

DISTRICT PULSE



Rotary
District 7545



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**ROTARY FOUNDATION
DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD**

NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

November is The Rotary Foundation Month, which is a time for every Rotarian to reflect on how our collective generosity fuels lasting change. For instance, during last month’s District-wide grant submission cycle, twenty clubs received 100% of their requested amounts for specific Club focused community service projects. This grant distribution typifies the power of The Rotary Foundation which transforms our gifts into local projects that bring lasting change.

As we celebrate Rotary Foundation Month, let’s renew our commitment to this extraordinary engine of good. Every act of giving multiplies Rotary’s power to create hope in the world. We can continue building a legacy of compassion, service, and lasting change through the Foundation which is the heart of Rotary’s ability to take “Service Above Self” from a motto to meaningful action.

On a related note, we are changing the timing of our District Foundation Recognition Celebration which, in the past, occurred in November. It will now coincide with the District Conference in late May 2026. There will be more details to follow but, in the interim, I am informally recognizing Clubs designated by The Rotary Foundation for their 2024-2025 giving during my District Governor visits. (I will be in contact with those Clubs I have already visited who were recently identified by the Foundation for their giving levels). See Jonathan Grose’s article in this newsletter which identifies those Clubs receiving special recognition.

Pat and I continue to enjoy our Club visits across the State. November will be especially busy as we attempt to complete almost all visits prior to the week of Thanksgiving.

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Last month, I added a follow-up zoom session after each in person visit to review the Club's Membership Plan and upload it into the Membership Success Center in DACdb. Our District Membership Chair, Sam McDaniel, has been especially helpful during these subsequent reviews.

Finally, in the spirit of thanksgiving, I am very thankful for you: For what you have done, are doing and will continue to do in giving of your time, efforts and resources supporting your Clubs as they make a difference in our communities. Please know that you are all appreciated. Wishing you all a safe and blessed Thanksgiving!

Yours in Rotary Service,

Rick

DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISITS

The following clubs are scheduled for visits by the District Governor during the next two months.

Lewisburg: 11/3

Bridgeport/Clarksburg: 11/4

Logan: 11/5

Tucker County: 11/10

Charleston Vandalia (am), Barboursville, Ceredo-Kenova, & Milton (pm): 11/12

Parkersburg: 11/17

Buckhannon Upshur: 11/18

South Fairmont: 11/19

Fairmont: 11/20

Charleston: 12/8

CALL TO ACTION: FIGHT FOOD SHORTAGES IN WV

Rotary International has long been committed to tackling hunger worldwide. This global effort is rooted in a simple but powerful belief—that no one should have to wonder where their next meal will come from. That same spirit of service is needed here at home in West Virginia, where food shortages are expected to increase beginning in November. Across our communities, food banks, pantries, and volunteer organizations are preparing for a difficult winter as more families face empty shelves and tighter budgets.

Now is the time to act—because together, we can make a real difference. Here are a few simple ways to help:

The Governor's office has set up two fundraising drives through Mountaineer Food Bank and Facing Hunger Foodbank. Every dollar donated is matched, up to \$13M.



NEED FOOD?

Scan this code for food access by county in WV:



linktr.ee/TryThisWestVirginia

Try This WV put together a near exhaustive list of food access points across the state. This is useful for those looking for food, but can also assist your club in donating goods or funds to local food access points right in your communities.

Every can, dollar, and volunteer hour matters. Together, we can help our neighbors weather the season with dignity, warmth, and full plates.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION HONORS SEVERAL CLUBS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND IMPACT

District 7545 is proud to recognize seven outstanding clubs for their commitment to the Rotary Foundation during the 2024-2025 Rotary year. These clubs have not only supported life-changing projects locally but have also played a vital role in advancing Rotary's global mission, most notably, the eradication of polio.

This year's Top Three Per Capita Annual Giving honors go to:

Peterstown Rotary Club - 1st place with \$310 per capita

Cheat Lake Rotary Club - 2nd place with \$218.08 per capita

Morgantown North Rotary Club - 3rd place with \$183.62 per capita

In addition, four clubs achieved 100% Foundation Giving and Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) recognition, demonstrating full member participation in supporting Rotary's Annual Fund and sustaining the Foundation's ability to do good in the world. Those clubs are Barboursville, Ceredo-Kenova, the E-Club of District 7545, and Fairmont which is a true testament to their unity of purpose and belief in service above self.

Several District 7545 clubs earned the **End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign** Certificate of Appreciation, recognizing their contributions of at least \$1,500 to Rotary's historic mission to end polio. Barboursville, Bluefield, Buckhannon Upshur, Cheat Lake, Fairmont, Grafton, and Morgantown stand as champions in one of humanity's greatest public health initiatives. Their support continues to fuel Rotary's decades-long promise to ensure that no child will ever again suffer from polio.

As we celebrate these achievements, we also look forward to building the Foundation's legacy for future generations. In alignment with other Districts, we will host our Rotary Foundation Recognition during the District Conference in late May 2026, offering a time to honor these dedicated clubs and inspire new donors.

WORLD POLIO DAY 2025: HIGHLIGHTS

In support of polio eradication, Ralph Zuke has raised more than \$57,000 by pedaling his rickshaw bicycle from his Missouri home to recent Rotary International Conventions in North America: Toronto in 2018, Houston in 2022, and Calgary this year, a journey in which he braved hail, sleet, and snow, and even skirted a tornado. His next opportunity will be at the 2028 convention in Minneapolis. "If it's needed," Zuke adds, optimistically. "I hope we'll be done with polio by then." As governor of District 6060, Zuke rolls out the rickshaw for parades and on his rounds to clubs. "It allows me to tell my passengers about polio, Rotary, and what Rotary has done for polio. It's a captive audience for a couple minutes. That's all they need," says Zuke. "If they donate, that's great. If they don't, that's fine too, but at least they know the story of what Rotary's done with polio."



To view more highlights from this year's World Polio Day, head over to www.rotary.org.

MORE THAN JUST A BED: RIPLEY ROTARY BUILDS HOPE

A Simple Idea, A Powerful Mission

Every great project starts with an idea. For the Rotary Club of Ripley, that idea came from long-time member Steve Westfall. He introduced the concept of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a national organization dedicated to building and delivering beds to children who don't have one. The mission is simple yet profound:

"No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!"

When Steve brought the project to the club, it was an easy decision. The members immediately recognized the direct and tangible impact they could have. The club didn't just agree to the idea; they mobilized, working together to get the initiative up and running.

From Lumber to Sweet Dreams

The results of this dedication speak for themselves. To date, the Rotary Club of Ripley and its team of volunteers have built an impressive 76 beds. Building is only half the battle. Each bed delivery includes a brand-new mattress and a full set of bedding, providing a complete sleep solution for a child in need.

So far, 46 of these bed sets have been delivered to the homes of local children. The process is a community effort, with Rotarians and local volunteers signing up for "build days" and delivery shifts. Local businesses and individuals have also stepped up, offering their locations as drop-off points for donations. This widespread support shows how deeply the project has resonated with the community.



"This is the First Bed I've Ever Had"

The statistics are impressive, but the true impact of the project is measured in the lives it touches. During one of the first deliveries, a volunteer heard a sentence that crystallized the importance of their work. An 11-year-old girl, upon seeing her new bed, quietly shared, "This is the first bed I have ever had." That moment is a powerful reminder of what this project is all about. It's not just about wood, screws, and mattresses. It's about providing dignity, comfort, and a sense of security to a child. A bed provides a safe space for a child to rest, dream, and wake up ready for school. For that 11-year-old and many others like her, the delivery of a bed is a life-changing event. These are the stories that fuel the volunteers' passion and drive the project forward.

A Spotlight on Service

The Sleep in Heavenly Peace project has become more than just another activity for the Rotary Club of Ripley; it has become their biggest and best service initiative to date. The project has put a bright spotlight on the organization, showcasing its commitment to hands-on, meaningful service that makes a visible difference in the local community.

By building beds, the Rotary Club of Ripley is building hope, one child at a time. They are providing the foundation for better sleep, better health, and a brighter future for the next generation.



HURRICANE MELISSA RELIEF



**DISASTER
NETWORK OF
ASSISTANCE**

Disaster Response: We Connect the Dots

**ROTARY
ACTION
GROUP**

How You Can Help



Donate Directly to Rotary in Jamaica for Immediate Needs

This account with the Rotary Club of New Kingston is ring-fenced and will be managed by a local subcommittee to assist the most urgent needs.



Donate via the Disaster Assistance Network, a Rotary Action Group

DNA-RAG is a USA 501(c)(3) organisation that manages disaster aid funding & has extensive relief experience. Funds may be used in Jamaica, Haiti, the Bahamas & Turks & Caicos for properly vetted and accountable relief projects.

www.dna-rag.com

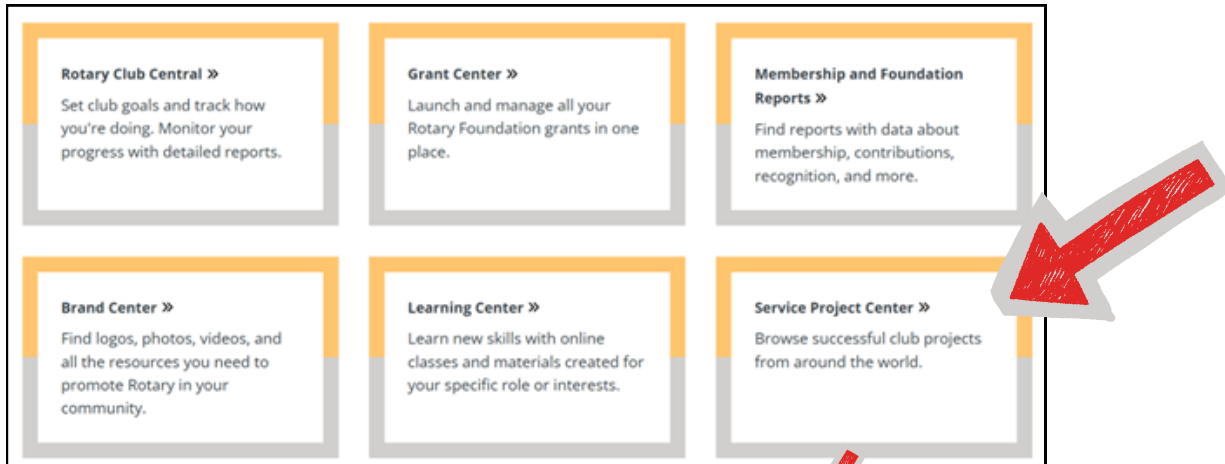
**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES
ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

www.7020.org

UNITE FOR GOOD

LOOKING FOR SERVICE IDEAS?

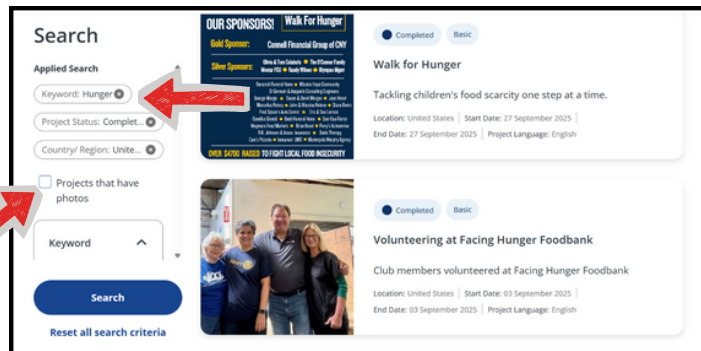
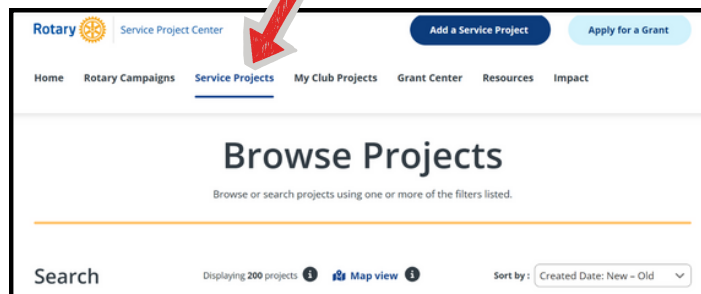
Have you ever wanted ideas for service projects that address a particular area of service or community problem? Your first stop for help should be the [Service Project Center in My Rotary](#). When you visit My Rotary, you will find the Service Project Center (SPC) as one of the resources.



There are many actions you can take in the SPC, but in this case you will want to browse projects.

Once there, you can search for projects by keyword, location, club, or district, as well as whether the project has been completed, or if you are looking for a project partner. Be sure to **UNCHECK** the box that says, "Projects that have photos." As you scroll down the extensive list of search filters, make sure to choose "United States" under Country/Region unless you are looking for international ideas. I think you will be excited to see how many ideas you have to choose from.

Of course, the more projects that are shared by clubs to the SPC, the more ideas we all have available to consider. Unfortunately, clubs in our district are inconsistent in posting to the SPC so you may find that you need to broaden your search for ideas. As our clubs report on their service activities to meet their goals, there will be more projects in our district to review.



Check out next month's PULSE to see more about how YOU can report your club's service!

Let's Connect:



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