



Hello Rotary Friends.

As we welcome December, Rotary calls our attention to Disease Prevention and Treatment, one of the most meaningful ways we assist to improve lives. Whether through education, support for local health needs, or global efforts to fight preventable illness, Rotarians bring comfort, healing, and hope to communities near and far.

This focus feels especially fitting in a season centered on reflection and compassion. However we observe this time of year, December reminds us of our shared responsibility to care for one another.

As I have traveled and visited our district's clubs, I have had the fortune to see that spirit in the work you do. You show that Kindness Matters, you Do Good Things, and I hope you feel the power of, You Get What You Give.

Your service makes a real impact—felt by families, communities, and individuals who rely on the empathy and dedication Rotarians deliver.

As we close out the year, my wish for each of you is simple: may you find joy in the moments that matter, peace amid the season's pace, and gratitude for the good we have created together. Thank you for the care you give and the light you share.

Wishing you a season filled with warmth, hope, and inspiration for the year ahead.

Andrea Brady, Rotarian  
2025-26 District Governor  
District 6080



Send your news items and photos to District Secretary Mary Ann Beahon at [beahon.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:beahon.rotary@gmail.com)



## Past District Governor Melvin Platt Dies Nov. 7



We are so sorry for the loss of our fellow Rotarian and good friend, Dr. Melvin Platt, District Governor, 2017-18, who passed away Nov. 7. Always a gentleman, a true leader and Rotary mentor to many, Melvin's dedication to Rotary and our District goes back many years. Melvin, a retired Professor at the University of Missouri, joined the Rotary Club of Columbia in February 1992. That is over 33 years of service.

In District 6080, he held the roles of:

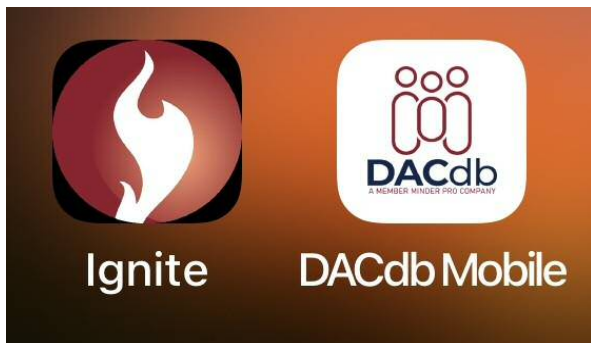
- District International Service Chair (2022-present)
- Council on Legislation Representative (2020-present)
- District Annual Fund Subcommittee Chair (2019-20)
- District Rotary Peace Fellowships Subcommittee Chair (2015-16, 2018-21)
- Council on Legislation Representative-Alternate (2017-20)
- District Governor (DG) (2017-18)
- District Scholarship Subcommittee Chair (2004-07, 2008-10, 2011-16)

In the Rotary Club of Columbia, Melvin served as:

- Club Membership Chair (2020-22)
- Club President (2012-13)

Melvin held the levels of Benefactor, Bequest Society, Every Rotarian Every Year, Sustaining Member, Major Donor and the Paul Harris Society. He was also awarded the Meritorious Service award and Rotarian of the Year. Melvin leaves a legacy of service and giving to our organization. His involvement touched many, and he will be truly missed. We are forever grateful for Melvin's influence and commitment.

## Learn More About DACdb and Ignite on Monday, Dec. 1



Do you want to streamline club communications and empower members?

If so, then join us for this action-packed, interactive session at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1!

We'll briefly introduce some of the top ways clubs and members are using DACdb and its new mobile companion IGNITE to accelerate club communications, engagement and growth.

Even if you are already experienced with DACdb, you will likely gain some new insight into ways these tools can do things you may not have thought of previously. There will also be plenty of time built in for answering questions and sharing ways your club is efficiently using these powerful tools. So whether you are a seasoned club leader or brand new to Rotary, you will surely benefit from this engaging session.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qlchMggORk2gh-ogIbCEaA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# District Launches Operation Full Plate to Fight Hunger

We are launching, **Operation Full Plate: United to Fight Hunger** — a friendly competition between Zones 30 & 31 to make a measurable impact on food insecurity while creating opportunities for engagement and membership growth. The contest will launch Nov. 10 and run through Jan. 10, 2026 ... so we will have 60 days to serve others.

## How it works:

Clubs (or individual Rotarians) choose any hunger-focused service project(s): food drives, fundraising, volunteering at pantries, meal packing, etc., then **report their impact** to their District using the IGNITE App "My Service Hours" tab.

Our District has selected the area of Promoting Peace for this service initiative. Addressing food insecurity directly relates to two of the pillars of Positive Peace: Equitable distribution of resources and acceptance of the rights of others. When we help our neighbors get the food they need to survive and thrive, we build peace and strengthen our communities.

We've developed several tools to make your participation in Operation Full Plate as streamlined and easy as possible. So all you need to do is simply note what your contribution was. The district will total all the points for you, so you don't have to worry about the specific point totals, but here is a guide for how the points will be tallied for your reference as you serve.

## Points Earned

- **1 point** per food item donated
- **1 point** per dollar contributed
- **1 point** per public image activity
- **3 points** per Rotarian volunteer hour
- **5 points** per *non-Rotarian* volunteer engaged

How do I log my participation? Here is an excellent "How to" video from Erik Janeczko.

[Instruction video here:](#)

## Incentives

- **Bragging Rights! My personal favorite!!!**
- **Winning Zone:** Virtual Happy Hour with Director Brian Hall
- **Top District:** Membership Grant-\$500
- **Losing Zone Coordinator Team:** Volunteers an extra 10 hours fighting hunger

## What We Need From You

1. Promote the campaign to your clubs.
2. Contribute to projects/events in your area that fight food insecurity!
3. Submit impact data using the NOTES feature on the "my service hours" tab in Ignite.

Want to go BIGGER and host an event in your area? We have lots of tools and resources to help make Operation Full Plate a smashing success. [Click HERE to Access Your Starter Toolkit](#) which includes communication templates, promotional resources, project ideas, and more.

Let's turn fellowship into full plates — one meal, one act of service, one new connection at a time.

# Mizzou Gymnastics Rotary Day Coming Soon



Mizzou Gymnastics is right around the corner, and we want to see you at **Mizzou Gymnastics Rotary Day** on Sunday, **Jan. 4, 2026, at 2 p.m.** as the Missouri Tigers take on the Iowa State Cyclones!

This event will be taking place at Mizzou Arena, the new home of Mizzou Gymnastics. Rotary members will be provided with a **discounted ticket offer** and Rotary will receive a **videoboard message and PA announcement** at the meet.

Mizzou Gymnastics is coming off the **best year in program history after 3rd place NCAA Nationals finish!** The Tigers return 13 gymnasts from the 2025 season including four Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association All-Americans. Headed into the 2026 season, Mizzou also welcomes a trio of transfers and a freshman class of four, ranking the Tigers in the top 20 of College Gym News' recruiting class rankings.

When ticket price, purchase and event details are finalized, each Rotary member will purchase their own tickets directly through MU's system.

My wife and I have recently been turned on to MU gymnastics as the coach is our neighbor. Their meets are fast-moving, high-quality and a lot of fun! Plus, they are currently the highest ranked program MU has!

Tom Schlimpert

Past President of IMPACT Rotary in Columbia

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**MIZZOU**  
ATHLETICS

# Rotary Clubs in 6080 Provide a Variety of Services



**Jefferson City Breakfast Rotary and Jefferson City Evening Rotary** (left) recently joined forces to refresh a room at the Lil Explorers Discovery Center, which provides quality early childhood education services in a caring environment primarily for children of low and middle income families. The project was funded by joint Rotary grants from each of the clubs as well as funds gained from the clubs' individual fundraising efforts. This was the first of several projects that will continue into March 2026.

**Jefferson City Evening Rotary** (right) whipped up their famous spaghetti dinner



to feed the attendees of the Room at the Inn training recently. Many joined in to learn about the tasks that go into providing shelter and food for the unhoused in the community.



**Jefferson City West Rotary** (left) helped launch the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign by ringing bells Nov. 7 and Nov. 8 at Hy-Vee in Jefferson City. The familiar sound of the red kettle bells marks more than a century of generosity and compassion, helping families in need throughout the holiday season.

**Jefferson City Rotary Clubs** (right) helped sponsor Poppies to the Park, installed along the Bicentennial Bridge leading to Deborah Cooper



Park on Adrian's Island. The poppies honor veterans and were created by Rotarians and community members. A few purple poppies representing service animals were among the nearly 6,000 installed this year. Poppies stayed on the bridge through Thanksgiving.



**Hollister Rotary** (left) handed out candy and won second place for decorations on the vehicle during the City of Hollister's Trunk-or-Treat.

**Rotaract Club of William Woods University** (right) spent time with McIntire Elementary School third graders creating cards for veterans.



**Bolivar High School Interact** (left) organized the BHS Senior Citizens Night. The club hosted 300 community members for dinner, performances by the BHS jazz band and choir, and a showing of "Little Women" by the BHS drama department. More than 100 student volunteers assisted guests throughout the evening.

**Columbia South Rotary** (right) helped Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity prepare a home that will allow a Columbia family gain access to affordable housing.



**Belton-Raymore Rotary** (below) has been busy. Rotarians participated in the Cleveland Lake Stream Clean-Up Nov. 1 in conjunction with the South Grand River Watershed Alliance.



The next Saturday a team (right) of Rotarians (appropriately named "Service Above Strikes") took on the community at the Belton Educational Foundation's annual Turkey Bowl. The event raised over \$9k for the BEF.



Nov. 21 brought one of the best events of the year, the Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheon (left) put on by the Belton School District. A group of Rotarians was on hand to serve (and eat!) a great meal.

**Springfield Metro Rotary** (right) held its annual "Friendsgiving" celebration Nov. 18 and also collected 62 coats for Crosslines of Springfield, which gives out about 30 coats A DAY in Greene County.



**William Woods University Rotaract** (left) partnered with Westminster College to help prepare and serve food at Open Table, feeding those in need in Fulton. Westminster is in the process of establishing a Rotaract Club.

**Jefferson City West Rotary** (right) welcomed Miracles 4 Margaret

Foundation founder and president Sherline Romph, who shared the story of how the foundation started in honor of her daughter Margaret and its powerful mission of donating blankets to children and adults facing serious health challenges. After her presentation, Rotarians rolled up their sleeves and made tie blankets for the foundation — a perfect example of "service above self."



# District 6080 Rotary Clubs Put 'Fun' in Fundraisers



**Jefferson City Evening Rotary** held a successful spaghetti dinner despite the misty, cold weather. Funds will enable the club to continue serving the community and the world.

**Jefferson City West Rotary** held a Trivia Night that raised about



\$8,000 for the Salvation Army and future Rotary West service projects. The Breakfast Club Brain Trust took first place. Exchange students from Germany, Belgium, Japan, France and Brazil joined in the night of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition.



**Jefferson City Breakfast Rotary** raised \$5,925 to End Polio Now. There were lots of points swapped and money brought in. As of Oct. 30, the club had point sales of \$3,950, direct donations of \$1,050, and bingo sheet sales of \$925.



**Fayette Rotary** raised more than \$2,500 Nov. 1 during the annual trivia night to support Rotary's service work in the community. Guests enjoyed eight rounds of trivia, four rounds of "Dead or Alive," a free chili/soup supper.



Proceeds will help support the club's Senior Center renovation project, send students to RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), Girls State and Boys State, provide dictionaries to every Daly Elementary third grader, and fund other Rotary community service projects.

**Lebanon Rotary** held a Game of Thrones, a fundraiser helping provide warm winter coats for Laclede County children in need. It also helps fund Rotary scholarships for local students. Businesses can pay \$50 to "Banish the Throne" (toilet) and have it removed, \$100 to "Rule the Realm" and have it removed and choose where it goes next or \$125 for "Throne Immunity."





**The Rotary Club of Columbia** made Thanksgiving easier and tastier for many in Columbia with its Thanksgiving Turkey Fry. Proceeds from the Turkey Fry support Rotary's local service projects.

Turkeys were deep-fried to perfection and sold for \$50-\$60. Each turkey weighed 14-16 pounds and could feed up to 10-12 people.

In addition to purchasing turkeys for family and friends, customers were asked to consider purchasing turkeys to donate to community partners, including Boys & Girls Club of Columbia, Columbia Fire Department, Flourish Initiative,

Powerhouse CDC, Salvation Army Harbor House, St. Francis House, Voluntary Action Center and Welcome Home Veterans.



**Jefferson City West Rotary** held a Polio Bingo event to recognize World Polio Day with 23 members participating and raising \$690 toward Rotary's mission to eradicate polio.

## One World, One Rotary

By Keith McLaughlin, Rotary Club of Columbia



Have you ever felt completely alone in a foreign country, surrounded by people whose language and customs you don't understand? That was exactly how I felt during a trip to Russia a few years ago.

As I sat at a banquet table waiting for dinner to be served, I unexpectedly spotted a young lady wearing a Rotary shirt. In that instant, the feeling of isolation melted away. I was reminded of the shared values, community, and sense of belonging that Rotary represents, no matter where you are in the world.

I was there at the request of the SBTDC (MO State Small Business Technical Development Center) and with sponsorship from the MU College of Engineering's international outreach program. My task was to present a two-day seminar to 80 business bankers from across Russia about the mechanics of the U.S. Small Business Administration lending program, my area of expertise at the time.

My new Rotary acquaintance informed me that she was a member of one of Moscow's five Rotary Clubs, and coincidentally, like me, was serving as her club's president that year. She was at the gathering to organize the welcome dinner. The following day, she came to the meeting and presented me with her club banner.

That day, Rotary's motto—*Service Above Self*—took on new meaning for me. It wasn't just about service; it was about connection, compassion, and the shared belief that the world is smaller and kinder than it sometimes seems.

# Rotary Clubs Donate Funds for Worthwhile Causes



**Republic Rotary** turned compassion into action this fall with its first-ever Rotary Pet Food Drive Challenge — a friendly competition that brought out the best in members and the entire community.

Throughout October, two teams of Rotarians — Team Hollee Ellis and Team David Burton — competed to see who could collect the most donations for Republic Animal Control. The lighthearted rivalry included themed weigh-ins, playful wagers, and plenty of good-natured “tail-

wagging” banter. But behind the fun was a serious purpose: supporting the city’s animal shelter and the pets that depend on it.

By the end of the month, club members had personally donated more than 1,200 pounds of pet food, treats, and supplies, rallying their families, friends, and workplaces to join the cause. The effort didn’t stop there — Rotarians also used their connections and enthusiasm to build citywide awareness and support for the shelter’s needs, helping to strengthen the partnership between Republic Animal Control and the broader community.

“Rotary is about service above self, and this project showed how service can be both meaningful and fun,” said club president David Burton. “We’re proud that our friendly competition helped fill the shelter shelves — and reminded everyone in Republic that community starts with caring.”

The club is discussing plans to make the Pet Food Drive Challenge an annual tradition, proving that when neighbors and Rotarians come together, even a small act — like a bag of dog food — can make a big difference.

**The Rotary Club of Columbia** (right) recently presented a check for \$6,300 to Karen Funkenbusch, program director of the Missouri Chapter Heroes to Hives Program, to support the creation of an accessible apiary at Jefferson Farm and Garden in Columbia. Half of the funds (\$3,150) were from a District Grant, which was matched by the club.

Funkenbusch spoke at a recent club meeting about Heroes to Hives, a national program that provides veterans, active-duty military members, and their families with hands-on education in beekeeping as a pathway to wellness and agricultural entrepreneurship. The new accessible apiary will allow veterans of all abilities to safely participate in beekeeping activities and gain practical experience managing hives.



**Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotary** (left) and its satellite club in Versailles, as well as Tiger Nation and the Ronette Edgar real estate team raised and donated over \$3,000 for a family in the area that suffered an unthinkable loss.

## Rotary Clubs Celebrate, Socialize & Go 'On the Road'

**Belton-Raymore Rotary** (right) members and guests held a "5th Wednesday" get-together at The Peanut in Belton.



**Springfield North Rotary** (left) moved one of their regular month meetings off-site to the bottling plant of Ozarks



Coca Cola/Dr Pepper Bottling Company. The company has been bottling and distributing Coke and Dr. Pepper products for 120 years. Today they have five additional

facilities and distribute approximately 650 products throughout the Midwest. Ozarks Coca Cola has approximately 900 employees at its six facilities and operates 24-hours a day, Monday through Saturday.

**Jefferson City Rotary Breakfast** toured the new Special Learning Center (SLC) in Jefferson City—a place dedicated to supporting children with developmental delays and disabilities. SLC serves more than 950 children across 11 central Missouri counties. They were especially proud to see the Clinical Care Room named in honor of fellow Rotarian, Dr. David Linsenhardt and his wife, Mary Kay. Their generosity continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families throughout the community.



**Harrisonville Rotary** gathered Nov. 19 to celebrate a milestone that speaks to a life of service, kindness, and unwavering dedication. John Foster was surprised with a 90th birthday celebration filled with heartfelt words, shared memories, and stacks of cards from friends, neighbors, and community members whose lives he's touched over the years. Happy birthday, John! Thank you for the countless ways you've poured into Rotary and the Harrisonville community. Your legacy shines through every handshake, every project, and every person whose life has been enriched by your generosity and leadership.