



HIGHLIGHTER August 2024

In this first edition of 2024-25:

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS DG Mike Driebe's Highlights

Mental Health Resources "Depression

Celebrating a Life of Service: Chris Datwyler, Rotarian Extraordinaire

District 5300 Cleft Lip Project Committee Needs You!

District Opportunities to Support Global Grants

DGE Gilda Moshir visits Las Vegas Area Clubs

NEW CLUB

Pasadena Launches IMPACT CLUB

YEAR-END HIGHLIGHTS

LV After Hours: What a Year!

LV Southwest Year End Highlights

CLUB EVENTS and PROJECTS

Sierra Madre - Door of Hope Service Project

Vegas Verde: A Beacon of Hope During an Oppressive Heat Wave

Green Valley Assembled Backpacks for Homeless High Schoolers

Summerlin "Pop Up Market

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Upland's Lobsterfest

Monrovia Casino Night

Mesquite's 10th Year for "MUDDA!!



Account Leaders



Michael
Driebe
District
Governor



Gilda
Moshir
District
Gov-
Elect



Dennis
Franklin
District
Gov-
Nominee



Michael
Soden
IPDG

Events

August 2nd
[Glendora
Rotary Club
Movies in the
Park](#)

August 3rd
[Altadena -
Concert
Volunteers -
August 3](#)

August 4th
[Montebello -
Back to School
Shopping
Spree](#)

August 7th
[Claremont
Sunrise - DG
Official Visit](#)

August 7th
[Montebello -
Dark for
National Night
Out](#)

August 9th
[Glendora
Rotary Club
Movies in the
Park](#)

August 10th
[Altadena -
Concert
Volunteers -
August 10](#)

August 13th
[Boulder City
Membership
Mixer](#)

August 14th

District Governor's Highlights



Recently, I hosted a meeting of district leaders who shared with one another their plans for programs in the year ahead. While I've been a Rotarian for many years, I was struck for the first time by all the district can offer to clubs and the communities they serve. We heard about youth programming like RYLA, Teen Leadership Camp, The Four-Way Test speech contest, the Dan Stover music contest, the Hensel Ethics Essay contest, and Youth Exchange.

We also learned about a Rotary Friendship Exchange to India, a Rotoplast mission to Africa, Global and District Grants, a Vocational Training Team mission to Western Australia, the district's efforts to support mental health, and an Action Plan to help clubs tie into all of these programs and more.

I hope every club will re-examine what it does to ensure that it is planning how best to serve the community. Find the programs your community needs, and add that information to the District calendar. This way your activities will be available to Rotarians across the district, and to your community, too.

Posting your programs and events ensures that your club's activities will be highlighted in the district's new marketing effort, [comeseewhatwedo.org](https://www.comeseewhatwedo.org). Through social media campaigns during the year, people in your club's geographic region can learn what's being done to serve those in need and get involved.

Get active in your club's planning, encourage your leaders to make use of the new marketing effort and make this a year to remember!

Mental Health Resources -- Depression

By Sheila Gutierrez, Glendora Rotary, District Mental Health Initiative Co-Chair

Rotary International 2023-24 President Gordon McNally launched a global Mental Health Awareness initiative during his term. In response, Sheila Gutierrez, M.S., LMFT, and Rudy Hayek, M.A., LMFT of the Glendora Rotary Club created six evidence-based mental health programs for District 5300. These programs, that will soon be accessible to all district members via a platform on the District website, include scripts, sources, referral resources, and engaging homework assignments. Designed for easy delivery through handouts, guest lectures, or club member presentations, the materials can also be shared with schools, organizations, and businesses.

This Highlighter issue features a [short video on Depression \(click here\)](#), with more mental health topics to follow.

Celebrating a Life of Service: Chris Datwyler, Rotarian Extraordinaire

August 17th

San Dimas - DG Official Visit

August 17th

Las Vegas Summerlin - Just One Pop Up Market

August 17th

Altadena - Concert

Volunteers - August 17

August 20th

Green Valley - Spread the

Word Nevada

Book Cleaning

August 21st

LV After Hours

- Agassi Boys

& Girls Club

Birthday Hour

August 21st

Boulder City - Friends of the

Desert Service

Project

August 21st

Multi Club

Social @ Casa

425,

Claremont

August 21st

LV After Hours

- Book

Cleaning for

Spread the

Word Nevada

August 21st

Antelope

Valley - DG

Official Visit

August 22nd

Montebello

Prayer

Breakfast

August 24th

Altadena - Concert

Volunteers

August 31st

Alhambra and

Monterey Park

Reverse Raffle

Fundraiser

Kickoff

August 31st

Altadena - Melodia

Mariposa

Concert

September 4th

Covina - Back

to School

Extavaganza

September 5th

DG Official

Visit - San

Marino

September 5th

Greenspokes

September 6th

DG Official

Visit - Claremont

September 7th

By Kari Anderson, D5300 24-25 PIC



The Rotary community fondly remembers Chris Datwyler, a paragon of service whose four-decade journey with our organization left an indelible mark. From his 1984 induction into the San Marino club, Chris embodied the essence of "Service Above Self," weaving a tapestry of contributions that continue to inspire.

As club president in 1995, Chris championed youth initiatives and community engagement. His technical prowess revolutionized our district's operations, particularly in database management and the transition to DACdb. Chris's unwavering commitment shone through his roles as webmaster for both the San Marino Club and the District Rose Float Committee, enhancing our digital presence and outreach.

Chris's philanthropic spirit manifested in his tenure as Foundation treasurer and his steadfast support for The Rotary Foundation. His willingness to traverse great distances for training and fellowship epitomized his dedication to Rotary's mission.

IPDG Michael Soden reminisces, "Chris's passion for driving was evident when he drove to Arizona for a DACdb user group meeting. He consistently lent a hand with event registrations, exemplifying the true spirit of a passionate Rotarian."

As we celebrate Chris's life, we're reminded of the profound impact one individual can have when guided by integrity, love, and a commitment to peace. Let us honor his memory by amplifying our efforts to embody the Rotarian ideals he championed so fervently.

Chris's legacy serves as a beacon, inspiring us to reach new heights in philanthropy and community engagement. His life's work reminds us that in Rotary, our collective efforts can indeed change the world.

District 5300 Cleft Lip Project Committee Needs You!

By Drexel Smith, Rotaplast Chair

Planning is underway to sponsor the next Cleft Lip Project Mission. We are partnering again with Rotaplast International for a two-week Mission to Uganda June 7 to June 22, 2025. The Team will travel together from and return to San Francisco. A Mission Team of volunteers includes medical members -- surgeons, nurses and therapists, and non-medical, each with a specific job assignment:

1. Medical Record Keeper
2. Sterilizer
3. Mission Historian (Documentarian/photographer)
4. Quartermaster
5. PACU assistant
6. Recreation Therapist
7. Ward Coordinator
8. Patient Transporter



The impact of providing surgical assistance repairing cleft lip, palate and burn-scar repair is life changing for each patient and for Team members as well.

If you are interested in being considered as a non-medical volunteer please let us know.
If you would like to schedule a guest speaker on this important work please let us know.
If you would like to make a donation, please do not hesitate.

For more information, contact a Committee Member:
Drexel L. Smith, Chair, dls@drexelcg.com 951-202-2012
Robin Smith, Co-chair, Robin@smithteamlasvegas.com 702-460-5080
John Chase, Jchase5300@gmail.com 702-497-3328
Marilyn Diaz, diazwalker@icloud.com 626.383.1328
Bonita Ramos, bramos@abilityfirst.org 909-561-5150
Tony Schanmann, tschanmann@gmail.com 702-460-5722

[Ontario-Montclair - Route 66 Relay for Life](#)
 September 7th
[Altadena - Concert Volunteers](#)
 September 10th
[Boulder City Weekly Club Meeting](#)
 September 12th
[Ontario-Montclair Students of the Month](#)
 September 12th
[Montebello - Beer Booth at Night Market](#)
 September 14th
[Altadena - Special Concert Volunteers](#)

Tony Scheppmann, tscheppmann@gmail.com 702-760-5723

District Opportunities to Support Global Grants

By *Chehab Elawar*

We are currently seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to serve as chairs in each of the seven critical areas where Rotary makes a global impact.

- PROMOTING PEACE
- FIGHTING DISEASE
- PROVIDING CLEAN WATER
- SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN
- SUPPORTING EDUCATION
- GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES
- OBJECTIVES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

For more information and to express your interest, please visit [Rotary's Global Grants page](#), contact PDG Chehab Elawar for further information at shabdg201415@gmail.com or keep reading. [Read More](#)

DGE Gilda Moshir visits Las Vegas Area Clubs

By *DGE Gilda Moshir*

I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Nevada-based clubs these past two months. In late June our District celebrated the newly formed **Vegas Verde** Club in North Las Vegas headed up by Gino Reyes. During the June trip, I visited with the **Downtown Las Vegas** and the **Las Vegas Southwest** clubs and met with Reed Werner, President of the **Moapa Valley** Rotary Club. Mid-July began with the **Henderson After Hours** New Club Charter, headed up by PDG Larry Skaggs.

Yes, it was the hottest time of year to be visiting Vegas, but it was so eye-opening for me to see Vegas away from the "Strip". I'm now feeling a greater sense of family among the Rotarians who live and run the Nevada Rotary Clubs. Now I understand a bit about the geography, the distance between the clubs, the towns and the cultures that make up the clubs that I visited.

A great amount of pride was demonstrated by the members of the clubs I visited. There was a strong sense of giving back to the community - like cleaning up the lake, park and the beach and providing food /water and amenities for the unhoused. I applaud the Nevada based clubs for that collaboration and hope that we can adopt more ways of working together. Check out my IG page @askgildamoshir to see videos of the clubs I visited. [Read More](#)

YEAR END HIGHLIGHTS

LV After Hours: What a Year!

By *Linda Bertuzzi*

What an amazing 2023-24 Rotary year for the members of the Las Vegas After Hours Rotary Club. We celebrated at the District Conference and received the Governor's Bell for Best Small Club, along with awards in every category. We were chartered on May 1, 2019 with the principals of Service, Social and Fun, and every Rotary moment embodied these ideals and more. We surpassed 2,800 service hours, thanks to the unwavering commitment of each member and our community partners.

By creating flexible service opportunities, we allow everyone to have an opportunity to serve and participate. Engaging meetings and socials fostered strong attendance and camaraderie. We expanded our service internationally this year with one-third of our members building a home in Mexico over a weekend as part of Super Build and another member serving for two weeks on a Rotaplast mission in the Philippines. We inducted six new Paul Harris Fellows and recognized two PH +2 and a Major Donor. Celebrating our Club's 5th Anniversary at an Aviator's baseball game was an exciting moment. With Rotary's focus on mental health, we installed two custom-made Buddy Benches at Lunt Elementary, partially funded by DDF funds.

This was all a testament to the members who stepped up to selflessly give, serve, and give some more! This Rotary Club with the Biggest Heart is more than members - we are a family. And this Rotary family knows how to work and play together while making a difference in our community and having fun!



LV Southwest Year End Highlights

By Keith Thomas

We have just finished a great Rotary year and we wrapped it up in style with the selection of **Vance Mellen** as the recipient of our annual \$9,600 4-year "John and Lou Yoxen Academic Scholarship." He just graduated from Green Valley High School and will be attending UNLV in the fall studying film and political science. The scholarship committee also awarded a 1-year \$1,200 scholarship to **Nghi Le**. She just graduated from Durango High School and will be attending UNLV in the fall studying political science. She came to the United States from Vietnam 6 years ago at the age of 13, not knowing any English.

Our outgoing President, Joe Wittenwiler, represented our club at the International Convention in Singapore and brought back lots of pictures and great enthusiasm. He was subsequently thoroughly "debunked" at our annual debunking on July 25th.

Our service projects were not neglected as we helped "Feed the Homeless", and put shoes on 140 second graders with our "Happy Feet" project.

Our incoming President, Bruce MacKenzie, held his planning retreat and 2024-2025 looks to be another great year. Weekly newsletters and pictures from all our meetings and events are posted on our Facebook page and on our website (www.lvswr.org).



NEW CLUB

Pasadena Launches IMPACT CLUB

By Amanda Pumilia, Chair, Rotary Club of Pasadena Impact Club

The Pasadena Rotary Impact Club is the satellite club of the Rotary Club of Pasadena, focused on service within the community and building fellowship among members. We are open to any community members who want to become Rotarians but are unable to consistently attend the weekly lunch meetings due to a variety of reasons, such as work schedules.

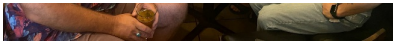
Our vision of the Impact Club is to be collaborative; all members will get a chance to share their ideas and help plan service projects and/or social mixers. The service projects allow us to give back to the Pasadena community while the social mixers allow for a chance for our members to network and build relationships. We work in tandem with our Host Club, Pasadena Rotary, in Rotary service.

All Impact members are invited to host club service projects, and all Host members are invited to Impact service projects. Impact Club members also have the option to attend weekly Rotary Meetings which includes lunch at the cost of \$45, which provides a chance to build fellowship with more Rotarians. This model makes the Impact club a truly customizable experience for any member who joins, in service and in fellowship.

Dues for the Impact Club are \$50/month which includes a \$2.00 donation to the Rotary Club of Pasadena Foundation. Currently there are five active members of the Impact Club with two additional new applications just filed --the youngest is 23 years old. It is an exciting time for the Rotary Club of Pasadena, as some of the Impact Members attend the Wednesday meetings and the Host Club enjoys the energy, new ideas and excitement of these younger members.
<https://www.pasadenarotary.com/pasadena-impact-club/>

Photos: (1) Impact Club Chair Amanda Pumilia at last weekend's Trash Pick up at Eaton Canyon and (2) a group photo of Impact's Happy Hour on 7/16/24 where three attendees said they were joining.





CLUB PROJECTS

Sierra Madre - Door of Hope Service Project

By Geoff Woods, Sierra Madre

The Sierra Madre Rotary Club has a service project with The Door of Hope, a homeless shelter in Pasadena. This shelter keeps families together and has programs to avoid homelessness. The Club is asking Rotarians and friends to participate in purchasing housewarming gifts or donations for the shelter's "graduates" through a link provided on the Club's website under announcements and events. www.sierramadrerotaryclub.com

DOOR of HOPE
HELP SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM GRADUATES!

DONATE TO OUR AMAZON WISHLIST GIFT REGISTRY

- 1 Log on to doorofhope.us
- 2 On top banner click **AMAZON WishList**
- 3 Choose your gift. Select the registry address for direct delivery to us.

Please include a **Gift Message** in your package that lets us know your name and email address so that we can send you an in-kind receipt! You can also contact us directly at volunteer@doorofhope.us.

Scan here for the direct link to our Amazon Gift Registry.

DOOR OF HOPE is a Christian non-profit, based in Pasadena, serving Los Angeles County. We are one of the only homeless providers that can shelter any family together in their private unit, including single moms, single dads, and two-parent families together with their children. Door of Hope proudly offers our Homelessness Prevention Program, serving as a proactive measure to support families at risk of eviction by providing vital resources and guidance to ensure housing stability.

We address the root causes of homelessness with our holistic approach, providing case management, therapy, job and career counseling, financial literacy, life skills classes, and special programming for children and youth. Remarkably, 86% of our program graduates are still housed after one year and 86% of graduates haven't experienced homelessness again after 5 or more years.

Phone: (626) 304-9130 x 102
Email: info@doorofhope.us
Website: www.doorofhope.us
Tax ID: 501 (c)3 EIN: 95-4044568

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sierra Madre www.rotaryclubofsierramadre.com

Vegas Verde: A Beacon of Hope During an Oppressive Heat Wave

By Gino Reyes, President, Vegas Verde

Las Vegas sweltered under a relentless heat wave this summer, with temperatures soaring past 115 degrees Fahrenheit, the city's homeless population faced a dire struggle for survival. In this time of extreme need, the Vegas Verde Rotary Club took the lead in providing critical assistance by distributing water to the city's most vulnerable residents.



Recognizing the urgent need for relief, the Vegas Verde Rotary Club mobilized its members and friends to distribute bottled water. In six days, we distributed over 2000 bottles of water to those in need.

The Vegas Verde Rotary Club's efforts were significantly bolstered by the support of other local Rotary Clubs. Club members from across the city, including the Las Vegas West Rotary Club, the Las Vegas Red Rock Rotary Club (shown with Gino, right), and even DGE Gilda Moshir, joined us to amplify the impact of this humanitarian effort.



Green Valley Assembled Backpacks for Homeless High Schoolers

By Barbara Billitzer, Rotary Club of Green Valley

On July 22, members of Green Valley Rotary met at Project 150 in Las Vegas to assemble backpacks for homeless high school students in Clark County. This is an annual project for our club, and this year we were able to assemble 320 backpacks with all the supplies needed for an entire school year.

Project 150 was launched in December 2011, when it was learned that the Clark County School District had over 7,500 homeless teenagers attending school. A charitable trust was created and Project 150 was born out of the community's desire to help. Their

goal was to offer free support and services to homeless, displaced, and disadvantaged high school students so they can remain in school, graduate, and build bright futures. The services have expanded to include programs and workshops in financial literacy, time management, and creating positive change. These life skill and workforce readiness workshops are available both in-person and virtually. Scholarships are also available, and students may receive up to five outfits per month from their boutique, as well as hygiene products, school supplies and additional food. All programs and services provided by Project 150 are free to Clark County high school students with a valid student ID.



Summerlin â€™ Pop Up Market

By Michael Turner, Summerlin

The Summerlin club sponsors the Pop Up Market for the Just One Project which focuses on food insecurity. Once a month they hold a food distribution event where people in need drive up to receive a box of groceries. The club is sponsoring this project for two years with an annual grant of \$20,000, and will assist at the event.



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Upland's Lobsterfest

By Joe L Hernandez, President 2024-2025, Upland

I invite you and your friends to the annual **Upland LobsterFest**. We would love to see and connect with Rotarians from other clubs! This is our major fundraising event, enabling us to fund local community-serving projects such as:

- â€™Just Readâ€™ program that fosters reading through the donation of books to our local elementary school students
- Youth Leadership Camps for local high school students who have a desire to develop their skills to be a leader beyond high school graduation.
- Holiday shopping event for our Upland area disadvantaged school children.
- Supporting our local food pantries and local shelters.

These and other projects are possible only through the generous donations and sponsorship support of our citizens and business community.

We invite you to join Rotarians and friends to attend this exciting and delicious event on Saturday, September 28, 2024. This year, our Lobsterfest will be held at the Upland Scheu Family YMCA, 1150 E. Foothill Blvd., Upland California 91786. Enjoy **all-you-can eat** lobster flown in live from Maine and BBQâ€™d tri-tip together with side dishes and beverages. Premium table service is available. A gourmet vegetarian option is available. We will also have live music, dancing, and a silent auction. The cost per person of this event starts at \$100. (Must be 21 or older to consume alcohol). Doors open at 5:00 PM.

Make your reservations now at www.uplandrotary.org as seating is limited.

Please let me know if you would like to be a sponsor, and I will share the sponsorship opportunities available to you. You can also check out our website for sponsorship levels.

Monrovia Casino Night -- our major fundraiser

By Erica Hahn

There will be serious fun on Sept 21, 2024, 6pm when the Rotary Club of Monrovia presents its annual Casino Night with a loving look at America's favorite music, Rock and Roll. It's a return to the music of the 50's, the 60's, maybe the 70's, with delicious food, six roulette tables, a black jack table and a roulette wheel, prizes, a silent auction, and a super oldies band bringing you the music of the era, Elvis, Beatles, Rolling Stones, and the Grateful Dead. (Ok, the original rock n rollers didn't go to Casinos, but James Bond did.)

This is the club's major annual fundraiser to support our community programs such as Santa Clothes (providing school appropriate clothing to disadvantaged kids), Feeding Friends (packaging 1000s of meals for the needy in our neighborhood), scholarships for Monrovia college-bound students, and a host of other activities.



Tickets can be bought online from the Monrovia Rotary Club website Casino Night page at <https://monroviarotaryclub.com/casino-night> \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door. P.S . Business sponsorships are available.

Mesquite's 10th YEAR FOR MUD!!

By Debra Parsley, Mesquite

The Rotary Club of Mesquite NV's popular Mudd Volleyball Tournament, held behind the Eureka Casino Resort, will take place on September 21st. For the 10th year, area teams will compete for a chance to win a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place trophy. The Mesquite PD and Fire Rescue teams will start the fun at 9:00 am as they vie for the Mudd title for 2024-25! Team play will follow right after.

Teams of six players cost \$240 and include a unique Mudd t-shirt for each player. One alternate player is allowed for an additional \$40.

The money raised will provide scholarships for graduating seniors, the Children's Story Walk, food pantries, and several community improvements, to name a few. The tournament has become an annual event that is very popular with players and spectators alike. We put a lot of hard work and love into making it a fun event for everyone.



Teams are encouraged to come in costume and vie for the Best Team Costume prize. Three judges will review all costumed teams and vote in these categories: Best Theme, Creativity/Originality, Attention to Detail, Most Humorous, and Effort. So have some fun, use your imagination, and come up with the best costume and win!

Businesses are encouraged to become corporate sponsors by supporting this annual fundraising event at any one of the available levels. All proceeds remain in the local community. Well-known local DJ #1Juan will keep everyone jammin' with great tunes, adding to the fun. This year, food trucks and the very popular Fixxology flavored drink truck will be present, and plenty of water will be available courtesy of Reliance Connects. Spectators should come prepared with shade structures, lawn chairs, and personal items for a fun day in the sun! We don't want anyone becoming overheated or sunburned!

For more information on this great event, contact us at RotaryMesquiteEvents@gmail.com. To sign up to play, please visit: <https://bit.ly/MUDDReg> To sign up as a sponsor, please visit: <https://bit.ly/MUDDSponsor>