



October 14, 2023

Growing Together! Fall District Training

Harper College



Welcome to Community Service Training!

This session will include a 4-person panel who will share with you a project or philosophy they feel contributed to a success for their Club. Our goal is that each participant will be able to go back to their Club with a project idea, inspiration, and a better understanding of their role with community service in Rotary.

Below are a few key components of the role of a Community Services Chair, as well as the role of a Rotarian in regard to Rotary Community Service.

- Community Service is one of the five avenues of service for Rotarians, Community Service involves activities of the club that help make the community a better place in which to live.
- The Community Service chair oversees service/and/or committees that
 - dispense funds raised by the club for the benefit of not-for-profit activities in the community, that
 - give awards for outstanding community leadership, and that
 - provide opportunities for Rotarians to volunteer their time on worthwhile community projects
- At the District level, the Community Service Advisory team and associates
 - function as a clearing house of ideas for club community service chairs
 - encourage collaboration between clubs within the sector and beyond
 - facilitate club options for attaining Presidential Citation Humanitarian Service goals

Some resources that are helpful to all Rotarians in regard to Community Service:

- ✓ Rotary District 6440 Website: <https://rotary6440.org>
- ✓ Community Service Project Showcase: <https://rotary6440.org/Page/community-service-project-showcase>
- ✓ Rotary International Community Service: <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/projects>
- ✓ Monthly Zoom Networking Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM. Email Betsy Adamowski if you are interested, betsyadamowski@gmail.com

✓ Other Club webpages!

REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Rotary Club of Glenview Sunrise

Cecilia P. Hagist, ceciliap@hagist.com



Rotary Club of Glenview Sunrise has for some years, on a weekly basis read to students in the dual language program at Henking Elementary School. The students in kindergarten, first and second grades are read to in person by a Rotarian who either brings a book to read to the students or asks the teacher for a book to read to the students.

The benefits of this program are:

- The students are exposed to different readers and read in English by a native speaker, - The Rotarians help build a sense of community in the students as well as a sense of belonging in the students and teachers in district 34
- The Rotarians enjoy and keep up with their children's literature and have the opportunity to visit their local public school.

- The bridge between the school community and the Rotarians is stronger every year and there is a tighter connection. The connection builds as the students move from kindergarten through second grade, seeing many of the same readers each year. Friendly relationships develop as we get to know each other.

(Here are kudos)

Cheers to the Rotarians and teachers who kept on reading even during the Covid months and connected via zoom.

- Cheers to the Rotarians who tried something different and talked to students in fourth and fifth grades by zoom about their different jobs and what they did in those jobs. Talking about jobs, it matched the social studies curriculum but the student engagement was low. The Rotarians had to be by zoom because at that time the schools did not receive visitors. This program stopped.
- Kind regards to the Rotarians who keep visiting Henking in person to read to the students in k-2 and who in previous years brought books and teddy bears to the students in the program.
- Thank you to the Rotarians who invited the teachers to attend a Glenview Sunrise meeting and now are part of the club.

For those and many other reasons, reading to students at the local public school is worth it.

Rotary Club of Batavia

Mark Lucas – Sculptlucas@hotmail.com

Below is a summary of what Mark plans on discussing, while not a specific program, his presentation will present some key ingredients for success.

(From Mark)

"I am a relatively new member and discovered early that "the sky is the limits" in terms of projects - that within the general guidelines of Rotary, there are numerous ways that members can turn personal passions into successful projects that meet Rotary goals. The "story" of a last year's development of a project meets the criteria of being good for the environment, good for the community, and good for our club.

“My goal is to focus on community service projects generally while describing our project as an example of how to grow a service project.”

“I look forward to an engaging program on Saturday.”

Rotary Club of Cary-Grove

Joe Turner, jturne25@gmail.com



The Village of Cary, by agreement with Meyer Material/LaFarge, developed this park and Chuck (current club president at the time) made a request to name the park for the Rotary Club, since there were already a few local parks named after service organizations, such as the Lions, JC, & Veterans... The Village agreed and thus the park is named Cary Lake at Rotary Park.

- Side note: The lake is named Cary Lake, for village association.
- The club wanted to put a pavilion on the land and raised the money to complete the project.... The village decided that a more robust pavilion on the property would be beneficial to the development of the park, so the rotary's funds were rolled into the current pavilion being built.
- Besides the recognition of the park name and pavilion, our club recently planted 600 native plants for pollinators and erosion control. We had several families, so much effort, etc.
 - The club has future plans to plant trees and more pollinator plants.
- We have a crushed limestone trail system that encircles the park [about 3 miles] and connects to the rest of the Cary Park District properties... Goal is to get part of the paths paved to connect the park district properties to the Rotary Park parking lot (and possibly encircle the entire park with a paved path).
- We have our Brewfest out there to help introduce/bring the community to the park.
- The park is an ongoing commitment to our community, that will provide projects for our club to invest in for years to come.

EVANSTON LIGHTHOUSE ROTARY

Community Event/Service Projects: Homelessness and Affordable Housing

Ann Weatherhead, Housing Committee Chair and Community Service Committee member

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PROJECT SUMMARY

A primary focus of Evanston Lighthouse Rotary is Homelessness and Affordable Housing which intersects with Mental Health.

Many experiencing homelessness have high rates of chronic health conditions, mental and substance use disorders. Also, they may be dealing with trauma and children experiencing homelessness are at risk for emotional and behavioral problems.

Our club's annual Fund Raiser, Taste of Evanston, is now in its 9th year. This is a community

gathering to raise funds for Ending Homelessness and increasing Affordable Housing – as well as increasing awareness in our community of the issues of homelessness and lack of sufficient affordable housing.

This year we had a sold-out crowd of 500 community members. In addition to our 80+ club members, we were joined by many community members as volunteers to host this event. It was a true community event with club members and their families/friends, community groups including Northwestern Students, staff members from the beneficiaries and many other community volunteers.

Our Beneficiaries include:

Connections for the Homeless.

Mission: "end homelessness one person at a time."

Recipients of services at their Transitional Shelter receive wrap-around services leading to stable housing. Support services continue during the transition period into housing.

Their advocacy group, joining forces for Affordable Housing, raises awareness of the issues of homelessness and lack of sufficient affordable housing. We are actively involved with this group in raising awareness and advocating for change.

Reba Place Development Corp: Provider of Affordable Housing

Mission:

☑ To develop safe, decent, and affordable housing that demonstrates how the diverse racial and cultural groups in Evanston can thrive together.

☑ To promote and cultivate a neighborly environment for those who wish to raise their families in peace.

☑ To sponsor and support a range of affordable housing options including modestly-priced rental units, housing cooperatives, and affordable condominiums.

The Taste of Evanston program included strong, insightful presentations by Betty Bogg, Executive Director for Connections for the Homeless and Martha Burns, Interim Executive Director at Reba Place Development. In addition, a recipient of services from each of the organizations told their stories of how the services and support from these organizations impacted their lives. Comments from our guests at the event:

☑ The statements from the beneficiaries and the people served by them were very impactful

☑ Context through first hand stories was very effective

☑ Good to be reminded of local needs

☑ Allowed me to understand how I can assist the efforts to house the unhoused.

☑ The advertisements were skillfully presented and did a great job raising awareness and encouraging more involvement

We continue our relationships with both organizations throughout the year with service projects including:

REBA PLACE

☑ Work projects at Reba: recently painted stairwells in the apartment buildings; refinished basement and added storage units for residents;

☑ Provide household essentials to newly housed individuals/families (many move in with little more than the "clothes on their back")

☑ Community events: Join residents for communal meals

CONNECTIONS FOR THE HOMELESS

☑ Sponsoring clothing and food drives

☑ Volunteering at events, i.e. winter clothing distribution event

☑ Providing meals

☑ Affordable Housing Educational events

Quote, Betty Bogg: As always we are deeply grateful for your financial support, and for the vision you share with us!