

Rotary District 6000  
Iowa USA  
Dave Cook, Governor



First Issue  
2024-25  
(July-December)

# District 6000 News



## Magical Gala, Magical Place

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

*A Global Network of Community Volunteers*  
One Rotary Center—1560 Sherman Ave.  
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Phone: 1-847-866-3000



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District 6000 News is published two times a year as a supplement to monthly electronic communications. District 6000 News is mailed to District 6000 Rotarians and friends of District 6000. Archives of the District 6000 News are posted as PDF format at the District website, [www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org). We encourage Rotarians to use your copies of District 6000 News both internally and externally as a resource for club newsletters and in any other way possible for the advancement of Rotary. Clubs are invited and encouraged to submit news to the editor at the above email address.

**COVER PHOTO: DG Dave and Lisa Cook at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, Des Moines, IA. Photo by Jacque Andrew**

## INTERIM EDITOR

**Bill Tubbs** was THE EDITOR and greatest supporter of the District 6000 NEWS for over 20 years. His passion for print perfection and photographic composition were unparalleled. His touch on this publication was truly MAGICAL!

For 10 years I have been his "assistant." Although we each had degrees in journalism from Iowa State University, he honed his considerable skills for more than 50 years at the North Scott Press which he and Linda owned. As editor and publisher, he was a gifted writer with a keen sense for finding and telling remarkable stories in his newspaper for which he was honored by many professional organizations.

We were all blessed by his dedication to tell the stories of District 6000, celebrating the impact they had on our communities and around our world. His devotion to documenting the history of our District was a gift he gladly bestowed on all of us.

Because of my respect and admiration for Bill, I volunteered to produce the newsletters for the 2024-25 Rotary year as a tribute to him.

His legendary service to Rotary and his community is truly inspiring. At every opportunity, he saw ways to advance the objects of Rotary and connect them to helping his own community and the world "community." Because of his exemplary service, he was deservedly honored by Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation with their highest awards.

Bill's philosophy...."**We serve in our professions to earn a living, and in Rotary to live a life. Rotary connects us to our community and world and gives our lives meaning and purpose. I have never given more to Rotary than what Rotary has given me.**"

A man of great character, he wanted others to be honored for their integrity. To that end, he established the Paul Hellwege Guardian of Integrity award encouraging all District clubs to identify those in their midst who embodied such an honorable trait. As a tribute to Bill, I encourage EVERY club to consider such a nomination.

Bill would urge us to keep telling the stories of our clubs' activities, achievements and outreach; engage our members in meaningful service and support the Rotary Foundation so more good can be done in our world.



**The legacy of his endless generosity of time, talent and resources and the passion he had for Rotary will inspire us always.**

*Thank you, Bill...*

**Jacqueline Andrew**  
District 6000 Governor, 2013-14  
[jeandrew@netins.net](mailto:jeandrew@netins.net)

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

# Club Visits: A Year of Connection, Challenges, and Growth

By DG Dave Cook, Rotary Club of Boone

As District Governor for Rotary District 6000, I've had the privilege of traveling nearly 9,000 miles as we've crisscrossed Iowa over the first five months of my term.

My wife, Lisa, and I have visited 70 Rotary clubs and club extensions, starting with the Rotary Club of Lenox on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and continuing until our 70<sup>th</sup> visit in Kalona on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Each visit has been an opportunity to connect with Rotary members, be inspired, and share *The Magic of Rotary*.

One of the messages I've shared during my visits revolves around a powerful experience I had when visiting the home of Rotary's founder, Paul Harris. While there, I was given an acorn from an oak tree, a gift that symbolizes the growth and lasting impact of Rotary.

I've carried this acorn with me throughout my visits, sharing the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, *"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn."* As Rotarians, we are all part of a thousand forests that began as one small acorn when Paul Harris started the first Rotary club in 1905. Today, that small acorn has grown into 36,000 clubs across 220 countries and territories, touching countless lives and creating lasting change.

This year's Rotary theme, "The Magic of Rotary," reflects the collective actions of our members. Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick reminded us that Rotary's global mission of serving others, ending polio, and growing membership won't happen by waving a magic wand. Instead, she reminded us that *"You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member*

*inducted."*

For District 6000, one of our primary goals this year is to achieve the first net increase in membership in over a decade. To meet this challenge, each club has set its own membership goal and been asked to answer a simple question: *What will we do to grow your club?*

This is a question that requires reflection, collaboration, and commitment. By working together, club members can find new ways to engage potential members, strengthen outreach, and increase the number of new members inducted.



**DG Dave Cook at the Ankeny Rotary Pavilion**

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## ***Club visits are a reminder that Rotary is about people...***

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In addition to growing membership, we've also focused on improving member retention. Over the past five years, 34% of the members we've lost were in our clubs for two years or less. Often, these losses were preventable.



Rotary attracts busy people, and if new members don't feel engaged or see how their time is making a meaningful difference, some may decide to leave. That's why we've encouraged clubs to create environments where newer members feel more valued and connected.

Clubs have been challenged to devote one meeting program to brainstorm ideas on how to increase newer member retention—whether it's through engaging them in meaningful service projects, social events, or mentorship programs.

The highlights of our club visits are many. For example, in Iowa City, we had the chance to meet firefighters from Guatemala who were in Iowa to pick up a donated firetruck. This unique project highlighted the global reach of Rotary and the difference we can make in communities around the world.

Another memorable moment came when I had the honor of welcoming 21 new members at the chartering of the Rotaract Club at Iowa State University, a moment that truly exemplified the future of Rotary.

Last but certainly not least, I was honored to witness Bill Tubbs give the invocation at North Scott Rotary when I attended one of his final Rotary meetings. Bill's commitment to service and his dedication to Rotary has left an indelible mark on that club, his community, and the world of Rotary.

These moments serve as a reminder that Rotary is about people—about the connections we build, the service we provide, and the lives we touch. But it also

takes a collective effort and a willingness to try new ideas.

**That's why I've challenged clubs to try something new to help serve others, to grow membership, and to increase giving to The Rotary Foundation.**

Whether it's by hosting a new fundraising event, starting a new service project, or encouraging every member to invite a guest, we all have a part to play in creating *The Magic of Rotary*.



### **District 6000 Passing of the Gavel**

**Leadership of District 6000 is passed from Dennis Drager, right, to Dave Cook, left, at the June 30 gavel passing at Cedar Pointe Golf Course in Boone.**

**At least 100 from the District attended to salute PDG Dennis for his successful year and welcome DG Dave as he launched his magical year. The program reflected DG Dave's focus for the future of the district.**

## Newest club in District is cause-based: Rotary Club of HOPE

By Heidi Drager, Rotary Club of HOPE  
Club President

There is a new, innovative type of club in District 6000.

The Rotary Club of HOPE (Homeless Outreach, Prevention and Education) is a cause-based club that focuses on homeless outreach and educating the public about homelessness. "Serving those in need without judgement" is the mission/philosophy of this club.

The club members are scattered across the state and connect virtually twice a month. Recent meeting programs included learning about working in the trenches of skid row in Los Angeles, the plans to build a community of tiny homes to house 50 chronically homeless in the Des Moines area and a mobile hygiene unit called HOWIE in Peoria, IL.

Club members are encouraged to reach out to Rotary Clubs within their communities to connect in person and share information about the Rotary Club of HOPE and opportunities to volunteer with us.

Members have participated in food packaging events, visiting homeless encampments with food and supplies, volunteered at homeless pet vaccine clinics and helped homeless veterans.

The club is also innovative in the membership structure. There are Active Member Rotarians that pay full dues that cover Rotary International dues and District 6000 dues. There are also Associate Members who are a member of



Heidi Drager and PDG Dennis Drager, members of the Rotary Club of HOPE, front left and right; and DGE Norlan Hinke, back center, volunteer at a meal pack event. The Drager's granddaughter, Caitlin, next to Hinke also participated in the event.

another Rotary club. Associate Members are invited to participate in everything that Active Members do and they can even hold some positions on the board.

We meet by Zoom, 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 5:30PM. We would love to have anyone interested join us for a meeting. A Zoom link can be sent to anyone interested.

To learn more about the Rotary Club of HOPE email [RotaryClubofHOPE@gmail.com](mailto:RotaryClubofHOPE@gmail.com). Visit the club website: <https://rotaryhope4homeless.org>.

## Experience The Magic of Rotary. Register Now for District Conference!

*Join Rotarians from across D6000 for a day of inspiration, connection & magical moments at the 2025 District Conference.*

Don't miss your chance to experience the *Magic of Rotary* at our 2025 District Conference on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. Early registration ends March 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [rotary6000.org](http://rotary6000.org) to register now!



DISTRICT GOVERNOR

# A Night of Inspiration at the Magic of Giving Gala

By DG Dave Cook  
Rotary Club of Boone

Rotarians gathered for an evening of inspiration at the *Magic of Giving Gala* on Friday, November 15 at the prestigious World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines.

The event, with nearly 120 in attendance, was an unforgettable evening dedicated to The Rotary Foundation and the profound impact it has both close to home and around the world.

District Governor Nominee Designee Gretchen Nollman began the evening with insights on Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug's contributions to global food security.

The World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, which honors individuals advancing the fight against hunger was a fitting backdrop for the evening's theme of giving.

The keynote address was delivered by Tom Gump of Edina, MN, distinguished aide to Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. Recently selected as the RI Director Nominee for Zone 29, Gump spoke passionately about the profound impact of Rotary's work and how District 6000 Rotarians are helping to create lasting change, both locally and globally.

Gump invited Carol Narak to reflect on the Xicotepc service project to which she and her late husband, PDG Tom Narak, have dedicated themselves for many years.

Mark Rugeberg, from the Iowa MOST team, shared the impact of their cleft lip and palate surgeries in Guatemala.

Flight to End Polio pilot, PDG John Ockenfels, touched on high-



DG Dave Cook, left, with speaker District 5950 PDG Tom Gump with Lisa Cook looking on at the Magic of Giving Gala at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates.

lights of his flight around the world and the awareness raised for Rotary's effort to eradicate polio.

In a moving tribute, PDG Jacque Andrew honored Bill and Linda Tubbs, longtime pillars of Rotary District 6000. Bill Tubbs, who passed away in September, was remembered for his extraordinary dedication to Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. His legacy of commitment to every aspect of the object of Rotary will continue to inspire all of us for years to come.

PDG Dennis Drager, district endowment chair, gratefully acknowledged numerous donors' achievement of new giving levels in the Bequest Society and as Major Donors since January 1, 2024.

As the evening concluded, attendees were encouraged to consider supporting The Rotary Foundation by making a major gift. The goal of The Magic of Giving Campaign is to raise \$1 million in future gifts by April 1, 2025. Major gifts including bequests, three-year pledges, or donations of \$10,000 or more will be honored at the *Magic of Giving Donor Celebration* on April 11, 2025, at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny.

Those interested in making a major gift to The Rotary Foundation can complete the pledge form



PDG Dennis Drager and Heidi Drager, co-chairs of the Magic of Giving Gala

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Participants in the Magic of Giving Gala program gathered at the Hall of Laureates, from left: PDG John Ockenfels, DG Dave Cook, Lisa Cook, Carol Narak, D5950 PDG Tom Gump, PDG Jacque Andrew, PDG Steve Dakin, DGND Gretchen Nollman, PDG Dennis Drager, Heidi Drager, Linda Tubbs and Mark Ruggeberg. Photo by Dick Huber

## District 6000’s impact celebrated at Magic of Giving Gala

—continued from previous page

included with this story.

“Your generosity will help ensure *The Magic of Rotary* continues,” said DG Cook.

The night came to a close with a moving rendition of *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, led by PDG Loring Miller, uniting all in a shared commitment to Rotary’s mission.





**Rotary**  
District 6000

### Magic of Giving Pledge

I pledge to make a major gift of \$10,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation by April 1, 2025. My gift may include one or more of the following:

- Commitment to include The Rotary Foundation in my will or estate plan.
- 3-year pledge funded with cash or appreciated securities.
- Outright gift of cash or appreciated securities.
- I have a life insurance policy, retirement account or other asset that I would like to discuss designating to The Rotary Foundation.

**You create the magic with every dollar donated.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: DRFC Steve Dakin, 1816 140th Street, Boone, IA 50036

**Cut around card and send to Steve Dakin, address on card**

## ZONE INSTITUTE



District 6000 awarded "District of the Year" honors



Heidi Drager, District Public Image Chair, is presented with the "All Star District" first place in public image

# District 6000 receives highest honors at Zone Institute

By DG Dave Cook  
Rotary Club of Boone

At the Rotary Zone Institute and Training event held in San Antonio September 3-5, District 6000 was celebrated for numerous accomplishments for the 2023-24 Rotary



Heidi Drager, District Public Image Chair, at right, moderates a panel on the topic.

year. These awards are a direct result of your hard work within your clubs and communities.

I also want to recognize and congratulate Past District Governor Dennis Drager and his wife Heidi, along with all of the District 6000 leaders that helped make this happen.

I don't believe any of the other 22 districts represented at Zone were recognized to the extent District 6000 was this year.

It was great to see our great District take center stage in so many areas. Congratulations to all of the nearly 3,000 Rotarians that makeup District 6000.

Here is a complete list of the awards District 6000 received:

### Foundation Awards

- Percentage of EREY Participation: 1st Place
- Percentage of Sustaining Members: 1st Place
- Total TRF Giving: 2nd Place
- Annual Fund Giving: 3rd Place
- Overall: 2nd Place

### PolioPlus Awards

- Total Giving to **PolioPlus**: 1st Place
- Per Capita to **PolioPlus**: 2nd Place

### Roadmap

Rotary Citation in all areas - Membership, Public Image, Polio Plus and Foundation

### All Star District

#### *Public Image:*

1st Place

#### *PolioPlus:*

1st Place

#### *Foundation:*

2nd Place

#### *District of the*

*Year Overall*



Polio Fun Run participants from District 6000—From left: Gretchen Nollman, Steve Wieneke, Lisa Cook and Lesley Dakin



# Announcing: The Rotary Foundation District 6000 Endowment for the Future

By PDG Dennis Drager, Rotary Club of Marshalltown  
District Endowment Co-Chair

Imagine for a moment, a world where every young person has access to education, where families have clean water, where communities are free from preventable diseases, and where peace prevails. Through The Rotary Foundation (TRF) we can make that world a reality—step by step, project by project. TRF is Rotary's only charity.

Rotarians in this global network invest their time, money and expertise into priorities that align with our seven areas of focus working towards solving problems such as disease, poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition.

**An important and sustainable funding source for TRF, The Rotary Endowment Fund, is an essential component of our shared vision of a better world.** The Rotary Foundation Directors have a bold goal to reach \$2.025 billion in Endowed Funds by 2025, ensuring that Rotary can continue to tackle the issues that affect us all.

We have established a new permanent endowment that will benefit both The Rotary Foundation and our district. It will be known as the District 6000 Endowment (District 6000 Endowment for the Future E21626.)

It will be a SHARE endowment through The Rotary Foundation. That means that gifts to this endowment directly benefit Rotary International's World Fund and District 6000 through District Designated Funds (DDF). Anyone can make contributions into this fund and half of the spendable earnings will return to our district every year to support our local projects, global grants, local disasters, etc.

Endowment gifts are vital to District 6000's continued ability to offer Community Grants, Disaster Relief and Peace Scholarships. In fact, the funding for nearly half of this year's district community grants came from current endowments.

These special funds have been established over the years by forward thinking Rotarians who wanted to make sure their gifts would continue to provide for our district, as well as those around the world. Endowment funds provide a return on investment forever. Long after we are gone from this earth, the funds that have been gifted to the

Rotary Endowment will continue to fund important projects.

How does this work? How does my donation keep giving back, forever? When a gift is made to the Endowment, that investment is protected from spending. The principal is kept intact so that it can grow through investments. The spendable earnings from the investment are directed to



the area named in the endowment.

An endowed gift with an initial investment of \$25,000 in 1994 is valued today at \$47,000. Over the last 30 years spendable earnings of more than \$58,000 have been spent on projects around the world. In other words, over the last 30 years more than twice the value of the initial investment has created a positive impact around the world all while nearly doubling the value of the invested money. That is impressive!

With the new District 6000 Endowment we can now all give into The Rotary Endowment Fund. There is no small gift, it all adds up and compounds over time into great things. I urge you to consider the legacy you want to leave. Together, we have the power to make Rotary's vision a reality—to *build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.* Let's invest in that future, for our local communities as well as those around the world.

**To learn more about TRF and Endowments visit contact District Rotary Foundation Chair Steve Dakin at [Steve@retiredfun.net](mailto:Steve@retiredfun.net).**



## RI President Stephanie Urchick leads with D6000 at her side

Earlier this fall, Rotary International president Stephanie Urchick, a member of the McMurray, Pennsylvania Rotary Club, gavelled in her first meeting of the RI board of directors at the Evanston headquarters of Rotary.

She did so with special “equipment” provided by Rotary District 6000.

The very substantial wood gavel she used for the meeting was made for her by our own PDG Steve Dakin of Boone! President Stephanie can be seen holding the gavel in the photo at right.

The bell which she rang with the gavel to call the meeting to order is also significant to District 6000.

The bell was a gift from PDG Allin W. Dakin of Iowa City. Dakin was Governor in 1953 of District 193, the previous number for the geographic area now called District 6000.

Allin Dakin went on to be a member of the RI Board of Directors and served as Vice President in 1956. He is the only Rotarian from District 6000 to serve as an RI Director. Another connection is that Allin Dakin is a relative of PDG Steve Dakin of Boone who served as District 6000 Governor in 2020-2021.

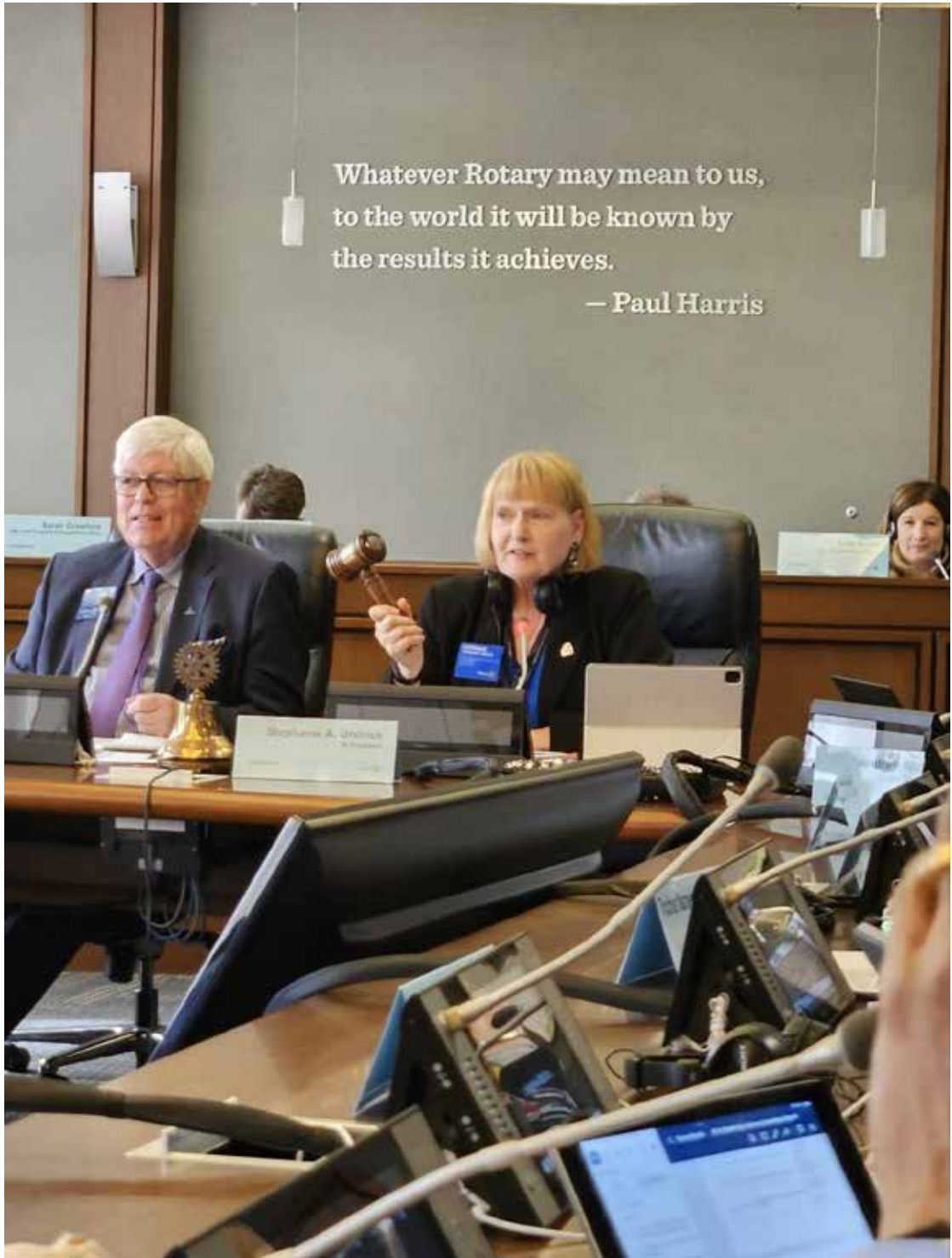


Photo courtesy of D5950 PDG Tom Gump

Seated with RIP Stephanie is Hans-Hermann Kasten, RI Vice President, from Germany.

RIP Stephanie has visited District 6000 on numerous occasions and her aide is D5950 PDG Tom Gump of the Rotary Club of Edina/Morningside, MN.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE**

At 2024 Iowa Hunger Summit, from left: Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds; Dr. Jim Blessman, award recipient; former Ambassador Terry Branstad, president, World Food Prize Foundation; and Mashal Husain, chief operating officer, World Food Prize Foundation .

## Dr. Blessman receives Iowa SHARES award for feeding efforts in South Africa, water wells, teaching skills of self-sufficiency

On July 31, 2024, the World Food Prize Foundation gathered Iowans from across the state for the 18th annual Iowa Hunger Summit. With over 400 Iowans registered, 75 counties and more than 200 organizations represented, this was a remarkable convergence of community organizations, businesses, government agencies, religious groups, academia and other stakeholders, all unified in the mission to eradicate hunger.

During the event, Governor Kim Reynolds presented the Iowa SHARES Award to Ankeny Rotarian Dr. James Blessman for his decades-long commitment to nourishing children in South Africa, an achievement that has impacted thousands of lives around the world.

In her remarks Governor Reynolds said, "Blessman International isn't just there for the South African people for a day, for a week, or even a year. It's really focused on giving them the skills that they need to provide for themselves through training, gardening and agriculture. In other words, it offers the lifelong gift of self-sufficiency."

The Iowa SHARES award is a tribute to former Governor Robert D. Ray who spearheaded the Iowa Sends Help to Aid Refugees and End Starvation campaign. Through his Iowa-based nonprofit, Blessman International, Dr. Blessman has spearheaded the creation of feeding stations, freshwater wells and a program that serves over four million meals annually throughout South Africa.

## Making a Difference Through YOUR IRA Charitable Giving:

### *Benefits of Donating IRA Assets to The Rotary Foundation*

For many Rotary members and friends looking to make an impact, donating IRA assets to the Rotary Foundation is a wonderful way to give. Not only does this form of charitable giving support Rotary's life-changing projects, but it also provides several tax and financial benefits that allow donors to maximize their giving potential while planning their legacies. Here's a look at how IRA giving can make a difference for both the donor and the communities we serve.

#### **1. Tax-Free Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)**

For individuals aged 70½ or older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows direct transfers from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as the Rotary Foundation. QCDs have become a popular choice for many retirees who wish to make a charitable impact without triggering taxable income. By donating through a QCD, you can:

- **Satisfy Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs):** QCDs can count toward the RMD for those aged 73 and older, avoiding penalties and reducing your overall taxable income.
- **Avoid Income Taxes:** Unlike regular withdrawals, QCDs are excluded from your taxable income, which can reduce your tax liability and potentially lower your tax bracket.
- **Simplify Tax Reporting:** Since the gift is excluded from taxable income, there's no need to itemize deductions to realize the tax benefits.

#### **2. Significant Charitable Impact No Out-of-Pocket Expenses**

IRA charitable giving allows you to make a significant impact with assets you already have set aside for retirement, meaning no new out-of-pocket spending is required. This can be particularly meaningful if you wish to support Rotary's work but are concerned about maintaining your liquidity for day-to-day expenses. The funds from an IRA can go toward critical initiatives, such as clean water projects, disease prevention, education, and community development efforts.

#### **3. Amplifying Rotary's Mission Through Legacy Gifts**

An IRA donation lets you leave a legacy that extends far beyond your lifetime, fueling Rotary's mission and values for future generations. The Rotary Foundation offers options for designating gifts toward specific areas of focus—like peace and conflict prevention, maternal and child health, or supporting PolioPlus—allowing you to direct your giving to the programs that resonate most with your personal values. This legacy can be a lasting testament to your commitment to making a difference globally and locally.



**Contact: District Rotary Foundation Chair Steve Dakin, [steve@retiredfun.net](mailto:steve@retiredfun.net) for more details.**

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

# Preparations underway for March, 2025 Trip to Xicotepec, MX

By Jim Peterson

Rotary Club of Iowa City AM

Xicotepec Project Team co-chair

Following the customary fall visit by District 6000 Rotarians, preparations are underway for the project team trip to Xicotepec that will take place from March 15-23, 2025. The main purpose of the fall visit is to investigate, together with the Rotary Club of Xicotepec, possible projects for the team that will come in March.

The team traveling to Xicotepec in March will be the nineteenth District 6000 project team to do so; teams have gone each year over spring break since 2003, except for the pandemic years of 2020-2022. In all, more than 1,100 project team members have traveled from our district - to work together with Xicotepec Rotarians, Inner Wheel members, Rotaractors, Interactors and many others in Xicotepec - to carry out Rotary service projects there.

District 6000 project teams are made up of Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and their family members, as well as University of Iowa service-learning students and faculty members. District 6000 Rotary Clubs that do not sponsor a Rotaract or Interact Club are also encouraged to recommend youth from their communities as project team members.

District 6000 youth participants in the project, including Rotarians under 30 years of age, are eligible for a partial reimbursement of expenses incurred as participants in The Xicotepec Project; funds for reimbursements are provided by the District 6000 Youth Services Fund and overseen by a District Committee. Of the more than 1,100 project team members who have gone to Xicotepec since 2003, over half have been high school or college students.

In order to receive reimbursement, youth participants must complete a written assignment about their experience as a member of a Rotary project team. These written reflections clearly show that for many young participants, taking part in an international service project can be life-changing.

The application window for the project is from mid-September to mid-November, and project team members receive notification of their acceptance in December. The cost for the 2025 trip is \$2,150 for youth participants and \$2,350 for adults over 30 years of age. All airfare, ground transportation, food and lodging for the entire 9-day trip are included.

Over the more than 21 years of The Xicotepec Project's existence many different projects have been carried out, including various facilities im-



District 6000 and Xicotepec Interactors and Rotaractors worked together to create this mural of positivity

provements in schools (installation of water purification systems; construction of classrooms, libraries and storerooms; paving and landscaping of play areas; painting of school buildings and playground equipment; donations of school equipment and furniture; purchase of school uniforms for needy children, etc.) as well as health-related projects (dental hygiene programs in schools; de-worming of school students; presentations to various community groups on topics like bullying and domestic violence; programs to check for cervical cancer and diabetes; donations to, and volunteer work at, the local Red Cross chapter).

Other beneficiaries of the project include an orphanage, a local foundation that supports cancer patients, the Universidad Tecnológica de Xicotepec de Juárez, two local public hospitals, the municipal water utility, a youth soccer league and a nursing school. Construction and maintenance of bus stops and other general community improvements have also been carried out as part of the project.

These kinds of projects are supported by donations from Rotarians and others, and your support is needed. Tax-deductible contributions may be mailed to Phil Peterson, Treasurer, Rotary District 6000 HEF, PO Box 5774, Coralville, IA 52241-5774 (please include "Xicotepec Project" on the check's memo line). Donations to D6000 HEF for Xicotepec can also be made online at <https://xicoproject.org/donate>. Your contribution will help to continue to provide life-changing experiences for D6000 youth and life-changing improvements for the community of Xicotepec, Puebla, Mexico. Additional information is available at <https://xicoproject.org> and <https://facebook.com/xicoproj>, or by emailing [xicoproj@gmail.com](mailto:xicoproj@gmail.com) with your questions.



Before and after photos of a refurbished bus stop show Xicotepec youth, members of Rotaract and Interact with District 6000 Interactors and Rotaractors making an impact on the community.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE****Long term connection between Iowa City and Huehuetenango, Guatemala continues:  
Iowa MOST receives fire truck, supplies and medical sterilizer**

**By Mark Ruggeberg**  
**Iowa City Downtown**  
*Iowa MOST team member*

There's something truly remarkable about the relationships formed through Rotary. The long-term friendships fostered within this organization have led to incredible accomplishments around the world.

For the past 20 years, the Rotary Clubs of Iowa City and Huehuetenango, Guatemala, have partnered on various projects, and this summer was no exception. The strong bond between the clubs continues to thrive.

Recently, the Iowa City Rotary clubs helped facilitate the donation of a used fire truck from North Platte, Nebraska, equipped with donated firefighting gear to the Rotary Club of Huehuetenango.

The truck was driven via Iowa City to Galveston, Texas, where it was shipped by boat to Guatemala. The new equipment is greatly needed in Huehuetenango, as the city's current fire truck, also a donation from Iowa, arrived 20 years ago and was no longer able to best serve the growing city.

Rotarian Ted Pacha of the Iowa City Noon Club stays actively involved with the ongoing work of Iowa Miles of Smiles in Guatemala. Hearing of the organization's need



**DG Dave Cook, holding banner; Deb Dunkhase and Lisa Cook, center; and Nancy and Gary Pacha, right, with visiting Guatemalans and the firetruck donated to the city of Huehuetenango by Iowa City Rotarians.**



**Guatemalan Rotarians and firefighters loading donated supplies**



**Donor Ted Pacha, left, presents the sterilizer to Mark Ruggeberg**

for a new operating room sterilizer, Ted surprised the visiting Rotarians from Huehuetenango with a brand-new sterilizer, which was transported on the firetruck to Guatemala where it awaits the January 2025 cleft medical mission to Huehuetenango.

This sterilizer is being donated to the hospital in Huehuetenango for daily use, benefiting both the hospital staff and the surgical teams from the Iowa Miles of Smiles group.

Rotarians Ted Pacha, his brother Gary Pacha, and sister-in-law Nancy Pacha have nurtured decades-long relationships with fellow Rotarians in the Huehuetenango club. The magic of Rotary truly shines through in the impact these friendships have had to create positive change in the world.

## THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

# District 6000 Rotary Foundation scholar, Dowling alum, now studying at Oxford

By PDG Jim Patton  
Rotary Club of Ames  
District 6000 Scholarship Chair

**2024-25 Rotary Global Scholar Joshua Nguyen** has begun classes at the University of Oxford for a Masters of Science in Applied Digital Health with a Rotary focus on disease prevention and treatment, aspiring to leverage innovative solutions to address global health challenges.

The International Host Club is the Des Moines Rotary Club and the UK Host Club is the Witney Rotary Club of Oxford, England (D-1090). Classes began October 13, 2024.

The Rotary D-6000 contribution to the Global Scholarship is \$30,000 with a RI Foundation match of \$23,963. Total tuition for one year is \$55,193.

Josh was employed in New York with Trinity Life Sciences this past year and was delayed departing to the UK until his one-year employment anniversary to collect his year-end bonus.

Diane and I visited his family; Tim (father), Heather (mother), and Emily (sister) at the family business (hair salon) in Urbandale on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Emily is a freshman at Wesleyan University in Middleton, Connecticut this Fall.



*Josh Nguyen*

## *Impressions*

By Josh Nguyen, District 6000  
Global Grant Scholar 24-25

Through this incredible opportunity of a Global Grant Scholarship, I'm pursuing a Masters of Science in Applied Digital Health at the University of Oxford. I arrived in early October and have just started my classes. The University of Oxford is over 900 years old and is the oldest in any country where English is the primary language.

**My fellow classmates are a diverse cohort of 20 individuals from all across the globe.** I'm already loving the experience. Through this program, I am to learn how to implement digital health technologies to improve healthcare

accessibility in the U.S., particularly for marginalized populations, such as low-income individuals or those without health insurance.

**Thank you, District 6000, for helping make this dream a reality.** Never in my life did I imagine such an opportunity would be available to me. I grew up in a low-income household with parents whose education was cut short by war and poverty.

I recognize how fortunate I am to be here, and I don't take it for granted. I promise to take full advantage of all that Oxford offers and to give back to the Rotary community by sharing my journey and contributing to its mission of disease prevention and treatment.



District 6000 Global Scholar Josh Nguyen and his Oxford classmates on campus. Josh is at the center of the back row.

# IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

## GRANT MANAGEMENT SEMINARS (GMS)

If your club intends to apply for a Community Service Grant or a Global Grant for 2025-26, at least one member of your club must attend an upcoming Grant Management Seminar (GMS) to be held on **Saturday, February 22** in West Liberty, or on **Saturday, March 29** in West Des Moines.

If possible, the main contact on a proposed grant is strongly encouraged to attend one of the two seminars. More information and registration links are available on [www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org).

## P.E.T.S. AND DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, March 8 is training for Presidents Elect and Presidents Nominee (P.E.T.S.) for all 2025-26 club presidents. It will be held at the DMACC campus in Newton and all Presidents Elect are required to attend. District 6000 P.E.T.S. is also open all Presidents Nominee (PNs). Check in and networking with refreshments begins at 8

The P.E.T.S. event also includes the District Annual Meeting where PEs cast their club's votes.

There is no cost to you to attend but you need to register at the [www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org) website where interactive links are available for information and registration.

**Dec. 31—Deadline:** Club President for 2025-26 must be finalized and District notified

**Feb. 15 —Deadline:** Paul E. Hellwege Guardian of Integrity Award nominated

**Feb. 22 —Grant Management Seminar HYBRID,** West Liberty Community Center

**March 7 —Assistant Governor Orientation,** DMACC Newton

**March 8 —President Elect Training Seminar** (District 6000 P.E.T.S.), Annual Meeting, DMACC Newton

**March 16-23—Xicotepec t Project Team Trip,** Xicotepec, MX

**March 29—Grant Management Seminar IN PERSON,** Shive-Hattery Inc, West Des Moines

**April 11—Magic of Giving Donor Recognition Gala,** FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

**April 12—District Conference,** FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny

**May 1—Deadline:** Clubs report incoming officers to District office and RI

**June 1—Deadline:** Club Goals for 2025-26 must be entered into Rotary Club Central

**June 1—Deadline:** Community Service Grant Applications Due

**June 15—Clubs verify membership is current with RI for accurate invoice in July**

**June 21-25** Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada

***Deadline is February 15, 2015***

## Clubs: Nominate a member for Guardian of Integrity award

**By PDG Jacqué Andrew**

Interim District 6000 News Editor

The Guardian of Integrity award is presented annually to District 6000 Rotarians who have been a member for a minimum of three years and who demonstrate the attributes and passion for ethics and integrity in his or her vocation, business and personal life that PDG 1954-55 Judge Paul Hellwege exemplified.

This award recognizes individuals who have made contributions in business, media, academia or government and

who have by their actions, writing, policies and public statements strengthened and fostered development of integrity and ethical practices.

A nomination for the 12th annual District 6000 "Paul E. Hellwege Guardian of Integrity" awards is available at the District website under Vocational Service. The deadline for nominations is **Feb. 15, 2025**. Nominees will be recognized at the District 6000 Conference on Saturday, April 12, at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Communities benefit from \$100,000+ from Rotary Foundation grants

Provided by Gretchen Nollman, Rotary Club of HOPE  
and Todd Wheeler, Rotary Club of Des Moines  
Community Service Grants Team co-chairs



Approved 2024-25 D6000 Community Service Grants

Project Name	Sponsoring Club	Grant Amount
Meadow View Elementary School Literacy Donation	Adel	\$600.00
Baby Brain Building	Ames Morning	\$5,000.00
On With Life Housing Support	Ankeny	\$4,991.00
Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Project	Ankeny Evening	\$5,000.00
Bettendorf Charity	Bettendorf	\$5,000.00
Little Engines Program	Boone	\$3,000.00
CHS Life Skills Classroom	Chariton	\$2,950.00
North Ridge Park Playground Celebration Spinner (merry-go-round)	Coralville-North Corridor	\$5,000.00
Monarch Habitats in Davenport Area Parks	Davenport	\$5,000.00
Community Building Kitchen Furnishings	Decatur County	\$5,000.00
The Beacon	Des Moines A.M.	\$4,531.44
Electronic Equipment and Furnishings for Classroom/Conference Room at the Grinnell Historical Museum	Grinnell	\$5,000.00
Safety Village	Iowa City A.M.	\$5,000.00
On With Life Rehabilitation Equipment	Johnston	\$4,379.00
Shade Canopy for Manning Rec Hillside Splash Pad and Pool	Manning	\$5,000.00
Water Bottle Filler & ADA Drinking Fountain Timber Creek Park	Marshalltown	\$2,900.00
Rotary Celebrates Reading	Mt. Pleasant	\$1,070.66
Rotary Pond Bike Station & Shelter	Nevada	\$5,000.00
Jasper County Conservation Education Center Hydroponic Wall	Newton	\$5,000.00
Project Renewal Pollinator Garden	North Scott (Davenport)	\$5,000.00
Supporting Early Readers	Northwest Des Moines	\$1,500.00
Norwalk, Keep calm and don't litter	Norwalk	\$4,038.39
Sock Drive	Osceola	\$1,000.00
YMCA Aquatic Center equipment	Washington	\$5,000.00
Curtains Up!	Winterset	\$5,000.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$100,960.49</b>



Winterset Rotarians with an AED purchased with their 2023-24 CS grant—Tom Leners, Bob Kaldenberg, Alex Wright, Jewel Madsen, Robert Newton and Jim Mease. Chris Bertelson kneeling.

Winterset’s 23-24 grant saves lives!

The Winterset club purchased and mounted in publicly accessible locations three automated external defibrillator (AED) units in protective highly visible cases. Two are mounted in the Winterset City Park and one at the Madison County Historical Complex. Work was completed in August 2024. Funding provides replacing the consumable batteries and pads for the estimated life of the unit - 10 Years. The 17,306 citizens of Madison County will have increased protection from heart incidents.

While all may benefit from an AED at least 3000 residents aged 65 or greater are in the high risk/high benefit category for an AED. The club worked with Parks and Recreation to determine AED , installation and signage for the project.

This project was recognized by Zone leadership to be used on its social media platforms as a good example of story telling and helping the community.



**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION/LEARNING****What is the Paul Harris Society?**

By **Gretchen Nollman**  
**Rotary Club of HOPE**  
*Paul Harris Society*  
*chair*



One might ask what is Paul Harris Society? Here is the quick and easy answer for you.

The Paul Harris Society recognizes Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who elect to contribute \$1,000 or more each year to any combination of the following:

- Annual Fund-SHARE,
- Annual Fund-World Fund,
- Annual Fund-Areas of focus,
- PolioPlus Fund,
- Disaster Response Fund,
- Disasters of Magnitude, and
- Approved global grants.

The purpose of the Paul Harris Society is to honor and thank individuals for their generous, ongoing support of The Rotary Foundation.

I am reminding you that there is still time to join the Paul Harris Society this year, by committing \$1,000 annually and take your generosity even further.

By becoming a member, you'll be part of a special group of supporters who make a lasting impact on critical Rotary initiatives worldwide. Your contribution, no matter the amount, has the power to create positive change in communities and around the globe—providing clean water, promoting peace, and fighting disease.

*"I participate in the Paul Harris Society because I care. These contributions demonstrate our commitment to serve others." Gretchen Nollman Rotary District 6000 Paul Harris Society Subcommittee Chair*



If you're ready to take this step or would like more information, I'd be happy to assist you in any way I can. Thank you once again for your ongoing support and consideration. Together, we can continue to do good in the world.

Any questions please reach out to me, and I would love to help! Email me at: [d6000phs@gmail.com](mailto:d6000phs@gmail.com)



By **Gretchen Nollman**  
**Rotary Club of HOPE**  
*District 6000 Learning Facilitator*

Hello from your **D6000 Learning Facilitator!** I hope that the first half of the year has been great, and I want to wish all club and district officers the best as they work to accomplish their club goals, membership growth, greater giving to The Rotary Foundation, provide meaningful service in their community and **STORYTELL** what they are up to! I also want to **WISH** the new **INCOMING** club and district officers good luck in the preparation for their upcoming year.

I would like to remind and encourage you to use the Rotary Learning Center to help you feel confident in your role as a club or district leader. There are SO many great courses and help out there! And remember you don't have to be on your computer to access the Learning Center, you can also do it from a tablet or a phone too! **Simply go to [Learn.rotary.org/members](https://Learn.rotary.org/members)**

Another fun reminder is going to the Rotary Club Central, as updates are coming to it that will make it even more user-friendly for all club and district leaders.



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Rotary Foundation Giving: APF, Polio, Endowments  
District 6000 Clubs July 1, 2024 - November 9, 2024 (\*)

Members: July 1, 2015-26-17-18-19-20-22-23-24	24-25 Goal	% of Goal	Per capita	Thru 9-31-24	PolioPlus	Other(**)	TOTAL
Adel (37-37-34-32-26-24-21-27-22-25)	\$3,000.00	6%	\$7.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00
Albia (22-28-28-24-24-29-29-32-31)	\$601.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ames (224-226-218-206-186-172-167-158-144-135)	\$16,000.00	36%	\$42.27	\$5,706.00	\$4,250.00	\$16,301.51	\$26,257.51
Ames Morning (55-55-59-59-52-46-43-43-40-27)	\$25,000.00	2%	\$16.67	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
Ankeny(61-77-85-86-83-101-97-109-78-82)	\$18,500.00	7%	\$15.30	\$1,255.00	\$376.00	\$0.00	\$1,631.00
Ankeny Evening (x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-25)	\$2,800.00	48%	\$54.00	\$1,350.00	\$401.75	\$0.00	\$1,751.75
Atlantic (58-58-58-56-62-62-59-53-57-56)	\$4,000.00	2%	\$1.21	\$68.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$68.00
Bettendorf (103-101-102-105-93-100-94-123-118-119)	\$20,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$207.00	\$0.00	\$207.00
Bloomfield (10-10-10-11-12-12-13-13-12-15)	\$1,400.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Boone (42-34-41-51-50-46-50-59-52-56)	\$7,000.00	11%	\$13.93	\$780.00	\$8,742.57	\$0.00	\$9,522.57
Burlington (80-79-80-80-76-73-62-60-54-49)	\$750.00	27%	\$4.08	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Carroll 46-44-43-44-42-26-35-34-30-29)	\$2,601.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Centerville (50-46-45-46-45-38-38-34-39-39)	\$1,926.00	49%	\$24.36	\$950.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$950.00
Chariton (41-41-34-30-39-40-36-32-31-26)	\$3,000.00	22%	\$25.00	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
Clinton (98-97-94-90-91-80-70-77-73-65)	\$8,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Coralville-North Corridor (20-21-22-24-23-22-23-24-25-21)	\$2,000.00	50%	\$47.62	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Coming (34-33-32-32-31-30-27-28-28-28)	\$919.00	100%	\$32.79	\$918.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,918.00
Corydon (18-15-15-17-16-18-16-13-13)	\$1,401.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Creston (23-19-17-18-21-21-21-21-13-13)	\$100.00	50%	\$3.85	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Dallas Center (27-29-26-25-28-30-24-27-28-30)	\$3,500.00	86%	\$100.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Davenport (112-113-110-107-101-94-67-56-52-47)	\$4,500.00	23%	\$22.13	\$1,040.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$1,240.00
Decatur County (30-32-31-30-30-28-30-29-26-23)	\$6,000.00	20%	\$52.17	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Denison (x-x-x-x-x-31-32-31-31-32)	\$2,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Des Moines (276-270-269-255-240-227-189-183-171)	\$15,000.00	29%	\$25.82	\$4,415.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$4,455.00
Des Moines A.M. (170-170-179-189-194-200-209-194-192-186)	\$14,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
East Polk County (34-31-29-29-27-22-23-18-20-16)	\$3,500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairfield (74-60-57-56-47-41-34-32-27-21)	\$1,361.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fort Madison (49-53-55-51-48-42-43-44-40-45)	\$2,101.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grinnell (38-40-35-38-36-34-32-33-31-28)	\$5,200.00	5%	\$9.11	\$255.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$255.00
Homeless Out. Prev. & Educ. (x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-5)	\$5,000.00	49%	\$490.00	\$2,450.00	\$229.38	\$0.00	\$2,679.38
Indianola (54-53-54-47-39-37-32-29-35-31)	\$2,000.00	24%	\$15.16	\$470.00	\$215.00	\$40.00	\$725.00
Iowa City (312-329-333-317-293-271-239-225-215-192)	\$25,000.00	18%	\$23.39	\$4,490.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,490.00
Iowa City A.M. (66-69-74-71-74-79-75-70-62-61)	\$15,000.00	34%	\$83.61	\$5,100.00	\$1,992.00	\$0.00	\$7,092.00
Iowa City Downtown (23-21-23-25-22-24-20-22-26-28)	\$9,750.00	26%	\$89.29	\$2,500.00	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$3,200.00
Iowa Quad-Cities (41-42-38-42-38-36-32-29-27-23)	\$1,701.00	29%	\$21.74	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Jefferson (59-59-56-60-59-55-46-40-45-45)	\$5,000.00	2%	\$2.64	\$119.00	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$244.00
Johnston (60-49-52-43-49-44-41-45-50-45)	\$13,500.00	9%	\$26.22	\$1,180.00	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$1,260.00
Kalona (42-41-43-40-38-36-32-32-31-26)	\$901.00	78%	\$26.92	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$700.00
Keokuk (66-71-57-53-45-41-37-37-35-36)	\$2,500.00	4%	\$2.78	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Keosauqua (24-22-23-24-26-26-24-25-29-30)	\$1,201.00	75%	\$30.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Knoxville (61-58-48-53-45-34-30-28-32-30)	\$1,500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lenox (29-28-27-25-25-25-15-12-12)	\$200.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Manning (19-25-21-23-22-22-20-20-18-15)	\$2,500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marengo (11-10-10-11-10-10-9-11-12)	\$601.00	17%	\$8.33	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Marshalltown (150-147-145-133-127-117-111-129-130-129)	\$7,500.00	68%	\$39.77	\$5,130.00	\$1,170.00	\$0.00	\$6,300.00
Mount Pleasant Noon (52-55-47-51-56-53-44-39-37-33)	\$1,537.00	65%	\$30.30	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Mt. Pleasant (20-20-18-18-16-15-15-15-17)	\$2,500.00	40%	\$58.82	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Muscatine (79-77-69-66-67-62-60-62-56-52)	\$8,000.00	6%	\$9.62	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Nevada (71-69-61-53-54-48-56-59-53-56)	\$10,000.00	10%	\$17.86	\$1,000.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00
Newton (60-55-49-40-36-38-33-34-32-37)	\$3,500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
North Scott (85-86-89-88-88-95-91-100-110-109)	\$12,000.00	6%	\$7.11	\$775.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$775.00
N West Des Moines (34-40-36-37-36-37-29-29-24-21)	\$12,000.00	12%	\$69.05	\$1,450.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
Norwalk (x-x-20-24-18-18-17-18-15-14)	\$500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Osceola (28-29-25-22-22-21-17-17-16-15)	\$500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oskaloosa (56-55-57-54-59-59-49-46-41)	\$150.00	1,700%	\$62.20	\$2,550.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,550.08
Ottumwa (97-98-92-89-82-75-75-70-67-63)	\$8,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$460.00	\$0.00	\$460.00
Pella (29-30-29-29-26-26-27-28-26-27)	\$185.00	122%	\$8.33	\$225.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$325.00
Perry (26-26-26-23-23-22-22-25-24-22)	\$706.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tipton (30-26-27-22-28-23-23-20-22-20)	\$3,700.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Washington (49-48-43-42-43-41-35-31-33-35)	\$4,500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Waukee (58-64-69-64-68-73-69-76-75-69)	\$10,000.00	16%	\$23.55	\$1,625.00	\$390.00	\$100.00	\$2,115.00
Wellman (36-34-30-29-26-23-20-20-18-22)	\$160.00	738%	\$53.64	\$1,180.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,180.00
West Des Moines (62-63-52-51-50-45-38-42-38-35)	\$6,000.00	2%	\$2.86	\$100.00	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$1,150.00
West Liberty (43-44-46-41-38-36-37-42-33-17)	\$12,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
West Polk County (x-31-18-19-20-24-21-17-18-18)	\$301.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Winterset (25-30-33-29-30-32-38-48)	\$4,500.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total (3854-3853-3793-3693-3580-3464-3212-3054-2944)</b>	<b>\$370,753.00</b>	<b>15.83%</b>	<b>\$19.94</b>	<b>\$58,606.08</b>	<b>\$22,678.70</b>	<b>\$16,541.51</b>	<b>\$97,826.29</b>

(\*) Interim Report as of November 9, 2024. (\*\*) Other includes endowment fund and restricted giving for grants.

EDUCATION/LEARNING



Rotary Leadership Institute participants, Front row from left to right; Michelle Roseburrugh (Marshalltown), Jessica Garcia (Iowa City AM), Shelly Schmit (Iowa City AM), Laura Twing (Tipton). Judy Trepka (Iowa City AM), Amanda McFadden (Iowa City AM), and Mark Patton (Iowa City AM). Back row from left to right; John McKinstry (Iowa City AM), Mark Roberts (Muscatine), Phil Jordan (Iowa City AM), Sherry Halter (Winterset), Jodi Lake (Winterset), Cindy Hinke (Clinton), Bill Bruce (Denison), John Culshaw (Iowa City Noon), Deanna Jensen-Valliere (North Scott), Susan Mesecher (Clinton), Wendal Yoder (Decatur County), and Yiyang "John" Shen (Iowa City AM).

# Five graduates, 19 participants in fall Rotary Leadership Institute

By PDG Steve Wieneke  
Rotary Club of Ankeny Evening

District 6000 Rotarians participated in the Rotary Leadership Institute on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at the First Christian Church in Coralville. 19 attended in total with ten in Part 1 training; four in Part 2 and five in Part 3. Those five graduated from the RLI undergraduate program. The graduates included: Sherry Halter, Cindy Hinke, Michelle Roseburrugh, Judy Trepka, and Wendal Yoder.

The program would not be possible without knowledgeable facilitators who lead the training. This session they included: T. Waldmann-Williams, Mike Ruby, Marie Pipes, Chris Knapp, Vernetta Knapp, Wayne Steen, Gretchen Nollman, Sarah Simon and Steve Wieneke with administrative assistance from Brenda Wieneke.



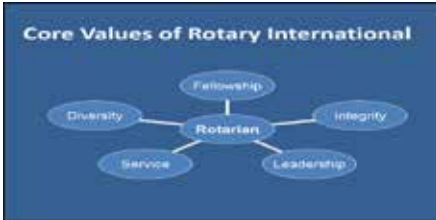
### RLI Graduates

Congratulations to these graduates of the RLI undergraduate program. From left to right is Cindy Hinke (Rotary Club of HOPE); Sherry Halter (Rotary Club of Winterset - Madison County Rotary Evening MCREC); Judy Trepka (Iowa City AM); Michelle Roseburrugh (Marshalltown); and Wendal Yoder (Decatur County).



### RLI facilitators

Pictured from left to right; T Waldmann-Williams, Mike Ruby, Marie Pipes, Chris Knapp, Vernetta Knapp, Wayne Steen, Gretchen Nollman, Sarah Simon and Steve Wieneke. Brenda Wieneke, administrator and hostess, was not in the photo.





# Iowa RYLA week at Grinnell College cha

125 youth participated in the Iowa Rotary Youth Leadership Awards week July 14-19 at Grinnell College. To learn more about Iowa RYLA, go to [www.iowaryla.org](http://www.iowaryla.org).

## DISTRICT 6000 students

**Adel** Josi Dufoe, Torin Timmerman  
**Albia** Jordyn Hafer  
**Ames** Andres Zarate, Simon Marshall-Gilbert  
**Ankeny** Lakshmi Kausalya Reddy  
**Atlantic** Nissa Molgaard  
**Bettendorf** Finn Boyle, Corbin DeDecker, Chloe Szegda, Kelly Le  
**Bloomfield** Alexia Shively  
**Boone** Dante Carpenter  
**Chariton** Brett Morgan  
**Coralville-North Corridor** Olivia Staebler, Karley Griffin  
**Corning** Olivia Kathikar  
**Creston** Khouri Sherrod  
**Decatur County** Jayla Wells  
**Des Moines** Swaroop Panda  
**Des Moines AM** Mohammad Mozzammil  
**East Polk County** Kate Hauser  
**Fairfield** Poojita Mukadam,

Antariksha Sharma, Genevieve Messer  
**Fort Madison** Savannah Sissel, Ellie Huebner, Katelyn Sissel, Lucy Arevalo  
**Grinnell** Rieslynn Goetzinger  
**Indianola** Michael Appel  
**Iowa City** Filon Kalembire, Mercy Ngugi, Lucasl Miller, Madai Perez, Noah Gregoire, Idailyah Bradford, Savannah Dixon, Brooke Cosner, Sophia Jin, Gloria Konu, Julieta Fajardo, Rown Maas  
**Iowa City AM** Eva Ortega Lopez, Mohamed Aldow, Iarafa Dirar, Charlotte Wills, Jennifer Zeng, Piper Swailes  
**Iowa City Downtown** Emily Pritchard, Andrea-Joyce Gaglozou  
**Iowa Quad-Cities** Hanna Jensen, Roman Saddler, Himanshu Jangid  
**Kalona** Aravis Swartzentruber  
**Knoxville** Ian Newendorp, Morgan Pitt, Aubri Murphy, Ana Rowen  
**Marshalltown** Charles Gilbertson, Isaac Benscoter, Libby Meyer, Zoe Weidenaar  
**Mount Pleasant** Beckham Prough  
**Mount Pleasant Noon** Ashlynn

Beauchamp  
**North Scott** Mason Schaack, Madison Andrews  
**Pella** Bennie Dothager  
**Perry** Jeancarlos Puente, Litzy Ramirez, Catherine Miranda  
**Waukee** Shubham Sah  
**West Des Moines** Bethany Asper, Angie Ardila, Loren Weber, Dava Wiegel  
**West Polk County** Josephine Bond  
**Winterset** Cadence Hammen, Sadie Hawkinson

## DISTRICT 5970 students

**Bellvue** Kalyn Skrivseth, Jacob Litterer  
**Cedar Rapids** Kaleigh Block, Ranger Reed  
**Cedar Rapids Daybreak** Nathanael Rodriguez, Greenlee Adney  
**Cedar Rapids Sunrise** Ayumi Fottral, Morgan Bear  
**Cedar Rapids West** Connor Kutter-Walker  
**Cedar Valley** Mehla McKenna, Morgan Fort  
**Charles City** Kayla Streich  
**Dubuque** Tobiah Collins, Brooklyn Banghart, Madyson Laden,

Finnegan Noel, Paige Howieson, Ramy Makawi  
**Forest City** Ethan Bertran, Cora Vogt, Alita Thongsavath  
**Fort Dodge** Simeon Roberts  
**Garner** Lindsey Atwell, Jessa Heitland  
**Guttenberg** Zoey Hyde  
**Independence** Cayden Buckman, McAllister Sweeney  
**Linn County** Aidan Wilcox, Kamiyah Elders  
**Manchester** Grace Slepser  
**Maquoketa** Justice Armbruster  
**Mason City Noon** Nalyssa Adams  
**Mason City-River City Sunrise** Ella Einertson, Ivy Wishman, Daniel Spooner  
**Metro North Cedar Rapids** Wesley Haynes  
**New Hampton** Easton Monteith, Elleri Eike  
**Prairie Gateway** Noah Evanschwartz  
**Rockwell City** Sophia Wuebker  
**Storm Lake** Melanny Dayana Garcia Flores, Syomara Perez Loa  
**Waterloo** Anna Werning  
**Waverly** Jenna Rohne  
**Webster City** Alexandra Severe, Jakaela Cherry



Photos by Rich Linden, Missouri RYLA

# Changes lives for students and Rotarians



## Head Counselors, Staff and Team Leads

### District 6000

- Atlantic** Maggie McCurdy
- Bettendorf** Brooklyn McNeil, Elyse Van Meter, Grant Jaques, Joe Parker
- Clinton** Anna Current
- Iowa City AM** Ari Collins (Head Counselor), Kaj Larsen
- Iowa City** Santi Fajardo (Head Counselor), Ellie Heiar, Makaiya Love
- Knoxville** Janie Maasdam, Kai Ethell
- Marshalltown** Quinn Weidenaar
- Waukee** Atiksh Hood

### District 5970

- Cedar Rapids Daybreak** Abby Globokar
- Forest City** Elijah Alsop
- Independence** Sophie Brown
- Manchester** Liz Sleper
- Marion East Cedar Rapids** Carl Rathje
- Webster City** Emerson Paukert, Hank Christenson

### Rotarians

- District 6000**
- Ankeny** Steve Wieneke
- Bettendorf** Pat Engelhaupt, Patt Englander
- Boone** Steve Dakin

- Chariton** Zach Fisher (Chair)
- East Polk County** Marie Pipes
- Iowa City AM** Liz Loeb, Greg Probst, Lea Collins
- North Scott** Paul Kalainoff
- Northwest Des Moines** Mark McAndrews (Chair-Elect)

### District 5970

- Bellvue** Linda Nuud
- Cedar Falls** Maripili Hassman
- Cedar Rapids West** Jane Schlegel, Dave Kutter
- New Hampton** Kathy Babcock (Nurse), Lynne Kuethe, Mike Babcock
- Webster City** Mark Dohms

## SERVICE TO YOUTH



Members pictured from left to right of the banner include: Adeel Butt (secretary), Matthew Staber, Vinh Tran, Gage Haines (president), and Arop Ojeke (president-elect); Members on the right side of the banner from left to right include: Abby Mayo, Justin James Irby (treasurer), District Governor Dave Cook, Alba Bon (membership co-chair), Stanislav Bronevskiy, Sam Barnes, Lily Ferguson and Eleanor Weitz.

## Iowa State University Rotaract chartered September 25

**By PDG Steve Wieneke/Ankeny  
Rotaract Advisor**

The Rotaract Club at Iowa State University Charter Celebration Dinner and Ceremony was held on September 25, 2024 at CY Stephens Auditorium stage on the Iowa State University campus.

Approximately 60 Rotaract members, Rotarians and guests attended the event. The Rotaract Club at Iowa State University was recognized by Rotary International and chartered on May 28, 2024. The charter celebration ceremony was delayed due to absence of most students from campus during the summer.

A total of 21 students were on the original charter. Charter members were presented a red Rotaract member badge and lapel pin. Since the return of students back to campus this fall, eight additional students have joined the club making a total of 29 members to date.

Speakers that provided comments during the ceremony program included:

All of the Rotaract Club officers and members introduced each other.

Master of Ceremonies was Katy Crawford McMahon, president of the Rotary Club of Ames

Other speakers included: Andrew Tulp, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Ames AM and Glen Rippke, Rotary Club of Ames, International Global Grant projects.

Special speakers for the event included: District Governor, Dave Cook of Boone and Iowa State University President, Wendy Wintersteen.



***District 6000 Clubs encouraged to host, start planning NOW!*****Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time**

The Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program allows students to immerse themselves in a different culture to build international goodwill. But it is also the start for these students to build their Rotary network. Who knows what will become from these friendships that are just starting, said Erin Zondervan, RYE team member from the Rotary Club of Pella.

All District 6000 clubs are encouraged to become hosting clubs for next year's inbound students, said Greg Probst, District Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) chair. For the most successful experience for the students and clubs, preparation needs to begin now, he said.

Need answers to questions about the program and hosting? An amazing new resource is now available to help clubs. The website [rye6000.org](http://rye6000.org) has been developed with much information on how to host, how to apply and more. Probst said it is a great resource for clubs that is continuing to be updated and improved. For more assistance, clubs can call Greg Probst, 319-331-5987 or Paul Kalainoff, 563-570-7907, both of the RYE team

Clubs with questions can also email [inbound@rye6000.org](mailto:inbound@rye6000.org) for assistance. The District RYE team is ready and willing to help clubs prepare for and during the rewarding experience of hosting.

District 6000 has long been a leader nationally in Rotary Youth Exchange. Probst said, "We have many folks in our district who know the program who can answer questions, and are willing to help clubs through the process. Clubs just have to want to participate and be willing to take the training and use our district resources. If a club president receives a request from a student, please reply or ask our district team for help if they do not know the answer or are unsure of where to go next."

"The RYE students had a great time at their first social event. We went to Pumpkinville Corn maze in Mitchellville. The girls and families explored the corn maze, picked pumpkins, carved pumpkins, roasted hotdogs for lunch and s'mores for dessert, Zondervan said.

**RYE students pictured below are from left:** Agnese Pappalardo (Italy) hosted by Rotary Club of Boone; Ada Sallares Calahorrano (Spain) hosted by Rotary Club of Ankeny; Nicole Fernandes de Souza (Brazil) hosted by Rotary Club of Iowa City AM; Aurora Petrone (Italy) hosted by Rotary Club of Pella and Silvana Espa (Italy) hosted by Rotary Club of Nevada.

**Contact host clubs with questions about their tips for hosting students and encouraging host families.**



Photo by Erin Zondervan



Architect's rendering of project planned by North Scott Rotary

Drawing provided by North Scott Rotary

## ***Dedicated to the late PDG Bill Tubbs and his wife, Linda Tubbs— Bandshell at Sheridan Meadows project gains early support***

By Jeff Ashcraft

Rotary Club of North Scott

The North Scott Rotary Club has unveiled plans for a new community bandshell, *The Venue at Sheridan Meadows*, dedicated to the late Past District Governor Bill Tubbs and his wife, Linda.

The project was introduced during the club's Service Above Self Gala on November 22, 2024, at the Rhythm City Casino in Davenport, where more than 530 guests gathered to celebrate its launch.

As a tribute to the Tubbs' significant contributions to the community, the couple made an initial gift of \$50,000 to support the project. The Rotary Club matched the donation, bringing the total funds raised to \$100,000.

"The Tubbs' generosity and lifelong dedication to service are an inspiration to all of us," said club president, Greg Schaapveld. "This project will serve as a lasting legacy, benefiting generations to come."

The bandshell is intended to be a cultural centerpiece at Sheridan Meadows, a popular park in Eldridge, providing a space for concerts, performances, and community events. While the enthusiasm for the project is high, fundraising efforts are still in their

infancy. The club is actively seeking additional donations and sponsorships as they await final cost estimates for the project.

"We're excited about the strong start, but there's still work to be done," said North Scott Rotary project chair, Pat Olsen. "The support from our community will be essential in bringing this vision to life."

The North Scott Rotary Club sees *The Venue at Sheridan Meadows* as a reflection of their mission to give back to the community and honor leaders like the Tubbs who embodied the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

**Those interested in contributing to the project, checks can be made out and sent to the following: North Scott Rotary Foundation, PO Box 52, Eldridge, IA 52748. For more information about the project, email [nsrthevenue@gmail.com](mailto:nsrthevenue@gmail.com).**

*Interim Editor's Note: Many in the District have been inspired by the model of Bill Tubbs as an exemplary Rotarian and human being. Memorial contributions to this project would honor his love of community, theatrical and musical performance, the arts, and gathering together in the outdoors for fun and fellowship.*



**SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES***Rotary and Interact clubs, city staff, DNR, Master Gardeners work together—***Cooperative efforts in Iowa City make the world a greener place****By Barb Thomas*****Past President, Rotary Club of Iowa City***

Staying true to Rotary's 7<sup>th</sup> area of focus – supporting the environment – Rotary Clubs in the Iowa City area partnered with the City of Iowa City to plant 58 trees at the Kickers Soccer Field. Generations of families will enjoy the shade and wind break provided by these trees for years to come.

The clubs in this area have become respected for their dedication to the environment and their ability to recruit volunteers for tree plantings like this. It all began in the 2017-18 Rotary year, when Rotary International President Ian H.S. Riseley issued a challenge to all clubs to plant one tree for each member. The Iowa City area clubs teamed together and working with the Iowa DNR, planted a grove of more than 400 trees at Lake McBride.

Realizing that many hands make for light work, the clubs have teamed together for numerous plantings in Iowa City parks (Willow Creek Park, Scott Park, Napoleon Park, and Court Hill Park), Coralville's North Ridge Park, as well as at Clear Creek Amana's Oak Hill Elementary where the teams have planted a wind and sound barrier between the school and nearby Highway 380.

This event featured a number of Rotarians from different clubs, staff from the City of Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department, the Iowa DNR, and Master Gardeners from the area.

The highlight was the participation of 22 Interact members from Regina High School. This new Interact Club was founded by the daughter of Iowa City Noon Past President Ryan Bell. She was inspired to start the club after attending the International Convention with her family this past summer.

The clubs appreciate their partnership with the City of Iowa City's Parks and Recreation Department. Their expertise at selecting tree varieties native to the area, determining the location for each tree, and their follow up work watering and caring for the trees, are critical to the success of the program. Together, Rotarians and community members are making the world a greener place.



**Above, more than 50 volunteers are ready to start planting trees at the Kickers Soccer Field.**

**Two who worked on the planting project are pictured at left, Justin Thomas, community member, left, and Master Gardener Linda Schreiber .**

## SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

*Local community will benefit—*

# North Scott Rotary's Service Above Self Gala Raises Over \$165,000

By Patrick Olsen

### North Scott Service Above Self Gala Chair

The North Scott Rotary Club hosted its annual Service Above Self Gala, Friday, November 22, drawing over 530 attendees to an evening celebrating community service and philanthropy. The event, held at Rhythm City Casino and Resort, was a resounding success, raising more than \$165,000 to support various projects and initiatives in the area.



Patrick Olsen, Gala chair

The evening kicked off with live music, as guests mingled and participated in a lively silent auction. Generous donations poured in, with items ranging from local gift cards to exclusive experiences, capturing the interest of attendees eager to support the cause.

As dinner was served, the program turned its focus to the impactful work of the North Scott Rotary Club within the community. A key highlight was the spotlight on Empowering Abilities, a non-profit organization that has received numerous grants over the years from the club. Their dedication to helping individuals with disabilities lead fulfilling lives resonated deeply with attendees and underscored the importance of community support.

The gala featured a spirited live auction that had guests actively bidding on a range of sought-after items and experiences. The energy in the room was palpable as participants vied to contribute to a cause that has made significant strides in the community, further boosting the night's fundraising efforts.

A defining moment of the evening came with the unveiling of "The Venue" at Sheridan Meadows, the club's signature legacy project dedicated to North Scott Rotary charter member, the late PDG Bill Tubbs and his wife, Linda. This covered bandshell will serve as a cultural hub for the community, providing a space for theater, music, and various events in Sheridan Meadows Park in Eldridge. The announcement was met with enthusiastic applause, highlighting the club's commitment to enhancing community engagement.



Dapper bid taker, John Maxwell, North Scott member

"The success of this event reflects the incredible spirit of our community," said Rotary Club president Greg Schaapveld. "We are grateful for the support we received tonight, which will allow us to continue making a difference and providing essential resources to our local organizations."



Family members of Linda and the late PDG Bill Tubbs attending the North Scott gala were from left: daughter Alisa and Joe Sleep; Linda Tubbs; daughter Anne and Matt Olson. Daughter Aimee Tubbs was unable to attend.

As the night concluded, attendees left feeling inspired and connected, eager to see the positive impacts of their generosity in the coming year. The North Scott Rotary Club's Service Above Self Gala once again demonstrated the power of community involvement and the collective effort to uplift those in need through Service Above Self. The Magic of Rotary was very much on display that night!



District leaders attending the North Scott gala included from left: DG Dave Cook (Boone), DGND Gretchen Nollman (HOPE), PDG Jacque Andrew (Jefferson) and PDG John Ockenfels (Iowa City AM).

# Decades of positive impact... 5 cents at a time

By Amanda McFadden

Rotary Club of Iowa City AM

The Rotary Club of Iowa City A.M. demonstrates a "can do" attitude with its ongoing and successful "Can-Do Project." By collecting, sorting, and redeeming 5 cent cans and plastic bottles, the Iowa City A.M. Club has collected and distributed approximately \$297,000 toward projects bettering the local and global community over the past 30 years. That is more than 5.9 million cans and bottles!

Over the years, a specially labeled collection trailer has resided in several locations where anyone can deposit their 5 cent redeemable cans and plastic bottles, to collectively benefit the local and global community. The project's origin dates back to the time when club members John and Deb Ockenfels owned the Recycling Center in Iowa City from 1993-2015. In 2021, the club purchased a new trailer with improved signage. The average funds collected annually ranges from \$9,000 to \$11,000.

In order for the project to be successful in its current form and location, Rotarians get together every three weeks or so to empty the trailer by sorting and bagging the redeemable cans and plastic bottles.

The volunteers have developed a very fun and efficient system of teamwork that gets the job done successfully in under two hours in most cases, even in the extreme heat or freezing cold. There are anywhere from 10-20 volunteers at a time. More recently, the University of Iowa Rotaract club has begun to be very active in this fundraiser.



The act of collecting, redeeming, and recycling the cans and plastic bottles has a direct positive impact on the environment, one of Rotary's seven areas of focus. From there, the funds raised over the years have benefited many local and global community projects, supporting several of Rotary's seven areas of focus. Community members can feel good about donating their cans and plastic bottles, contributing 5 cents at a time to make an enormous positive impact!

The Rotary Club of Iowa City A.M. "Can-Do Project" continues to be a meaningful and ongoing signature club effort, which could be replicated in nearly any community in Iowa to the benefit of all.



**Iowa City AM  
positive  
public image  
on the roll!!**



**In photo at left, can sorting team** from the left side of the sorting table from the top: John McKinstry, Chris Knapp, Shelly Schmit, Vernette Knapp, Joan Garrity, DGE Norlan Hinke, Amritha Kumar (Rotaractor) Right side of table from top: Deb Ockenfels (partly hidden), Anna Current (Rotaractor), Caleb Dornbush (Rotaractor), Cindy Hinke, Yiyang Shen. Not visible: Liz Loeb.

**Behind the scenes crew:**

John Ockenfels, Phil Jordan, Loring Stanley, Mark Stanley, Karin Franklin, Casey Cook

**Duties include:**

Dumping the large containers of cans and bottles on the sorting table.

Changing the large bags in the boxes and loading into the trailer that is taken to the Can Shed for redemption.

## SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

*From passion to action—*

# Marshalltown's service project committee engages members

By Bonnie Lowry

Rotary Club of Marshalltown

Rotarians are people of ACTION, which means our days seem to be filled with work responsibilities or those of us who are retired keep ourselves busy and we don't know where the day has gone!!! Life happens!! We get involved in community activities that speak to us, but with busy lives, time gets away from us and we become participants and not organizers.

As with many other Rotary Clubs, the Rotary Club of



**Rotarians are engaged in identifying possible service projects in each of the seven focus areas. From left to right - Roger Groteluschen, Doug Gervich, Greg Nichols, Mary K Anderson, and Sheri King are deep in conversation concentrating on disease prevention. Each table of Rotarians is brainstorming ideas for projects in a different focus area.**

Marshalltown acknowledged that being a participant in activities with other groups is good; however, our club was not being a catalyst for leading many community projects. A few years ago, the Rotary Club of Marshalltown examined this issue and created a Rotary Service Project Committee (RSPC).

The Rotary Service Project Committee (RSPC) meets once a month to prioritize, organize, and help manage the logistics of service project completion. The members of the RSPC are not responsible for generating the project ideas or being the champion for each project, so how does that happen?

For the past few years, the Rotary Club of Marshalltown has organized a 'think tank' session to generate ideas in Rotary's 7 Focus Areas to meet needs in our community. During a Rotary meeting the RSPC provides a brief overview of what our Club has accomplished during the past few years. Our fellow Rotarians are then asked to generate possible project ideas, in their table groups, for future

service projects. Each table group shares their list of possible service projects with the whole group. Before the end of the meeting, each Rotarian has the opportunity to support 3 projects by placing a sticker next to those projects listed.

So, what is next? The Rotary Service Project Committee examines the ideas, identifies the logistics of each idea, and then sorts the projects according to the resources necessary to complete each project. The RSPC reports back to the Board recommending possible projects to be completed and a Champion for each project is identified - the project takes on a life of its own.

It is important to 'Get Your Ask On'. Without the 'ASK', Rotarians don't have the opportunity to say 'YES'. We have actively been involved in six service opportunities since the beginning of this Rotary year. Each of these projects have been led by a different Champion! We are looking forward to organizing the distribution of approximately 325 winter coats to preschool and school aged children in the next few weeks. The active engagement of our Club members has generated a sense of belonging, purposefulness, and connectedness to Rotary which leads to member retention.



**Rotarians are identifying their top 3 service projects by placing a 'dot' next to the projects that they are passionate about. Pictured are Rotarians Greg Nichols, Jade McCoy, Kelli Thurston, Michelle Roseburrough, and Jim Goodman.**

Passion drives people. It is up to each Rotary Club to find a way to ignite that passion to provide service that meets the needs of their community. The Rotary Club of Marshalltown has found that what you pay attention to gets done. The Rotary Service Project Committee provides that necessary focus to move passion to action. Rotarians are people of ACTION!!! In Rotary, we get it done!

# Decatur County club centennial is January 2026

By **Cherlyn Hullinger**  
*President, Rotary Club of Decatur County*

The Rotary Club of Decatur County will celebrate its one hundred year anniversary on January 11, 2026.



The club identified a need for area residents to utilize an events center that will accommodate up to 400 attendees.

A former 4-H display building located at the Decatur County fairgrounds in Leon was totally renovated to fulfill the need.

The Rotary Club partnered with the Decatur County Fair Board to bring this project to fruition.

The updated facility will continue to showcase fair displays and attract wedding receptions and numerous other events. The renovation was completed mid-September 2024 and has become a permanent home for Rotary Club meetings.

The club is progressing to phase two of its centennial



*Exterior of Decatur County club's centennial project: fairgrounds event center*

imprint to build a new fire station for the city of Leon. Grand opening celebrations will be held at a later date.

# Fire fighter equipment from Lenox and Corning to Africa

By **PDG Jim Patton**  
*Rotary Club of Ames*

Paul Maynes, Lenox Rotary Club member, learned that firefighter equipment was being phased out by area fire departments. He contacted Dr Steve Gruba, Corning Rotarian, who has experience in assisting organizations in Kenya and Nigeria.

Enough firefighter gear was gathered from three small towns in southwest Iowa to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for 30 men. At a minimum, each man will have boots, pants, jackets, gloves and helmets.

The Lenox and Corning clubs are partnering with the Rotary Club of Meru, Kenya. The equipment will be sent via ocean container ship.

**At left:** Kenyan Fr. Eliud Mwenda, a member of the Meru Rotary Club who was visiting Iowa, wanted to help pack up the gear. He will receive it in Nairobi when it arrives and deliver it to the firemen in Meru, two hundred miles north.



## SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES



### Rotary Pavilion ready for more events in Tipton

*At the ribbon-cutting of the new "North Pavilion" complete with Rotary branding are Tipton club members from left: Lisa Mosier, Dawn Siech, President Laura Twing, Past President Chris Scholz, Diana Waltz, Sarah Crock, Ken Crock, Tina Foulks, Larry Hanon, Father James Flattery, Brad Goetz, Laurie Brandenburg (photos from Laurie Brandenburg)*

## Tipton Club works with city, raises funds to replace pavilion

**By Laurie Brandenburg**  
*Rotary Club of Tipton*

The Rotary Club of Tipton worked with the City of Tipton to tear down and rebuild the existing open-air pavilion known as "North Pavilion" at City Park. The existing pavilion was highly used but was in extreme disrepair. It was demolished by city crews and the Rotary Club provided the funding to have a new concrete base poured and pavilion built.

A 5' wide sidewalk was poured from the parking lot to the pavilion, eliminating any steps into the structure along with two handicap designated parking spots being poured, making it accessible to all. The former pavilion was not accessible to people with limited physical capabilities.

This is one of the most widely used pavilions in the park. It is used almost daily during the spring, summer and fall, and frequently during the winter when families are doing winter activities there. Local churches use this pavilion for summer outdoor worship services. Other local clubs, such as the Rotary Club of Tipton, Tipton Federated Garden Club, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts use this pavilion for summer meetings and activities. This project will serve all of the members of the City of Tipton and Cedar County communities

The new pavilion's brace poles were placed directly into the ground, and the concrete floor was poured around the poles. This design alleviates the need for cross bracing along the sides. It will have a closed ceiling to prevent birds and other animals to nest in it.

The Rotary Club of Tipton was awarded a \$10,000 matching grant from the Community Foundation of Cedar County, which also gave an additional \$1,700 in funds to sup-

port this project. The \$10,000 match for the grant as well as additional funding was raised at the club's 2022 Annual Rotary Auction.

A \$5,000 Rotary District 6000 Community Grant was matched and the funds used to purchase benches and picnic tables for inside the pavilion.

The club also planted 4-5 new trees around the completed pavilion, with one of them as a memorial to long time Tipton Rotarian Gordan Esbeck.



### Tipton club delivers new coats, hats and gloves

The Rotary Club of Tipton delivered a total of 90 new coats, including a hat and pair of gloves with each coat, to the Tipton Community Schools, Bennett Community School, North Cedar Community Schools and the Tipton Senior Center. These coats were purchased with the help of a Theisens More For Your Community Grant, as well as club funds. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that Tipton Rotary has delivered coats, expanding from just working with the Tipton Schools in 2014 to helping families out at three local schools as well as senior citizens in the area.

## Clinton club's focus on polio, food needs, community impact



**Polio Panel: President Carrie Donaire and her co-chair for October programs, Heather Farwell. Rich Phelan, Andy Ferguson, Kit Mayer, and Greg Jasper.**

By Jill O'Neill

Rotary Club of Clinton, Public Image Chair

### World Polio Day

Club President Carrie Donaire made it her mission to discuss World Polio Day, which was highlighted during our meeting on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024. Donaire created a panel of Greg Jasper, Andy Ferguson, Rich Phelan, and Kit Mayer. Each person discussed different aspects of Polio.

Greg Jasper (BBA Bachelor of Business Degree from Western Michigan University, CPNP Board Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from the University of Illinois at Chicago) spoke first. He discussed the medical side of Rotary's endeavors to eradicate Polio, which began in 1979. Polio is a highly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of five. It's spread from person to person, typically through contaminated water or surfaces. "The polio virus can live outside the human body up to two months. Compare that to Covid-19 which is two days to two weeks depending on the surface," explained Jasper.

Jasper discussed the outcomes through the course of the disease, including muscle weakness, intense muscle pains and spasms, extreme fatigue, difficulty swallowing, and respiratory failures, amongst many other horrible and painful symptoms. Jasper delivered us with happy news: "May 31, 1955, was a big day in The Polio Crusade. Our president, General Dwight D Eisenhower, came on TV that evening, in black and white, in an emotional state, almost in tears, announcing to the United States and the world -- We have a vaccination to prevent polio."

Next, we talked to our Foundation chair of our Board of Directors, Andy Ferguson. Ferguson broke down the cost of eradication. It takes about \$3 to fully protect a child from polio. There have been 430 million children vaccinated in 39 countries and the cost to keep that going is about 100 million each year. "What we wanted to let you know today is how you can help in this process. Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. We've reduced polio cases by 99.9% since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children," Ferguson stated.

Rich Phelan spoke with us next and discussed how he lived through the polio pandemic. "In 1952, I would have been due to go to kindergarten, but my parents made the decision to keep me home for another year due to the pandemic. So, I skipped kindergarten completely, and my first formal education was first grade. Well then, because I was not progressing as expected, the teachers wanted to hold me back after third grade," Phelan told us. This decision affected the majority of his educational life. "In retrospect, I strongly believe that those were mistakes that hindered my development for the next 12 years." Phelan explained that his life being altered by the pandemic is just a small example of why the work that Rotary Club of Clinton and Rotary International is so important.

Last but certainly not least, Kit Mayer joined us. Mayer has deep connections to our club, as she is President Carrie Donaire's Mother! Mayer revealed her personal history with the polio vaccinations, as she was a Polio Pioneer. Mayer referred to Jasper's comments about President Eisenhower's glorious announcement of the vaccine and told us that church bells all over the U.S. were ringing, "because they were so excited for this good, good news."

The Rotary Club of Clinton has a mandated charge of \$4 per member, per quarter that is contributed to the Polio Plus.

### Boo Bash

An important part of Rotary's mission is to make an impact on our community. We do this through a variety of programs that make a difference in the lives of children and families in our area. Our annual fundraiser, The Boo Bash, enables us to fund local projects that improve the lives of many.

Boo Bash Committee: Sabrina Frame, Carrie Donaire, Christie Akins, Heather Farwell and Lindsay Morhardt, Andrew Kida, Dale Dalton, Paul Holmer, Andy Sokolovich

This event, hosted by the Rotary Club of Clinton, brings our community together to raise money to ensure that these important projects continue. On Friday, October 25, the Rotary Club of Clinton hosted its sixth annual Boo Bash with tremendous results! Though our numbers are still in the preliminary phase, we raised around \$45,000!! That's \$29,750 in sponsorships and an additional \$15,000 in silent and live auctions. Thank you to everyone who helped our club thrive in this event!

### Food Insecurities

This year's Presidential Project focuses on the power of Rotary connections and partnerships. The project is called Food Security – Local and Global Awareness, highlighting a global partnership among US and Mexican Rotary clubs working together to alleviate food insecurity in Oaxaca, Mexico. Additionally, the project will give attention to food insecurity in Clinton and our surrounding area. Rotary Club of Clinton will serve as a catalyst to bring agencies together to address Food Security locally while looking forward to solving problems together in a long-term, sustainable way.

The Rotary Club of Clinton has partnered up with the Seattle Rotary Club to provide Greenhouses in Oaxaca, Mexico. To date, the Rotary Club of Clinton has sponsored 30 greenhouses to Oaxaca (at \$325/piece), which provide food and can almost double their annual income (.65/day + \$75-100/mo). This is just one way we're working on creating opportunities to make partnerships and reduce barriers and enhance survival and life skills.

SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

# Active Atlantic club serves community, teachers, RAGBRAIers

By Dolly Bergmann  
Rotary Club of Atlantic

It has been a busy summer and early fall for the Atlantic Rotary Club.

We started off with the annual Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast. This year the weather was great but more importantly the attendance to the breakfast



was greater than it has been in the past. Youth from the CAP (Civil Air Patrol) helped the Rotarians with the event. They directed traffic, helped fill coffee cups, assisted people to a seat and much more.

**Pictured above from left:** Jocelyn McEntaffer, and Jayna McEntaffer both daughters of Rotarian Jennifer McEntaffer and Rotarian Bailey Smith,

Atlantic was an overnight stay for RAGBRAI this year on July 22. Many Rotarians volunteered to help with the event. Like many towns that the event travels through the entire community is needed to make it work so Rotarians are there.

The Cass County Fair provided the opportunity to serve watermelon to those attending the cattle show at the fair. The day was perfect for watermelon. It doesn't take long for over 20 watermelon to be served and enjoyed by those attending. Rotarians also had the opportunity to assist with the Cass County Food stand. The Cass County Fair is an all free fair and the food stand proceeds make that possible. You will see many volunteers from the community working the food stand because no one wants the "free fair" to end.

August brings a start to the new school year and Rotary takes the opportunity to recognize all the new teachers to the Atlantic Com-



**Rotarians serving watermelon at Cass County Fair, from left: Ruth Sears, Megan Sramek, Julie Smith, Dolly Bergmann, and Jennifer McEntaffer**

munity School District. The group is served a great lunch and then the new teachers are introduced to the club by the principals of each of the buildings. This year there were 14 new teachers and staff to the community. The teachers are presented with an "Atlantic goodie bag". These include items from members of the Atlantic Rotary Club businesses.

We have had a family picnic in the fall, but this year we moved the date of the picnic to try something new. Rotarians and family members went to the local miniature golf course for pizza and a friendly round of putt-putt golf. The event was enjoyed by everyone.



**Atlantic Rotary Club welcomes new teachers to the district, teachers from left, front row: Stacey Schmidt, Kelsie Kralick, Nicole Korpela, Dawn Walton, Laura Horn and Claire Swanson; back row Nicole Holst, Lindsey Roberts, Julie Coffey, Stephanie Kelley, Cory Bartz, Hannan Misner, Taylor Vargasen and Lexi Griffin-Uren.**





## Bloomfield club, Davis County Extension offer Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The Rotary Club of Bloomfield and the ISU Extension and Outreach: Davis County are celebrating that they are now able to offer Davis County families the opportunity to participate in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library!

This is due in part to the extra efforts of Mark Ruggeberg of the District 6000 Humanitarian and Educational Foundation, Inc. (HEF) because a 501(c)(3) organization is needed to sponsor the program within the county. Mark's willingness to fill out the paperwork and go the extra mile so that the HEF

Foundation could be recognized as the 501(c) 3 organization is most appreciated!

The Imagination Library is a book gifting program which mails a high quality, age-appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family.

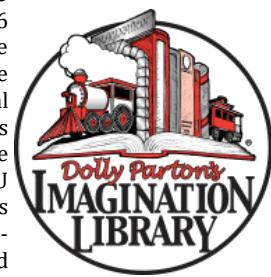
Hailey Walker, Human Sciences Specialist, Family Wellbeing of Davis County extension office, is coordinating this program for Davis County. The Bloomfield Rotary Club is helping her by sponsoring it, along with the HEF Foundation.

The cost for a child to receive one book each month for one year is \$26 and \$130 covers a child for all five years. Funding is shared through the Dollywood Foundation and local community partners. For Davis County, the local partners are the Bloomfield Rotary Club and the ISU Extension and Outreach: Davis County. They are currently fundraising by asking local businesses and individuals to contribute, along with planning several fundraisers to be held in the future to ensure that all children who register will receive their books.

Per the Dolly Parton Imagination Library website: "How it works: Local Affiliates are responsible for enrolling children who live within the geographical area they offered the program in. Books are 100% free to enrolled children because their Local Affiliate has secured funds to cover the cost of the books and the shipping fees."

"The Imagination Library provides the infrastructure of the core program including managing the secure central database for the Book Order System and coordinating book selections and wholesale purchasing. It also incurs the cost of the program's administrative expenses and coordinates the monthly mailings."

It has definitely been a team effort to bring this program to Davis County! Anticipation is high that the success of it will encourage young children and their families to be excited to receive each book and "to feel the magic that books can create."



Boone Rotarians with books for Ledges library from left: Lesley Dakin, Lisa Hitsman, Mikaela Kientiz, Jane Hitsman, Amanda Jefferson LMSW (School Social Worker from Ledges) Tish Germer, Lisa Cook.

## Boone book donation focus: Elementary literacy and mental health



By Lisa Hitsman  
Rotary Club of Boone

The Rotary Club of Boone was proud to donate the books to the Ledges Elementary Social Emotional Library in the Boone Community School District (BCSD). We worked with Rotarian and BCDS Superintendent, Julie Trepka, along with Amanda Jefferson, the Social Worker at Ledges Elementary, to identify over 100 books that could be utilized by teachers and students in the school. We ordered the books requested, stickered them with Rotary Stickers, and stopped by to donate the books to the school this fall.

For this school year alone the books will be utilized by 350+ students in the preschool-1st grade levels. This library will be in the school for future students to use as well so the impact will be in the 1000s before long! The beneficiaries of the project are all the students that currently attend Ledges Elementary and those in the future who will get to utilize the books in the library and the lessons that are taught along with them.

We hope this project will help manage emotions in the school setting and beyond, assisting in the mental health and well-being of these students. Teachers in the school may even get some helpful use out of these books!

We believe this fits the child health area of focus as well as the basic education and literacy area of focus. 15 Rotarians were able to participate with in the project cycle from the club.

SERVICE IN COMMUNITIES

# Baby supply drive educates community, helps families in Iowa City area

By Barb Thomas

Rotary Club of Iowa City

Do you know that a family with a baby in the household can spend up to \$250 a month in just diapers alone? For those in our communities that are struggling to make ends meet, baby supplies are a BIG expense.

Local food pantries provide baby supplies – when they are in stock – but the truth is, baby supplies are rarely donated to these organizations. Their normal donations include canned food – not baby supplies.

That’s where the Iowa City Noon Rotary Club stepped in. This fall, their members held a baby supply drive at a local HyVee store on a Saturday morning. In just a few hours, they had five grocery carts full of supplies, all donated by shoppers.

As people entered the store, Rotarians explained the drive and provided a short list of items that could be donated. And as shoppers left the store, they returned with box upon box of diapers, wipes, formula, and more.

“What’s great about this simple drive, is that this also helps educate our community,” explained Iowa City Noon Rotary President Tara Lawson. “We all know milk costs more these days but it’s eye-opening to see how much baby supplies cost.”

The team delivered these supplies to four area groups: the United Action for Youth’s Young Parent Program and three local food banks: CommUnity Food Bank, North Liberty Food Bank, and the Coralville Food Bank.



Pictured with carts of donated baby supplies are from left: Rotary Club of Iowa City members Tara (Minetos) Lawson, Club President; Margaret Adams; Margaret Reese, past president and Barb Thomas.

## Tipton donates books, hosts StoryBook walk

By Laurie Brandenburg

Rotary Club of Tipton

The Rotary Club of Tipton participated in the Cedar County Health Fair and the Tipton Touch A Truck event in August with a book giveaway. Close to 300 new books were given to all children ages 0-18. A Theisen’s More For Your Community Grant was applied for and awarded to help with the purchase of the new books.

The club also had a StoryBook Walk set up, with thanks to the Cedar County Extension Office for everyone to enjoy after visiting our booth. These are annual events that the Tipton Rotary Club has participated in for the past 4 years. Club president Laura Twing is pictured with the books and StoryBook Walk.



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Tipton club president Laura Twing with the nearly 300 books children could choose from





## World Food Prize Hall of Laureates prized stained glass window history

This 20-foot-high stained glass window occupies a central place at the top of the grand staircase. Truly a magic window! Information provided by WFP staff tells the details.

It portrays a farm family in a classical setting such as Greece or Italy. The concept for the window was developed by World Food Prize President Ambassador Kenneth Quinn from a sculpture by Christian Peterson, the Danish-born artist who was in residence at Iowa State University for over 20 years during the Great Depression.

Iowa State President Gregory Geoffroy permitted the World Food Prize to use this image for the creation of the window.

The window was crated by an Afghani husband and wife duo at Franz Mayer studio of Munich, Germany, a stained glass company that has created works of art for more than 165 years.

He the design artist, she the master glass painter, Fazl and Mahbuba Maqaoodi were a uniquely talented couple with an interesting and varied past.

Born in Herat, Afghanistan in the 1950s, they fled Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion and traveled first to Uzbekistan and then to Russia, where they studied graphic arts and ceramics and glass at the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg where they earned their PhDs.

They started working at Franz Mayer in 1996 after seeking political asylum in Germany. The Hall of Laureates stained glass was his final project before he died in 2010. They finished the stained glass, which was installed in 2011.

## RI Convention, June 21-15, 2025—

# Connect in Calgary!

By DGN Bill Bruce

Rotary Club of Denison

Are you ready to find out about Rotary that is bigger than our club, our district and our zone?

In about 200 days the 2025 Rotary International Convention will be held in Calgary, Canada! The convention runs from June 21<sup>st</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> in 2025.

Fueled by friendship and a spirit of collaboration Rotarians from around the world will have the opportunity to connect, exchange best practices, and learn from distinguished speakers.

This is all in the backdrop of Calgary's picturesque beauty nestled amid the Canadian Rockies. To register and reserve a room log into the Rotary International web site.

Click the drop down for "Events and Connections" and then get connected through the link titled "International Convention".

Currently, 31 are registered to attend from D 6000! Many are expanding the trip to include a vacation event to nearby sites and opportunities in Canada and the Northwestern US.

Don't hesitate, the last day for early registration discount is December 15, 2024. You can lock in your preferred hotel and signature events. Register today!

Watch for details of a District 6000 gathering in Calgary! Don't hesitate to reach out to me at [bbruce9@live.com](mailto:bbruce9@live.com).



Calgary skyline including the Calgary Stampede Center

## UPCOMING RI CONVENTION

Taipei, Taiwan has been tentatively selected for the June 13-17, 2026 convention.

## SERVICE TO YOUTH

# Clubs collaborate to fund, promote and select participants: Youth leadership programs a priority for Iowa City area clubs

By Barb Thomas  
*Rotary Club of Iowa City*

When Linda Farkas joined the Iowa City Noon Rotary Club in 2010, she was asked to run the club's Youth Leadership Programs. At that time, the club was sending one student to RYLA and one student to the World Affairs Seminar each year.

In the past 14 years, Iowa City's Youth Leadership Program has changed drastically. The first change was that the Noon Club partnered with the other clubs in the area (Iowa City AM, Iowa City Downtown, and the Coralville North Corridor Club).

Together, the clubs were able to collaborate on both fundraising for the initiative and on the process of interviewing and selecting students from the area high schools. The results are astounding. In the summer of 2024, the clubs sent 20 students to RYLA and 32 students to the World Affairs Seminar (WAS).

With the belief that many hands make for light work, there are committee co-chairs that take responsibility for the promotion/advertising of the opportunity within a specific high school and then schedule the interviewing and selection of students from specific high schools. An additional 20+ Rotarians from the Iowa City area volunteered their time to interview and select participants.

A team of 10+ Rotarians led the fundraising efforts. The 2024 Youth Leadership program



**32 Iowa City area students attended the World Affairs Seminar in Wisconsin**

received support from more than 40 individuals and businesses. In addition, several Dine Out evenings have brought in resources from area restaurants. Some funds are paid directly to the club while other funds are paid through the District HEF Fund in order to provide a tax deduction to the donor. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child and this is an example of a village coming together to provide tremendous educational and leadership experiences to area youth.

In August of each year, students from the programs speak to the supporting clubs about their experiences.



This is a favorite meeting for members as it makes you hopeful for our future as these students are intelligent, caring, and insightful.

And it is a reminder of why we are all Rotarians – so that we can have a positive impact on our world.

**World Affairs Seminar participants share their experiences at Rotary club meetings**

# Rotary In Memoriam William F. Tubbs

## District Governor, Rotary International District 6000, 2004-05

Bill Tubbs, 75, former publisher, philanthropist and longtime supporter of the North Scott community, passed away on Friday, Sept. 20, at University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison surrounded by loved ones.

Visitation was held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27, at the Eldridge United Methodist Church and one hour prior to services on Saturday.

Services were at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Fine Arts Center at North Scott High School in Eldridge. Chambers Funeral Home of Eldridge is assisting the family with arrangements.

William F. (Bill) Tubbs was born in Clinton on Oct. 12, 1948, to Grace (Dyer) and Edward L. Tubbs. He was raised on the family's Heritage Farm near Elwood, where he was active in 4-H and was an all-conference athlete and musician, graduating with honors from Delwood High School in the Class of 1967.

On Nov. 22, 1970, he was married to the love of his life - Linda Zoe Long at First United Methodist Church in Maquoketa. Bill received his bachelor of science degree in agricultural communications and served in the Iowa Army National Guard for six years. Later he was able to participate in an Honor Flight, he also served as an Honor Flight chaperone twice.

In 1971, Bill and Linda moved to Eldridge, where Bill became publisher of the *North Scott Press* and later the *Wilton-Durant Advocate News* and the *West Liberty Index*. He believed success was best achieved when stakeholders have accurate information, and he dedicated his life to that principle, providing opportunities for many journalists who became difference makers, including a future Pulitzer Prize winner.

The *NSP* became one of the largest circulating weekly newspapers in the Midwest. The newspaper was named Iowa Newspaper of the Year in 1979, and in 1995, Bill was named an Iowa Master-Editor Publisher, the highest individual award in his profession. He also received the National Newspaper Association's James O. Amos Award for distinguished leadership to his community and the community press, and Iowa State University's James W. Schwartz Award for distinguished service to journalism and communication.

The *NSP* won first in the Nation for Community Service and Best Coverage of Local News in 1997, and Bill's

"Impressions" column was judged first in the nation for both Best Serious Column and Best Sports Column.

Bill served as president of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, the Iowa Newspaper Association's executive committee and board, and was active in the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

ISU Extension named him "Iowa Citizen of the Year" for community leadership, including work that led to the opening of the Eldridge Community Center/Skatepark. He served on his town's economic development committee and was president of the Eldridge Businessmen's Association.

The *Press* was named "Business of the Year" by the Eldridge-North Scott Chamber of Commerce in 2003, and he was named a Friend of Scott County Extension in 2004.

Bill coached youth softball for 15 years and was a founder and race director for the Moonlight Chase. He is an honorary member of 4-H and F.F.A., the Scott County Cattlemen's Association, and was recognized for service to the Mississippi Valley Fair. Bill and Linda were charter members of Eldridge United Methodist Church in 1972. Bill was a member of the Davenport Chordbusters Barbershop Harmony Society.

Bill and Linda were general chairs of a campaign for a new Scott County Library headquarters in 2003, and with their lead gift to that project, named its community meeting room "First Amendment Room". Their philanthropy also included major gifts for the Library's Bookmobile, the North Scott YMCA, and many other Eldridge and North Scott projects. The couple also funded scholarships at Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, Scott Community College and the North Scott Educational Foundation.

Bill's other passion was service through Rotary International. In 1973, he became a charter member of the Rotary Club of North Scott. He has personally sponsored more than 70 new members. In June 2003, the Rotary Club of North Scott announced the formation of the "William F. Tubbs Honor Rotarian Award" for new members.

Bill and Linda have been involved with Rotary Youth Exchange and Group Study Exchange. He has received the Rotary International Public Relations Award and helped establish sponsorship of the Mississippi Athletic Conference sportsmanship awards.



Past District Governor William (Bill) Tubbs

# NOTES

## DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The District 6000 Nominating Committee conducted interviews Nov. 10 by zoom meeting and nominated **Gretchen Nollman** of the Rotary Club of HOPE (Homeless Outreach, Prevention and Education) for District Governor 2027-28. All District clubs were notified, and no challenging candidate was advanced, so the nomination will stand. The DG succession for District 6000 is as follows: **Norlan Hinke**, Clinton (2025-26), **Bill Bruce**, Denison (2026-27) and **Gretchen Nollman**, HOPE, (2027-28).



Gretchen Nollman

## DISTRICT AUDIT REPORT

District 6000 financial records have been reviewed by CPA Matt Corwin. The fiscal year ended June 20, 2024 under budget by \$15,400.



## RI DIRECTOR SELECTED for 2026-28

At the Zones 29 and 25 Institute, Sept 5-8, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas, D5950 **PDG Tom Gump** of Rotary Club of Edina/Morningside was selected by the zone nominating committee to represent our Zone (including District 6000) on the Rotary International Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028.

Our district's current representative on the 17-member board is **Salvador Rizzo Tavares** of the Rotary Club of Monterrey Carlos Canseco in District 4130, Mexico. He will serve in that role until June 30, 2026.

## TUBBS, *continued:*

Bill was on a Friendship Force mission to Soviet Russia and Estonia in 1985 and attended seven Rotary International conventions. He was on a team that provided humanitarian service in Xicotepec, Mexico, and was part of a 10-member team that traveled to Nigeria, to help eradicate polio.

Bill is a Paul Harris Fellow, a Benefactor and a member of the Arch Klumph Society - which recognizes the Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors. He was a charter member of the Foundation's Bequest Society and the District 6000 Paul Harris Society and served as District Governor.

Bill's other affiliations included Iowa State University Alumni Association, Scott County Hospice Care director, Amnesty International, Southern Poverty Law Center, Friends of IPTV, One Human Family QCA, and charter member of the North Scott Chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

## Club Foundation Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers: TAKE NOTE!!

It's time to send in mid-year club donations to The Rotary Foundation!

If assistance is needed, contact District Annual Funds co-chairs:

- Neil Fell at [neilfell72@gmail.com](mailto:neilfell72@gmail.com)
- Mark Ruggeberg at [markruggenberg@gmail.com](mailto:markruggenberg@gmail.com)



## DG Dave Cook honored in Boone

The Boone Chamber of Commerce awarded its annual Volunteer of the Year honor to our own District Governor Dave Cook! Congratulations, Dave!

His greatest passion was his family. He enjoyed spending time with his six grandchildren and cheering them on through their various activities and found great pride in their many accomplishments.

In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by his daughters, Aimee Tubbs of Seattle, Wash., Anne (Matt) Olson of Urbandale, and Alisa (Joseph) Sleep of Verona, Wis.; as well as six grandchildren, Clara, Nolan, and Ella Olson, and Ava, Nora, and Jacob Sleep. He is also survived by his brothers, Steve (Chris) Tubbs of Delmar, and Al (Myrna) Tubbs of DeWitt. Bill leaves behind 11 nieces and nephews, along with many great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his mother-in-law and father-in-law.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the North Scott Rotary Foundation for The Venue project or the North Scott Foundation. For more information: email: [nstrthevenue@gmail.com](mailto:nstrthevenue@gmail.com).

# OBITUARIES

## Thomas M. (Tom) Cook

**Physical Therapy professor, RAG4Clubfoot founder**

Thomas M. Cook, PT, PhD, 79, died at his home on Friday, October 18, 2024. He is survived by his wife of almost 55 years Joan, daughter Jennifer, son Jonathan, daughter-in-law Karen, grandchildren Emily, Andrew, and Rachel, sister Helen McGowan (Jack), and brother Fred Cook (Jackie).



Tom was born in Dayton, Ohio and grew up in Bellevue, Kentucky.

He graduated from Newport Catholic High School in 1962 and Thomas Moore College in 1968. He and his wife, Joan, were married in Fort Thomas, Kentucky on November 28, 1969.

Tom served in the United States Army for three years and was stationed in Vietnam for nine months, honorably discharged and the Bronze Star in 1971. He earned his master's in physical therapy and biomedical engineering at Duke and Drexel universities.

In 1981, Tom was recruited to teach Physical Therapy at the University of Iowa. From 1981 to the late 1990s, he served in several faculty roles in Physical Therapy and the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health in the College of Medicine. He became Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health in 1999, the inaugural year of the College of Public Health, which remained his academic home until his retirement in 2013.

Tom was a physical therapist, biomedical engineer, ergonomist, global health expert, public health advocate, and Fulbright Scholar. In the latter stages of his career During the later stages of his career he directed his energy, talent, and compassion toward eliminating lifelong disability associated with clubfoot, the world's most common skeletal birth defect.

He served as Director of Global Operations for the Ponseti International Association and was a founding member of the Rotarian Action Group for Clubfoot (RAG4Clubfoot). He also co-founded the non-profit Clubfoot Solutions, which distributes the low-cost Iowa Brace (a device he co-developed) for children around the world. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.



## William D. (Bill) Ashton

**Engineer, polio warrior**

Davenport Rotarian William David Ashton, 84, died Sunday October 6, 2024 at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois following injuries received in a car accident.



Bill was born December 7, 1939 in Davenport, Iowa and graduated from Davenport High School in 1957. He followed in the family footsteps of many engineers before him and graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1962 and a Masters Degree in 1963. He was a member of the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Society inducted in 2008. Bill began working at the U.S Army Corps of Engineers and eventually began his own company Ashton Engineering, Inc

Bill was involved in numerous community organizations including Davenport Rotary Club serving as President. He was the recipient of the Rotary International Service Award for a Polio-Free World in 2017 one of only 10 in the world for his work eradicating polio in India.

He traveled to help with humanitarian projects in Guatemala, helped build a church in Kenya, visited China, Russia, Brazil, and Europe. Bill used his engineering skills for many projects in the Quad Cities community including the steeple at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, the fountain at Vander Veer Park, and the city bike paths. He stressed to his children the importance of education and civic responsibility.

Bill was a proud Iowa Hawkeye, ran track and cross country, and coached track, volunteering as a track and field official for high school and college. Bill was Letterman of the Year in 1995, president of the Iowa Varsity Club and helped create the Ashton Cross Country Course and Ashton Prairie in Iowa City. His dedication and philanthropy to the University of Iowa culminated in his family receiving the Ashton Family Spirit Award in 2022.

Bill proudly served in the U.S Army as a Ranger and Combat engineer officer.

Bill is survived by his wife of 61 years, Ann (Milligan) Ashton, brother James Ashton, his daughters Susan (Todd) McCloy, Patricia (Erik) Rolfstad, and his son Steven (Claudia) Ashton. He is also survived by his 9 grandchildren Andy (Mikana) Ashton, Abby (Aaron) Kelly, Michael McCloy, Allison McCloy, William Rolfstad, Mary Rolfstad, Elizabeth Rolfstad, Isabella Ashton, and Alessia Ashton. He was recently blessed with 4 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Oct. 11 at St Anthony Catholic Church in Davenport.





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### Rotary's goal is a polio-free world!

There were 12 cases of polio in 2021, 30 case in 2022 and 12 cases in 23 and 81 thus far in 2024. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries where the wild polio virus is endemic.

### *The Object of Rotary*

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular to encourage and foster:

**FIRST:** at he development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarians' occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**THIRD:** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarians personal, business and community life;

**FOURTH:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peach through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

### *The Four-Way Test*

(of the things we Think, Say or Do)

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

