

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR OCTOBER, 2020

	From Our District Governor Practicing Positive Peace Together; Voting to Make a Difference By Kirk Driskell For those of you who missed the Facebook Live broadcast of Georgia Rotarians Stand for Peace & Unity, there were several wonderful messages about peace from former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and others. The broadcast runs about 30 minutes; you can watch a replay at https://www.facebook.com/679821386614232/videos/3365014743565223 At the end of the broadcast, all Georgia Rotarians were challenged to participate in Rotary Positive Peace Academy! - https://rotarypositivepeace.org/ It's a four-module online tutorial with a short quiz at the end of each module that teaches the difference between Negative Peace and Positive Peace and inspires you how to practice Positive Peace in our District, our Rotary Club, our families, and our lives. It only takes about 90 minutes total and does not have to be completed in one sitting. Let's practice Positive Peace together! It's also an important time in our nation, our state and our communities - as we approach the November 3 election. I urge all of you to take the time to be informed and to cast your ballots as you see best for yourself, your community, our state and our nation. And for those of you who are business owners, I hope that you will encourage your work colleagues to vote and provide them with the time they need to do so. It's an important responsibility we have as citizens - and another way we can make a difference as Rotarians. [more]
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	From Facebook In Support of Peace ... What Two Clubs Are Doing By Jackie Cuthbert Both the Rotary Clubs of Americus (pictured here) and Johns Creek North Fulton recently took part in community events. Read on ... [more]
	From Facebook A Shout-Out to Our Partners who are Making a Difference By Jackie Cuthbert From Newnan to Atlanta West End, Carrollton and Meriwether County, here's what Rotarians had to say about their partners and speakers. [more]

Join the District on LinkedIn

By Jackie Cuthbert

Did you know that Rotary District D6900 has a LinkedIn group? Just click <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1874579/>. We'd love to have you. We hope to make it a more vibrant place to share project ideas, information about projects seeking partners, success stories ... [\[more\]](#)

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Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday, October 15th, 2020	Albany Board & Official Visit
Monday, October 19th, 2020	Atlanta Board & Official Visit
Tuesday, October 20th, 2020	Stone Mountain Board & Official Visit
Wednesday, October 21st, 2020	Brookhaven Board & Official Visit
Thursday, October 22nd, 2020	Tucker Board & Official Visit
Friday, October 23rd, 2020	Decatur Board & Official Visit
Saturday, October 24th, 2020	World Polio Day
Tuesday, October 27th, 2020	Rainbridge Board & Official Visit
Wednesday, October 28th, 2020	Cairo Board & Official Visit
Friday, October 30th, 2020	Pelham Board & Official Visit
Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020	Midtown Atlanta Board & Official Visit
Wednesday, November 4th, 2020	Emory-Druid Hills Board & Official Visit
Thursday, November 5th, 2020	Peachtree City Board & Official Visit
Friday, November 6th, 2020	Atlanta West End Board & Official Visit

From Our District Governor

Practicing Positive Peace Together; Voting to Make a Difference



For those of you who missed the Facebook Live broadcast of Georgia Rotarians Stand for Peace & Unity, there were several wonderful messages about peace from former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and others. The broadcast runs about 30 minutes; you can watch a replay at <https://www.facebook.com/670821386614232/videos/3365014743565225>

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It's also an important time in our nation, our state and our communities - as we approach the November 3 election. I urge all of you to take the time to be informed and to cast your ballots as you see best for yourself, your community, our state and our nation. And for those of you who are business owners, I hope that you will encourage your work colleagues to vote and provide them with the time they need to do so. It's an important responsibility we have as citizens - and another way we can make a difference as Rotarians.

Posted by Kirk Driskell
October 8, 2020

End Polio Now

World Polio Day - October 24



WORLD POLIO DAY
IS 24 OCTOBER endpolio.org | [#endpolio](https://twitter.com/endpolio)



World Polio Day is a time for Rotarians from all over the world to come together, recognize our progress in our fight to end polio, and talk about the action we need to take in order to end polio for good.

This is a great opportunity for clubs to host their own events (virtual or otherwise). We want to see as many Rotary clubs as possible holding World Polio Day events around the world. Let us know how your club is recognizing World Polio Day. You can go to endpolio.org/world-polio-day for ideas on events and resources - and you can register your event on endpolio.org/register-your-event.

It is crucial that we remain optimistic about the future and continue raising the funds and awareness

necessary to support the end of this disease. World Polio Day is an important opportunity for the world to hear Rotary's rallying cry to End Polio Now.

Club/District/World Polio Day Events

Starting October 24, our 2020 Online Global Update will be available for streaming on the Rotary International Facebook page and EndPolio.org in multiple languages. Visit the World Polio Day page on EndPolio.org for more information.

Clubs, members, and districts that register their World Polio Event on EndPolio.org by October 15 will receive early access to the Online Global Update via email and will be able to download the program a week before World Polio Day.

Need some ideas for your World Polio Day event? Consider these ideas:

- Organize a viewing party for friends and club members to watch the Online Global Update.
- Dedicate a club meeting to World Polio Day and update your website with the event details.
- Create a fundraising event. Every \$1 raised is matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Remember, additional resources, including a toolkit, are available at endpolio.org/resource-center

Posted by Bob Hagan
October 8, 2020

Membership

Let My Rotary Help You Grow

by Jaclyn Donovan, District Membership Chair



Now more than ever it's important for Rotary clubs to continue demonstrating their value by staying connected to members and responding to changing needs in the community. If you are in need of resources to help you in this endeavor, check out the membership page in [My Rotary](#).

There are numerous resources to help you add value to your club:

- Assess your club to see if your club is meeting members' needs and reflecting the community
- Engage current members to learn strategies that will keep members involved
- Connect with prospective members
- Follow your membership candidates
- Make new members feel welcome, develop an orientation program, and get them involved early and often
- Develop your club with ideas for planning and strengthening your club
- Support the start a new club
- Stay current with the state of Rotary and keep up with what's happening

The page also includes multiple tools and connections to help you achieve your membership goals.

So don't miss out on the opportunity to take advantage of all that Rotary is offering. And remember that your district membership chair, Jaclyn Donovan, is only an email or phone call away if you need her.

We want to help you have a great year and GROW Rotary!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
October 8, 2020

GRSP Update

Keeping Up with GRSP's Impact; Planning for 2020-21

by Ian Bond, District GRSP Chair



Even though we are unable to host a Georgia Rotary Student Program class of 2020-2021, the GRSP Trustees and Clubs throughout the District continue to be engaged with many of the over 3,600 GRSP alumni around the world as well as planning for the class of 2021-2022.

From Trustee Guy Gebhardt (RC of East Cobb)

On September 16, Kennesaw State University President Pamela Whitten spoke to the East Cobb Club at the club's remote meeting via Zoom. The club introduced to President Whitten KSU GRSP students Lucila Sigantini from Brazil (GRSP class of 2017-2018), Ivonne Meares from Zimbabwe (2018-2019), and Cristina Garcia from Colombia (2019-2020). Lucila and Cristina returned to Brazil and Colombia, respectively. Ivonne is now a senior at Kennesaw State. Like all the Trustees Guy continues to keep in touch with his clubs' 2020-2021 students, who have been affected by the pandemic. He is working with Paisley Ward in Perth, Australia who hopes to come the Georgia in 2021-2022. Guy has already paired up this future barrister or solicitor with an attorney in the East Cobb Club who is a mediator. Paisley is interested in mediation. Let's keep our fingers crossed we can have a 2021-2022 GRSP Class.

From the Rotary Club of Columbus

The program at one of the club's recent virtual meetings was presented by three of the Club's GRSP alumni. Rachel Eadie from Scotland (2006-2007), Lida Kalustova from Russia (2014-2015), and Siri Nordlander from Sweden (2017-2018). What an amazing live streamed Rotary meeting that spanned three continents, four countries, and seven time zones! Each alumni shared what has happened in their studies and career since leaving Georgia and how the GRSP and Rotary experience had impacted them and their career. This was followed by real time Q&A with the Club members. All three are engaged in exciting careers that are a direct result of specific classes they took at Columbus State University. They are all engaged in service-above-self projects and organizations, including Rotary and Rotaract Clubs, District projects and committees and Rotary Youth Exchange. Through the scholarships GRSP provides Georgia Rotarians advance cultural understanding and social experiences through friendship, develops potential global leaders, and expands the ideals of Rotary around the world.

The photo: Zoom screen from RC of Columbus's recent GRSP alumni meeting. Top row: Ian Bond, GRSP District Cahir and Rachel Eadie (Scotland). Bottom row: Lida Kalustova (Russia) and Siri Nordlander (Sweden).

Posted by Ian Bond
October 8, 2020

Our Rotary Foundation

New Global Grant Scholar Begins Journey

From Kathy Brandt, our District Scholarship Chair



Even in the face of COVID-19 challenges, our latest District 6900 Global Grant Scholar and family are off to London! Jared Hampson will be studying at King's College London for a Masters degree in Peace and Security.

This is the first time that District 6900 will support a scholar with family on such a scholarship. (We have supported 12 such Global Grant Scholars since 2010 - all through money we receive back from The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund based on our district's donations three years earlier). I recently talked with Jared, who described his family's journey to their London flat. After early morning arrival in London on a red-eye flight, he proceeded to bounce all over London to obtain the keys to their 2 room flat, arriving nearly 24 hours after US departure. All of this with an eight-month old and a mandated 14-day quarantine. Here's some of what he had to share:

"The Hampson family is doing well and starting to feel settled in in London. I am just starting the first week at King's College. It has been a chaotic month for the university as COVID cases in the UK have been on the rise. The university made the decision this week that for the time being, all classes will be online. If the rate of COVID infection declines to a safe level in the future, they will try to use small in person classes. This week the UK government put restrictions on groups greater than six people from meeting, and rumours are spreading that there might be another full lockdown.

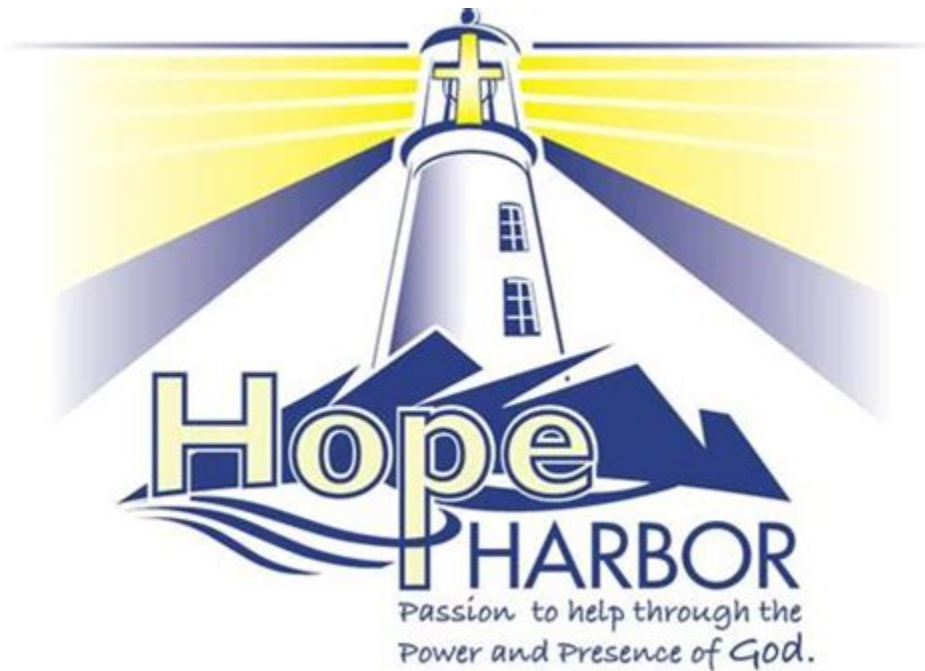
"That being said, the school is quickly trying to adapt to fully online. The modules I will be studying for the

year are Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, International Law and Conflict, and International Politics of the Middle East. The last one was not my first choice, but was the only one available and I think will still be interesting. The London Rotary District will be holding their Scholar Welcome this Saturday on Zoom, and I am looking forward to it."

Posted by Kathy Brandt
October 8, 2020

Our Rotary Foundation ... From Facebook

Multi-Club District Grant Helps Victims of Domestic Violence



Three Rotary Clubs -**Columbus, Muscogee-Columbus and North Columbus** - joined together with Rotaract in a great multi-club district grant project benefiting Hope Harbour Shelter in Columbus. The organization serves victims of abuses and domestic violence. The Clubs purchased and assembled packages with household items. Take a minute to [watch the video on Facebook](#) and see the Family of Rotary at work to make lives better in Columbus.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
October 8, 2020

Our Rotary Foundation

District Grant Teaches Local Students About Rotary



Signage is up for the **Rotary Club of Moultrie's** Rotary District 6900 Grant Project at the Stringfellow Elementary School gazebo. All around the ceiling is the Four Way Test and Rotary's Areas of Focus are around the railings - giving the students a chance to learn more about Rotary. Thanks to WHATAGRAPHIC for putting in the work to make our ideas look awesome!

PHOTOS:



Rotary



Rotary helps
our town





Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
October 8, 2020

Club News

Thomasville Teaches That Character Counts



Thomasville Rotarians have long resolved to improve the educational outcomes of students in local schools. Faced with dismal local graduation rates, the club used a multi-pronged approach to tackle the problem. From mentoring to reading programs to underscoring character growth, Rotarians have fanned out across the community volunteering their time, talents, and resources to make a difference.

Educators will tell you that producing a workforce that has the requisite technical skills is not so much the problem as producing a workforce that is dependable, honest, and responsible. Employers beg for employees that will **SHOW UP!** And today more than ever we need a citizenry that has the character to become involved in the building of community at all levels.

In 2013 -14 Past President Jeff Zoller was searching for a worthy district grant project directed toward bolstering those educational outcomes. He made the acquaintance of a remarkable woman, Arlisha Wildgoose, who is program director at The Vashti Center, a facility for emotionally troubled youth. It was Wildgoose who brought Character Counts to Zoller's attention. According to Wildgoose, "Character Counts is a national program that aims to empower youth through character building. It nurtures six traits: kindness, fairness, caring, citizenship, trustworthiness, and respectfulness. The goal is to mold responsible, productive citizens." The grant was written and awarded, the materials purchased, and Rotarians became engaged. An enduring partnership between Thomasville's club and Vashti was forged. And most importantly according to Wildgoose, "the program improved the youths' self-concept and their behavior."

Other Thomasville youth programs added to the Character Counts rolls since its Thomasville inception are the Marguerite Neel Williams Boys and Girls Club, The Thomasville Resource Center, and Scott Elementary School.

Posted by Michael Bixler
October 8, 2020

Douglas County Delivers Book Bags to A Gift of Love



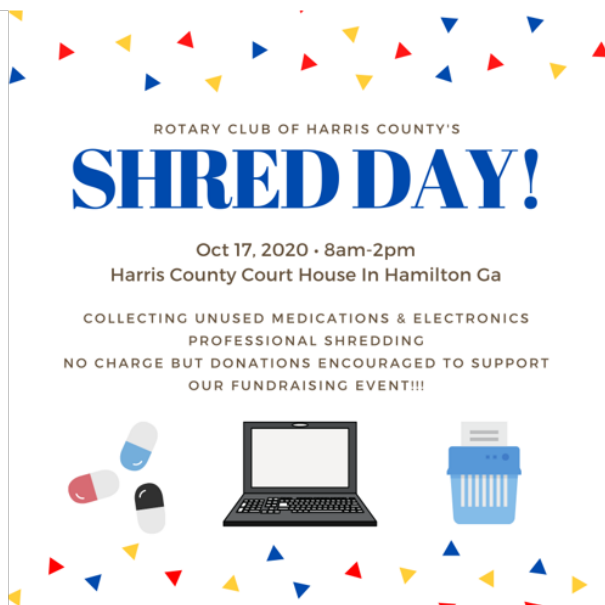
On September 23rd, **Douglas County Rotarian** Joe Williams delivered 495 bookbags to A Gift of Love. A Gift of Love has a Book Bag Food Program that serves over 30 elementary, middle and high schools in Douglas County, which feeds approximately 556 children every week! Through their hard work and dedication to making sure no child is left hungry, their volunteers make sure local children are sent home with a bag of food for every day they are out of school. Our donation was a true sentiment to our service

above self-motto and we were grateful to have the resources to make such a donation.

Posted by Samantha Rosado
October 8, 2020

From Facebook

The Fundraisers May Be Virtual; the Money and Causes are Real



Several clubs are on the "virtual fundraising" front this year, including:

- The **Bremen Rotary Club** - through its Gift Card Raffle - featuring over \$2,000 in gift cards and five \$100 Cash Prizes. The drawing will be held live on the club's Facebook page on November 12 - just in time for holiday shopping.. You can message the club through its Facebook page if you would

like to purchase tickets -one for \$10 or three for \$20.

- **East Cobb** has replaced its Dog Days Race this year with a "noK" on Oct. 17 - "We're not running for a cause" appears in its Facebook advertising, and the race website features an online slideshow promoting the work they will do with the money they get. Teeshirts feature a masked teeshirts. You can [click this link to register](#).
- At **Fayette Daybreak**, the race is on too! The club's 2020 Virtual Howl-O-Ween 5K/1 Mile Walk/Run & Dog Walk will take place October 31. Registration is open on [Active.com](#) through Oct 31 where you can sign up and choose a time and location most convenient for you. And remember, your dog ... and costumes are welcome too. To get all the details, visit us at [fayettedaybreak.org](#). Proceeds from the event will help fund the Club's service projects throughout the year.
- **Harris County Rotary** is holding a Shred Day, with no set fee but contributions encouraged.

At **Peachtree City**, the fundraiser was in person - with over 50 Rotarians, Rotaractors, an SMHS Interactor, and Cooper Lighting Solutions employees join together to walk at Lake Peachtree in support of Alzheimer's. With the sponsorships and the funds raised by this year's walkers, the club was able to donate over \$7500 to Alzheimer's research this year!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert

October 8, 2020

From Facebook

Alpharetta Adds to School's Educational Garden



Alpharetta Rotarians in Action recently installed Lionheart Garden's chicken coop. Thank you, President Kile Lewis, Dan Merkel, Paul Ray, Casey Robinson, Heather Wagner, and the Lionheart Crew!

The Lionheart Gardens is an organic farm tended by faculty, staff, and students of The Lionheart School and volunteers from the community. Students learn about growing and eating healthy food, maintaining sustainable garden practices, recycling and composting and the science associated with farming. The Lionheart Gardens combines the efforts in the classroom with shared experiences in a farm/garden setting. This learning environment also creates work experiences to complement the academic program supported at The Lionheart School. The Lionheart Gardens provide valuable life skills to students and, for some, an opportunity to receive vocational training and potential job placement post-graduation.

Produce from the Lionheart Gardens is available at its weekly garden market and at local area restaurants. Some of the area restaurants that support the Lionheart Gardens include Table & Main, Osteria, Mattone, Colletta's, El Felix.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
October 8, 2020

From Facebook

Making a Difference in Local Communities



**Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro & Rotaract
Club of Atlanta Joint Volunteer Opportunity:
Prep for event**

THURS SEPT 24

6:30PM

**(EVENT LOCATION
ON EVENT PAGE)**

*To participate in the run,
visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/ATLANTA/ADMH>*

All over the district, clubs are making a difference in their communities. Here's what the **Rotary Clubs of Atlanta Metro, Dallas Paulding County, Douglas County, Dunwoody, Griffin Daybreak and North Cobb** are doing.

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro** and the **Rotaract Club of Atlanta** recently partnered to support the Adult Disability Medical Healthcare. "Thank you for all the work you do for developmentally disabled adults in our community! We were more than happy to help pack gift bags for the ADMH run participants."

Some **Dallas Paulding County Rotarians** - including Ivy Capps and Madge Lovingood - were part of the club's virtual Dictionary Distribution for Paulding Co third graders.

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** is having a Thanksgiving Food Drive - hoping to donate 20 boxes to families in its community.

Dunwoody Rotarians had an opportunity to get creative - designing and painting the picnic table shown here (with President Ardy Bastien) that will be located outside near the CheeseCake Factory at Perimeter Mall - joining others to provide outside dining possibilities. It's just one more example of how the Rotary Club of Dunwoody is finding projects where social distancing can happen, but the volunteers can do something fun and benefit the community at large.

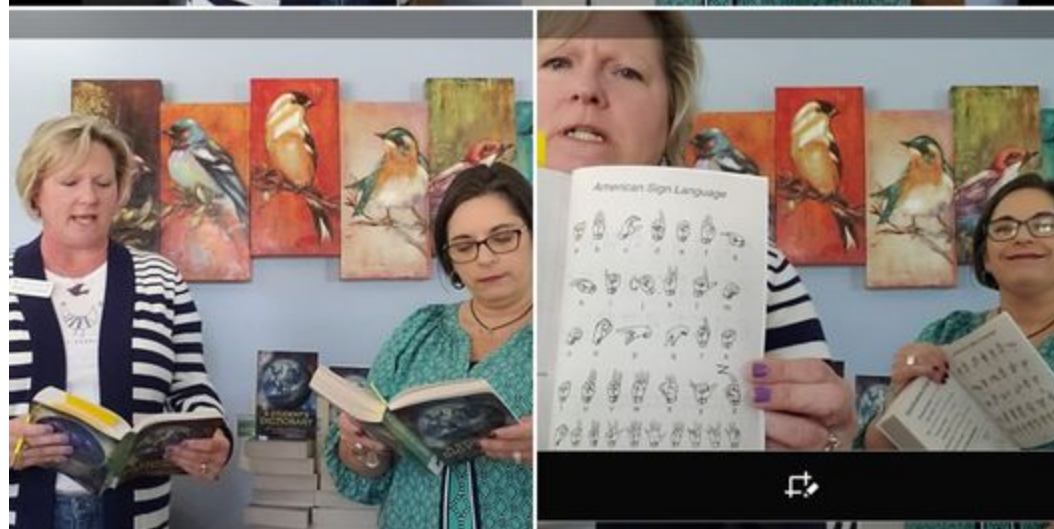
At **Griffin Daybreak Rotary**, Club President Janet Wilkerson presented Chick-fil-A gift cards to the city works director for distribution to the Solid Waste Department and Street Department employees as a thank you for the services they perform each day. DG Kirk participated in the presentation.

The Rotary Club of North Cobb is lending its Facebook presence to Susan Norris, Founder and Executive Director of Rescuing Hope, Inc., as they fight human trafficking. Susan has asked for everyone's help to "Blanket Cobb County" with their message. The website asks: Do you know someone they could talk to about educating our community? Rescuing Hope is looking for partners in schools, medical professionals, law enforcement, houses of worship, service clubs, and businesses. Email crystal@rescuinghope.com to get started.

Buckhead Rotary Immediate Past President Greg Davis and President Mark Johnson present a Rotary District 6900 Grant to Horizons at Atlanta International School (AIS) Co-Directors Kelsey Bunker and Chris Rhue, and AIS Head of School Kevin Glass. Horizons Atlanta at Atlanta International School is a six-week summer enrichment program for low-income students that helps prevent the "summer learning gap" - the well-documented loss of learning that occurs during the summer. Horizons' efforts are aimed at eliminating the achievement gap for low-income students in Metro Atlanta.

As part of Carroll County's renovation of the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS), the **Rotary Club of Carrollton** paid for and installed a great new playground!

PHOTOS:









BETHE KEY

RESCUING HOPE





Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
October 8, 2020

From Facebook

In Support of Peace ... What Two Clubs Are Doing

Rotary
Club of Americus



Presents:
Cake & Conversation

CHAT WITH
COMMUNITY LEADERS!

CHIEF MARK SCOTT
COL. ERIC BRYANT
COMM. CLAY JONES

#PeacelsPossible
#MakePeaceTheNews

*"Peace begins by getting to
know your neighbors,
around the block and around the
world."*
Mattie J.T. Stepanek



The **Rotary Club of Americus** was honored to partner with the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation for the Inaugural Peace Day event held October 3rd in downtown Americus. By hosting the "Cake and Conversation" booth, we provided individuals the opportunity to chat with area leaders about working together to make our community a more peaceful one. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.

And in Johns Creek, the **Johns Creek North Fulton Rotary Club** participated in the installation of a permanent Peace Pole at Emory Winship Cancer Institute.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
October 8, 2020

From Facebook

A Shout-Out to Our Partners who are Making a Difference



From Newnan to Atlanta West End, Carrollton and Meriwether County, here's what Rotarians had to say about their partners:

The **Rotary Club of Newnan** celebrated the Interact Club at Newnan High School for its annual window painting party for HOMECOMING week! The Interact Club welcomed Vivian Gaye, as its newest Interact painter.

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End** writes that it continues to be impressed by the transformative work being done by Atlanta Technical College, led by Atlanta West End Rotarian Dr. Victoria Seals. According to a recent economic impact study, Atlanta Technical College (ATC) has a \$201.5M economic impact on the Atlanta region, accounting for more than 3,000 jobs. "ATC and other technical colleges serve as the backbone for local economies, support essential workforce growth and expand economic mobility opportunities with an unmatched return on the investment," said ATC President Dr. Victoria Seals. "At ATC, we continue to expand our positive impact on our local community through innovative corporate initiatives and collaborative partnerships like our Center for Workforce Innovation."

Carrollton Dawnbreakers thanked Dr. Albertus, Principal, David Brooks and Community Engagement Director Laurie Fleck for the update on how Carrollton City Schools are working to keep our students safe

during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thankful for the hard work and countless hours they have poured into creating their Safety Response Plan. Make sure to thank a teacher or staff member of any of our local school systems. They deserve it!

The Greenville High School Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) students recently spoke to the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County**, explaining how being a part of DECA prepares high school student leaders in the fields of marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high school arenas. Pictured: Greenville High School DECA instructor Walter Burgess, Rotary Club President Lisa Thompson, DECA students Ahmad Ferrell, Kailyn Bynum, and Justin Martin.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
October 8, 2020

Join the District on LinkedIn

Did you know that Rotary District D6900 has a LinkedIn group? Just click <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1874579/>. We'd love to have you. We hope to make it a more vibrant place to share project ideas, information about projects seeking partners, success stories and more.

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On the Road with DG Kirk



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Senoia Rotary welcomed DG Kirk Driskell in September. He inducted 3 new members and our Club made a donation to Coweta Co Ferst Foundation in his honor! Thank you for your service to our Club DG Kirk!

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
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