



## **A Season of Gratitude, Giving and the Heart of Rotary**

What a fantastic District Conference we shared in October! Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and helped make it such a memorable and inspiring day. Your enthusiasm, energy, and commitment to Rotary truly shined — it was a wonderful celebration of service and fellowship!

As we move into November, we turn our focus to Rotary Foundation Month — a time to honor and support the charitable heart of Rotary International. The Rotary Foundation transforms our collective generosity into sustainable projects that address some of the world's greatest challenges — from promoting peace and providing clean water, to improving health, education, and economic opportunity. Every contribution, large or small, helps create lasting change around the globe and within our own communities.

As we enter the holiday season, I want to wish all our Rotary friends a healthy, joyful, and meaningful time surrounded by family and friends. It's a time to reflect with gratitude on all that we have — and to remember those who may be facing challenges or in need of a little extra kindness. This season, let's continue to look for ways to lift others up, to share our blessings, and to be the light that brightens someone else's day.

Because in the end, it always comes back to those simple truths — kindness matters, do good things, and you get what you give.

I'm grateful for all of you.

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)

A graphic for The Rotary Foundation featuring a blue background with a yellow border. On the left is a globe of Earth. On the right is the Rotary International logo. Text reads: "The Rotary Foundation", "The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.", and "www.rotary.org". At the bottom left, the word "ADVANCE" is written in a small, stylized font.

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

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ADVANCE

# District Conference Provides Service Opportunities

District Governor Andrea Brady planned a "different" district conference, one providing several opportunities for Rotarians to socialize while completing meaningful service projects. Ozarks Food Harvest, Crosslines, Care to Learn and the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks were the beneficiaries of their efforts.

The one-day conference was held Oct. 18 in Springfield at the headquarters of Help Give Hope, which is run by Andrea's husband, Michael Brady, who also serves as district simplified grants chair for District 6080. Keynote speaker was Shawn Askinosie, who left a successful career as a criminal defense lawyer to start a bean-to-bar chocolate factory, Askinosie Chocolate, which makes delicious, ethical chocolate that directly supports cocoa farmers in remote regions of Ecuador, the Amazon, Tanzania and the Philippines. He's also the co-founder of Lost & Found Grief Center, which provides help, hope and healing through professional grief support services.

Lunch was catered by award-winning BBQ chefs Mike and Chris Peters. Past District Governor Rowland Geddie presented club awards and District Treasurer Steve Montgomery gave his year-end 2024-25 budget report. Harry Beckett, Columbia South Rotarian, provided music throughout the day. Numerous clubs gave project reports during Minute to Win it.



*Creating Love Notes for Ozarks Food Harvest to place in children's weekend food backbacks*



*Filling snack packs for Care to Learn to give to children*



*Far left: Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotarians work on Love Notes.*

*Left: Jefferson City Evening Rotarians show off their new T-shirts at the conference.*

# Rotary District 6080 Awards Presented for 2024-25

Past District Governor Rowland Geddie presented a number of awards at the district conference to clubs for Rotary year 2024-25.

**Club Excellence Awards.** Clubs have already received these awards directly from Rotary International, but he recognized them for a job well done. These clubs put their goals into Rotary Club Central and achieved them: Columbia, Columbia Metro, Columbia South, Fayette, Fulton, Jefferson City, Jefferson City Breakfast, Jefferson City Evening, Jefferson City West, Lebanon, Salem, Springfield, Springfield Metro, Springfield North, Springfield Southeast, Springfield Sunrise and Willow Springs

**Foundation. Top Three Giving to the Annual Fund Per Capita Clubs:** Springfield, \$407.96; Springfield Metro, \$394.15 and Springfield Sunrise \$340.21. Honorable Mention: Jefferson City Evening, \$337.48; Buffalo, \$326.95 and Columbia-Metro, \$301.23.

**Total Giving:** Columbia South, \$83,166.60; Springfield Sunrise, \$49,518.13 and Springfield, \$45,604.76.

**EREY Clubs** (100% giving; average of at least \$100 to the Annual Fund): Belton-Raymore, Columbia Metro, Columbia South, Fulton, Jefferson City Evening, Sedalia, Springfield Metro, Springfield North, Springfield Sunrise and Willow Springs

**100% Giving Clubs** (100% participation in The Rotary Foundation giving and at least \$100 per capita giving). All of the clubs listed above, plus Clinton.

**Polio Plus Clubs** (contributed at least \$1,500): Branson Hollister, Columbia South, Fulton, Jefferson City Breakfast, Jefferson City Evening, Springfield, Springfield Metro, Springfield North, Springfield Southeast and Springfield Sunrise.

**Membership. New Clubs:** Republic with 25 charter members; Versailles Companion Club with 8.

**Most Net Member Growth** (1<sup>st</sup>, 2d, 3d): Central Missouri Warrensburg, 8; Table Rock, Branson West, 6; and Springfield Sunrise, 6.

**Most New Members:** Springfield Sunrise, 20; Laurie-Sunrise Beach, 14; Springfield Southeast, 14.

**Club Growth by Percentage:** Central Missouri Warrensburg, 38.10%; Thayer-Mammoth Springs, 20%; Table Rock, Branson West, 18.75%.

## **Service Projects.**

Community—Springfield, Springfield Southeast, Springfield Metro  
International—Jefferson City Breakfast

## **Youth Services.**

**RYE Hosting Clubs:** Boonville, Columbia South, Fulton, Jefferson City, Jefferson City Breakfast, Jefferson City Evening, Jefferson City West, Lake Ozark Daybreak, Pulaski County, Rolla, Springfield Sunrise and Warrensburg.

**Interact Sponsor Clubs:** Bolivar, Buffalo, Butler, Columbia, Columbia Metro, Columbia South, Fulton, Lake Ozark Daybreak, Lebanon, Mountain View, Salem (new), Springfield Sunrise and Willow Springs.

**RYLA Sponsor Clubs**—District 6080 sent more students to RYLA than did either District 6040 or District 6080. Thirty-six clubs sent 65 students.

**Peacebuilder Clubs:** Columbia-Metro, Fulton, Jefferson City Breakfast, Jefferson City Evening, Laurie Sunrise Beach, Mountain View, Pulaski County, Rocheport, Springfield Metro, Springfield North, Springfield Rotaract, Springfield Southeast and Springfield Sunrise.

# District Offers Short-term Student Exchange Programs

For the first time in many years, District 6080 students were given the opportunity to participate in short-term exchange during the summer of 2025. Three students, representing the Columbia-Metro Rotary, Pulaski County Rotary, and Rolla Rotary, participated in Rotary summer camps in Spain, Italy and Germany.

Short-term exchange programs (STEP) include both family-to-family exchange and camps/tours. Students between the ages of 15 and 17 may apply for a family-to-family exchange. Family-to-family exchange involves matching a student from District 6080 with a student from another country. The students spend 3-4 weeks in each country, learning about their host country's culture and family life.

Rotary's international camps and tours are a one-way experience where students from District 6080 join students from around the world to participate in a camp or tour that is sponsored, organized and overseen by Rotarians. Camps are offered to students between the ages of 15 and 25, with camps targeted to specific ages and interests. Because the host Rotarians also financially support the camps and tours, the cost for most camps and tours is very affordable. For summer 2025 more than 75 camps/tours were offered in 24 countries.

By offering short-term exchange in addition to long-term exchange, District 6080 provides the opportunity for more students to expand their global knowledge. Student exchange changes the world one student at a time. Each student's experience ripples out to their family and friends, host families, Rotarians in their home and host clubs, and to their communities.

Summer 2025 STEP participants included - **Jenna**, who attended the Milan: A Champion's Journey of Culture, Sport, and Solidarity camp in Italy. "Being part of the short-term exchange program in Milan was one of the best experiences I've ever had. I got to really dive into Italian culture, dining in the local cafes, rowing through scenic canals, and cooking my own pizza from scratch. Living abroad pushed me to be more independent and confident, and getting to know students from all over the world made the whole experience truly unforgettable."



**Victoria**, who attended Experience the Magic of Spain. "Spain gave me more than just memories – it gave me friendships across the world and a future full of places to visit and people to reunite with. Thank you, Rotary, for the experience of a lifetime."

The application deadline for long-term exchange for the 2026-2027 academic year is Oct. 15 each year. Short-term applications are accepted until March 1, but earlier application is recommended to allow the best placement.

Informational meetings about short-term exchange programs (STEP) are offered through Zoom Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. To request Zoom meeting information, please scan the QR code and provide your contact information.

To learn more about long-term and short-term Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE), visit the District 6080 RYE website at [rye6080.org](http://rye6080.org) and select Student Exchange Program from the task bar.

Questions or requests for presentations about Rotary Youth Exchange can be directed to [chair@rye6080.org](mailto:chair@rye6080.org).



## Rotary Clubs in 6080 Provide a Variety of Services



**Springfield Metro Rotary** made breakfast sandwiches for Victory Mission, which serves people leaving poverty and equips them with the tools to gain independence and rebuild their lives. The club finished the evening at Lindberg Tavern.

**Springfield North Rotary** members and spouses provided and served a meal at the Mercy Hospital Ronald McDonald House. The meal consisted of two hearty soups, several “finger foods,” including chips and queso dip from Mexican Villa, and numerous desserts. There was no actual count taken of the folks that ate since it was a “come-and-go” meal, but it is estimated around 25–30 people took advantage of the meal. Members took time to visit with the folks that ate and listened to their personal stories. Many parents had very young children, including a 1 lb., 9 oz. child in the pediatric ICU. It was a great and eye-opening experience for club members.



*Springfield Rotary members at the Springfield Miracle Field: Ram Nayar, Nick Nelson, Jenny Edwards, Tammy Jahnke, Shelly Evans, Deanna Adams, Steve Atwood and Danielle Wise.*

*Members at the CrossLines Food Pantry: Ken Chumbley, Ram Nayar, John Mihalevich, Eric Atkinson, John Moore, Clif Smart and Jeff Fredericks.*

**The Rotary Club of Springfield** volunteered at the Springfield Miracle Field, which provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be part of a team and play Miracle League ball. The club also volunteered at the CrossLines Food Pantry on Oct. 8.

**Salem Rotary** plans to assist with the Honor Our Heroes Marathon on Nov. 15. Marilyn Sweitzer is the Race Director, and Jimmy Standfast is the Race Sweeper. Tyson Richards and Mike Homeyer are race road guys, with water delivery and sign delivery. Salem Rotary's new 50-member Interact Club at Salem High School will also be helping. (See flyer elsewhere in the newsletter.)

**Harrisonville Rotary** spent an afternoon with Mrs. Jimenez's 4th Grade Wildcats learning about and making sensory boxes for preschool friends at the Harrisonville Early Childhood Center.



**Harrisonville Rotary** also served lunch to the staff of Harrisonville Schools during their professional development day.



**Willow Springs Rotarians** gathered to clean up the Steve Norman Memorial Park ahead of the Bear City Fall Festival.

**Rotary Youth Exchange** ghouls and goblins haunted Wonderland Camp Oct. 24–26 and did service projects with the campers. They carved pumpkins and managed the Haunted House, where there were lots of screams and shrieks.



*Willow Springs Rotarians Kim McCormick, Teresa Waggoner, Jay Waggoner and Michele Myers*



**Rotary Club of Columbia** member Nadège Uwase visited seven countries in East and Southeast Asia - Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam - during the summer. While traveling, Nadège enjoys connecting with fellow Rotarians. She had the pleasure of meeting President Andri Gustriandi and members of the Rotary Club of Jakarta, Indonesia, exchanging club flags and connecting them for a service project with a school she visited earlier in her trip.



*Andri Gustriandi (left) and Nadège Uwase exchange club flags.*

# Great Fundraisers Enable More Rotary Club Donations

**The Rotary Club of Columbia (Downtown)** raised \$3,562 for the 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's, surpassing its goal of \$3,000. The walk is held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide and is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.



Members Barbara Buffaloe, Rachel Augustine and Walt Lantzy.



**Fayette Rotary** President Eddie Campbell accepted a \$500 check for the club's Senior Center project from Shelby Alexander, Shauna Young and Virginia Claire Alexander, representatives of Commercial Trust Company at the club's meeting on Oct. 1 at the Senior Center. The club has also received donations from Kelly and Joe Vaughn of Vaughn Heating and Cooling, Jeff Davis of Community Auto, Janet Jacobs and Exchange Bank of Missouri.

**Belton-Raymore Rotary** presented a check to Foundation Chair Diana Hoemann and President Jodie Huston (right) for the \$635 in Happy Bucks collected last quarter. That money has been donated to Polio Plus.



**Jefferson City West Rotary** supported the Salvation Army of Jefferson City with \$430 worth of hygiene products for local adults and children in need. Items donated included shampoo, conditioner, body wash, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more – all helping neighbors in the community stay healthy and cared for. The club also hosted its annual Polio Plus Bingo event, combining fellowship with fundraising to support Rotary International's ongoing effort to eradicate polio.

**Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotary** presented a donation to Jade Savage, one of the board members for the MCKC-Morgan County Caring for Kids Coalition. The MCKC is a coalition organization supporting children's needs with school supplies and a holiday program.



Angie Lee, community service chair, presents the check to Jade Savage.

**Lake Ozark Daybreak Rotary** recently awarded grants to over 40 local charities – each one making a difference in the community. From youth programs and food pantries to health initiatives and local shelters, these organizations are the heartbeat of Service Above Self!



*Camdenton R-III School District staff Julie Bird, director of student services, and Brent Dunn, school-to-home coordinator with the McKinney-Vento (M-V) program*

**Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotary** donated kitchen items and a monetary contribution to the McKinney-Vento (M-V) program, which serves about 300 vulnerable students in the Camdenton R-III School District. These students are experiencing homelessness, hunger, lack of medical assistance and food insecurities. The M-V Pantry provides food, clothing and small appliances for easy prep, like crock pots, electric skillets, utensils, etc.

**Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotary** President Shana Aibuschon (center) accepted a check from organizers of Supercat Fest 4 Kids and the inaugural Cannonball Run. Club members donated time with various events Aug. 16- 24. Proceeds from these two events will be given to charities throughout the lake area, helping kids, helping families and beyond.



**Fulton Rotary** members individually donated \$2,105 and 40.5 pounds of food to SERVE during its fall food drive. The monetary contribution will provide more than 1,096 pounds of food for the food pantry at SERVE. This is the fourth year Fulton Rotary has challenged other civic organizations to see which one could donate the most. Once again, Rotary came out on top!

**Fulton Rotary** also held a Walk to End Polio on Oct. 26, with William Woods University Rotaract and Fulton High School Interact. Mother Nature didn't cooperate, but walkers braved the rain and walked along Stinson Creek Trail to raise awareness and funds for Polio Plus.



**Springfield Rotaract** sponsored the 9th Annual Double Dare Trivia Night Fundraiser Oct. 9, with proceeds going to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks. The evening included dinner, trivia and plenty of 90s nostalgia. Springfield Sunrise had the most members at the event and one of its teams took home the trivia trophy.



Springfield Rotaract



Ugh!



Springfield Rotary



Springfield Sunrise Rotary

**The Rotary Club of Rolla Lunch** President Mark Potrafka presented a \$500 donation to fellow Rotarian Scott Flett, who accepted the contribution on behalf of Carol Flett 4 Vets / Wreaths Across America. Potrafka also presented checks to Rotarian Maria Bancroft and Melissa Hoffman for \$250 each for the Rolla Optimist Basketball and Rolla Youth Football programs.



**Sedalia Rotary** recently made donations to support the community. President Ryan Wiedeman presented checks of \$500 to CASA, helping children in need, and \$750 to the Bothwell Foundation, supporting Bothwell Regional Health Center.

## Rotary on the Road – Clubs Get Out in the Community



**Springfield Sunrise Rotary** (left) held its October lunch meet-up Oct. 9 at La Paloma.

**Springfield Southeast Rotary** (right) held a New Member Luncheon at Big Whiskey's



American Restaurant & Bar.

**Columbia Metro Rotary** members (below) enjoyed a field trip to the Boone County Nature School.



**Sedalia Rotary's** members and spouses enjoyed an evening of fellowship at the home of Kathleen and Greg Boswell for its 5th Monday get-together. It was a perfect opportunity to relax, share stories, and strengthen the bonds of friendship.



**Springfield Rotaract** will celebrate 30 years of Rotaract in Springfield with a reunion Nov. 6 at Hold Fast Brewing, 235 North Kimbrough, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a relaxed happy hour with fellow Rotaract alumni and current members. Whether you were part of the founding years or just joined this year, they would love to see you there. Come celebrate the impact of Rotaract and the friendships that keep it going strong. Reconnect with friends, meet current members, and raise a glass to three decades of service, leadership, and community. \$10 suggested donation.



**Jefferson City West Rotary** on Oct. 17 toured the new facility of the Special Learning Center, which provides education, care, therapy, and outreach services to children with diverse developmental abilities. Members also donated \$325 to the center.



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# Evan's Top Tips for social media

- \* Tell a **story** with your pictures and make them appealing
- \* Don't **overload** your page, post often but not too much
- \* Encourage your members to buy into social media & to **share** your posts
- \* Increase your **visibility** by tagging friends, venues
- \* Post content that is **relevant** to your audience
- \* Create a social media **strategy** for your club
- \* Use **scheduling** & post at the best times of the day
- \* Be mindful of what you post & always keep it **positive**
- \* Have **FUN!!**



*Evan Burrell*  
Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator  
2018-21

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YOU DON'T JUST  
CHANGE THE WORLD—  
**YOU CHANGE  
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