

For 111 years, the Rotary Club of Oakland has served the Oakland community and beyond. Under the leadership of President Peter Sherris, the Club of 310+ members, continued this tradition of community service. The list below highlights the Club's accomplishments during President Peter's term of July 2019 to June 2020.



YOUTH AND LOCAL SERVICE

Supported 700 students in 35 transitional kindergarten (TK) and combined TK/kindergarten classrooms in Oakland public schools.

- Organized weekly volunteers for classrooms.
- Awarded \$12,000 to teachers to purchase classroom items.
- In conjunction with the Oakland Public Education Fund, paid for a project to improve attendance in four schools.
- Funded a music program for TK students at La Escuelita Elementary School.
- Through the Susie Elkind Summer Book Reading Program (honoring former Rotary employee and benefactor Susie Elkind), gave away 3500 new books – five per student.
- Donated \$15,000 to the Oakland Zoo and \$5,000 to Children's Fairyland, two long-term partners of the Kinderpep committee that were impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Celebrated the 26th year of the H.O.P.E. (Help Oakland Pupils Excel) program, which pairs 7th graders with Rotarian mentors and sets expectations for the students' attendance, grades, and citizenship. This year, the H.O.P.E. program grew to seven mentees, and the committee held group activities for mentees and mentors, including a pool party, a Zoo trip with literacy seminar, and a Zoom party. Also, for the first time, a H.O.P.E. mentee received both a Saroni Lena scholarship and a H.O.P.E scholarship.

Presented \$8,000 Saroni-Lena scholarships to nine Oakland high school seniors. Continued collaboration with East Bay College Fund to provide academic support to the Saroni-Lena scholars and coaching support to the Rotarian mentors.

Sponsored Interact Clubs at Skyline, Oakland, Oakland Tech, Oakland Charter and American Indian Model High Schools; supported the Clubs' attendance at the annual fall conference and President's winter retreat; and assisted with their first-time participation in Purple Pinkie Day, which raised \$1,270 for polio eradication.

Organized both the annual Club-level and Area-level high school speech contest, engaging 16 Club members and helping three high school students hone their speaking skills.

Through the Club's Homelessness and Food Insecurity Task Force, partnered with Laney College to distribute groceries to 150-200 students weekly.

Conducted hands-on service projects with the Alameda County Community Food Bank, the Police Activities League (PAL) camp in the Oakland hills, and the Meltzer branch of the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland.

Supported a data-analytics training program for youth participants in the Police Activities League's Midnight Basketball program.

Made a grant to Onyx Scholars to develop a pop-up tour of Historically Black Colleges and Universities for Oakland Unified School District students.

Funded camping equipment for a new co-ed Boy Scout troop in East Oakland.

Helped finance the build-out of new studio and performing space for Gritty City Youth Repertory Youth Theater.

Funded science books for the library at Allendale Elementary School.

Provided funds to the City of Oakland's ACE Kids Golf program for golf clubs and virtual reality goggles.

Funded Driveway Follies' projects to help preserve professional marionette puppetry.

Raised \$15,000 from individual members and guests at the annual "Feed the Hungry" appeal and distributed the proceeds to nine nonprofits providing food services: Operation Dignity, Bay Area Meals on Wheels, St. Vincent de Paul, First Presbyterian Church, Harbor House, St. Mary's Center, Catholic Worker Food Program, Prescott-Joseph Center, and Alameda County Community Food Bank.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, donated \$5000 to the Oakland COVID-19 Relief fund, \$5000 to the Oakland REACH Relief fund for immediate cash grants to families in need, \$15,000 to Alameda Health System Foundation for personal protective equipment, \$1,000 to Feed ER East Bay to fund restaurant meals for first responders, and additional funds to the nine nonprofits that received Feed the Hungry funds.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Rotary
Oakland



Funded four grants to improve community water systems: a global grant for bathrooms and sanitation stations at a school in El Salvador, a global grant for waste-water treatment facilities and toilets in Tansa Valley in India, a grant for water filters in the Bahamas and a grant for water wells in Kenya.

Funded three health-related grants: a global grant for natal and neo-natal equipment in a hospital in Guatemala, a grant for eye-glasses for children in Medellin, Columbia, and a grant for infectious disease testing supplies in Ecuador.

Funded an economic development project to help women in Guatemala build small businesses.

Continued the summer student exchange with sister city Fukuoka, by sending one student, from the El Cerrito High School Japanese language program, to Japan and hosting one student from Fukuoka.

Rotarians participated in the **2020 Uniendo America Project Fair** in Antigua, Guatemala. This annual fair in Central America facilitates local relationships and service partnerships among clubs across the globe.

Thanked each weekly speaker with a donation in his/her honor to **“End Polio Now,”** providing a total amount that will enable 1,000 children to have a life free from the crippling disease and raised additional funds from Oakland Rotarians.

Celebrated Club members **who this year gave over \$80,000 to the Rotary Foundation,** thus helping to support projects that transform lives both close to home and across the globe. Of this amount, \$60,000 went to the Foundation’s Annual Share fund and \$7,000 to the End Polio Now campaign,

CLUB SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP

Inducted 33 new members into the Club.

Early in September, secured Zoom technology to enable members to attend committee meetings remotely and, when in-person meetings were precluded due to the COVID-19 crisis, successfully expanded the use of Zoom for Thursday lunch meetings and all other meetings and gatherings.

In addressing the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at Club meetings, developed a process for members to voice their concerns and opinions on controversial Club issues.

With President Peter and other Rotary District 5170 health professionals as panelists on periodic webinars, helped educate Rotarians and other community members on many facets of COVID-19.

With input from other Rotary District 5170 Area 1 clubs, adopted a statement that Black Lives Matter and our Club will stand and work with those who strive toward peace, justice and equality for all.

From August through March, held well-attended “first Thursday” events in lieu of the traditional lunch meetings, including an evening picnic at Lake Temescal, a cocktail party at Children’s Fairyland, a jazz dinner at Geoffrey’s Inner Circle, and two breakfast meetings with the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club.

In January, in conjunction with four other local Rotary clubs, held a membership development mixer, also at Ghost Town Brewing.

Enjoyed a festive holiday cocktail party at the Kon-Tiki Lounge, organized by the Leaders in Motion committee.

Through the Business Development committee, provided a platform for members and friends to connect professionally, successfully spearheaded Rotary District 5170’s first-ever business expo in October, and held bi-monthly networking mixers with an average attendance of 55 persons

Held the fall new member cocktail party at the lovely home of Michael and Carolyn Bruck.

Conducted the spring new member cocktail party via Zoom, with President-Elect Ces Butner and President Nominee Dudley Thompson at Carla Betts’s house to take the annual presidential pool plunge, raising more than \$2,000 of bellringers for Oakland Rotary Endowment.

Pivoted our annual gala from a boat dinner cruise to a Zoom party and surprised everyone by raising a record \$89,000+.

Raised \$40,000 for Oakland Rotary Endowment through the annual campaign.

Continued to manage and build the Oakland Rotary Endowment account, currently over \$3.6 million.

Actively enjoyed the outdoors through four bike rides, two hikes, a skiing trip and a kayak outing, all arranged and led by the High Adventure Committee

Through the efforts of the High Adventure Committee, cheered on our local teams, with 150 persons at the August Oakland Athletics-San Francisco Giants contest, 48 persons at an Oakland Raiders game, and 20 persons at a fall Oakland Roots soccer match.

Enjoyed dinners, seasonal celebrations and “cocktails with the president” happy hours planned by the Entertainment Committee.

Expanded the Club’s social media presence, getting to 1000 “Likes” on the Club’s Facebook page.

Expanded visibility of our Club with new Club-branded caps.