assist in development of local programs and recruiting volunteer mentors. To learn more about how a club or individual members might assist in these programs, visit [www.allthrive.org/cap](http://www.allthrive.org/cap) or call the Thrive office at (406) 585-7929.




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Lifelong learning enriches and fulfills one's life, helping to cope with a fast-changing world.

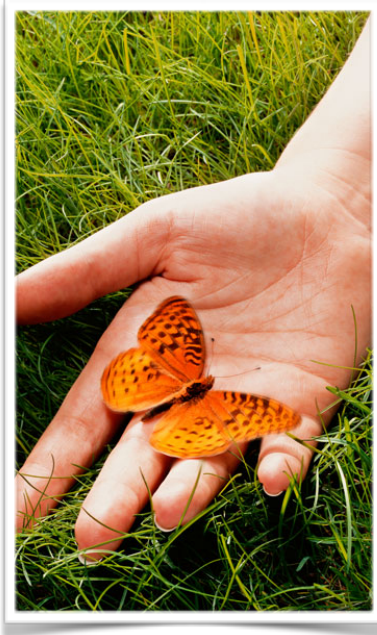
## Adult Education — MSU Wonderlust

Looking for a Vocational Services project with direct benefits to the community? Consider working with the Montana State University Wonderlust Program.

As Montana's active adults who enjoy life in our great state begin to approach retirement, senior citizen status, or whatever they are comfortable calling this life stage, the question of how to embrace aging, stay active, engaged and healthy become more pertinent to our daily lives.

Adult education, also known as lifelong learning, provides opportunity to enrich and fulfill one's life and help cope with a fast-changing world. Adult education also provides fertile ground for Rotary members to contribute to the community. Who better to assist than Rotarians?

The MSU Wonderlust program provides Rotarians with this opportunity. The lifelong learning program offers diverse, engaging academic courses, seminars and experiences to learners over age 50. MSU Wonderlust allows participants to pursue and explore both existing and new passions, as well as intellectual interests.




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Help students find their passion by immersing them in real-world experiences.

Similar to Rotary, vocational service is at the core of the MSU program. Launched as an independent volunteer organization in 2002, the program merged with MSU in 2017. Recently, MSU Wonderlust was awarded a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, enabling it to become OLLI@MSU and one of 124 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLIs) across the United States.

In addition to MSU Wonderlust in Bozeman, OLLI at University of Montana (MOLLI) offers lifelong learning programs at its Missoula campus and simulcasts to two remote sites at Bitterroot College in Hamilton and Montana Tech in Butte. These two OLLIs rely upon volunteers to assist in expanding their efforts to serve communities throughout Montana and beyond.

MSU Wonderlust volunteers include present and former educators, artists, engineers, tradespeople, attorneys, scientists, writers, historians and other exceptional people who lead inspiring lives in later life. The program calls upon such professionals, both working and retired, to serve as program presenters and guides, and in advisory capacities.

Participating in and teaching current topics of interest is a great way for Rotary members to share their backgrounds, experiences and expertise with active learners. To learn more about becoming a part of this program, visit [montana.edu/wonderlust](http://montana.edu/wonderlust), call MSU at (406) 994-6550 or email [bobbi.geise@montana.edu](mailto:bobbi.geise@montana.edu).

## The Field School — place-based education in “the last best place”

Imagine a high school where the students spend a week in a National Park, analyzing the snowpack or exploring their passion

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**Editor's Note:** This newsletter 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. Our thanks to Brittany Peters, director of operations of Thrive Inc., Bobbi Geise of the MSU Wanderlust program, and Kate Anderson, co-head of the Field School and Rotaract member for the information they provided about their Vocational Service programs.

Share your club's Vocational Services program with a story featured in a future edition of the newsletter. Please e-mail the information in Word format to Dick Holper at rdholper@gmail.com. Include your contact information so that we might follow up should additional information prove helpful.

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for animal science, intern in a veterinary hospital, take a photography course taught by a professional photographer, or more. Bozeman Field School is a private, nonprofit high school serving grades 9-12 that provides these opportunities and more.

The school's mission is to help students find their passion both through the core high school curriculum and by immersing them in real-world experiences. The school emphasizes not only the core classes of math, science, humanities and languages, it offers students opportunities to apply their knowledge in hands-on ways. Field School sponsors internship programs in local communities throughout Montana and provides unique, hands-on opportunities outside of the classroom, such as using a student's understanding of geometry to build the "strongest" bridge or conduct an ethnography study as part of humanities class.

The school features a strong emphasis on community engagement and service and is actively looking for volunteers to assist in these efforts. Within the school, volunteers supplement the full-time faculty and teach quarterly elective courses. Outside of class, volunteers provide internship opportunities designed to expose students to the practical and career-related aspects of life after the educational process.

While the Field School is unique in Montana, in the Western United States there are a number of high schools that have adopted a similar model. These schools and the Field School share the belief that learning is most engaging when students not only are schooled in the core subjects, but are provided the opportunity to go out into their communities and obtain real life experiences and learning.

To learn more about the Field School, its academic programs and opportunities for volunteer participation in the process, visit [www.bozemanfieldschool.org](http://www.bozemanfieldschool.org) or email the school at [info@bozemanfieldschool.org](mailto:info@bozemanfieldschool.org).