

Rotary
District 7780



No Place Like Rotary for the Holidays!

ROTARY DISTRICT 7780 CLUBS
SERVICE, FUNDRAISING AND
CELEBRATIONS
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020





Bath

December 12 was Rotary day at the Salvation Army kettles in Bath. Bath Rotarians, Sunrise Rotarians and Morse High School Interactors helped to raise \$2349.53, more than double the amount collected in 2019.

The Bath Rotary Club recently donated funds to the Bath Area Food Bank for a carport shelter to provide a dry area for clients to pickup their goods outdoors since COVID-19 restricts clients entering their building. Bath Rotarians Anthony Jamison, Michael Princiotta, Michael Walton and friend Chris Ramsden shoveled snow, pruned a tree and set up the frame and roof for the carport for the Bath Area Food Bank. Friends of the Food Bank completed the sides so now clients can pickup items and stay dry.





Bridgton-Lake Region

Community Kettle served up meals for hundreds, with chef Nick Orgo and Rotarian George Kauber among the team members hard at work.

Over \$10,000 raised to supply health/wellness bags to 845 area families through local food pantries.

Secret Santa program delivered warm winter clothing to area youth.

Rotary dedicated new bus stop shelter at Bridgton Community Center to the memory of Rotarian Marlee Turner.





Damariscotta-Newcastle

Rotarians, Lions and Food: Oh My!

Our service clubs teamed up to ring bells and collect donations for local food banks in Lincoln County. Arlie Frahm and Jim Skiff of Rising Tide Grocery along with Rotarians Hugh Riddleberger and Bill Vaughan are pictured.

Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary celebrated its 96th birthday on December 16!





Dover

Dover Rotarians recently filled shopping carts with hats, mittens, jackets, tarps and sleeping bags, for a total of \$2,000; warm items were delivered the week of Thanksgiving to Community Action Partnership of Strafford County (CAP) for distribution to the homeless in our community.

In December, Rotarian elves toured the streets of Dover in a “fun” raiser event to recognize the enthusiasm and creativity of outdoor holiday decorators.

December 12 marked the “Fill the Pavilion” Food Drive sponsored by Dover Rotary, Gather Food Pantry and CAP. The goal was to fill the Rotary Arts Pavilion with non-perishable food to nourish our neighbors throughout the holiday season.





Exeter

The Exeter Rotary Club has provided luminaries for over 25 Years to the Town of Exeter. Over a 3-day period the week of Christmas, current and past Rotarians, friends and family gathered to make over 500 luminary bags to go out in the Exeter downtown area to brighten the Christmas spirit. The entire project was led by Dottie Milbury, Exeter's first woman Rotarian in 1985.



Falmouth

Falmouth Rotary Club had three phases of holiday Service above Self: Phase I; we delivered Christmas trees complete with ornaments and lights to local families in need. Phase II; we delivered poinsettia displays to Blackstone Senior housing complex in Falmouth, and Phase III; we purchased \$1,000 worth of toys and clothes for 6 local families in need.

Your poinsettias (and candy canes) are already a big hit! Several residents have already said to thank you for brightening this somber time for them, so please pass along their wishes. I'm now off to deliver the REAL Christmas tree with Sean: What a busy time for all of you with the Rotary! Happy Holidays to all.

Nancy Lightbody, Falmouth Food Pantry



Kittery

Stuff the boat, stuff the cruiser food drives combined with the holiday wishes to Edgewood Centre residents were December highlights. We also donated \$500 to the Kittery Holiday Baskets to assist them in buying things that they need but do not get donated by individuals. We have been involved in making donations to the Pease Greeters for a number years including a variety of snacks that could be divided up among the soldiers but not take up a lot of room or are perishable.

If you check out the home page of our website you will see the winners to date of our December Calendar Raffle

<http://www.kitteryrotary.org/>



Oxford Hills

The Rotary Club of Oxford Hills recently held a Secret Santa Zoom meeting, members were randomly assigned a member's name, a \$10 limit was set, and 1 gift was to be mailed or delivered, without getting caught. A lot of fun was had by all! We have also inducted 4 new members during this pandemic. Our annual cheese sales 'sold out' and was another successful fundraiser. FMI go to:

<https://oxfordhillsrotary.org/page/show/homepage/>



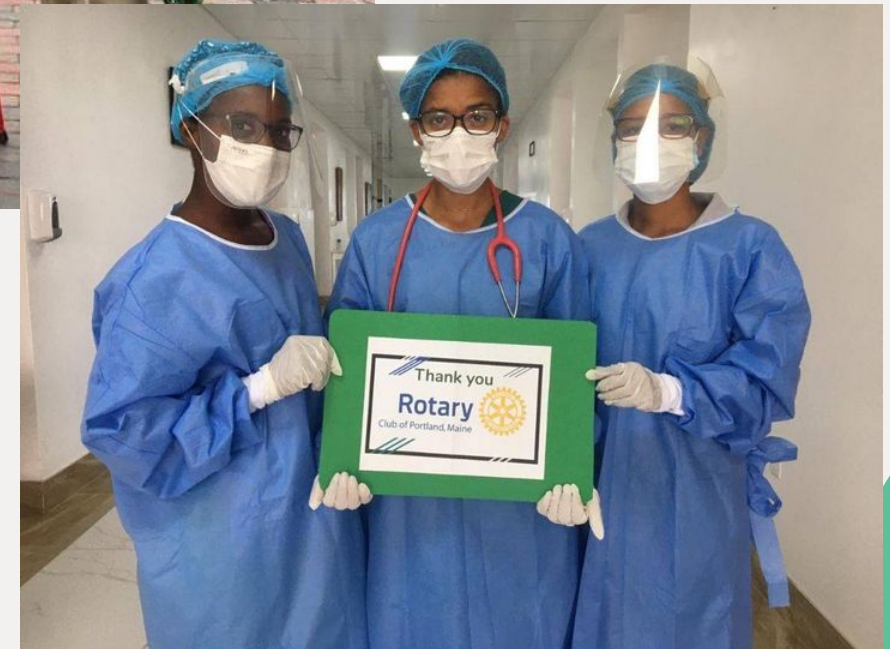


Portland

Ringling bells in Monument Square in December 2020, for the Salvation Army kettle drive with Portland Rotarians Tom Ranello and Jim Willey.

Club members served Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 25 at St. Vincent de Paul's Soup Kitchen in Portland, with District Governor-Elect Dick Hall. Rotarians cooked the meals and prepared to deliver them to the recipients, who signed up to receive them at the facility's entrance. Due to COVID compliance, Rotarians missed the friendly interactions, and conversations with the clients and our colleagues. We look forward to getting back to serving the meals at indoor table seating, hopefully, in November, 2021.

International Service Committee sent donations from the charitable funds designated for the International Hearing, prosthetic Hands and H2O program, to the Dominican Republic, to help fund the purchase of personal protective equipment for health care workers in La Romana, DR.





Portsmouth

The Club netted over fifty thousand dollars through annual Christmas Tree and ornament sales. With online and in-person sales at our tree lot and around the City, this commemorative ornament sold-out and has been re-ordered. Net ornament proceeds over 10K and growing, purchased local restaurant certificates which were handed out to restaurant workers facing reduced hours and eliminated jobs. Tree/wreath sales, Club's largest fundraiser, provides basic needs (food-bank, warmth, shelter) and scholarships.

www.portsmouthrotary.org

https://www.unionleader.com/news/human_interest/money-raised-through-gilleys-ornament-goes-to-restaurant-workers-in-portsmouth/article_1b504b90-d5a0-5be4-b71b-639f77dea5ba.html



Buy your ornaments from Portsmouth Rotary

Portsmouth Rotary Christmas Ornament Fundraiser

PURCHASE

\$15,232 RAISED

101% raised of \$15,000 goal



373
days

15
hrs

46
mins

16
secs

Donations Will Benefit

Portsmouth Rotary Club

River Valley

Quick Response for Rapid Responders!

In the picture from left to right: Dean Milligan, Chief, Med-Care Ambulance; Paul Landry, Assistant Chief; Joe Sirois, Peter Cox, Jerry Cohen and Dave Duguay of the River Valley Rotary Club presenting a check of \$1200 to Med-Care to help them make purchases for items they need to proceed with COVID-19 vaccinations.

Rotary District Governor Peggy Belanger made the request of the Rotary club on Tuesday afternoon December 15, committing District funds of \$600 if the club would add \$600 to come up with the total needed. By Wednesday, all River Valley Rotary board members had enthusiastically endorsed the proposal and a check was presented by the River Valley Rotary Club to Med-Care Ambulance Service on Thursday to help them in the important work they are preparing to do in vaccinating and protecting the citizens of our community.

(See related newsletter story about District 7780 funding of vaccination efforts in Maine and New Hampshire)



Saco Bay

Our biggest impact so far this year has been consistent donations to 5 area food pantries.

Rotary club of Saco Bay partnered with Age Friendly Saco in several food distribution events via the "Farm to Table" food initiative. Approximately 2000 boxes of food were distributed during these events. With Age Friendly Saco, we also distributed approximately 80 curbside pick-up Thanksgiving meals.

Hats, scarfs and mittens were donated by Rotarians and the collection of these winter accessories was and delivered to children in a Saco apartment complex.

Rotarians participated in "Wreaths Across America" placing beautiful wreaths on the headstones of veterans at our local cemeteries. We also worked with the Salvation Army ringing the bell and collecting donations for their annual fundraiser.

Photo: Saco Bay Rotary via Saco Maine Facebook page

Another successful food distribution. Over 1,000 boxes from Saco Middle School alongside my fellow [Rotary Club of Saco Bay - #26791](#) Rotarians, [Age Friendly Saco](#), and Rep. Bailey. Community togetherness at its best.





South Portland- Cape Elizabeth

Hybrid Christmas Tree Sale A Great Success !

The South Portland Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club just held its 59th Annual Tree and Wreath Sale with a new online ordering and curbside pickup option, in an effort to reduce crowds on the lot and abide by COVID guidelines. Trees and wreaths could be reserved and paid for as soon as mid-October. All products were available (online or on lot) until stock ran out; which was an unprecedented two weeks into the sale! 1,900 trees and 480 wreaths were sold.

The e-commerce site idea came from President-Elect David Bagdasarian and developed technologically by his son Brian Bagdasarian. Together they created rotarychristmastrees.com. The sale is a major fundraising event that permits us to support local initiatives in our community throughout the year, such as food banks, scholarships, human welfare projects and more. The sale also provides us the opportunity to spread good cheer throughout the area, not to mention high quality Maine grown trees.



Wells

The Rotary Club of Wells recently provided masks to Police and Fire Department personnel within the Town of Wells. Wells Rotary successfully held a “COVID-19 modified” Golf tournament in September with all proceeds going to provide scholarships to graduating seniors at Wells/Ogunquit High School and along with much needed support for the Wells Food Bank.

<https://www.facebook.com/WellsRotary/>





District Teams

Club President Roundtables





Assistant Governors





If your club wasn't represented here...

- ...it's because we had to put this newsletter together on a tight deadline. Sorry about that!
- Please ask your club president or club public information coordinator to email club news to:
- rotarynews7780@gmail.com
- Photos and stories courtesy of the respective clubs and their websites, members and Facebook postings.



We close with a Rotary Foundation Minute

- *Yearend message and reflections from K.R. Ravindran, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, 2020-21*
- On a foggy Christmas Eve in Victorian London, the old miser sits at his desk. Bitter and disillusioned with the world, Ebenezer Scrooge has only one interest: his bottom line. He declines his nephew's invitation to Christmas dinner, refuses to support the poor and deprived, and reluctantly grants his underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit, time off for Christmas Day. After he arrives home, strange things begin to happen. Jacob Marley, his deceased business partner, appears as a ghost tethered to a chain, telling Scrooge to change his self-centered ways, lest he meet the same fate.
- That is the premise of *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' classic tale of a man's transformation from hardened recluse to generous humanitarian. To me, it offers valuable lessons for all, regardless of belief or time of year. In one of my favorite passages, a spirit magically transports Scrooge to the Cratchit household. There, he sees his clerk from a new vantage point, observing a humble but heartfelt holiday gathering. Scrooge then understands that gifts like friendship, family, and gratitude can't be recorded into any ledger. By the end of the story, Scrooge has learned the most important lesson of all: that as long as we are still alive, it's not too late to devote ourselves to serving humankind.
- The year-end holidays are upon us. It is a time of giving and sharing, but it is not limited to our loved ones. It is also for the people we have never met and will never see, for those who are not so fortunate as we and could use a helping hand. The miracle of giving that Scrooge discovered on Christmas Eve is exactly what The Rotary Foundation does 365 days a year...
- (...continued on next page)



We close with a Rotary Foundation Minute

- *Yearend message and reflections from K.R. Ravindran, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, 2020-21, continued*
- Our Foundation serves simultaneously as charity and performer in the field; Rotarians are on the ground, volunteering their skills and business expertise in support of grants that are funded by you. In this way, we carry out some of Rotary's most important work, such as protecting mothers and their babies and helping communities recover from the shocks of COVID-19.
- Please remember The Rotary Foundation during this season of generosity. Remember that your gifts to the Foundation amplify our work in all areas of focus. They are perpetuated, not just today but long after we are gone. And the Foundation will continue to work its miracles in service to others tomorrow as long as we keep supporting it today. On behalf of The Rotary Foundation Trustees, I thank you for sending your generous contributions throughout the year.
- During the holiday season thank you for giving the gift of hope to our neighbors as members of our Rotary Club continue to open doors, the doors of giving to those whose NEEDS are not being met – who truly cannot manage without going to a food pantry, having a hot meal delivered to their home or to those whose children won't even get a gift without someone making a special effort to purchase one for the giving tree.
- The Mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.
- <https://www.rotary.org/en/donate>

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

C.2021 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7780

