



# Rotary District 6670 Newsletter

## April 2017

<http://www.rotary6670.org>



### District Leaders

**Theodore M. Kelly Sr.**

District Governor

**Marcus A Mabelitini**

DG-Elect

**Arne J. Almquist**

DG-Nominee

**William P. Shula**

iPDG

**John C Applegate**

District Treasurer

**Laura Erbaugh**

District Secretary

**Vas Appalaneni**

Asst Governor

**Gregory A. Birkemeyer**

Asst Governor

**Michael J Chapman**

Asst Governor

**Deborah L. Dulaney**

Asst Governor

**David R. Edwards**

Asst Governor

**John Haller**

Asst Governor

**Michael S. Ivory**

Asst Governor

**Wendy Kissel**

Asst Governor

**Dottie Meade**

Asst Governor

**Scott Miller**

Asst Governor

**James M. Perry**

Asst Governor

**Anthony Frank Ricciardi**

Asst Governor

**Brent Ross**

Asst Governor

**Heidi E Schiller**

Asst Governor

**Michelle L. Sherrill**

Asst Governor

**David P. Spencer**

Asst Governor

**Robert C Young II**

## District Governor Updates..."Rotary Serving Humanity"



It's April, and spring has sprung! This is also the month of our 2017 District Conference. I encourage you to register today if you haven't already done so. This will be a celebration that you will not want to miss. The planning committee has been working feverishly to ensure that the event will be informative and a great celebration. There will be tremendous opportunities to network and share best practices with fellow Rotarians and guests from throughout our district and beyond. We also have a "well thought out" program with

great speakers, student involvement, a memorial service, silent auction, and a Foundation Centennial celebratory event in the atrium. The event will be held at the Manor House, where the district's "Shoes for Orphan Souls" project will culminate.

We have a notable group of community servants, who are excited about joining us. Kathy Beecham, from within the boundaries of our district, will serve as our keynote speaker on Friday evening. She has memorable story of purpose, leadership and relationship. Sylvia Whitlock, who will travel in from California, will serve as our keynote speaker at lunch on Saturday. She has the distinction of being the first female President of a Rotary Club worldwide. The keynote speaker for dinner will be Clifton Taulbert, who will travel to our district from Oklahoma. Clifton is a speaker of international acclaim with a wonderful story of relationship and leadership. Additionally, we have the great privilege of having our Rotary International President's Representative, Gary Hollick from Vancouver, Canada with us. He was with us for our 2014 District Conference, and we are very fortunate to have him with us again this year. We look forward to each of these speakers challenging and inspiring us to higher levels of service within Rotary, our communities and around the world.

In addition to the speakers, we are looking forward to participation and presentations from our youth. This will begin with the Mason High School Jazz Band providing a few selections for us at the conclusion of dinner on Friday evening. On Saturday morning, Rotary Youth Exchange Students will be featured. Our Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Committee Chair, Carol Hughes, will provide an overview of the great things that happened during our program this year, where more than 100 students will have attended! Additionally, we will hear from our District Four Way Speech Contest Winner. This person was selected as winner from among 29 students who participated in the event held at Wright State University.

Our Rotary International Foundation Centennial Celebration is a very important part of our District Conference this year. On Saturday evening, we will recognize and celebrate your contributions and the phenomenal work that you have done related to the Foundation. We will celebrate a foundation that has distributed over \$3 billion dollars since its inception in 1917. Additionally, music will be provided by a local group, which will enhance the atmosphere for fellowshiping and networking.

As our 2016-2017 Rotary International theme suggests, you are truly living out "Rotary Serving Humanity." You can register for the conference on the district website or you can see your club president for



ASST GOVERNOR

**Sigrid Solomon**

Training Coordinator

**MICHAEL SCHATZMAN**

DCO-District Comm. Officer

a paper registration form if you would prefer to register in that manner. I appreciate your commitment to Rotary and your local communities. I look forward to seeing all of you there and celebrating our many achievements and accomplishments.

## Events

### April 2017

04/21 - RYLA Conference

04/22 - Rotary Leadership Institute

04/28 & 04/29 - District 6670

Conference

### June 2017

06/09/ & 06/10 - Rotary Club of  
Wilmington Banana Split Festival  
Denver Williams Park  
in Wilmington, Ohio.

[www.bananasplitfestival.com](http://www.bananasplitfestival.com)



06/10- 06/14 - RI Convention and  
Foundation Centennial Celebration,  
Atlanta, GA

### July 2017

07/04 - Wilmington Rotary Golf  
Outing

07/23 - Rotary Day at the Dayton  
Dragons Baseball Game

## District Conference Registration Form

	<b>REGISTRATION</b> <b>ROTARY DISTRICT 6670 CONFERENCE</b> <b>APRIL 28 &amp; 29, 2017</b> Manor House 7440 Mason-Montgomery Road Mason, OH 45040	
ROTARIAN _____	BADGE NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	CLUB _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____	EMAIL (for conference confirmation) _____	
SPOUSE/GUEST BADGE NAME _____	CLUB NAME, if a Rotarian _____	

<b>FULL CONFERENCE (Registration Fee, All Meals and Centennial Celebration)</b>	
Rotarian ____ x \$126.50	Non Rotarian Guest ____ x \$126.50
<b>Saturday Dinner</b> ____ Top Sirloin ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian	

<b>FRIDAY (Dinner only)</b>	
Rotarian ____ x \$49.00	Non Rotarian Guest ____ x \$49.00

<b>SATURDAY ONLY (Registration Fee, Lunch / Dinner and Centennial Celebration)</b>	
Rotarian ____ x \$80.00	Non Rotarian Guest ____ x \$80.00
<b>Saturday Dinner</b> ____ Top Sirloin ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian	

<b>SATURDAY (Lunch only)</b>	
Rotarian ____ x \$26.50	Non Rotarian Guest ____ x \$26.50
<b>SATURDAY (Centennial Celebration only)</b>	
Rotarian ____ x \$26.50	Non Rotarian Guest ____ x \$26.50
<b>SATURDAY (Dinner only)</b>	
Rotarian ____ x \$54.00	Non Rotarian Guest ____ x \$54.00
<b>Saturday Dinner</b> ____ Top Sirloin ____ Salmon ____ Vegetarian	

**Make check payable to: District 6670 Conference** Send payment with this form by **April 21, 2017** to:  
John Applegate • 3741 Lansdowne Ave. • Cincinnati, OH 45236 • FAX: 513-687-3600 – secure line  
**CONFERENCE PAYMENT: Registration & Meal Cost not refundable after April 21st, 2017**

**NO REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT CHECK**

**ROOM RESERVATIONS: Contact Marriott Cincinnati Northeast directly for reservations and payment**  
9464 Mason-Montgomery Road, Mason, OH 45040 Phone: 513-459-9900 Rates: \$109.00 per night

**QUESTIONS ??**  
**CALL 513-821-5441**

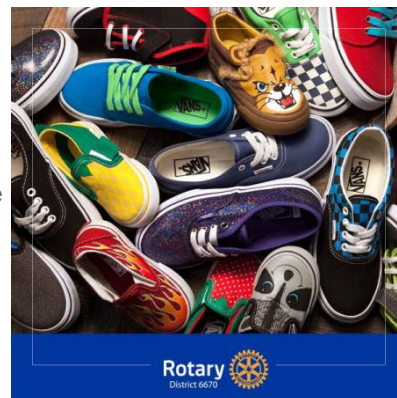
## SHOES for Orphan Souls, our District 6670 Service Project

It's almost time for District Conference and our shoe collection drive will be wrapping up in the 35 clubs involved this year. Clubs participating are busy collecting shoes, socks and laces. Detailed information has been sent to each Club's project chair to complete their project successfully.

If your club hasn't contacted us yet, it is not too late to participate. The need for shoes is greater than ever now. Please contact me and I will forward all the information you will need for district conference delivery. If your club chooses to make a donation, please make checks payable to BUCKNER INTERNATIONAL and they will purchase sturdy shoes with the funds.

Thank you for helping with another successful year collecting shoes for orphans and children living in poverty. That one pair of shoes donated connects a child to Buckner to receive help with a multitude of other services they provide in the world.

See you at District conference as we all see the shoes accumulate!! Wendy Kissel  
wkissel@gmail.com 513-267-9541



## Rotary Leadership Institute



Time is running short! The next opportunity for Rotary Leadership Institute will be held on Saturday, April 22 at Greene County Career Center. This is a great way to experience Rotary at a deeper level than we have time to during our regular weekly meetings. Discuss with other Rotarians from across the district how to better recruit and keep new members. Learn more about how the Rotary Foundation works and the good things that Rotarians do within District 6670 and around the world. Find out more about the expectations for receiving district grants. The more people we have signed up, the greater our discussions will be and the more we have to share. We need you to be a part of that conversation.

How do you sign up? Simply go to [www.hoa-rli.org](http://www.hoa-rli.org). Click on RLI Events at the top of the page and scroll down to District 6670 RLI Part I, II or III at the Greene County Career Center. You can pay on-line, or you can bring your check for just \$50 with you on April 22. Then...go to your club president to see if there are funds in your local clubs budget to reimburse you for the expenses.

We hope to see you there!

## 2017 Jefferson Award Recognition



Suzy

DeYoung of La Soupe, an organization that harnesses the talent of chefs and volunteers to help produce nutritious meals for food-insecure families in Greater Cincinnati, has been named the local 2017 winner of the Jefferson Award for Public Service by the Cincinnati Rotary Club.

The award was created in 1972 by a Cincinnati native, then-U.S. Senator Robert Taft, and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. There are 90 cities in the United States that participate in this outstanding recognition program. The Cincinnati Rotary Club and the American Institute of Public Service are behind the search for Jefferson Award nominees in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky. This year, the program saw a record 31 nominations from the community. The Cincinnati Club has been involved in the program for the past 16 years.

The La Soupe Food Rescue Program operates six days a week. Volunteers rescue produce that would otherwise be thrown away, an astonishing 19,250 pounds in the last 6 months, from grocery stores, bakeries, farm markets, and local farms. Suzy and her team sort the rescued food and convert it into delicious, nutritious, simple meals with a French flair. Suzy is a classically trained chef. Stores such as Kroger and Jungle Jim's donate produce they would otherwise throw away, and DeYoung and a team of volunteer chefs turn it into soup. Then, they give that soup, --or, sometimes stew,



gumbo, or casserole—to people who are hungry.

Suzy and her volunteers bring the nutritious food to needy children, families, and seniors at four schools and nine community/outreach centers. Local food pantries, after school programs, church groups, and summer camps have also been recipients of the La Soupe Gives Program. Fridays are big days for La Soupe. That is the day that volunteers bag up soup, fresh bread, and fresh fruit to put into 400 children's backpack at four different schools.

DeYoung now goes to Washington, D.C. in June where her work at La Soupe will be considered in a national competition sponsored by the Jefferson Awards Foundation. We have been fortunate to have six of the last twelve Cincinnati recipients of the local recognition receive the National Jefferson Award in Washington.

Please contact PDG Bill Shula with questions and suggestions as we prepare for the 2018 recognition. As chair of the committee, we have requested nominations from the eight Rotary Clubs in the Greater Cincinnati and the clubs in Northern Kentucky.

## Make Plans to Attend the District Assembly

The District Assembly will be Wednesday, May 10 from 5:30-9:00 pm at Normandy United Methodist Church, located at 450 W. Alex-Bell Rd. in Centerville, just off of Exit 4, I-675. Dinner will be provided!

Open to all Rotarians, District Assembly is our opportunity to meet to not only make plans for the District as a whole, but to discuss how each Club's goals can be reached with support from the District and other clubs.

As a District we have 2 District-wide goals, to become a Peace Builder District and to achieve RI President-Elect Ian Riseley's goal of planting a tree for each Rotarian in our District. We will discuss how each club can help the District meet these goals.

We will also talk about how we can help Clubs reach membership goals, Foundation goals (including how to use points to award Paul Harris Fellows), and share ideas of club service projects and fund raising.

You can register by logging in to your DaCdb account and clicking on "Calendar." If you have trouble getting registered, contact DGE Mark Mabelitini at [mark6670dg1718@yahoo.com](mailto:mark6670dg1718@yahoo.com)

## Best Practices in Leading a Volunteer Organization



Submitted by Sigrid B. Solomon

Many of us are leaders in our chosen professions that provide us with a paycheck at the end the week or month. The question that we should ask ourselves is, "How do these set of skills transfer into the realm of working with an all or 98% volunteer workforce?" Let's take a moment to reflect on some of the best practices of high performing volunteer organizations:

### Laying the Foundation

- Valuing the role of volunteers
- Defining rules and expectations
- Developing volunteer management skills
- Being **prepared** so you don't waste people's time
- Be **kind and respectful** in all your interactions
- Follow the **Golden Rule**: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

### Developing the jobs and getting the right people

- Reducing client and group risk
- Creating clear assignments
- Reaching beyond the circle
- Provide clearly written **job descriptions**.
- Clearly (and often) **communicate the vision**
- Ensure that volunteers know exactly **what's expected** of them
- Keep the **workloads manageable**
- Provide opportunities for volunteers to **switch to different roles** they might find

more enjoyable

- Teach volunteers, in leadership positions, how to **delegate**
- Fill out **Project Briefs** on all projects you are inviting volunteer participation — and share them with volunteers

### Creating an environment where volunteers feel they belong and want to stay

- Orienting and training volunteers
- Providing supervision
- Making volunteers feel they belong
- Recognizing volunteer contributions
- **Honor your commitments** (and if, for any reason, you cannot — renegotiate them with volunteers)
- Take the time to **authentically welcome** volunteers and orient them to their new role
- Start new volunteers off **small**. Don't scare them off with too huge of a commitment too soon
- Communicate **progress** being made on a regular basis. Volunteers need to see that their efforts are having impact
- When there are **setbacks or breakdowns**, learn from them — and share your learnings with others
- Create a **trusting environment** that ensures open communication, teamwork, and respect for diversity
- Keep everyone on your team **informed** of the inevitable changes (i.e. direction, policy, timelines, goals, personnel etc.)
- Give and receive **feedback** (both formally and informally)
- Provide opportunities for volunteers to **learn and grow**
- Give volunteers the opportunity to **take breaks** from the project
- Make sure volunteers know they can **say “no”** if they are overextended or overwhelmed
- Enthusiastically **acknowledge successes**, especially “small wins”
- Do your best to make sure everyone is **enjoying the process** of participating
- **Respond** to input, questions, and feedback as soon as possible. Don't leave people hanging
- Build some **interpersonal chat time** into your meetings and conference calls
- Even when you are stressed or behind deadline, take the time to make sure your emails have a **feeling of warmth** to them
- Conduct **exit interviews** whenever a volunteer ends their participation or is asked to step aside
- **Share your learnings** from the exit interviews with other managers

*Is it the **Truth**? Is it **Fair** to all concerned? Will it build **Good Will** and **Better Friendships**? Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?*

## Bellefontaine Rotary 41st Annual Honors Night

More than 150 hardworking high school students were honored for their academic achievements at the 41st Annual Bellefontaine Rotary Club Honors Night on Wednesday evening (3-15-17) at Bellefontaine High School. Students from Bellefontaine, Benjamin Logan, Calvary Christian, Indian Lake, Ohio HI Point Career Center, Ridgemont, Riverside, Upper Scioto Valley, Waynesfield and West Liberty-Salem High Schools were recognized. Each student has earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during his or her high school career. Bellefontaine alum Emily Wieringa, who is the Director of Construction at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, was the featured speaker.



For the first time ever, the Bellefontaine Rotary Club announced their local scholarship winners during the Honors Night event. Scholarships are normally announced at individual school awards presentations later in the school year. This year's 8

Bellefontaine Rotary Club Scholarship Winners are: Tyler Sanford from Riverside High School, Nick Kurtz and Violet Martin from Bellefontaine High School, Trenton Neeld and Gabriel VanDyke from Benjamin Logan High School, and Dalton Faler, Rachel Kimmel and Emma Powers from Indian Lake High School.

Photo: This year's Rotary Club Scholarship winners: (Left to right) Trenton Neeld (BL), Dalton Faler (IL), Rachel Kimmel (IL), Tyler Sanford (Riv), Violet Martin (BHS), Emma Powers (IL), Gabriel VanDyke (BL) and Nick Kurtz (BHS).

## 4-Way Test Speech Contest Results



Stereotypes. Segregation. Local Economies. A father's advice.

And that was just in the four final speeches.

The District 6670 Rotary 4 Way Test Speech Competition, held April 2, 2017, at Wright State University, featured students from around the district speaking on the 4 Way Test and these topics, and more.

An annual highlight for many Rotarians, the contest gathered 28 students, their parents, friends, family, coaches and teachers, as well as many Rotarians. As in the past, students were selected by their home clubs and brought a variety of speeches to the contest. Speeches were memorized, fell between four and six minutes and delighted a mix of Rotarians and Wright State University faculty, staff and students.

Each student presented his or her speech to two separate sets of judges, in two different sets of student presenters. The top four scoring students presented their speeches a third time to a final set of judges. Finalists were Rithu Rajagopala, a sophomore at Walnut Hills High School from the Cincinnati Rotary Club; Ellie Shoemaker, a junior at London High School representing the London Rotary Club; Emily Wang, a junior from Talawanda High School, representing the Oxford Rotary Club; and Jenny Zhang, a senior at Mason High School representing the Mason Deerfield Rotary Club.

It was a close contest with Ellie Shoemaker winning the 2017 Competition. Her speech on the importance of buying local and how it measures up to the Rotary 4 Way Test will be presented at the District Conference coming up at the end of the month (another reason to be sure to REGISTER for that if you have not yet!). Additionally, we hope to bring other finalists to the Conference.

As with any event on this scale, it was only possible with a lot of support from many volunteers. The District Committee included Arne Almquist, Norma Berry, John Haller, Beth Huber, Mac Hickman, Mike Kelly, Mark Mabelitini, Eric Marcus, Rich Sears, Bill Shula, Sigrid Solomon, Peter Weiglin and Susan Wilkinson – all Rotarians, as well as Tracey Hill and Mary Rucker from Wright State University. They worked throughout the year to ensure details were in place for the day of the event.

On April 2, they were joined by a host of other volunteers including Rotarians, WSU faculty & staff, WSU student, and others who provided invaluable moral support, assistance and calm, serving as Judges, Timers, hosts, runners, scorekeepers, lost room finders and more. The event is only successful with the support of all of these volunteers.

Finally, if you – or your club – held a local contest and provided this opportunity for students. Thank you for your support also. The student speeches were just amazing and we only were able to know that because you first took on the task of a local contest.

Mark your calendars for 2018 – April 8 at Wright State University. Materials for the 2018 contest will be available at Trilogy in September (be sure to register for that, too!) Watch the District Website for materials by October 1.

## Troy Rotary Hosts Speech Contest Winners



Rotary clubs around the world take the Four-Way Test very seriously. Thanks to the Troy area schools, students now understand the meaning of the questions used to guide community outreach and personal behavior: (1) Is it the truth; (2) Is it fair to all concerned; (3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships; and (4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned? On Tuesday, March 28, the top three winners of the 2017 contest presented their speeches during the weekly

meeting of the Troy Rotary club.

Prior to the competition on held March 13<sup>th</sup>, Troy High School had 130 students write essays about Rotary's Four-Way Test. That encouraged eight students to present their speeches to the judges during the competition. The speeches were so good that making a final decision was a very tough job. The third place was awarded to Camryn Spencer, a sophomore at Troy High School. Her speech focused on how the Four-Way Test applied to animal experimentation and what better alternatives might exist. She earned \$75 from the club for her work. The second place orator was Kaitlyn Sherrick, also a Troy sophomore. Her subject was on young people who chose cosmetic surgery to enhance their appearance. The speech won her \$150. The top prize of \$250 was given to Sarah Geer, a Troy High School sophomore. The topic of her speech was genealogy and how it could both satisfy curiosity and be used for medical purposes. Sarah's presentation was enhanced with sign language. Geer qualified to present her speech at the District 6670 contest held at Wright State University on Sunday, April 2.

Photo: L to R: Camryn Spencer, Kaitlyn Sherrick, Sarah Geer and the program chair, Troy Rotarian John Haller.

## Troy Rotary and Lincoln Community Center Sponsor Egg Hunt



Have you looked at the calendar? Easter is just days away, and that means it's time for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Lincoln Community Center, 110 Ash Street in Troy. The fun begins at 12 noon on Saturday, April 15, 2017, when the first group of children will race across the two-acre field right behind the center. Troy Rotary Club helps sponsor the event and will have volunteers there to help children ages 2-12 find lots of candy and surprises.

Families planning to participate are asked to be at the center by 11:45 AM. New this year will be three different age groups for searching for the eggs: youth ages 2-5 will go first; next will be ages 6-9; and the



final group will be of the big kids, ages 10-12. Prizes will be awarded in each age group, and the Easter Bunny will be on hand to greet all the families. Every child may gather up eggs in a basket or bag they bring to the event.

The event is open to area families and is free-of-charge. If the weather is inclement, the hunt will be moved inside the center. If you need more information on the event, contact the Lincoln Community Center on (937) 335-2715 or visit their Web site at [www.lcctr.com](http://www.lcctr.com)

## Rotary Day at the Dayton Dragons Game



We will have a Rotary Day at the Dayton Dragons game on Sunday, July 23 against the Burlington Bees. Tickets are \$15 (with \$3 coming back to the District) and in addition to your seat for the game you get a hat and a chance to win other merchandise. Our group will be announced on the PA and displayed on the videoboard! This is one of number of family-friendly events we have planned so bring the family and enjoy an afternoon of baseball and Rotary fellowship!

Order forms are available from your Club President-elect. Order early as we only have 200 seats reserved for us.



**Rotary Club Day**  
at Fifth Third Field  
Dayton Dragons vs. Burlington Bees  
Sunday, July 23, 2017, 2:00PM  
*Come out and have a great time with colleagues, friends, and family taking in a Dragons game in our Group Seats!*

**What's included?**

- Game ticket for a stadium seat
- Dayton Dragons Hat
- Your group is announced over our PA system and displayed on our videoboard
- Great entertainment
- A chance to win Dragons merchandise through a private group raffle



**DEADLINE TO ORDER: Friday, June 16th**

- Mail: Dayton Dragons, Fifth Third Field, PO Box 2107, Dayton, OH 45401
- Fax: to (937) 228-2284
- Email to: [dragons@daytondragons.com](mailto:dragons@daytondragons.com)

**For more information, please contact:**  
Dan Slater, Corporate Marketing Manager  
(937) 228-2287 x. 121  
[Daniel.Slater@daytondragons.com](mailto:Daniel.Slater@daytondragons.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX: \_\_\_\_\_ Discover: \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard: \_\_\_\_\_ VISA: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Dayton Dragons Professional Baseball

 DRAGONSBASEBALL [DAYTONDRAGONS.COM](http://DAYTONDRAGONS.COM)

  
Dayton Dragons Professional Baseball Team | 220 N. Patterson Blvd. | Dayton, OH 45402 | Tel: (937) 228-2287



# Moraine Rotary Disc Golf Course Receives National Coverage

An article on the Moraine Rotary Disc Golf Course in Memory of Shane Miller was recently published in the Parks & Rec Business magazine, a national magazine for parks and recreation professionals and departments.



## FAIRWAYS OF HOPE

**How one father built a disc-golf course to honor his son's memory**

BY DAVE MILLER

**M**odern disc golf started in the 1960s and today is the fastest-growing non-contact sport in America. The object for a player is to complete an entire course in the fewest number of throws of the disc. Over the past decade and a half, the sport has skyrocketed due to a combination of fun, challenge, and affordability. It's a sport anyone can play, regardless of gender, age, or ability.



**THE MORAINES ROTARY DISC GOLF COURSE "FAIRWAYS OF HOPE," WAS BUILT BY DAVE MILLER IN MEMORY OF HIS SON, SHANE MILLER.**

Although I had played disc golf a few times, I did not know that I would become involved with developing a disc-golf course for my community. Recently retired as Director of Parks & Recreation for the city of Moraine, Ohio, after 34 years of service, I didn't know my life would change dramatically in the next four months as I was diagnosed with stage-four lymphoma cancer. Three months after beginning chemotherapy, my youngest son Shane, age 20, passed away. At the time, in lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to the Moraine Rotary Club of which I've been a member for 24 years.

During treatment, I brainstormed what project I could do in memory of my son. Then one day it dawned on me—a disc-golf course. Shane loved playing Frisbee every day, and I had once considered developing a course at one of the city parks. It became clear that would be our family's goal.

18 | Parks & Rec Business | March 2017

PHOTO: GARY DEAN PHOTO: JENNIFER HARRISON PHOTO: DAVE MILLER

I pitched the idea at a Moraine Rotary Club meeting. The club agreed to donate \$1,000 towards the project, and we were off and running.

So how did we install a disc-golf course in a quick and inexpensive manner?

#### STEP 1: DISC-GOLF RESEARCH

I relied on a variety of free resources that offered me professional guidance on how to design and develop a course, what equipment was needed, and how to familiarize myself with disc-golf terms, rules, playing techniques, and disc-golf products. Here are some of the resources I used:

- Disc-golf websites: Disc Golf Association (DGA), Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA), Dayton (Ohio) Disc Golf Association (DDGA)
- Disc-golf manufacturers: Innova Disc Golf
- Local disc-golf stores
- Local disc-golf courses (walking and playing other courses in the area)
- Local players (listening to their tips and tricks about courses)

#### STEP 2: A LOCATION

Disc-golf courses can be designed

#### STEP 3: A COURSE DESIGN

With the help of several local players, I walked the site several times and marked with stakes the tee and basket locations for the proposed 18-hole course. I kept in mind the national standards as per minimum lengths per hole, and for setting the par based upon the presence of natural obstacles (trees vs.

open areas) or other natural or man-made challenges. I contacted the owner of a local disc-golf store in Dayton who has experience in designing courses. He volunteered to walk the park with me and view the proposed layout, occasionally making suggestions to modify the length of the holes, basket location, or added distance between the basket and



### Quality & Expertise

The Leading Manufacturer of Disc Golf Baskets



Quality

for an under-utilized area of a facility. Deer Meadow Park had many recreational amenities, such as a skate park, disc golf course, playground equipment and a half-mile bicycle/walking path around a beautiful nine-acre fishing pond. The most positive attribute of the park was an irregular parcel of land on 18 acres, a combination of open space and wooded area—the perfect site for a disc golf course. I obtained the necessary permission to develop the course.

#### STEP 3: A BUDGET

The free resources in Step 1 helped me determine the costs for equipment, installation, supplies, and other considerations. The total estimated cost was \$9,800 to \$18,000.

Disc Golf Association (DGA) equipment is the most durable, but also the most expensive. The DGA equipment investment is the very best disc golf equipment available.

**Choices**  
There is a perfect Mach basket to fit your needs.  
**High Traffic or Pro Course:** Mach X, Mach V or Mach III baskets.  
**Camps, Schools, Churches or Rec Centers:** Mach II, Mach Lite or M-14.

**Free Mach Basket Offer**  
Mention this Ad & get a free basket on orders of 9+ Mach baskets.  
Free basket has limited availability at certain times. Offer good while supplies last.

**831-722-6037** **DiscGolf.com**

Mach III | Published Business.com | 31



next tee for safety. Consulting someone with designing experience is essential and does not need to be costly. In lieu of his assistance, I placed his company information on a tee sign, on the main message board, and in all press releases. I decided to go with natural trees the first year demarcated with in-ground blocks, with the goal of installing concrete pads after a year of play and evaluation.

#### STEP 5: FUNDRAISING PARTNERSHIPS

Once the word got out that a course was to be built in memory of my son, the family was blessed with an outpouring of help from the community. We established two points of contact for monetary donations: the Moraine Rotary Club and a site on "Go Fund Me." Using social media, such as my daughter's Facebook page, rapidly spread the word of the project. Contributions began pouring in from family, friends, work associates, church parishioners, and businesses. The city's Foundation contributed, and the project was named one of the "Moraine 50th Anniversary Projects" since the city was celebrating its milestone birthday all year. Local businesses that donated had their information placed on a tee sign and also on the message board.

Partnerships were formed as a local brick company donated blocks for tee markers. The city's Street Division partnered with us, and the staff, along with volunteers, helped install the baskets, tee posts, tee signs, directional arrows under each basket, and message board. A local church pastor and his family built the large message board, and my oldest son, along with volunteers, built and installed four footbridges. The local Low's Home Improvement Center provided discounts on wood, hardware, and other supplies. A city employee designed the tee signs and the large course sign. In keeping with the name of the course, the "Fairways of Hope," each tee sign had not only a diagram of the hole, pin, and

distance, but also an inspirational message. Three work days were needed to install and cement the 18 tee posts and 18 baskets. Three more work days were needed to install the chains on the baskets, individual tee signs, message board, and tee markers. Major business and individual donors were recognized on the tee signs as well as on the message board.

#### STEP 6: DEDICATION CEREMONY

A dedication ceremony was held on September 19, 2013. Over 125 people turned out despite a slight drizzle, and many disc enthusiasts still played 18 holes in the rain. Moraine Rotary and a few local stores donated hot dogs and

30 | Published Business.com | Mach III

drinks for the event. The mayor and city council, my family, and Moraine Rotary were the first children to receive the

FINAL BUDGET COSTS	
\$6,500	Baskets (10)

children or young adults will be added to an area called "Serenity Point." This area is now with baskets for the next

new pathway, and are excited to sign on new course.

#### STEP 7: ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP

My connection with the city's parks and recreation department was a big plus, however, anyone thinking about developing a course should consider forming a partnership with the local park department for grass mowing and maintenance-related assistance. Developing a "Friends of the Disc Course" is a useful asset, as these volunteers can be used in many ways, such as monitoring the course to pick up trash, trimming grass, making minor repairs to foot bridges, signs, or nets, trimming easy-to-reach tree branches, changing message board signs, working leagues or tournaments, or helping to fundraise.

\$181 Tee posts (18)
\$460 Tee signs and large course sign
\$410 Footbridges (14)
\$380 Basket and tee-post installation supplies
\$470 Message board
<b>\$1,901 Total</b>

#### FUTURE ADDITIONS

To date, more than \$11,800 has been raised for the course. Several projects for year two have been planned. Since mosquitoes and insects are an issue during warm weather, we will combat this problem with natural remedies by installing bat houses for night feeding and Martin houses for daytime feeding. Benches will be added to many tee areas. Concrete tee pads will be installed. A pathway with personalized engraved bricks for people who have lost

memory, arms, even someone up one point between two golf holes, will be a quiet, reflective place.

The Moraine Rotary Disc Golf Course "Pathways of Hope," in memory of Shane Miller, has had steady play regardless of weather since its opening. It has been a perfect memorial to our son and has been a great recreational addition to the community and the park system. **WMS**

**Dave Miller** is the Volunteer & Community Service Coordinator for the City of Moraine, Ohio. He previously served as director of the department for 27 years. Reach him at [David@morainecity.org](mailto:David@morainecity.org).

To comment on this article, visit [ParksAndRecreation.com](http://ParksAndRecreation.com)



- ★ DOCK KITS
- ★ PILE GUIDES
- ★ FLOTATION
- ★ RAMPS

**WE MANUFACTURE  
BOAT DOCKS & HARDWARE**

**WWW.AMDOCKS.COM**  
**800-223-3444**

