



The Okra Brothers Right Back Where We Started

By Gordon Owens
During my official visits to the Columbus area, I was impressed by how the local clubs are working together to serve those in need. Food insecurity, proper medical care and working to reduce violence are just a few challenges Rotarians are tackling in their neighborhood. AG Cedric Hill and I were nicknamed the *Okra Brothers* because we saved a couple cases of okra from the compost pile at the Merci Med garden, but that's only half the story. While it may have been a bit past its prime size to sell, we were convinced it could be put to good use. Cedric made a call to a friend at another non-profit at a local school that teaches students how to grow their own food and how to build a business selling that produce. The director of that program said, "I was just asked if I had okra to use to teach families how to prepare fresh, seasonal produce." After dropping the okra off on the other side of town, it turns out, it will be used for a cooking demonstration in a neighborhood just a couple blocks from where it was harvested. As simple as a couple case of okra may seem to us, by these clubs working together to leverage every available resource, those in need in Columbus are experiencing the *Magic of Rotary*.
[more]

LEADERBOARD

Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	North Atlanta Professional Alliance	Emory-Druid Hills	Brookhaven
II	North Columbus	Jackson-Butts County	Atlanta West End
III	North Fulton	Vinings Cumberland	Dougherty County (Albany)
IV	Dunwoody	Dunwoody	Carrollton
V	Peachtree City	Alpharetta	Roswell

Key Dates

Tuesday, July 28th, 2026	Jackson-Butts County Governor Visit
Thursday, July 30th, 2026	North Cobb County Governor Visit
Monday, August 3rd, 2026	Marietta-Metro Governor Visit
Tuesday, August 4th, 2026	North Columbus Governor Visit
Wednesday, August 5th, 2026	Columbus Governor Visit
Thursday, August 6th, 2026	Muscogee-Columbus Governor Visit
Tuesday, August 11th, 2026	Smyrna Governor Visit
Wednesday, August 12th, 2026	Harris County Governor Visit



District Governor Nominee Designate
Congratulations to Buck Buchanan
By Gordon Owens
It's official, Buck Buchanan from the Rotary Club of Marietta Metro is our District Governor Nominee Designate. Buck will serve our district as governor during the 2027-2028 Rotary year. The governor team and several past district governors were on hand to make the announcement to the Marietta Metro club. We look forward to working with Buck as he prepares to lead our district. Please join me in congratulating **Buck Buchanan** on this great honor.
[more]

Wednesday, August 12th, 2026	La Grange Governor Visit
Thursday, August 13th, 2026	West Point Governor Visit
Tuesday, August 18th, 2026	Polk County Governor Visit
Wednesday, August 19th, 2026	East Cobb Governor Visit
Wednesday, August 19th, 2026	Vinings Cumberland Governor Visit
Friday, August 21st, 2026	Decatur Governor Visit



SAVE the DATE

Georgia
Rotary
Districts

**Week of
Service**

January 6 - 11, 2025

Join us the week of Jan. 6-11 for a collaborative Family of Rotary volunteer week to support recovery work in Western Carolina and in the Augusta area. Find the day that works for you!

Small things bring big changes.

#gautd

Rotary  PEOPLE of ACTION

January 6-11,
2025

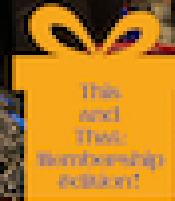
Join Us For A Week Of Service

By Chris Brand
Teams of volunteers from all three Rotary Districts in Georgia will be headed to the Augusta area or up to Western North Carolina to assist with disaster recovery the week of January 6 through January 11. We will clearing debris from yards or removing storm damaged contents from houses. There is plenty of work for all skill levels. Feel free to come for a day or stay for the whole week. **Fill out this quick form** to let us know when and where you can help. We will be in touch with more details about accommodations and travel to each area as we fill out the teams. Thank you for volunteering to help!
[more]



YOUR MEMBERSHIP WISH LIST... DELIVERED!

MONDAY | DECEMBER 9TH 5:30 PM EST
REGISTER ON DACdb



Monday, December 9 @ 5:30PM

Your Membership Wishlist

By Dave Schwickerath
Santa is coming early to your club membership team. Join the next Membership Action Plan (MAP) webinar for some great breakout sessions and take a deeper dive into:

- Issues Challenging Small Clubs
- Creating Membership Types
- Continuity In Club Leadership
- Energizing Existing Members
- Membership This & That

Join this webinar for great ideas to grow Rotary in the new year.
[more]



Disaster Relief
Trailer

\$20,000 Disaster Grant From Zones 33/34

By Chris Brand
Our combined
Rotary Zones 33
& 34 have raised
over
\$1,000,000 to
support Rotarian
led relief efforts
from the recent
storms. Our Zone
Director Patrick
Eakes
encouraged all
the District
Governors to
apply for grants
to help use this
funding to assist
areas in need of
recovery in our
zone. While our
district was not
hard hit this time
around, several
of our
neighboring
districts will need
help for months
or years to come.
We applied for
and were
awarded a
\$20,000 grant
from Zones 33/34
to purchase and
equip a **Disaster
Relief
Trailer** that can
be quickly
mobilized to help
those in need.
The trailer will be
ready in
December and
our first trip is
planned for
the **Rotary
Week of
Service in
January.**
[more]

”

**NO ONE CAN TELL US
WHAT ROTARY WILL
BE TOMORROW, BUT ONE
THING IS CERTAIN:
WHAT ROTARY WILL BE
TOMORROW DEPENDS
UPON WHAT ROTARIANS
DO TODAY.**

ARCH C KLUMPH

”

@changemakerevanbur

Our Rotary
Foundation
**Consider
the Rotary
Foundation
in Your
Year-End
Giving**

By Bob Hagan
The quote you see to the left from founder Arch C Klumph is circa 1916. It is every bit as true today as it was when he first uttered it. It is also no more profound than it is at the end of the year. How we close out a year sets the stage for what we wish to accomplish in the ensuing year. December is the time of year when we consider what other tax benefits we hope to employ. Our first thought is always going to be about what positive impact we can have with our gifts this year on the world of today. However, we are also aware of the charitable tax deduction available to us for our outright gifts. There are a number of ways we can do so. Are you aware you can gift using your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?
[more]

Zones 33/34

Foundation Matters — Monthly Webinar

Join Monthly on the 3rd Thursday
at 6 PM EDT



Thursday,
December 19 @
6PM

Foundation Matters Webinar

By Bob Hagan
Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of the month at 6PM EDT and join us for the **“Foundation Matters” Webinar**. We know you want to have an amazing year at your club, so we’re bringing you experienced leaders to share how to structure your Foundation Committee so you will create an exceptional year of foundation giving. Don’t miss this series! The “Foundation Matters” Webinar Series was developed especially for you- Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs. These monthly webinars will provide “bite-sized chunks” of valuable insights and actionable strategies that really work to increase club engagement in The Rotary Foundation. [\[more\]](#)



Tuesday, December 17 @ 6PM

Public Image Ask Me Anything

By Mandy Timmons
Need help with all things public image? This webinar is for you. The zone's public image and communications team will be on hand to answer all of your questions. From getting the most engagement from social media or how to use canva to make your message pop, come prepare to ask them anything to help your club promote all the great work your club is doing to impact your community. Visit ElevateRotary.org to register.
[more]



Planning Your Year
End Giving

Gifting Securities May Have Added Tax Benefits

By Lee
Hollingsworth
As you plan your
year-end giving,
consider a gift of
appreciated
securities to The
Rotary Foundation.
This is an effective
way to fulfill your
giving goals and
help maximize your
tax savings. You
may be able to:
Deduct the fair
market value of
your gift; Avoid
capital gains tax on
the appreciated
stock. You can
donate appreciated
securities through
your broker or by
mail. You can use
our **stock transfer
form** to make a gift
today. To learn
more, see
our **Securities
page**. If you are
70½ years or older,
you may get extra
tax benefits by
giving through
an **IRA charitable
rollover gift**.
Contact **Lee
Hollingsworth** with
any questions. Let's
continue Doing
Good in the World
together. Your
actions today will
shape our
Foundation's future.
[more]

December 5, 2024
- 10AM

Future Proofing Rotary Webinar

By Lee Hollingsworth
Gifts to Rotary's Endowment play a vital role in providing districts with a reliable income stream to support projects and grants. **Join us this**

December to explore how Rotary's Endowment complements Annual Giving to enhance district sustainability and support impactful initiatives.

Panelists will discuss how a well-funded Endowment contributes to membership growth and community engagement by funding scholarships, humanitarian grants, and district grants. Additionally, the session will cover strategies for engaging your district leaders and club members in raising awareness of the Endowment's importance. Discover how effective use of Rotary's Endowment can drive long-term success and amplify your district's impact. [\[more\]](#)

Doing
Good
in the
World

Future-Proofing Rotary: Maximizing District Impact with the 2.025 by 2025 Endowment *5 December 2024 at 09:00 CT*



**Mark
Daniel Maloney**

Trustee Chair,
The Rotary Foundation



**Olayinka
Hakeem Babelola**

Past Vice President,
Rotary International



**Dominiek
Willemse**

Endowment/Major Gifts
Advisor,
The Rotary Foundation



**Maria Gina
Africa Sy**

Assistant Regional Rotary
Foundation Coordinator,
The Rotary Foundation

with Karena Bierman, Director of Planned and Principal Gifts





Thank You For
Supporting Laws
of Life

We exceeded our Meet Our Match campaign goal!

By Carol Gray
Walker

We are delighted to announce that the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has exceeded its Meet Our Match campaign goal, raising an incredible \$80,911—far surpassing our \$60,000 target!

This success is a testament to the generosity and dedication of our donors, Rotary Club sponsors, and corporate partners who believe in the power of strong character values. As Helen Keller wisely said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Your support inspires students to embrace character values that lead to lifelong success. Together, we are making a difference—one essay, one student, and one life lesson at a time.

[more]

North Cobb Rotary Club — Peace Summit Series

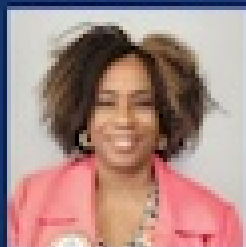


Brenda Fischer
Peace Chair, North Cobb
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

Rotarians Promoting Peace

Friday, Dec 6, 2024
2:00PM EST | 7:00PM WAT

Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 810 9789 3217
Passcode: PEACE



Ada Wikina
President, North Cobb
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

In partnership with:-
Rotary Club of Umuahia, D9142

Join in the Conversation



Robert C Masse
PP, Port Au Prince



PDG Grace C. Okaro
Rotary Positive Peace Activator
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador



PAG Jude C. Ohanele
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

Friday, December 6
@ 2PM

North Cobb Peace Summit Series

By Ada Wikina
North Cobb Rotary
peace builder Club
invites you to the
second 'Rotarians
promoting Peace
Summit. This will
take place on the
6th of December
2024 via zoom. Use
Meeting ID **810
9789 3217** and
passcode **PEACE** to
join the summit.
Our conversation is
with the Rotary
Club of Umuahia,
district 9142 in
Nigeria ably
represented by
PDG Grace Okaro
who is also an IEP
peace ambassador
and PAG Jude
Ohanele, also an
IEP ambassador.
Details are in the
flyer below. We
hope you can join
the conversation.
[more]

Support Thomasville
Rotary

1st Annual Big Impact Auction

By Mary Beth Donalson
Rotarians, friends, and
business associates
donated a wonderfully
eclectic mix of high-
end items for our first
annual BIG IMPACT
AUCTION. We're asking
friends and neighbors
near and far--to place
your bids. **Everyone is
invited to
participate!**

Rotary Club of
Thomasville does good
work in the community
and around the world.
Auction proceeds will
help fund those good
works. Club projects
range from monthly
fresh produce market
for those in need to
honoring first
responder heroes to
celebrating those who
serve in the National
Guard and other
branches of service to
supporting senior
adults. Youth projects,
scholarships, and
recognition programs
also are a priority. Our
aim is to make a big
impact in as we work
to make our
community a better
place for all. [more]

ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE'S BIG IMPACT AUCTION



Offering:

- ⦿ High-end & Unique Items
- ⦿ Spectacular Vacation Stays
- ⦿ One-of-a-kind Experiences and Adventures

BIDDING STARTS

11/21 @ 12PM

BIDDING ENDS

12/5 @ 7PM

Benefitting Rotary's Good Works in our Community: monthly free produce markets, vegetables/grow bags, events honoring first responders, National Guard unit, senior adults, and youth services programs.



GRSP Update

Oslo Summer 2025 GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students

**by Katheryne Fields,
GRSP Executive
Director**

By Katheryne Fields
Norwegian Rotarians will partner with Georgia Rotary Student Program to sponsor two college students from Georgia to attend Oslo International Summer School. Dates will be June 28-July 15, 2025. Application is now open and closes Jan. 15, 2025. Applicants must have completed their first year of college by Spring 2025 and have the recommendation of Georgia Rotarian. For questions regarding requirements or obtaining the Rotarian endorsement, please email grsp@grsp.org for assistance. Please reference the **attached Oslo flyer** for more information, dates for the summer session and the January 15, 2025 application deadline. Visit GRSP website: www.grsp.org to apply. [more]



Club News

Carrollton Dawnbreakers Honors Local Veterans

By Sarah Powell

To honor local veterans this Veteran's Day, the Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club recently collected clothing and hygiene items and delivered them to the Trink Davis Veterans Village. The village offers primary care and specialty health services, including dentistry, treatment for lung disease, and more to US veterans. One of the most heartwarming aspects of the event was the involvement of Rotary members' children, who played an active role in sorting and organizing supplies for the Veterans Village. By engaging the next generation in hands-on service projects, the Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club is fostering a sense of responsibility, compassion, and leadership in young people. [more]



Club News

Clubs Collaborate to Promote Peace

By Mandy
Timmons

The Rotary Clubs
of Peachtree City,
Senoia, Tyrone,
and

Fayetteville joined
forces to celebrate
a significant
milestone at the
Healing Bridge
Clinic in Peachtree
City. Together, we
proudly
dedicated *The
Rotary Room*, a
project made
possible through
grants and the
collective service
of our clubs.

The day's highlight
was the unveiling
of a Peace Pole,
symbolizing
Rotary's
unwavering
commitment to
global peace and
understanding.
Built and
coordinated by DG
Gordon Owens, the
Peace Pole serves
as a poignant
reminder of our
mission to foster
peace locally and
globally. DG
Gordon shared his
heartfelt thoughts,
saying, "As
Rotarians, we are
out in our
communities
creating peace....
Think about the
people that are
coming here for
healing."
[more]



Club News
**Roswell
Puts DG
Gordon
to Work!**

By Kathryn Igou
As the Roswell Rotary Club prepared for our own DG Gordon Owens visit in November, we knew that we couldn't just have lunch and a program. Gordon is a Rotarian of ACTION and nothing is better to honor him than a solid service project. So we took our club meeting "on the road" and met at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, bringing along our traditional fried chicken lunch. While there, we built ADA accessible picnic tables and installed a peace pole.
[more]



Club News

Dan Amos of Aflac Inspires at Rotary Club of Columbus Meeting

By LeighAnn
DiCesaris

The Rotary Club of Columbus had the honor of hosting Dan Amos, CEO of Aflac, at their weekly meeting. Attendees were captivated by Mr. Amos's presentation, which detailed Aflac's incredible journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a globally recognized brand with a remarkable 90% name recognition rate. Mr. Amos highlighted Aflac's roots in Columbus, Georgia, where the company was founded in 1955 by three visionary brothers—John, Paul, and Bill Amos. What started as a small insurance business grew into a powerhouse in the industry, transforming lives with its innovative supplemental insurance policies. Despite its global success, Aflac has remained deeply connected to its hometown, continually investing in the community and exemplifying the spirit of giving back. [more]

The After- Smiles from Mimosa Kids



Our Rotary
Foundation at
Work

Roswell Grant Helps Keep Children Warm

By Kathryn Igou
Grants from the
Rotary
Foundation have
enabled **Roswell
Rotary Club** to
take on
significant
projects this
year, including
providing warm
winter gear for
children in Star
House. This
month we have
continued to
highlight the
incredible impact
of the Rotary
International
Foundation and
how, with
generous
contributions
from Rotarians,
we can fund
meaningful
service projects
in our
community and
beyond. Thanks
to grant support,
Roswell Rotary
received the
maximum grants
this year: a
\$2,000
community grant
and a \$5,000
competitive
grant. [\[more\]](#)



Join Us for Rotary Means Business in January

By Carter Stout
Rotary Means Business will not meet in December, but watch for more about when and where we are meeting in January 2025. It's a great opportunity to network! In the meantime, enjoy your holidays!



Club News

RCC Supports our Furry Friends for Christmas; Donates to the Rotary Foundation

By Mandy
Timmons

The Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps, made up of enthusiastic and caring young adults with special needs, just completed a heartwarming service project! They packed stockings full of treats and toys for dogs and cats in local shelters, bringing joy to our furry friends this holiday season. On top of that, they made a generous donation to our Rotary Foundation, with fellow Rotarians matching their gift to bring the total to \$1,000! We're so proud of this group and their dedication to service. Thank you to these amazing young adults for their kindness, spirit, and community support! [\[more\]](#)



Club News

Dunwoody Supports Family Food Needs for Thanksgiving

By Jackie Cuthbert
The Rotary Club of Dunwoody continued its holiday tradition of helping fill food baskets for local Kingsley Elementary families in need. Led by Honorary Member Anita Augello and her daughter Claudia, our efforts included the purchase of 89 turkeys (in a Publix visit we've come to know as the Turkey Trot), pick up of a massive quantity of food at Costco, assistance with packing the boxes AND with loading very heavy boxes into recipients' carts. The baskets contain a full Thanksgiving dinner and more. Rotary is one of the community groups who come together to deliver these baskets. All Kingsley students will also receive a brand new book this holiday season - as part of another Dunwoody tradition that's been around for nearly 30 years.
[more]



Club News

Marietta Serves Record 153 Meals at MUST Ministries

By Jacob Southerland
Professional Chefs Emma and Ean McShane were welcomed again by MUST Ministries - volunteering for the monthly lunch service provided by the Rotary Club of Marietta at MUST and whipping up a five-star lunch for 153+ residents and the homeless. They organized and trained willing-but-not-highly-skilled Rotarian cooks (with the exception of father, Harold). Have you witnessed ten pounds of potatoes peeled in less than ten minutes and on the stove cooking? Working together, [Rotarians take note, this teamwork stuff really works]; Chefs Emma and Ean utilized only the freshest ingredients - no canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meat, or fruit cocktail for these two. [more]



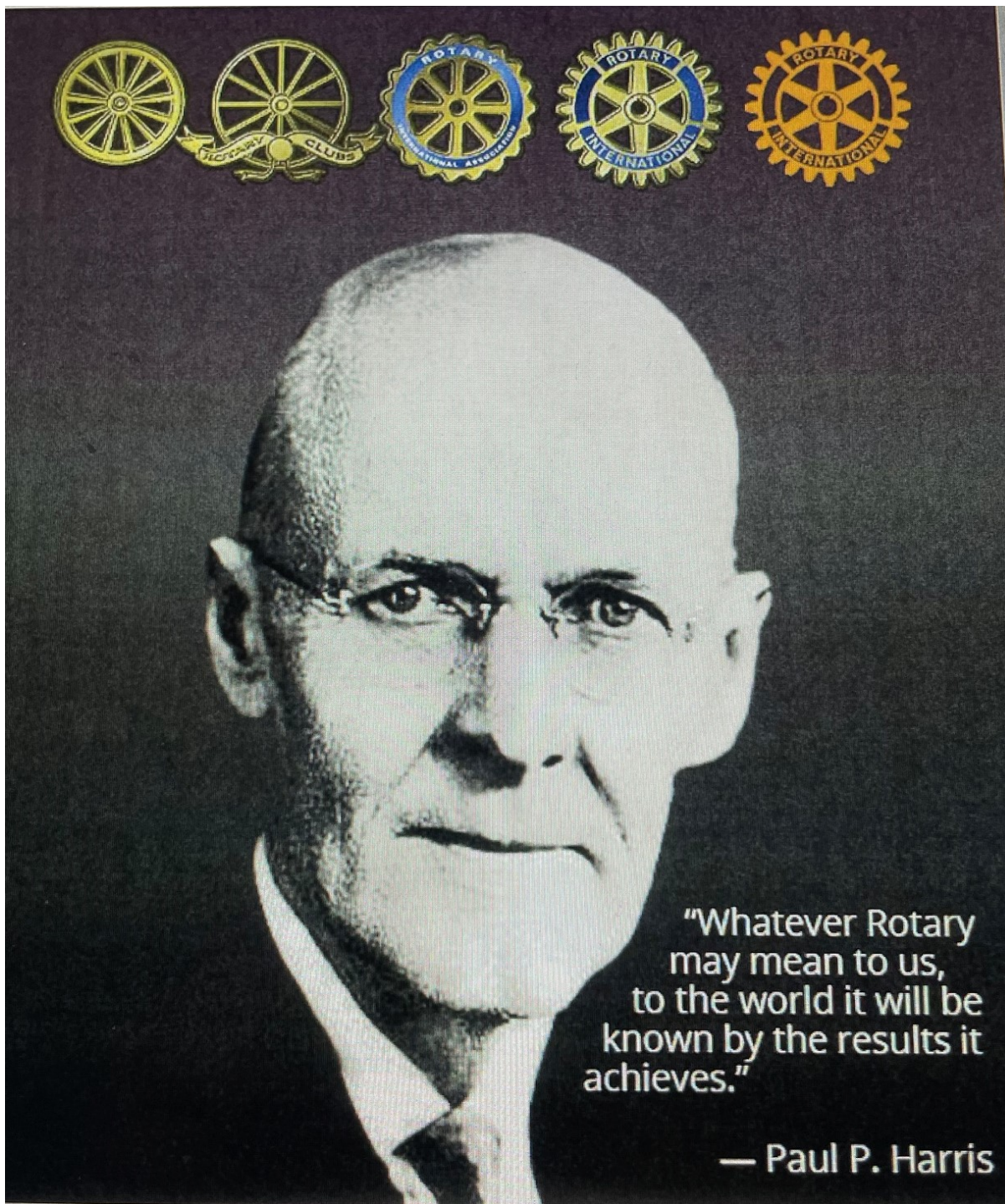
Club News **Douglas County Hears from RYLA Students**

By Nell Boggs
Members of the Rotary Club of Douglas County enjoyed hearing from the two students the club sponsored for RYLA! Aaliyah Mason and Amiah Jackson are both members of the Interact Club at New Manchester High School. The girls enjoyed forming friendships and participating in team-building and leadership activities with students from around the state. The program took place June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The Rotary Club of Douglas County paid all expenses for the two students to attend the camp, including bus transportation from Atlanta to Americus. Pictured along with Aaliyah and Amiah are Rotary Club President John Baker and New Manchester High School Counselor Pamela Cummings. [more]



Club News
**Wreaths
Spread
Cheer
and
Support
Good
Works**

By Debby
Daniel-Bryant
The Rotary
Club of Griffin
Daybreak is
spreading
Christmas
cheer and
raising money
for all it does
in the
community
with its annual
wreath
sale. Debby
Daniels-Bryant
and Jackie
Wilson helped
get the truck
loaded at
Georgia
Farmers
Market with
wreaths to
deliver.
[more]



"Whatever Rotary
may mean to us,
to the world it will be
known by the results it
achieves."

— Paul P. Harris

End Polio Now **Give the Gift of Polio Eradication**

By Bob Hagan
The Paul Harris quote to the left is certainly well known as it leads us into our Rotary International History page. It hits the reader squarely between the eyes with the fact that no matter what we might think about the things we do, the world will judge us by what they see us do and how it affects the world. Truly a huge responsibility does each of us have as Rotarians. It is up to us to live up to the words of Paul Harris and the ever-critical eyes who keep watch over us. It has been a tougher year in many ways in that area of the world we are most concentrated on as we fight to end Polio on a worldwide basis. Civil unrest compounded by cultural mores make our task ever the harder climb to success, but success is what we still achieved this year, even in the war-torn areas of our very personal fight against the spread of Polio. [more]



Club News **Peachtree City RCC and DG Gordon Visit Fire Station**

By Mandy Timmons
The Rotary Community Corps of Peachtree City had an incredible experience at Fire Station 81! They learned about the intense 16-week training required to become a firefighter and got up close with some of the essential tools used on the job. One of the firemen even suited up in under one minute, demonstrating just how quickly they need to respond to emergencies!
[more]



Peachtree City Rotarians Honored

By Mandy Timmons
Two Sparrows Village, Inc. (located at Christian City) is a dedicated organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing safe, inclusive housing and supportive services to help residents lead independent, fulfilling lives. At the 2024 Bird Bash, two Peachtree City Rotarians received top honors for their dedication to this impactful mission: Steven Newton earned the Wayne Damron Community Champion Award for his community involvement, and George Martin received the Terry Chapman Humanitarian Award for his compassionate commitment to service. [\[more\]](#)



Club News

Roswell Hosts Multi-Generational Fishing Derby

By Kathryn Igou

In October, Roswell Recreation & Parks collaborated with Roswell Rotary to host a Multigenerational Fishing Derby. Bamboo fishing rods being made to the left while catch/release fishing was going on to the right. This first-year event encouraged teams comprised of a youth, a parent-aged person and a grandparent-aged person to work together to build a bamboo fishing rod and then use in the pond at the back of the Roswell Area Park on Woodstock Road. It was a beautiful morning for about 100 folks from all over Roswell to come together to learn how to tie knots, hold a fishing pole and laugh. [more]
