



WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

April 23, 2024
Volume XXXI, Issue 39

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

Rock Island Rotary 50th AWARDS LUNCHEON



Keynote Speaker Andy McCray

With many guests in attendance and a television personality key-note speaker, Rock Island Rotary honored ten incredible individuals with awards at our fiftieth annual

Award Luncheon. Keynote speaker Andy McCray from WHBF-TV got things going with a stirring speech lauding the importance of scholarship, integrity, and commitment to service. Using his television experience McCray related a recent email he received from a former weather intern he had 20 years ago. The email included a list of “20 Things I Learned from my Internship” the young man, now himself a television meteorologist, had saved the list and sent it back to Andy stressing how important and true those lessons turned out to be. Picking several Andy related that what was true in learning the television business are just as valuable in our everyday lives. They included such things as respect others, treat people with kindness, don’t be a ”know it all”, don’t look back move forward, smile and be friendly, don’t try to be the center of every conversation, don’t practice “one upmanship”, be honest, be sincere, and don’t talk too much! Mr. McCray’s message was short and sweet and included personal experiences with many of the lessons learned. He praised the students who are receiving awards for their academic achievements and our honored community leaders receiving awards for their commitment to service and community. Mr. McCray’s comments were followed by award presentations to the top two senior scholars from Augustana College, the top two from Alleman Catholic High School and the top two from Rock Island High School. Augustana’s Director of Annual Giving, Rotarian Erin Williams introduced **Lauren Anderson**, daughter of Nick and Amy Anderson who joined her today. Lauren is a Speech Pathology major and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa. She is also a member of the Student Speech, Language, and Hearing Association and was the 2023 recipient of the Donald & Lois Davis Scholarship in communication science and disorders. She also won the 2022 Geifman Prize in Holocaust Studies taking first place in a competition in which students write or compose in music and art their responses to the Holocaust. Lauren also successfully completed an internship at Closet2Closet. During her first two years at Augustana she worked at “Shameless Chocoholic” and for the past two years at “Balance Autism”. After graduation she plans to earn a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology at Augustana and will work as a graduate assistant in the Communication Science & Disorders Department. Ms. Williams also introduced **Jalane Tsague**, an international student residing with Brian & Sandra Lebs. Sandra and “adopted” grandmother, Ruth Johnson accompanied her today. Jalane is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the Delta Sigma Pi Business Club, and is Chapter Secretary and Founding Leader of Augustana’s National Society of Leadership and Success chapter. She is part of the Global Engagement Team and a member of the African Student Association and the Black Student Union. She completed internships as a tax assembler at Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Co. in Moline, and in Marketing & Development at the Arc of the Quad Cities and as a Data Entry Specialist at Hand in Hand. Jalane also attended the National Character & Leadership Symposium at the US Air Force Academy. She is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program volunteer and a CFA Research Challenge participant. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in accounting and become a CPA.

Continued See Awards – page 3

April - May Calendar

- Apr 30 - RIHS INCubator Program Students
- May 7 - Thurgood Brooks - West End Revitalization
- May 14 - Sarah Leonard – Earl Hanson Principal
- May 21 - Tyler Mitchell – The Project
- May 28 - Ryan Wille, Q.C. Botanical Center Plant Discovery Bus5

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Self*

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*One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best*

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



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www.rirotary.com

Officers

Cindi Gramenz, President
Sue Rector, 1st Vice Pres.
John Olinger, 2nd Vice Pres.
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Tom Hammar, Co-Treasurer
Frank Lambert, Past President
Bob Swanson, Sgt. at Arms

Board Members

Rebecca Arnold, Director
Amber Brummit, Director
David Hodge, Director
Ruth Lee, Director
John Phillips, Director
Tracy Pugh, Director
Molly Shattuck, Director/Co-Treasurer
Tyla Sherwin-Cole, Director

Program Chair 2023-24

Rebecca Arnold
Presenters

July:	Tom Hammar
August:	Kai Swanson
September:	Rebecca Arnold
October:	Holly Sparkman
November:	Rebecca Arnold
December:	Bob Swanson
January:	John Wetzel
February:	Kai Swanson
March:	Angela Campbell
April:	Gary Rowe
May:	Gary Rowe
June:	Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we welcomed many guests including several from the far side of the globe joining via ZOOM to witness today's award presentations. Rather than take space here guests will be named in relation to the award winners they were here to support. Jr. Rotarian from Alleman High School Ella Praet, Emma Shrake, Danny Darrow, and Mark Schott were also with us today. Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guest and visiting Rotarians to meetings of Rock Island Rotary, the "Number 1 Club"!

★ IMPORTANT ROTARY EVENTS COMING UP!

- **DISTRICT CONFERENCE** – Our Rotary District Conference will be held in Moline at the Stoney Creek Hotel this Friday and Saturday. There will be great speakers, interesting discussions, club displays, entertainment, and District awards presented. Talk to any of our members that attended previous Conferences and they will tell you it is an experience well worth your time. If you've not been to the Stoney Creek Hotel, it is just east of the Vibrant Arena and near to Johnny's Steak House. With our Club offering to reimburse the fees for any member attending, why not go, participate, and enjoy! Registration for attending meals is closed.
- **ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE** – Tickets are now available for our 2024 Wine & Dine Raffle with winners to be drawn, **May 28th**. Tickets are just \$5 or five for \$20. There will be five winners, each receiving a \$200 gift certificate for food and beverage at one of five selected Rock Island and Milan establishments. See Ruth Lee to purchase tickets OR If you will help promote and/or sell tickets to your friends and colleagues, Ruth will provide returnable tickets on consignment to you and small posters for display..

★ FIRST CLUB STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING FOR 2024-2029

COMPLETED! FINAL MEETING SET FOR MAY 4th. All members who were unable to attend are urged to mark your calendar now and make the commitment to be there on the 4th. If you absolutely cannot attend, please contact Sue Rector at srector3614@gmail.com for a PowerPoint that you can view at home or office. Strategic Planning will set the course for our Club for the next five years. Your opinions, suggestions, and concerns are needed and wanted!

★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to, bobdebswanson@att.net. Our newsletter goes via email every Tuesday afternoon. Items received by 11am Tuesday can be included that day. committee chairmen send advance notice of your committee meetings so we can get the word to your members.

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test

(of the things we Think, Say or Do)

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

APRIL ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Frank Perez	April 17
Mark Zimmerman	April 17
Rick Devinney	April 18
Kathy Rugeberg	April 20
Kristia LeShoure	April 23
Rick Emery	April 26

Awards – from page 1

Principal Jane Barrett introduced Alleman's top two seniors. **Daniel Healy** is the son of Jason & Sarah Healy who attended with Daniel today. Daniel is a National Merit Scholar Finalist, and Illinois State Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, and a John O'Connor Scholar. His extra-curricular Activities include being a member of the ACHS Disciples Bible Study, the Alleman Theatre, and Pep Band, and the ICTM (Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics) Math Team. As a math team member Daniel won 1st place at Regionals in individual geometry competition, 4th place at State in 8-person team competition, and 3rd place in geometry team competition. He also won 2nd place in Regional individual competition in Algebra II and 4th place at State on the Oral Presentation Team. He also was a member of the ACES Academic Team taking 1st Place in Regional & Sectional competitions in Engineering Graphics and English and advanced to win 1st place at State in Engineering Graphics and 1st place in English. Outside of school his is an Eagle Scout, an Altar Server at St. Johns and St. Mary's Catholic Churches. He also volunteers at the Messiah Lutheran Food Pantry. After graduation he plans to study Computer Engineering and has not yet selected a school.

Principal Barrett also introduced **Catherine Mehochko**, is the daughter of Maureen Riggs and John Mehochko who attended with "Kate" today. Kate is President of Alleman's National Honor Society, a John O'Connor Scholar, an Illinois State Scholar, and was awarded All-Academic Team recognition by the Western Big 6 Conference in Basketball. She is also a member of Alleman's ICTM Math Team. Her extra-curricular activities include Student Council, serving as Captain of the Dance Marathon, Student Hunger Drive, Alleman's Girls' Basketball Team, Key Club and she serves as an Alleman Student Ambassador. Kate was also a DAR Good Citizen nominee. Her plans after graduation are to study finance and management at either the University of Notre Dame or the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign.

Next stepping to the microphone was Rocky principal, Rotarian Jeff Whitaker. He introduced the top students from Rock Island High School. He first presented **Jackson Bennett**, son of Chad and Brooke Bennett who joined Jackson today. Jackson is a member of National Honor Society and was a Junior Marshall at the 2023 Rocky graduation. He is a three-time IHSA Scholastic Award Winner, a Charles O. Austin Scholar, and Illinois State Scholar and a three-time National MathCon Finalist. His extra-curricular activities include 4 years of Rocky baseball including 3 varsity years, 3 years as a member of the Chamber Orchestra, 2 years on the varsity bowling team and 1 year on the E-Sport team. Outside of school he has played travel baseball for 13 years and has volunteered at various baseball camps for youth. He also is a 6-year volunteer for the Coal Valley Food Pantry Holiday Basket Program. He is an 8-time National Champion in Power Tumbling, Double Mini, and Trampoline. After Graduation Jackson will attend Luther College in Decorah, Iowa to study accounting and actuarial science. He also will participate in collegiate baseball.

Our final student, also introduced by principal Whitaker was **Asa Mahn**, son of Laura and Jason Mahn who attended with Asa. Asa is president of Rocky's National Honor Society and a member of the Education Internship Program at Rock Island High School. He is an AP (Advanced Placement) Scholar With Distinction. He was selected and served as one of two Student Representatives on the Board Of Education for 2022-23. He is an IHSA Scholastic Award recipient and received a Western Big 6 Academic All-Conference Award and a Rock Island High School Scholastic Award. Asa also is an ISAC 2023-24 State Scholar. In addition to athletics he has excelled in athletics serving as captain of the Cross Country Team and was a State Qualifier in Track as a Junior and is expected to repeat this year. He earned Quad City All-Metro Honorable Mention for Cross-Country. Outside of school Asa is a member of Teens for Tomorrow, a youth philanthropy team run by the Quad City Community Foundation. He is also active in youth programming at St. Paul Lutheran Church. After graduation Asa plans to study political science at a four-year college.

Congratulations to our six student award recipients. They are truly the best and brightest! Each received a commemorative award.

See photos page 7

OUR HIGHEST HONOR - THE A.T. PEARA AWARD

Kathy Trone, our 2023 A.T. Peara Award winner had the honor of introducing this year's recipient. Kathy stated, "The A.T. Peara, Service Above Self Award is the highest honor bestowed by RI Rotary. It is a lifetime achievement award, recognizing a Rotary member who has shown dedicated service and faithful commitment to the ideals of Rotary that were followed by A.T. Peara, for whom the award is named." The 2024 A.T. PEARA winner, **Cindi Gramenz** holds a BS Degree in Criminal Justice and honorably served our country in the United States Air Force from 1994-2000 as a Law Enforcement/Military Working Dog Handler, providing direct support to local law enforcement, the Department of Defense, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Secret Service. She is a highly experienced non-profit manager who understands the importance of being a "situational Leader" by building strong personal relationships throughout the community. She is a respected community leader, sitting on the boards of the Northwestern Illinois Continuum of Care as vice-chair, Bridging the Gap Standdown, and Scott County Veterans Affairs Commission. Kathy added, "Our Rotary Club has benefited from her leadership and willingness to go above and beyond for our club, serving as Co-Sergeant at Arms AND a TWO-term Presidency while fulfilling her role as an Assistant Governor and District Public Relations Chair." Cindi is a true leader, knowing when to push, when to pull, when to delegate, when to support, when to back off, and when to encourage. She has for many years arrived early each week to help set up for our meetings. She truly always puts service above self. Congratulations to Cindi Gramenz, our 2024 AT PEARA award winner! Thanks to Frank Roe, Christian Care CEO for attending in support of Cindi.

See photos page 7

THE LUCKENBILL-WRAY AWARD

The Luckenbill-Wray Award was established in honor of two incredibly loyal, generous, dedicated and long-time members of Rock Island Rotary. The award recognizes outstanding and exceptional service to Rock Island Rotary during the past Rotary year. We lost Fred Luckenbill in 2017. He had served as our President, our District Governor, and volunteered for virtually every club project during his 47 years of membership in our club. Fred and his wife Nancy annually traveled to attend the Rotary International Convention. We lost Sam Wray in 2019 after 44 years of membership in our club. Sam worked on scores of club projects and committees and staffed our Sergeant at Arms table for years. Along with wife Hilde, Sam was the founder and the largest financial backer of our Club's International Water Project which continues to grow and is now providing safe, sanitary water to over 17,000 children in Kenya. We were especially honored to have Nancy Luckenbill with daughter Beth Luckenbill Ford, and Hilde Wray with son Tim Wray, with us today to share in the presentation of the award to our 2023-24 honoree, **Kathy Trone**, introduced by our 2022-23 winner, Sue Rector. Sue stated that Kathy is a shining example of Service above Self in our club, in our community, and in our district. The success that our club has enjoyed for many years in having adequate funds to support worthwhile non-profits in our Quad Cities is largely due to the tireless efforts of this Rotarian. And our Earl Hanson Elementary School partnership has thrived and grown thanks to the dedication of this Rotarian to ensure that our club has the funds to serve the Earl Hanson kiddos faithfully and to the best of our ability. As you might have discerned, Kathy has served as our fundraising chair for many years and has personally chaired our annual Trivia and Rock & Roll Bingo nights.

Sue stated, our Club has been blessed to have Kathy's wisdom and leadership as a member of our club's Board and our District 6420 has a tireless leader bringing visibility, conversation, and education to every community in our district about a horrendous problem in our communities and world. This has involved traveling hundreds of miles to spread critically important information to District Rotary club regarding human trafficking. Kathy is a leading example of what being a Rotarian is all about as dedicated, professional, and ethical leader in her workplace with over 25 years at the same firm – almost unheard of in today's work-world, plus dedicated service to our club and our community. Sue concluded saying Kathy Trone Rotarian loves her family dearly and is a friend to all. Rock Island Rotary congratulates KATHY TRONE our 2023-24 Luckenbill-Wray Award winner. *See photos page 7*

ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE

An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation — all of which can be prevented. Rotary provides education, immunizations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease.

- More than \$102 million (USD) has been spent by TRF on Global Grants targeting Maternal and Child Health
- Haiti has the highest maternal and infant mortality rate of any country in the western hemisphere. Rotary provided a fully equipped medical Jeep to volunteers and midwives to reach mothers and children in remote areas.
- Cancer screening: Rotarians provided a mobile cancer screening unit and awareness trainings around Chennai, India, where there is a high mortality rate of women with breast and cervical cancer due to late diagnosis.
- Preventing injuries and deaths: Rotary members launched a \$3 million, five-year pilot to save lives of mothers and children during home deliveries in Nigeria. Since 2005, they've also repaired 1,500 obstetric fistulas — 500 more than their initial goal — restoring dignity and hope to vulnerable mothers.

“If mothers are empowered and healthy, so are their families, leading to an alleviation of poverty and hunger.” Robert Zinser, co-founder of the Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development and retired president for Asia at chemical giant BASF. Support of the Rotary Foundation makes these efforts possible. Thank you!

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle offered a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine Nimble VI nards wine. The first luck ticket holder was Ruth Lee, and she took the wine. The second ticket drawn was held by Doug Hultquist who took the cash and promptly donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. Each week the wine offered is donated by fellow Rotarians in support of the Rotary Foundation. Proceeds from the raffle itself also goes to support the Rotary Foundation. We appreciate those who donate wine and purchase tickets!



PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD!

The Rotary Professional Excellence Award recognizes a person, business, or organization not only for being successful, but for excelling above and beyond their peers in professionalism, honesty, integrity, and ability, all characteristics that were at the heart and purpose of Rotary's creation. Our 2024 recipients were introduced by Awards Committee Chair, Bob Swanson. He stated that in 1925 Arthur Hass, a determined young man with a single piece of horse-drawn equipment founded Valley Construction Company and got his first contract building an alley in Rock Island. From that first small project Valley Construction has grown into one of the most well-known and well-respected construction firms in this region. Arthur's boys, John, Jim, and Bill joined their dad in the family business and growth steadily continued. Eventually leadership of the business was turned over to the boys, then young men, schooled in their father's business model of using the latest construction methods, a huge emphasis on safety, a strong work ethic, placing the highest value on relationships built upon honesty, integrity, quality work, and fair pricing. With John, Jim and Bill at the controls, growth continued. For more than 50 years, the three jointly guided Valley Construction's steady, safe, and respected growth. They brought another generation of sons into the business, letting them learn from the bottom up. In 2012, John, Jim, and Bill turned leadership of the company over to the next Hass generation. Tragically we lost John Hass in 2018. John's son Greg is now President and CEO, Bill's son Adam is Vice-President. Under their leadership the company continues to grow in size, scope, impeccable reputation, and continue their fathers' commitment to community as one of the areas most philanthropic businesses. Although Valley Construction is one of the largest and most successful construction firms in the region, rather than profits, Bob noted that the Valley Construction webpage talks about family and list scores of awards from Labor Organizations, the National Safety Council, the Department of Transportation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and many others lauding how they do business. Valley also has received the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce Excellence Award, the Illinois DOT Contractor of the Year Award, and the Quad Cities Better Business Integrity Award. 2025 will be their 100th year in business and it is obvious they take great pride in "how" they do business. Jim and Bill Hass along with Greg Hass the current president and CEO of Valley Construction, and the son of John Hass who passed in 2018 were present to accept the award. We were also pleased to welcome Jim's wife Rose Ann, Bill's wife Nancy, and Valley V.P. Adam Hass. Congratulations to the Hass family and Rock Island's Valley Construction Company. *See photos page 7*

ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

See Ruth Lee or Gary Rowe to purchase tickets and/or to obtain tickets to sell.

You may return unsold tickets. Small window posters are also available for your place of business.
Tickets are just \$5 or five for \$20.

Five lucky winners will receive a \$200 Gift Certificate to one of five outstanding local food and beverage establishments including: The Rock Island Ale House, Circa21 Dinner Playhouse, Huckleberry's Italian Restaurant, The Old Oaks Winery, and Pagalo's Pizzeria & Gelato Café.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We have ONE more opportunity for you to attend a Club **Strategic Planning** session. It will be held at the Modern Woodman of American National Headquarters. If you did not attend this past Saturday, we urge you to attend this final session. If you cannot make it and did not attend Saturday, contact Sue Rector at srector3614@gmail.com to receive by email a PowerPoint to view at home or office. Strategic Planning will lay the groundwork for the direction our club will take over the coming five years. All opinions are important!

The **FINAL SESSION** is:

Saturday, May 4th – Start time: 9 am
Will conclude by noon

No pre-registration required. Drive in to the Modern Woodman main building, park in guest parking and look for 2nd V.P. John Olinger. He will escort you to our meeting room.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Rotarian Gary Rowe introduced the honoree for our 2024 Award for Community Service. The recipient is Daryl Empen.

Daryl earned a B.A. degree from Augustana College in 1991. He is President and Treasurer of the Gas & Electric Credit Union, an important local financial institution with \$120 million in assets and more than 6000 members.

Daryl is a dedicated community volunteer. He is a past president of the board of directors of the Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation and past Chairman of the Rock Island Preservation Commission. He serves on the Boards of Directors of NEST Café, Friendship Manor, the Rock Island Parks & Recreation Foundation, and the Illowa Council of Boy Scouts of America. Daryl is a long-time member and Treasurer of the Rock Island Kiwanis Club.

Daryl has a long and distinguished history of volunteer service to the Illowa Boy Scout Council. He served as Cubmaster for Pack 250 from 2010 to 2015, and as Scoutmaster for Troop 258 since 2017; 13 members of his Boy Scout Troop have earned their Eagle Scout Awards during that time, including his two sons Nils and Ian. Daryl himself earned the Eagle Scout Award in 1987. He was presented with the Saukenuk Award of Merit in 2019 and the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award in 2021.

Gary concluded his remarks stating, "Daryl is a business leader in our community and a tireless, dedicated volunteer." A very deserving community servant, Rock Island Rotary is pleased to recognize Daryl Empen as our 2024 Community Service Award winner who was accompanied by his wife, Cynthia Empen. *See photo page 7*

PASS OUT THE CIGARS – WE'VE GOT A DAUGHTER!

Jeff Dismer, our Youth Exchange Chair just received word from the District that **we will have** an Inbound Rotary Exchange student coming to stay with us for the 2024-25 school year. We will have a young woman from France named Chloe' Bourron joining us this fall! Hopefully she'll be here in time to ride with us in the Labor Day Parade! Jeff will be working hard to make sure the housing arrangements are all set and ready to welcome Chloe'. Ideally Jeff would like three host families with each hosting Chloe' for approximately 3 months. The hope is to give her as many opportunities as possible to experience American culture, customs, and traditions.

world relief® 

QUAD CITIES

Specific needs: Vegetable oil, Rice (jasmine or long-grain white), and Flour (wheat, rice, or cornmeal). Please bring your donation to any meeting in April

World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable. They aim to tackle the world's greatest problems with holistic, locally-driven solutions that lead to lasting change — whether in response to disasters, extreme poverty, violence, oppression or mass displacement and immigration. World Relief's work in the United States, specifically, focuses on helping refugees and other immigrants in vulnerable situations rebuild their lives in a new country.

The 2023-24 Rotary District 6420 project is working to end hunger. Our District Governor set a goal asking each Club in the district to donate 20lbs of food (or more) for each member of the Club. Donations could be made to any food pantry or meal site our club selected. After seeking input from all members our club agreed to donate food last September to Christian Care; October to Heart of Hope; January to Project Now/Head Start; February to SAL Community Services; and now in April: to World Relief. **NEXT TUESDAY is our final food collection.** If you suspect you have not reached the 20lb goal, please do your best to hit that mark during this month!

A GALLERY OF MAGNIFICENT AWARD WINNERS!



A.T. Peera Award Winner Cindi Gramenz
Introduced by 2023 Winner Kathy Trone



Luckenbill-Wray Award Winner Kathy Trone
with 2023 Winner Sue Rector



Community Service Award winner Daryl Empen
introduced by Gary Rowe



Greg Hass, Jim Hass, and Bill Hass of Valley Construction received the **Professional Excellence Award** introduced by Bob Swanson



Alleman's Top 2 Students, Daniel Healy and Kate Mehochko
With Alleman Principal, Jane Barrett



Asa Mahn and Jackson Bennett Rock Island High School's **Top 2 Students** with Rocky Principal Jeff Whitaker



Augustana College's Top 2 Students, Lauren Anderson and Jalane Tsague with Augustana Administrator Erin Williams

ROTARIANS SERVE “DONUTS WITH GROWN-UPS” At Earl Hanson on Thursday, April 18

Rotarians did such a good last year job serving doughnuts, coffee, and juice to staff, parents, and students at Earl Hanson Elementary School that we were asked to help again this year. Last Thursday six Rock Island Rotarians answered the call and as you can tell from the photo, had a fun time helping out! Meghan Cooley an active Earl Hanson parent sent this note” “As always, THANK YOU TO ROTARY VOLUNTEERS for their help with the event at Earl Hanson. It was a great crew and our largest turnout of families EVER!” Thanks to Ruth Lee, Marcy Bell, Bud Phillis, Amanda De La Cruz, Gary Rowe, and Julie Gelaude. You were GREAT!



Here are our smiling Rotary volunteers!



And here is JUST PART of the parents who attended!

Strengthening A Partnership



Rock Island Rotary for many years has partnered with Heart of Hope. Initially beginning by helping in the Food Pantry each Thursday when those in need come to select food, we then added collection of reusable plastic grocery bags, helping with weekly delivery of food to the elderly and disabled, collecting winter coats, and funding the purchase of a new storage shed. The pandemic caused a pause in our onsite volunteering, but that is behind us now and they now have enough volunteers on Thursdays. **Heart of Hope Executive Director Lynda Sargent** is now reaching out to

us and asking that we strengthen our partnership in new and much needed ways. She asks that we consider a Spring drive for personal hygiene items; a Summer drive for household cleaning supplies; and a Winter drive for coats! They are also accepting all seasonal clothing items and small household items They are especially in need of children's clothing and children's shoes. Items such as bikes for neighborhood youth are also BIG wins! If you are cleaning closets or have items your children have outgrown, please consider bringing them to Rotary for delivery to Heart of Hope.

Lynda also provided a list of upcoming events and invites us to join them:

June 8th - Community Love Fest (distribution of clothing items, food, bounce house, dunk tank, games for youth and adults, and prayer opportunities)

November 8th - Dinner Gala Fundraiser (at the Rock Island Holiday Inn). This is a lovely evening to hear stories from those we serve, enjoy dinner and cash bar, silent auction, and fellowship with friends. It would be great if the Rotarians would have a table of 8.

December 14th - Christmas Give-away (we partner with United Way's Emerging Leaders and served over 300 this past Christmas). We had a Santa and children were able to select a new toy or game that this group helped us connect. We distributed coats, clothing, blankets, new underwear, gloves, hats, and scarves. It would be great to have Rotary collect coats for the 2024 Christmas Give-away..

Lynda thanks Rotary for our continued donations of the grocery bags and asks us to please continue to do that. Another way we can help is donations of large reuseable grocery bags (like they have at Aldi's). Heart of Hope no longer is able to purchase boxes from River Bend Food Bank so the have to buy bags from Aldi's to distribute the food in. These cost right around \$1 per bag. They usually need at least a 100 each week.

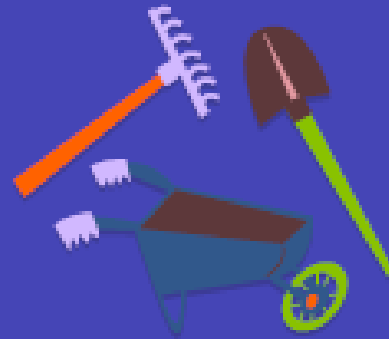
The requests don't require physical labor or considerable time. If you have interest in coordinating an activity for Heart of Hope, please let Cindi Gramenz, Sue Rector, or Steve Morenz know. .

Volunteers Needed

CHRISTIAN CARE has two one-time opportunities to volunteer and help us make a difference!

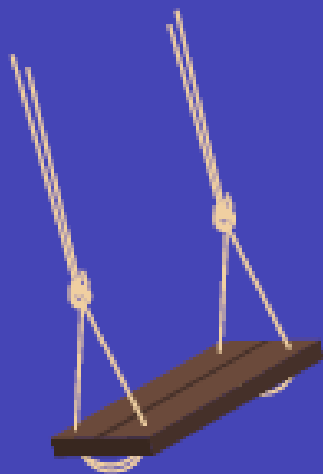
SATURDAY
MAY 4 AT 9:00 AM

We need help putting down mulch in the front area of our shelter.



WEDNESDAY
MAY 15 AT 9:00AM

We need assistance tearing down an old playground set to make room for a new one at Martha's House!



If interested in helping, please call Cindi at
(309) 786-5734 or email at
cgramenz@christiancareqc.org