

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR MAY, 2021

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From Our District Governor

Celebrating April ... and Looking Forward to August

By Kirk Driskell

For many, April is just another month. That said, it has some special significance for District 6900 Rotarians and for me. I'd like to take a minute to revisit that. This April:

 - We didn't have a District Conference ... but for this year only, August is the new April! We are all set for a year-end celebration in SanDestin from August 12-15, 2021 and hope you and your family can join us for fun at the beach!
 - I took time to remember where I was in April 1995 and how grateful for where I am today. Many of you have heard my story and know that I am in long term recovery. I could not be where I am today if it was not for the willingness of others to help.
 - We were honored to celebrate the charter ceremony for our newest D6900 Rotary Club - the Restoration Rotary Club - a cause-based club focusing not only on addiction and mental health needs, but the causes of these epidemics too.

Read a bit more about why all of this has significance - and how you can join us in SanDestin. Thanks for all you do! [\[more\]](#)
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From Our District Governor Elect

Get Onboard the Peace Train ... Sign Up for May 11-13 YPA Informational Sessions

By Mary Ligon

The "Youth and Peace in Action (YPA)" Peace Train is moving and you want to get your club, schools, and student organization on board! "Ticket" info can be found at www.youthpeaceaction.org. You'll also get great info here for your club members, school officials and student club advisors.

We have added more information sessions specific to our district. Connect today with your contacts in schools to let them know of these special info sessions. They can get questions answered and be ready to apply.

 - Tues, May 11, 5pm - 6pm ET - [Click here to register](#)
 - Wed, May 12, 7pm - 8pm - [Click here to register](#)
 - Thurs, May 13, 4pm - 5pm - [Click here to register](#)

Youth and Peace In Action is the largest local peace initiative in Rotary International history and you do not want to miss this train! [\[more\]](#)
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The Rotary Foundation

May 15 Deadline for District Grant Applications Fast Approaching

By Gillian Leggett

First, a huge THANK YOU to all Rotarians that joined the two Zoom meetings on District Grants at the District Training Virtual Assembly. It was wonderful to see so many Rotarians learning about District Grants at the same time.

Based on those sessions, I wanted to send a reminder that the May 15, 2021 deadline for the 2021-2022 Rotary ... [\[more\]](#)
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The Rotary Foundation

Attention: District 6900 Global Grants Meeting

By Anne Glenn

The District 6900 Foundation Team will conduct a one-hour Zoom session on Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00 pm for all District 6900 Clubs who are planning, or even considering applying for a Rotary Foundation Global Grant (GG) in during Year 2021-2022. It is **mandatory** that one person from each club that plans to apply next year, or any club who has submitted a GG application this year that has not yet been approved, attend this meeting. Your club can only be qualified to apply for Global Grants if someone attends. [\[more\]](#)
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RI Convention 2021

Rotary Opens Opportunities - Register Now for 2021 Virtual Convention

By Mary Ligon

Registration continues for the 2021 Virtual Convention. Rotary Opens Opportunities which will take place from 12 through 16 June 2021. ! Don't miss your chance to connect with Rotary members from around the world.

Unless you registered before May 7, the registration fee is \$65.

You can also join us early at a preconvention ... [\[more\]](#)
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Rotary Leadership Institute

Learn More About Rotary ... Online or in Person

By Stephanie Windham

The RLI Philosophy states "Having leadership skills does not alone assure good Rotary leadership. An effective Rotary leader must ALSO have Rotary knowledge, perspective about where Rotary has been, where it is now going, and a vision of what Rotary can be." The program is open to all Rotarians.

Did you know that the Rotary Leadership Institute transitioned to an online curriculum in 2020? Are you ready to get back to in-person sessions to learn about Rotary and exchange ideas? Read on to learn more about our online programs and the first live RLI event since January 2020 - scheduled for June 12 in Peachtree City. [\[more\]](#)
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GRSP 75th Anniversary

Planning Underway for GRSP 75th Anniversary Celebration

By Mike Bixler

Planning for the 75th anniversary of the Georgia Rotary Student Program Conclave (GRSP) and the dedication of the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Fountain began in **Thomasville** recently when the 75TH Anniversary Committee began to lay plans for the three-day student conclave this coming August 20-22. There will also be a GRSP Golf Tournament on Thursday, August 19. [\[more\]](#)
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GRSP Update

Calling All Former Host Families, Trustees

By Ian Bond

Have you ever served as a host family, trustee or friend of Georgia Rotary Student Program? Do you maintain contact with any GRSP alumni? If so, we need your help. We are trying to build out our GRSP alumni data base and would like to get any information you can share.

Many students have relocated and even changed names since spending their pivotal year in Georgia. Some students participated more than 20 years ago and continue to contact their host family or a GRSP Trustee who impacted their stay. Thank you for your help as we would like to stay in touch with GRSP Alumni, and share our GRSP newsletters, events, and opportunities. We especially want to be sure that they know about our 75th anniversary celebration this August in Thomasville. [\[more\]](#)
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Rotary Youth Exchange

Recruiting for 2022-23 Students Begins Soon

By Mike Parks

The Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship program provides the opportunity for Georgia high school students to spend a school year overseas, attending a local high school and living with carefully selected host families while learning a new culture and language, and living Rotary values every day. The program is open to all young people in District 6900 who are 14-17 years old at the time of their application. Children and grandchildren of Rotarians are welcome to apply for the scholarships as well. We will begin promoting the program at Georgia high schools and via social media later this spring - our promotions encourage young people to contact their local Rotary club for more information on the scholarship. Rotarians can learn more about the program on our District website at Rotary6900.org/RYE. [\[more\]](#)
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Club News

Join Roswell Remembers Memorial Day on YouTube

By Trummie Patrick

For 22 consecutive years, thousands of people from Roswell and around the State have joined the **Rotary Club of Roswell** and the City of Roswell to honor the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our Country. Each year, the event is held on the green at Roswell City Hall near the Vietnam Memorial.

As in 2020, the City of Roswell has cancelled the 2021 Memorial Day Ceremony. To continue the remembrance, Roswell Rotary has produced a video utilizing "best of the best" past Ceremony moments that will be live streamed on YouTube on Memorial Day, May 31st at 11:00 AM. You may join us on YouTube by clicking this link: [2021 Roswell Remembers Memorial Day - YouTube](#) [\[more\]](#)
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Serving During the Pandemic

Americus Rotarians Serve at Vaccination Site

By Angela Smith

Just a call for help was all the **Americus Rotary Club** had to hear before alerting members of a new community need. This time, it was to volunteer at the local vaccination center which was moved from Phoebe Sumter Medical Center to the site of the National Guard Armory, a facility better suited to handle the growing population of residents seeking the COVID-19 vaccine. As the vaccination rollouts continued to expand, so did the demand for the vaccine, which placed a strain on the site which leaned heavily on volunteers to assist. Past President Reda Rowell was one of the first Rotarians on site to help with greeting and directing individuals arriving at the facility and helping get them registered. [\[more\]](#)
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Club News

Lake Spivey/Clayton County Delivers Meals with a Serving of Gratitude

By Ron Swofford

On Sunday, April 11, Rotarians from the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** had the honor of partnering with the Feed the Heroes Foundation and the Jonesboro American Legion Post 258 to feed 628 Clayton County first responders. Along with those meals, we provided much deserved gratitude for the service of the Clayton County Police Department, Clayton County Fire Department, Clayton County Sheriff's Office, the city of Jonesboro Police Department, the Lake City Police Department, the city of Forest Park Police and Fire Departments and 911 center, the city of Morrow Police and Fire Departments, the City of Lovejoy Police Department, the city of Riverdale Police and Fire Departments and the Clayton County 911 center. *The photo shows Rotarian Dr. Tonya Smalls delivering sacks of prepared meals to the Riverdale Fire Station and to the Clayton County Fire Department.* [\[more\]](#)
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Club News

Moultrie Hosts First Annual "Salute to Service"

By Jaclyn Donovan

The Rotary Club of Moultrie held its First Annual "Salute to Service" honoring local high school seniors who have chosen to enter military service after graduation, as the club felt that such an incredible example of "Service Above Self" deserved to be honored.

Working with the staff at Colquitt County High School and local recruiters, it was determined that 16 students have committed to military careers after high school. Six of Moultrie's veterans provided words of encouragement and PDG Raymond Ray helped President Jaclyn Donovan hand out specially designed challenge coins. [\[more\]](#)
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Club News

Americus and GSW Students Pack 10,000 Meals

By Angela Smith

Over 100 volunteers came out on a beautiful South Georgia day to ensure that the Spring into Action and Rise Against Hunger event was a success. The event was coordinated and funded by the Rotary Club of Americus as a joint service project with the Student Engagement Team of Georgia Southwestern State University and was held in the GSW Student Success Center.

Volunteers from ages 18 to 85 packed 10,152 meals in just two hours! GSW student athletes, who rank third in the nation in community service hours, helped with set-up and break down of the assembly site on campus. [\[more\]](#)
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Club News

Alpharetta Honors Hometown Heroes

By Clark Savage

The **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** honored three of the City's top public safety officers last month with the Rotary Hometown Hero Award on Friday, April 16. The awards were based on service above and beyond the call of duty and exceptional bravery. Ms. Robin Barton was awarded the Rotary 911 Dispatcher of the Year. Officer Michael Esposito was awarded Rotary Police Officer of the Year. Officer Esposito was previously awarded the Police Medal of Valor. Lieutenant Matthew Bozer was awarded the Rotary Firefighter of the Year. All three were already employees of the year from each department. [\[more\]](#)
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Club News

Moultrie Feeds Local Community

By Jaclyn Donovan

The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** participated in the USDA "Farmers to Families" program to provide meals to Moultrie citizens. Partnering with the United Way and Trinity Baptist Church, a food box distribution event was planned for April 10.

As the day arrived, so did the threat of severe thunderstorms in the area. Thankfully, the ... [\[more\]](#)

Upcoming Key Dates

Saturday, May 15th, 2021

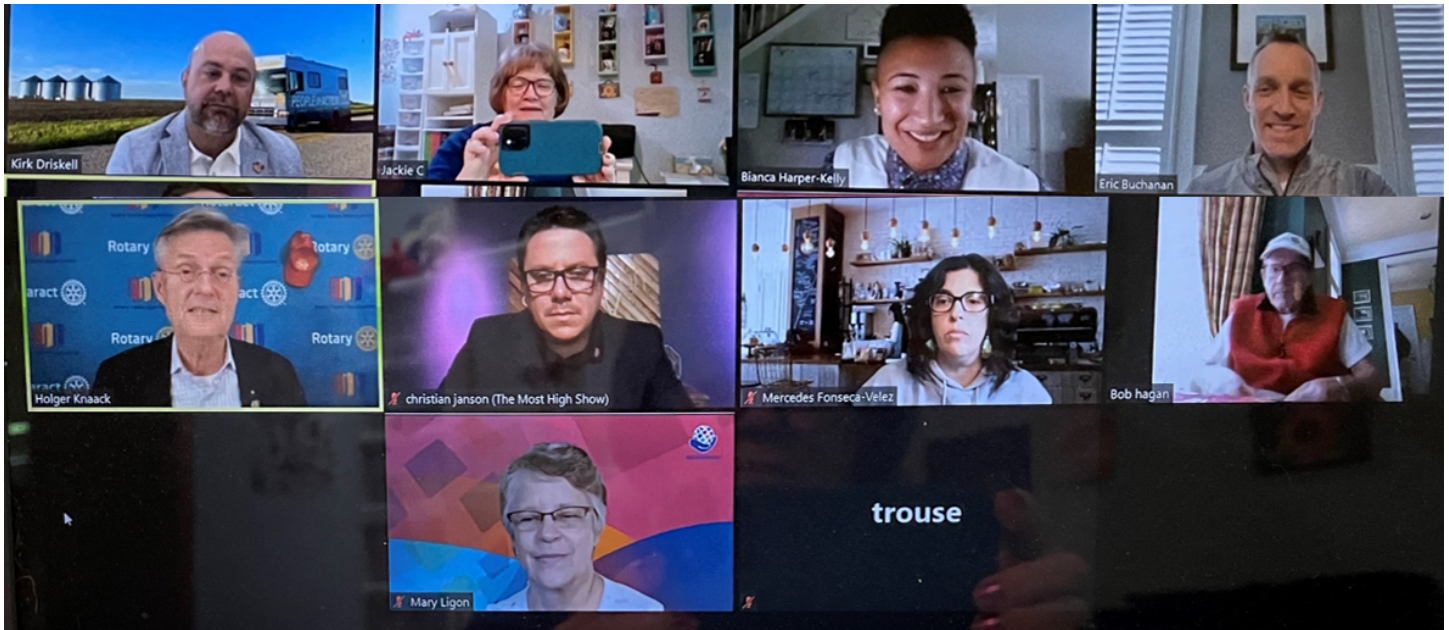
Saturday, May 15th, 2021

District Grant Request Due

Americus Sheffield Gala & Silent Auction

From Our District Governor

Celebrating April ... and Looking Forward to August



For many, April is just another month. That said, it has some special significance for District 6900 Rotarians and for me. I'd like to take a minute to revisit why.

District Celebration: April normally means District Conference, but thanks to COVID-19, we were unable to gather - missing the fun, fellowship and celebration that are such a great part of our Rotary District 6900 experience - and the beautiful beaches of SanDestin. **But wait - for this year only August is the new April!** The exciting news is that we are all set for a year-end celebration in SanDestin from August 12-15, 2021. I hope you and your family will join us for this great family-friendly beach celebration!

- We will have the hospitality suites open Thursday, Friday and Saturday night.
- There will be a dinner and awards celebration on Saturday night that currently is open for 250 people. The Saturday dinner did sell out in just a couple of days, but we are looking to SanDestin to help create more potential seating. We are also looking at creative ways to stream the awards portion live for all to enjoy. And, we will be sending out an email with more information about joining the waiting list for the celebration.

If you want to go to the beach and have fun you can still reserve a room and join in all the fun. [Visit our website for more details!](#)

On a Personal Note: For me April 24 is a reminder of where I was and how grateful I am. Many of you have heard my story and know that I am in long term recovery. April 24, 1995 was the last time that I had a drink of any alcohol, and I could not be where I am today if it was not for the willingness of others to help. We never know what someone is struggling with or if they need help if we do not make ourselves available. I am grateful for all those that have taken the opportunity to help me and others in their time of greatest need.

New Rotary Club: One of my most exciting events of this Rotary year was helping launch the **Restoration Rotary Club**. Restoration Rotary is a cause-based virtual club that aims to address not only

addiction and mental health needs but the causes of these epidemics facing humanity. Many of the issues that contribute to and create substance abuse disorders and mental health issues also remove peace from a community and society at large. Crime, theft, violence, domestic abuse all play their part in creating environments that likely lead to addiction and lack of positive peace in a community.

On April 17, Rotary International President Holger Knaack joined Restoration Rotary members and others from the District to celebrate the chartering of this e-club - the first cause-based club of its kind in the world. Members come from Texas, Georgia, Florida and Pennsylvania. Please visit **[their web site](#)** and check out the short video there and let me know what you think.

I am grateful for the opportunities that Rotary has provided. Have a great day, be attuned to your opportunities to help someone, and try to join us in SanDestin this August. Thanks for all you do!

Posted by Kirk Driskell
May 10, 2021

From Our District Governor Elect

Get Onboard the Peace Train ... Sign Up for May 11-13 YPA Informational Sessions



The "Youth and Peace in Action (YPA)" Peace Train is moving and you want to get your club, schools, and student organization on board! "Ticket" info can be found at **www.youthpeaceaction.org**. You'll also get great info here for your club members, school officials and student club advisors.

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May 10, 2021

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First, a huge THANK YOU to all Rotarians that joined the two Zoom meetings on District Grants at the District Training Virtual Assembly. It was wonderful to see so many Rotarians learning about District Grants at the same time.

Based on those sessions, I wanted to send a reminder that the May 15, 2021 deadline for the 2021-2022 Rotary year District Grants is fast approaching. This deadline pertains to both the standard and competitive grant requests. Standard grants are available for up to \$1,750 per club (plus \$750 extra for those nine clubs qualifying for the bonus*).

We have three competitive grants available (two at \$10,000 and one at \$5,000). Each club may request only one standard grant and one competitive grant. Your grant request(s) for the 2021-2022 Rotary year must be accepted by the District no later than May 15. Please have your clubs designated grant representative submit your request prior to May 15th if possible so the grant(s) request can be reviewed by the District. That will give you time to make any suggested or required changes prior to the deadline.

Be sure to review the resources section on the [Districts Grants page](#) on our website prior to submitting your grant request(s). By reviewing the [DTA PowerPoint copy on the resources page](#) you will have a

step-by-step guide on how to navigate the District Grants section of the website and how to apply for your grant(s). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I am more than happy to help your club request the funds necessary to change lives in your community.

Yours In Rotary Service,

Gillian Leggett

2021-2022 District Grants Chair

gkleggett@att.net

404.202.2409 (mobile)

**Nine clubs eligible for additional \$750 funding (based on 2018-2019 Foundation giving criteria): Alpharetta, Buckhead, Dunwoody, East Cobb, Muscogee, North Fulton, Peachtree City, Roswell, Thomasville*

Posted by Gillian Leggett
May 10, 2021

The Rotary Foundation

Attention: District 6900 Global Grants Meeting

Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00 pm

The
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It is **mandatory** that one person from each club that plans to apply next year, or any club who has submitted a GG application this year that has not yet been approved, attend this meeting. Your club can only be qualified to apply for Global Grants if someone attends.

The Rotary Foundation has changed the Financing formula for all Global Grants beginning July 1, 2021. Due to these significant changes, even submitted Global Grants pending approval by TRF on July 1, 2021 will need to revise their budget and financials.

We will discuss these changes and their impact on District 6900 and your club's investment in the work around the world during the meeting.

Please e-mail me **adillardglenn@gmail** to tell us who will attend from your club. Also let us know what projects you are planning and the estimated budget. We hope the meeting will be recorded and posted on D6900's website so you will be able to share the information with your members. You can also email me if you have questions

Anne Glenn

District 6900 Grants Committee Chair 2015-2021

Global Grants Chair

Posted by Anne Glenn
May 4, 2021

Rotary Leadership Institute

Learn More About Rotary ... Online or in Person



The RLI Philosophy states "Having leadership skills does not alone assure good Rotary leadership. An effective Rotary leader must ALSO have Rotary knowledge, perspective about where Rotary has been, where it is now going, and a vision of what Rotary can be." The program is open to all Rotarians.

Rotary Leadership Institute transitioned to an online curriculum in 2020 because the Sunshine Division wanted Rotarians to have the opportunity to take advantage of the valuable resource that is RLI even though we could not host our usual in-person events. We have been excited to see many Rotarians participating in RLI that likely would not have attended a live event.

To access the course schedule, and to register, head over to rlitraining.org and follow these steps:

1. Click on Course Information, then Registration. This will take you the "Ready to Register?" Screen.

2. Scroll down and click on DACDB LOGIN
3. This will take you to DACdb.com
4. Sign in with your User Name and Password. (If you've never used DACdb before your user name is likely the email address associated with RI and your password is likely your RI member number).
5. After logging in click "District" on the ribbon at the top.
6. Click on the RLI button
7. In the My Club Shortcuts on the left side of the screen click on calendar (it's the last icon under My Club Shortcuts.
8. At the top of the page, be sure RLI Training Event is checked, and you will be able to see the calendar for RLI events.
9. Choose your event and click "Register Now"
10. From there you can input your information and pay.

Sunshine Division online RLI courses offer:

- Live presentations with our outstanding discussion leaders
- An interactive program, discussion-based training, with Rotarians from all over Georgia, Florida and the Caribbean
- The same great content in a convenient online format
- Each Part broken into sessions of one to two hours
- Sessions offered on a variety of days and times making it easier to attend
- The ability to register and pay for each session individually - at a cost of \$15 per individual session
- Materials and login information are provided with paid registration

All sessions of RLI Parts 1, 2 and 3 are available online. We've even had a group of RLI graduates who attended all their sessions virtually! You do not have to take the sessions or parts in any particular order, so you can pick and choose the sessions that interest you most from any part!

While RLI online is fun and convenient, it will never replace our in person events. We are happy to invite you to the first LIVE EVENT in District 6900 since January of 2020. This will be the Graduate Membership course only, to be held in Peachtree City on June 12, 2021 at the Midwest Food Bank, 200 Parkade Court, Peachtree City, Georgia 30269. We are going to start a little later than usual to allow folks to attend without having to drive in a day early for the event. We will be offering a continental breakfast as well as lunch for attendees. If you have completed Parts 1, 2 and 3, rather online or in person, we would love to see you at this graduate course in June. The Rotary Club of Peachtree City is also offering attendees the ability to participate in a service project at the Midwest Food Bank after the event.

Whether online or in person, we hope to see you soon!

Posted by Stephanie Windham
May 4, 2021

GRSP 75th Anniversary

Planning Underway for GRSP 75th Anniversary Celebration



Planning for the 75th anniversary of the Georgia Rotary Student Program Conclave (GRSP) and the dedication of the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Fountain began in Thomasville recently when the 75TH Anniversary Committee began to lay plans for the three-day student conclave this coming August 20-22. There will also be a GRSP Golf Tournament on Thursday, August 19.

Will Watt, Sr. started GRSP as a member of the **Thomasville Rotary Club** at the conclusion of World War II. He founded GRSP to promote worldwide peace. Some 75 years later, 3,692 students have traveled to Georgia from 108 countries around the world to study in Georgia universities and colleges as a result of GRSP. During the 75th Anniversary event over 300 Rotarians and their guests will be in Thomasville to attend the event and honor the memory of Will Watt. We will also be dedicating a fountain and plaza celebrating GRSP.

Pictured here are Mike Sweigart (GRSP Vice-Chair), Katheryne Fields (GRSP Director of Marketing & Development), Scott Rich (GRSP Trustee) Lorri Christopher (GRSP Secretary), and Bert Guy (GRSP Chair).

Posted by Michael Bixler
May 10, 2021

GRSP Update

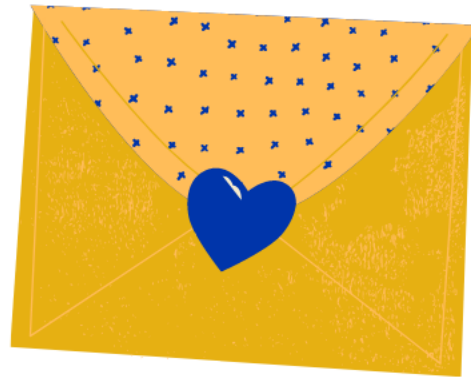
Calling All Former Host Families, Trustees



Contact Us

ALUMNI - HOST FAMILY INFORMATION NEEDED

Please help us update
valuable information you
may have on our former
GRSP students:



Alumni Name (Maiden/Married Name, if known)
GRSP Class Year/Home Country
Host Family/Host Club
Current Country of Residence
Email and/or Phone Number
Social Media Platform and Name on Social Media

Please email ANY information to grsp@grsp.org
with Alumni Info in subject line. Thank you!

Have you ever served as a host family, trustee or friend of Georgia Rotary Student Program? Do you maintain contact with any GRSP alumni? If so, we need your help.

We are trying to build out our GRSP alumni data base and would like to get any information you can share, including:

- Alumni name, married name if applicable
- GRSP Class Year
- Home Country

- Host Family/Host Club
- Current Country of Residence
- Email
- Phone Number
- Social Media Platform and Name (Example: Facebook/Katheryne Atkins Fields)

Many students have relocated and even changed names since spending their pivotal year in Georgia. Some students participated more than 20 years ago and continue to contact their host family or a GRSP Trustee who impacted their stay.

Thank you for your help as we would like to stay in touch with GRSP Alumni, and share our GRSP newsletters, events, and opportunities. We especially want to be sure that they know about our 75th anniversary celebration this August in Thomasville.

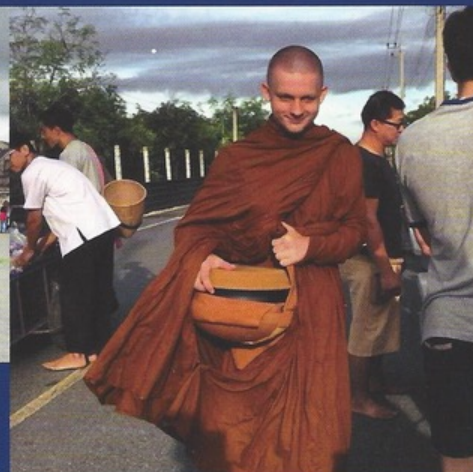
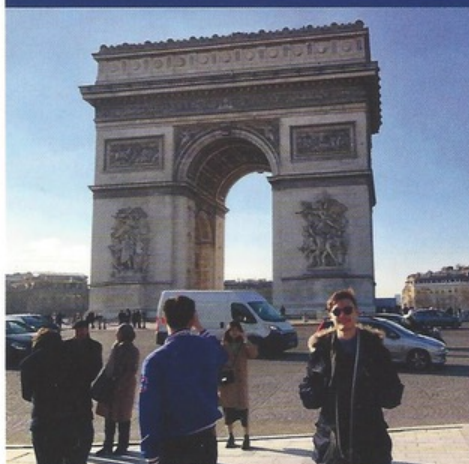
Posted by Ian Bond
May 10, 2021

Rotary Youth Exchange

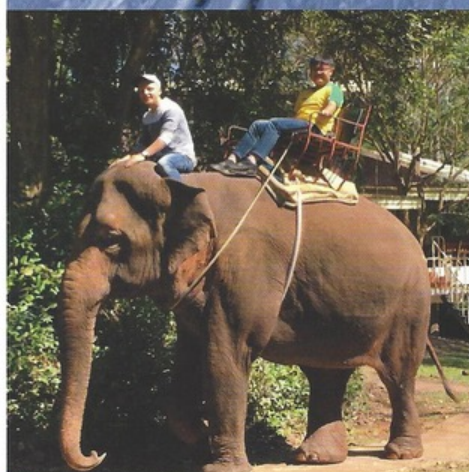
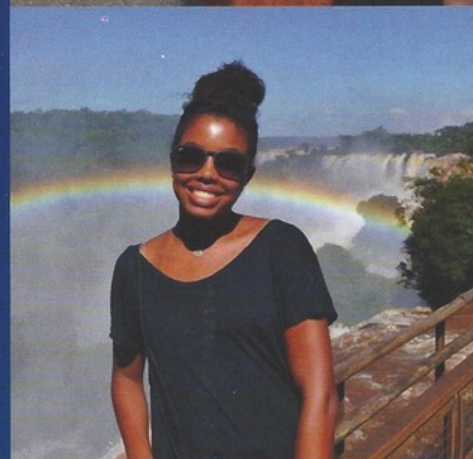
Recruiting for 2022-23 Students Begins Soon

HIGH SCHOOL STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Have you ever dreamed of...



- ✈ A life-changing experience
- ✈ Traveling internationally
- ✈ Living in a new country
- ✈ Being fluent in another language
- ✈ Having friends from around the world



See website to attend an information meeting.

Applications for the 2022 – 2023 academic year available August 1, 2021



<http://www.ryeflorida.org/district-6900>
mbparks@ryeflorida.org 404-219-0339



The Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship program provides the opportunity for Georgia high school students to spend a school year overseas, attending a local high school and living with carefully selected host families while learning a new culture and language, and living Rotary values every day. The program is open to all young people in District 6900 who are 14-17 years old at the time of their application. Children and grandchildren of Rotarians are welcome to apply for the scholarships as well. We will begin promoting the program at Georgia high schools and via social media later this spring – our promotions encourage young people to contact their local Rotary club for more information on the scholarship. Rotarians can learn more about the program on our District website at Rotary6900.org/RYE.

Posted by Mike Parks
May 4, 2021

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Our guest speaker is Captain Donna Rowe, retired Army. Captain Rowe served as the Head ER/Triage nurse in Saigon, Vietnam - 1968-69. She took on the task of saving a barely alive Vietnamese baby girl from her dead mother’s arms.

Her story is featured in “The Kathleen Story” a permanent segment at the American History Museum. Donna and baby “Kathleen” are also featured in the documentary “The Shadow of the Blade”. In 2016 Captain Donna Rowe was honored as the first female inducted into the Georgia Military Veteran’s Hall of Fame. Roswell Rotary is dedicated to producing an annual event at the Memorial site incorporating the Holiday, Families and Community into one “great day of Remembrance.”

Posted by Trummie Patrick
May 10, 2021

Serving During the Pandemic

Americus Rotarians Serve at Vaccination Site



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Past President Reda Rowell was one of the first Rotarians on site to help with greeting and directing individuals arriving at the facility and helping get them registered. Having experienced where the need was, she was quick to not only promote the vaccine each week at the Rotary meetings, but announced where the most need for volunteers existed. It wasn't long before others joined her, including Laura Bauer, a member inducted in July of 2020, and Jeni Stepanek, one of the newest Rotary members (inducted just recently on March 9). The Rotary Club of Americus is grateful for our members and their responses to the needs that arise in our community!

Posted by Angela Smith
May 10, 2021

Lake Spivey/Clayton County Delivers Meals with a Serving of Gratitude



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Working with the staff at Colquitt County High School and local recruiters, it was determined that 16 students have committed to military careers after high school. Moultrie has several veterans in membership, and six of them - Warren Taylor, Wayne Cooper, Doug Howell, Terry Turner, Chas Cannon, and Mike Wyche - shared words of wisdom and encouragement with the students. PDG Raymond Ray helped president Jaclyn Donovan present each student with a Moultrie Rotary challenge coin that was specially struck for the occasion. Southern Regional Technical College played host to the event in its conference center and lunch was catered in for the group. The event was so well received by everyone involved that the 2nd Annual "Salute to Service" is already in the works.

Students recognized included:

- Adam Taylor - Marines
- Martin Juan - Army
- Jordyn Edwards - Marines
- Fabian Barajas - Marines
- Morgan Exum - Army
- Anna Gonzales - Marines
- Noah McLaughin - Marines
- Brionnah Martin - National Guard
- Adrian Hernandez - Marines
- Erik Duran - Marines

- Lukas Dillard - Marines
- Noah Fortson - Marines
- Taylor Azar - Marines
- Troy Berry - Marines
- Richard Denham - Marines
- Chase Merriman - Marines

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
May 10, 2021

Club News

Americus and GSW Students Pack 10,000 Meals



Over 100 volunteers came out on a beautiful South Georgia day to ensure that the Spring Into Action and Rise Against Hunger event was a success. The event was coordinated and funded by the **Rotary Club of Americus** as a joint service project with the Student Engagement Team of Georgia Southwestern State University and was held in the GSW Student Success Center.

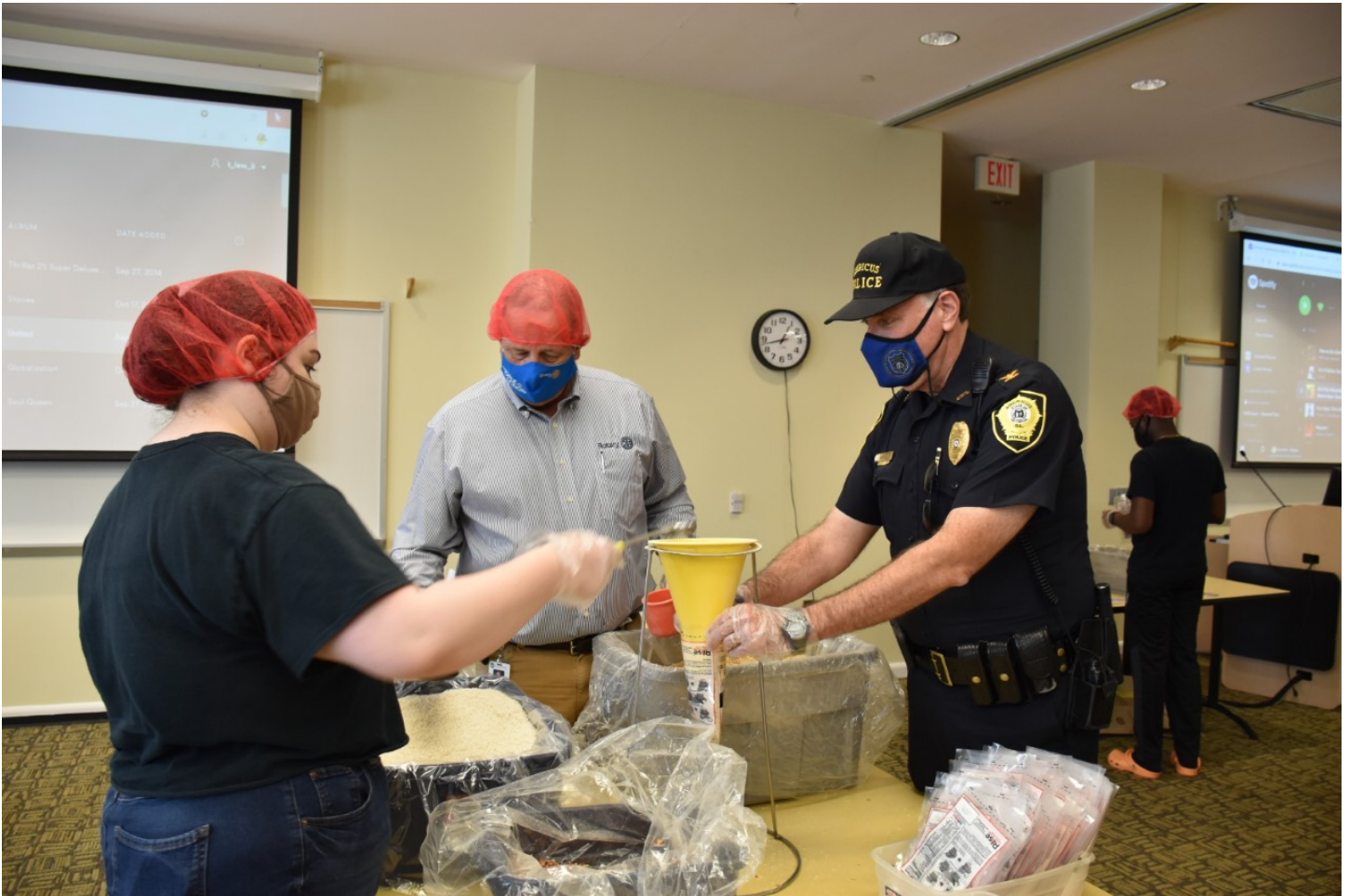
Volunteers from ages 18 to 85 packed 10,152 meals in just two hours! GSW student athletes, who rank third in the nation in community service hours, helped with set-up and break down of the assembly site on campus.

The venue had to be set up a bit differently to allow for social distancing, but that didn't stop students and Rotarians from quickly assembling the nearly 1,700 food bags (each serving 6 people) which contained soy, dehydrated vegetables, rice, and a vitamin packet. The students had so much fun during their first Rise Against Hunger event that they have asked if it could become an annual event on campus.

Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. Rise Against Hunger meal packaging volunteers produce millions of nutritious meals annually that are then distributed to partners in countries around the world. Those partners are best able to address the causes and effects of hunger based on their local presence and expertise. The organization ensures the meals distributed by those partners are used as a tool to change lives by promoting education, improving students' health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor. Americus Rotarians want to thank the Rise Against Hunger staff (Laura, Terry, and Mandy) who helped bring this meal packaging event to Americus, GSW Student Activities Coordinator Yaqueline Torres, GSW Assistant Director of Athletics for Community Engagement (and Head Softball Coach) Nicki Levering, and all the amazing volunteers (Rotarians and

students) who helped make this event a victory for those in need throughout the world!

PHOTOS:



Posted by Angela Smith
May 10, 2021

Club News

Alpharetta Honors Hometown Heroes



The **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** honored three of the City's top public safety officers last month with the Rotary Hometown Hero Award on Friday, April 16. The awards were based on service above and beyond the call of duty and exceptional bravery.

Ms. Robin Barton was awarded the Rotary 911 Dispatcher of the Year. Officer Michael Esposito was awarded Rotary Police Officer of the Year. Officer Esposito was previously awarded the Police Medal of Valor. Lieutenant Matthew Bozer was awarded the Rotary Firefighter of the Year. All three were already employees of the year from each department.

To say that Alpharetta's Public Safety Department is exceptional is not an exaggeration. The Alpharetta 911 Communications Center is one of only six emergency contact centers in the world to earn Tri-ACE Certification issued by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch, the highest distinction in emergency connection services. The Alpharetta Fire Department is one of 393 out of 40,000 fire departments nationwide to have a Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating of 1. The highest rating possible.

In the words of Chief John Robison, "we are not only there to protect and serve but to enhance the quality of life in Alpharetta. Our police, fire, and 911 departments operate from three core values. 1)Courageous Spirit - Risks of the job are real. We persevere in the face of adversity. 2)Selfless Service - Put the welfare of the public above your own and add value to others. 3)Excellence with integrity - Do what is right and do it well."

Posted by Clark Savage
May 10, 2021

Moultrie Feeds Local Community



The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** participated in the USDA “Farmers to Families” program to provide meals to Moultrie citizens. Partnering with the United Way and Trinity Baptist Church, a food box distribution event was planned for April 10.

As the day arrived, so did the threat of severe thunderstorms in the area. Thankfully, the delivery truck was early and the volunteers plentiful. At the final count there were over 50 volunteers from Rotary, United Way, Trinity Baptist Church, Moultrie Fire Department, Moultrie Police Department, Publix, Southern Powder Coating, American Red Cross, and the UGA Archway Partnership all working together to move boxes and make it happen.

Every single one of the 1,100 food boxes (30 pounds each) were given away, loaded into 312 different vehicles. The pallets were emptied in just over three hours and the last box drove away right before the rain started – so the people and the timing were both perfect for a great event. The food boxes provided over 20,000 meals to the Moultrie community. There are plans to bring at least one more truck to Moultrie before the program closes out, and with the great community partnerships being established it is sure to be another success.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
May 10, 2021
