

**2023-
2024**

Rotary
Club of Nashville



**ROTARY CLUB
OF NASHVILLE &
NASHVILLE ROTARY
SERVICE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My fellow Rotarians,

This year, we achieved the milestone of 110 years of Rotary service to our community. I am happy to share that the state of our Club is strong and includes an engaged membership, active Board and committees and most essentially a very talented staff led by Olivia Leow.

We took care of some organizational imperatives like finding a new home and making some necessary adjustments as it relates to our financial sustainability.

We advanced our strategies as it relates to fellowship, membership, community, district/international and communications. I shared some of my favorite memories in my final First Friday, itself a new communication to all the members. Some of the year's highlights include:

- Our weekly meetings at Geodis featuring awesome programs and an improved member experience and post-pandemic records for attendance.
- Launching both membership ambassadors and a non-profit Board member recruitment initiative
- Exceeded our goal on our annual campaign to fund the Nashville Rotary Service Trust with post-pandemic record participation
- Re-imagining our Feed the Need to include a mobile market where we “sold out” out of our perishable food items
- Launching a District/International Committee and committing to become a Peacebuilding Club and supporting a health initiative in Uganda with other Clubs around the world
- Continuing to raise the bar on overall communications and launching “my Rotary Story” to help share how Rotary impact us as individuals and what brought us to Nashville Rotary
- Continuing to support all of our Rotaract Clubs, including Fisk and Rotaract of Nashville, a community young professionals Club, which will continue being part of our operations for the next year.

As my Rotary year as President ends, my heart is full of gratitude for the many contributions of time, funds, and innovative ideas that have contributed to our collective accomplishments. Thank you again for the privilege of being yours in service as we engaged, connected and were inspired. I look forward to continuing to be an active Rotarian and serving on the Board for another year.

Hope to see you soon,
Joanne



OUR MISSION + LEADERSHIP

To impact our community by creating forums for fellowship, understanding and service among engaged leaders.

Board of Directors

Joanne Pulles, President
Alfred Degrafinreid, VP/President Elect
Jim Schmitz, Secretary/Treasurer
Clark Spoden, Sergeant-at-Arms
Lisa Ferrelli, Immediate Past President
Kristine LaLonde, NRST Grants Chairperson
Michell Bosch, Finance Committee Chairperson
Angie Adams
Jacky Akbari
Kristen Keely-Dinger
Kim Estep
Leisa Gill
David Fox
Lydia Lenker
Lee Molette
Tim Ozgener
Charles Sueing
Bob Stokes
Carlie Vowell, Rotaract
Ken Youngstead



Nashville Rotary Presidents

ROTARY BY THE NUMBERS

464

We welcomed 66 new members this year, ending the year with 464 total members. Thank you for sponsoring community leaders in your network!

17

17 service projects completed this year. Thank you for signing up and showing up to live out our motto of Service above Self!

\$95,000

We awarded \$94,000 in grants to 3 organizations serving our community and beyond. Thank you for giving to our Nashville Rotary Service Trust to make this possible!

41

41 opportunities to learn more about our community at Rotary meetings. We brought 70 speakers to the podium including political, education, healthcare and business leaders.



We create a forum for fellowship.

The Rotary Club of Nashville is known for creating opportunities for fellowship among engaged leaders.

-The New Member Mixer committee hosted 3 events welcoming our newest members over breakfast at The Cafe at Thistle Farms.

-We hosted 3 Rotary After Hours events:

- Happy Hour at Morton's
- Backstage tour at Tennessee Performing Arts Center
- Distillery tour at Pennington Distilling Co.



Social Media



1,318 Facebook followers
@NashvilleRotaryClub



1,928 Twitter followers
@NashvilleRotary



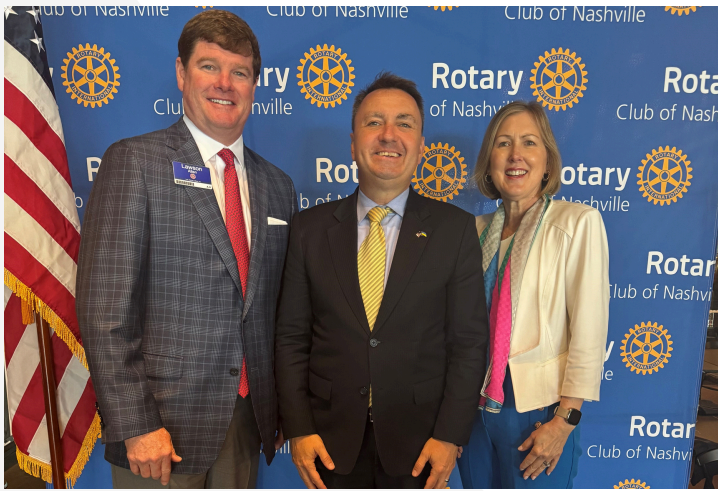
893 Instagram followers
@NashvilleRotary



1,205 LinkedIn followers
Rotary Club of Nashville

FORUM FOR FELLOWSHIP

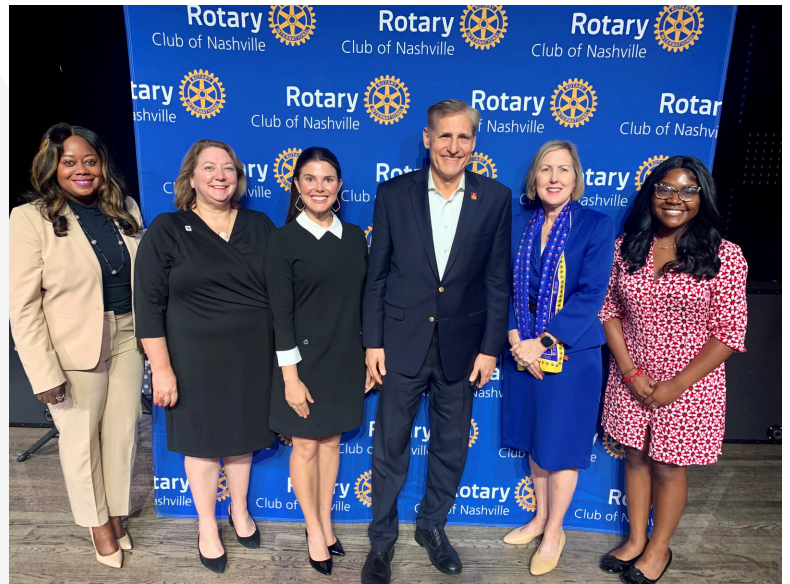
Fellowship Board Liaison: Leisa Gill | Rotary After Hours: Diana Pelham & Theo Morrison
Communications Board Liaison: Lydia Lenker Committee Chair: Jenny Barker



Rotarians are leaders who seek to better understand our community. The program committee brought a diverse group of timely and relevant speakers to the Rotary podium this year. Rotary hosted 41 meetings.

Speakers included Rotary International CEO John Hewko, U.S. State Department's Daniel Bischof, two panels on Rotary's focus area of mental health and community leaders in our area. Topics ranged from current affairs, sports, music and community issues.

In January, Rotary meetings moved to GEODIS Park after a 27-year run at The Wildhorse Saloon.



FORUM FOR UNDERSTANDING



We create a forum for service.

Rotarians are People of Action who live out Service above Self.

People of Action Projects: Last year, we launched People of Action Projects--service opportunities created and selected by Rotarians. Members joined together to host students and their parents from W.O. Smith at the Nashville Symphony. We also gathered at Project C.U.R.E. to sort and pack donated medical supplies to be sent to underserved countries.

Backpacks with Second Harvest: Every month of the school year, Rotarians gather at Second Harvest Food Bank to pack 1,225 food packs to be distributed to children who experience food insecurity on the weekend.

Feed the Need- We celebrated our 22nd Feed the Need this year as Rotarians, along with their friends and family, gathered for 3 service opportunities, packing and delivering food boxes to over 2,000 of our neighbors in need. This year, we added a mobile distribution site at Watkins Park Community Center.

Habitat for Humanity- In November and May, we worked to build homes for our neighbors. We painted and put finishing touches on a home in November and raised the roof at our spring build in May.

Book 'em- Rotarians met with an assigned classroom several times throughout the year, delivering a story and a free book for each child.

Warner Elementary- We continued to support teachers and staff at Warner Elementary by catering a teacher appreciation lunch as school ended in May.

FORUM FOR SERVICE

Board Liaison: Ken Youngstead | Habitat: Bob Stokes, Backpacks: Chip Jones, Feed the Need: Bill Norton & Brent Wiles, Book 'em: Maya Bugg; Warner Elementary: Michael Ward; NRST Investment: Dana Moore; NRST Committee/People of Action: Kristine LaLonde



Rotaract is an opportunity to be involved in Rotary for college students and young professionals. We sponsor two Rotaract Clubs. Internationally, there are nearly 11,000 active Rotaract Clubs.

Fisk Rotaract: Fisk Rotaract Club was founded in 2015 and is thriving on campus at Fisk University. Fisk Rotaractors meet regularly to learn from community leaders and serve the community. Rotarians Chad Jones and Clint Story served as chairs for this committee.

Rotaract of Nashville: In 2023, we launched Rotaract of Nashville, a Nashville Rotary sponsored opportunity for top-notch young professionals ages 22-35. Rotaract of Nashville has grown to over 80 founding members. Rotaract of Nashville meets once a month to learn from timely and relevant speakers. The second monthly gathering alternates between a service opportunity and fellowship event.

ROTARACT

Board Liaison: Kristen Keely Dinger | Fisk Rotaract Club: Chad Jones & Clint Story | Rotaract of Nashville: Uma Srivastava |
District & International Engagement: Berje Yacoubian
Rotaract of Nashville President: Carlie Vowell | Fisk Rotaract President: Jaida Brown