



# DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR Dr. Charles Gilliland

### Remember to Support the Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation has launched the Hurricane Melissa Response Fund to assist with recovery in the aftermath of a major natural disaster. That illustrates how the Rotary Foundation shines as a beacon of hope and change throughout the world. Through its grants, the Foundation provides an engine that transforms the vision of Rotary into tangible actions creating life-changing projects across the globe. Your generous contributions profoundly impact people worldwide.

### District 5910 Giving

Historically, District 5910 has generously supported the Rotary Foundation through donations for the Annual Fund and PolioPlus Fund, normally generously exceeding total giving goals. Our beneficence enables the Foundation to reach out globally and locally. In addition to grants around the world, each year a portion of funds donated to the Annual Fund three years ago by District 5910 return home to support District Grants. Your generous support of the Foundation enables District 5910 to provide resources for qualifying projects each year.

Normally, the Grants Committee has sufficient monies to fully fund club grant requests, but grants to Clubs are not guaranteed. Unfortunately, District donations during the COVID pandemic fell to low levels leaving the Grants Committee with a lower total to allocate for this Rotary year and the next year. The year after next will see grant funds match previous levels as donations returned to normal pre-pandemic levels. The Committee made difficult decisions on funding requests based on the grant descriptions. Rotary International approved those decisions.

To support worldwide projects and those here in District 5910, please donate to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund. Donations allow Rotary to promote peace, fight disease provide clean water, support education, and grow local economies. You can also help eliminate the scourge of Polio by donating to the PolioPlus Fund.

### Your Role in Global Transformation

As Rotarians, your continued support and engagement are crucial to the success of these endeavors. Each contribution to the Rotary Foundation is not merely a donation; it's an investment in a better world. It fuels projects that have immediate and lasting impacts, turning hope into action and dreams into reality.

November is Foundation month on the Rotary International calendar. I encourage all of you to continue your incredible support of the Rotary Foundation. Together, we can continue to make a difference, one project and one community at a time. Let's keep this momentum going, ensuring that our legacy of service and compassion endures for generations to come.

[Learn more about the Rotary Foundation](#) and how it transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives across the world.

## Events around the District

**11/1-11/30:** November is [Rotary Foundation Month](#)

**11/15:** [District Foundation Celebration honoring Hugh Summers](#)

**11/20:** [RYE STEP Application Part 1 due for Summer 2026](#)

**12/3:** [69<sup>th</sup> Annual Lufkin Rotary Club Waffle Bake](#)

**12/4:** [San Augustine Rotary Club's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday In the Pines](#)

**12/6:** [Rotary Club of College Station's Christmas Clothing for Kids event](#)

**12/6:** [Rotary Club of Woodville's Breakfast with Santa](#)

**12/8:** [Rotary Club of Dickinson's Christmas on the Bayou Parade](#)

**12/10:** [Rotary Club of Cleveland's 2025 Raffle \(Tickets on sale now\)](#)

**1/28:** [Rotary Club of Galveston Chili Supper and eBike raffle \(Raffle tickets on sale now\)](#)



## Rotary Club of Dickinson recognizes 20 Paul Harris Fellows

The Rotary Club of Dickinson recently recognized 20 members with new Paul Harris honors. The distinguished award, established in 1957, acknowledges Rotarians who have made a donation of at least \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. [Learn more about the Paul Harris Fellow](#) recognition, and how you can earn this prestigious Rotary honor.



## Downtown Rotary Club of Palestine donates trees



Members of the Downtown Rotary Club of Palestine commemorated Texas Arbor Day (November 7) at Palestine's Calhoun Park, taking part in a tree-planting celebration alongside representatives from the City of Palestine and Texas A&M Forest Service. The Club donated four trees planted in the park, located in the heart of Palestine.

Club (and District) Treasurer Sloan Shuffler told the [Palestine Herald-Press](#) that the event was one of many the Club sponsors.

"We are a small club of 30 members," she said, "but we get a lot done."

## District 5910 Executives 2025-2026

**District Governor:** Charley Gilliland (Bryan)  
**District Governor Elect:** Philip Shackelford (Aggieland)  
**Immediate Past District Governor:** Leon Willhite (Palestine)  
**Vice Governor:** Demetress Harrell (Angelina)  
**District Treasurer:** Sloan Shuffler (Downtown Palestine)  
**District Secretary:** Michelle Lyons (Lone Star eClub)  
**District Governor Nominee:** Dana Espinal (Port Arthur)

[Have an item for the newsletter? Send it to \[District Secretary Michelle Lyons\]\(#\) so we can include it!](#)

## Sponsor a child this Christmas: Give the gift of warmth and joy!



### SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CLOTHING FOR KIDS!

Rotary  
Club of College Station

For just \$150, you can provide a local child with new winter clothing essentials through the Rotary Club of College Station's Clothing for Kids program — ensuring every child feels warm, confident, and cared for this season.

#### Why it Matters:

- In Bryan—College Station, 1 in 5 children lives in a household below the poverty line.
- Studies show children who feel confident in what they wear are more likely to attend school regularly and perform better academically.

#### How You Can Help:

##### Website:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3801/Events/2025-sponsor-a-child>

The Rotary Club of College Station is helping to bring smiles to local children in need by sponsoring a child for just \$150 in their annual Christmas Clothing for Kids event on December 6.

These clothing items may be the only Christmas gifts some of these children receive, giving Rotarians a wonderful opportunity to make a difference through their generous donations.

Through the years, nearly 3,000 College Station-area youth have enjoyed a holiday shopping spree to select new clothing. This year, the Club also started a 'Back to School Clothing for Kids' and combined with this event, will give 150 kids a \$150 shopping experience. The initiative allows children to select their own clothing within a budget, often presenting learning opportunities as they prioritize their wishes.

Children and families shop with Rotarians, Texas A&M Rotaract members, and community volunteers for items on their wish lists. It's truly touching to see children choose clothes that their families might not otherwise be able to afford. Books and a Blanket add extra joy by giving each child a selection of books and a blanket to take home.

[Learn more](#) about how you can purchase a sponsorship and make a difference in a child's life this holiday season.

## Peace Center Thrives on Common Ground

Rotary's new peace fellows converged on Istanbul's Bahçeşehir University from countries thousands of miles apart: Egypt, Bulgaria, Kenya, Jordan, and beyond. But they lost no time in finding out what they had in common.

"Where else on Earth would I have met with an Israeli participant and sat and talked and debated and laughed together?" says Suaad Abdo, a Yemeni fellow who now lives in Germany. "Having different opinions can enrich our discussions and expand our horizons."

Abdo is one of 13 fellows in the first class at Rotary's most recently opened peace center, the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center at Bahçeşehir. [...Continue reading in this month's Rotary magazine](#)