Congratulations to the district clubs who have been approved for 2024-2025 District Grant funding for their projects below! Thank you to each club and Rotarian for making *The Magic of Rotary* a reality in your communities and around the world through these District Grants.

**Arcola** – *Community Development* - $2000

This club will create a city dog park, offering physical & social benefits for both dogs & their owners while developing a sense of community & connection for dog owners. Rotarians will also complete a day of cleanup service in the parks. The club, its foundation, & the city will contribute significant funds for fencing to increase the impact of the grant. Signage & media will promote Rotary.

**Arthur** – *Health* - $2000

Rotarians will assist at-risk single mothers & their children by cleaning, painting & refurbishing rooms at a local shelter that supports unwed, expecting mothers & women in domestic violence situations. The club will match grant funds to purchase paint, furnishings & supplies for the rooms they sponsor at this apartment. A Rotary plaque will be installed & local media will cover the project.

**Bloomington** – *Health* - $2000

This club plans a partnership with the Central Illinois Special Hockey Association to provide safe helmets & equipment for children with intellectual & developmental disabilities. They will cheer on the athletes at a special hockey practice & hold a celebration for Rotarians & athletes afterwards. The club is matching grant funds for the new equipment. Rotary stickers will be placed on the helmets.

**Bloomington-Normal Daybreak** – *Community Development* - $1122

Rotarians plan to do various building repairs & construct raised garden beds for Dreams are Possible, a small non-profit training center that provides classes & workshops for economically marginalized women. The building dates from 1910, so many repairs will be needed over several workdays. Signage at the busy intersection & media articles will highlight this Rotary project.

**Bloomington-Normal Sunrise** – *Community Development* - $1770

A local healthcare facility provides medical & dental services to those who cannot afford it & also provides free produce from their community garden for anyone who visits the clinic. This club plans to provide seeds, plants, trees & shrubs for the garden. They will work to plant & maintain the space. Local press & media will provide coverage & photo opportunities.

**Bloomington-Normal Sunset** – *Community Development* - $2000

Up to 100 local residents live on the streets because they do not qualify for shelters. This club will partner with Home Sweet Home Ministries to provide tents, flashlights, blankets & hygiene supplies to this population. Rotarians will procure & deliver supplies to the ministry organization & assist with distribution to street residents as allowed. The club is matching grant funds.

**Bloomington Pub Club –** *Health* - $2000

Seniors that live on fixed incomes find it hard to afford incontinence products that are necessary for their personal hygiene & well-being. This club is partnering with a local "paper pantry" to supply these items for clients. Club members will obtain these items & volunteer at distribution events. Fundraising events will be held to supplement grant funds & social media will promote the project.

**Champaign** – *Education/Water* - $2000

As part of an International Service Trip with other Rotary districts, club members will travel to Mexico to repair/replace up to 200 desktops in schools in the impoverished Guadalajara area. They will also install water filters in 4 schools to provide clean water for the students & allow them to take clean water home for their families. Club donations will provide 10 more filters for private homes.

**Charleston** – *Environment* - $1400

This club will support environmental sustainability by recruiting the collection of over 420 lbs. of plastic caps & lids, which a recycling company will turn into 2 durable, maintenance-free benches for a local state park. The deep-blue benches with Rotary logos will provide a resting spot for visitors in a scenic area of the park. Rotarians will collect, clean, sort & transport the plastic.

**CU @ the Rotary Satellite** – *Health* - $1970

This new satellite club will work with underserved girls to create clothing & other items that convey messages of positive self-image and confidence. Rotarians will work with the youth about messaging & help them create shirts & other materials with sublimation printers. Local media will cover the project & Rotary-branded labels will be installed on durable production equipment.

**CU Sunrise** – *Health* - $2000

A local home-visiting program serves at-risk families with young children. This club will purchase doorknob & outlet covers, baby gates, smoke detectors & a variety of other safety items to be assembled into a kit for needy families. Rotary labels will be placed in the front of "Safety around the Home" books in each kit. A club member will donate additional funds for kit supplies.

**Danville** – *Health* - $1970

Children who are grieving due to the sickness or loss of a parent can receive comfort by receiving a basket consisting of books, crayons, inspirational books, a stuffed animal & packet of glitter. This club is partnering with "Light the Way", an organization created by a girl who suffered the loss of her father from cancer when she was 4, by creating & distributing 40 baskets to grieving children.

**Effingham Sunrise** – *Community Development* - $2000

The community's crisis nursery serves around 150 children annually by providing help for children needing emergency care. This club plans to match grant funds to purchase toys & equipment for the nursery's playground, trim trees & finish the deck to provide a safer environment. A table & Rotary bench are included in the project. Feature stories will be run in the media.

**Fairbury** – *Community Development* - $2000

The rural village of Cropsey is working to rejuvenate the community, with a large project being the creation of Cropsey Area Memorial Park. With the recent installation of playground equipment & plans for sports courts in the park, this club will be providing picnic tables, assembling them, & placing them in a soon-to-be-built park shelter. Local media will provide coverage.

**Hoopeston** – *Community Development* - $2000

The town's public library has been an important part of the lives of many generations of readers. To encourage a love of libraries & reading for teens & pre-teens, this club plans to update the library's Youth Room by painting, redecorating, supplying new furniture, & providing new puzzles & games. A Rotary plaque & media will announce the project.

**Mahomet** – *Health* - $1970

WRAPPs (Washable Reusable Accessible Protection for girls during menstruation Promoting equal education opportunities) are in constant demand to allow young women to still attend school during their menstrual cycles. This club is partnering with a local organization to learn how to sew WRAPP kits, which will be distributed to a local pantry & to locations in Africa. Media & newsletters will provide coverage.

**Marshall** – *Education* - $1970

Some junior high students are unable to participate in gym class & extra-curricular sports due to lack of proper clothing & gym shoes. This club is working to launder & supply the school's "Cubs Closet" with these new items for needy students so that they can discreetly be empowered & confident in these physical pursuits. A 4-Way Test & other Rotary info will be posted in the closet.

**Mattoon** – *Community Development* - $1970

This club will cultivate flowers & vegetables in the local Bill Duey Sensory Garden that will provide sensory-aid plants for community members, especially those with disabilities, as well as a free food source. The multi-stage project will include garden prepping, planting, construction, & mounting of a peace pole. A Rotary plaque & media coverage are planned.

**Metamora-Germantown Hills** – *Education* - $1970

This project provides instructional support for 29 elementary students with significant disabilities through the Woodford County Special Education Association. Grant funds will go towards task boxes, adaptive musical instruments & sensory items. Rotarians will purchase & deliver supplies & serve as volunteers & mentors in the classrooms. WCSEA will provide project updates on their Facebook page.

**Monticello** – *Community Development* - $1923

This club will construct & improve fencing for the Hope Lives Youth Ranch, home of therapy horses that work with children with anxiety, depression, & other social/behavioral issues. The club is matching grant funds to provide the lumber, fencing & other necessary supplies. They will wear their Rotary t-shirts during the project for social media photo ops.

**Normal** – *Education* - $2000

Following COVID-19, there are still students that struggle socially. This club will partner with an expert in social emotional learning for a school program (IM4U) that uses music to create an environment of connection, growth, & discovery, while fostering a sense of unity, compassion & friendship. Rotarians will supervise the assembly, volunteer monthly, & distribute 4-Way Test bookmarks.

**Paris** – *Community Development* - $2000

A local park is used by kids whose siblings play team baseball nearby. This club will replace an existing deteriorating swing with a safe, new, handicap-accessible model. Rotarians will assemble the new equipment & spread mulch around the new play set. Matching funds & donations will increase the grant's impact. The park is identified as a Rotary project with signage.

**Rantoul** – *Community Development* - $2000

Rantoul is very proud of its history as host to the now-decommissioned Chanute Air Force Base, once one of the largest Air Force training facilities in the world. The club plans to create & install a storyboard at The Missile, one of the few artifacts remaining, to explain the base's history & significance. The village is matching funds, & the sign will credit the Rotary club's sponsorship.

**Tuscola** – *Education* - $2000

The local school is always looking for activities for students to do at recess & P.E. This club plans to provide tools & labor to install 2 Gaga Ball pits, which foster competition, teamwork & activity in an enclosed space that is easy to supervise. The club & school district is matching grant funds. Rotary signage will be attached to the structure & media will cover the "Rotarians at Work".

**Urbana** – *Peace* - $1515

Building on the relationship that this Peace Club already has with Solidarity Gardens, which grows & provides produce to the needy, Rotarians plan to buy, paint, & install peace poles in 4-5 Solidarity Garden sites. Funds will also purchase seeds, plants, & supplies to support the garden program. The Urbana Park District is offering additional funding. Social media & District articles will share info about the project.

**Villa Grove** – *Community Development* - $1950

The Rotarians of the Villa Grove club have plans to scrape & repaint picnic tables & a pavilion, paint an outdoor lavatory, & assemble & paint additional new tables to make local Harrison Park more usable for local families & to restore pride in the park. Grant funds will be used for paint, tables, & signage. Local newspapers can provide media coverage.