**Tried and True Service Projects from District 7545 Clubs**

**\***These service ideas were shared at PETS 2021. These are the projects that participants felt made the biggest impact in their community. This is by no means a complete list of all projects for the clubs. For more details, contact information for club presidents is available on DACdb.

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| **Club Name** | **Project(s)** |
| Barboursville | Assisting hundreds of flood victims in the Flood Relief Project which became a District-wide relief effort. |
| Beckley | Blessing Boxes: Numerous boxes are placed throughout the town that contain food and hygiene products. The boxes are refilled regularly.  Success Closet: Quality suits and other “professional” gently used clothing is donated to the closet, which allows young professional access to nice business attire at no cost. |
| Beckley | For 8 years they have been holding a food drive in honor of a Rotarian. They have also raised over $10,000 that has bought boxes for food, clothing, and gifts for children during the holidays. |
| Brook County | Backpack ministry for youth to have food on weekends and summer.  Adopting 5 or 6 families at Christmas, purchasing food and clothing and gifts for the children through the Salvation Army. |
| Canyon Rim | The club raises funds for a Dictionary Project to distribute dictionaries to all third graders in the area. The club also raises funds to provide scholarships for high school seniors. |
| Charleston | During COVID-19 restrictions, they pooled their semi-annual dues and unused meal fees to the YWCA of Charleston to replace the pots and pans in the shelter kitchen.  The club is working in partnership with the City and County to secure additional funding to revitalize Celebration Station, a park in a low-income area of the city. |
| Cheat Lake | Each member donated 5-20 hours to a Habitat for Humanity House.  Cooking dinner for residents of Rosenbaum Family House, which provides shelter and support for out-of-town families of patients at WVU. |
| Clarksburg | In conjunction with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program ([www.shpbeds.org](http://www.shpbeds.org)). Built bunk beds for children. Names of children in need come from the school system. Some children were being raised by grandparents and had no bed.  Clarksburg Rotarians help with local athletic events.  Rotarians help at the Mountaineer Food Bank. |
| Elkins | Made contributions to the Train Yard Amphitheater which will boost economic development. It has been renamed The Rotary Amphitheater! |
| Fairmont | The Fly the Flag: Each year, the club partners with the Boy Scouts to deliver and adorn yards all over Marion County with American Flags for the 6 patriotic holidays! See <https://fairmontwvrotary.com/fly-the-flag-project/> |
| Grafton | Members serving as volunteers for COVID-19 testing and vaccine clinics. |
| Huntington | Help the Marshall University Rotaract Club pack backpack with school supplies for children in Africa.  Help at the Animal Shelter with landscaping and dog walking.  During COVID-19 restrictions, they prepared “busy bags” for dorm students in quarantine. |
| Kingwood | Rail Trail cleanup: Gathers a large amount of trash and can also involve Rotarians’ families.  Pack the Bus with food, clothes, etc. and deliver to the food pantry. Started serving 92 kids, now serving 306 kids.  Coat Drive: partnering with Walmart and other locations to have donation boxes during September and October. Coats are distributed at the end of October. When planning a coat drive, consider visiting <http://www.onewarmcoat.org/> for tips and to register your coat drive. |
| Mason Dixon | This is a brand-new club, but they have asked the local library for their wish list and have organized a roadside cleanup. |
| Milton | Club provides jump ropes to elementary schools for the students to take home.  The club provides buckets of cleaning supplies, drinking water, etc. for flood victims. |
| Morgantown | Road cleanup once a month. Very impactful has been helping another local health organization gather household items that are needed for people getting “on their feet” and getting their own apartment. |
| Morgantown North | Star City Waterfront Project: Planting trees and landscaping and maintaining year-round. Money was raised by selling benches. |
| Moundsville | Members serve as readers in a local school. They give out bookmarks with The Four Way Test and the Rotary and School logo.  The club gets a list from the Wellspring Pregnancy Center and provides car seats for mothers in need. |
| Peterstown | Raises funds for the Monroe County Coalition of Children and Families. |
| Point Pleasant | The club participates in the annual Salvation Army bell ringing in December. Each member does a two-hour shift at one of three locations.  The club partners with the local fire department to provide food baskets and Toys for Tots, raising $4000-$5000. |
| Princeton | Mardi Bras for a Cause raises cash and personal care items and underwear for residents at the area women’s shelter. This started as an idea to turn the usual business after hours/discover Rotary event into a service project. It has grown into a signature event with lots of press coverage.  The club has always been focused on feeding people both locally and internationally, but even more so during COVID. The club partnership with the Salvation Army has allowed both organizations to expand their reach with members0 packing food as well as helping to distribute it. |
| Putnam County | The club partners with AmeriCorps to construct walking trails and bridges for walkers and birdwatchers. |
| South Charleston | The club partners with a local church to purchase items and pack weekend food backpacks for school children. |
| Spencer | Lunches for Library kids: lunches were packed with enough food for supper as well. A sticker went on every bag denoting that the bag was packed by the Rotary Club. |
| St. Albans | The club partners with area food banks and food kitchens.  The Dictionary Project provides dictionaries to area 3rd graders in 5 schools. Money is raised through pancake and spaghetti dinners. |
| Summersville | “Coats for Kids” project which provided coats for **all** elementary students in Nicholas County near Christmas. |
| Upshur | Assisting with “hundreds” of blood screenings in conjunction with St. Joe’s. Members also volunteered at COVID-19 vaccine clinics. |
| Wheeling | Celebration bags (ongoing): shopping bags with the Rotary logo containing cake mix, candles, matches, icing, a cake pan and a card. The are given on request to the YWCA and other community agencies to help people celebrate events in their lives who otherwise could not afford to do so. These started as birthday bags but were in demand to celebrate milestones other than birthdays as well. |
| Wood County | Provided Shelving for a local non-profit that had been storing items on the floor. |

The following project ideas were submitted at Pets, but without information identifying which club did the project.

* Backpack Buddies – Provide backpacks with toiletries and other items for children in emergency situations. These are provided to local law enforcement.
* Partner with Family Resource Network to pack lunches to feed children over the weekends.
* “Smile Rotary Loves You” – 3000 cards given out with toothpaste and a toothbrush.
* Smoke detector giveaway
* Dinner honoring the local fire department.
* A holiday dinner for underprivileged children, also with presents and Santa Clause.
* Partner with the local health department or hospital to provide drive-through blood testing for cholesterol, lipids, etc. at a reduced price.
* Honoring veterans by paying their utility bills for a month.
* COVID project: set up picnic tables outside a school with plexiglass dividers. Member had a service day sanding and painting and establishing this outdoor area.
* “Jared’s Boxes:” These are activity boxes for children during hospital stays. They include cards with words of encouragement, toys, books, etc. See [www.thejaredbox.com](http://www.thejaredbox.com).
* Adopt-a-grandparent (Christmas) at local nursing homes. Includes stocking stuffers, treats, puzzles, socks. Children make notes for the elderly. 30-40 stockings at each nursing home.