



March Madness!



Are you ready for March Madness?

Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club is hosting a March Madness Fundraiser, with all proceeds to benefit the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Trust, providing grants to deserving non-profit organizations in our community and beyond.

For a minimum donation of \$50, you can purchase a "bracket", which is one entry to select tournament winners. Brackets are available for both the Men's and Women's NCAA Basketball Tournament, with up to 10 brackets available per Tournament.

The winner for each of the Tournaments will receive a \$400 check, plus an additional \$400 will be donated in your name, to a non-profit organization of your choice!*

Please forward this email, or copy the links to invite your friends, family and college alumni to play! You do not need to be a member of Rotary to enter or donate. Participation is open to anyone age 21 or older.

Deadline to enter is Thursday, March 20th at 12:00pm EDT for the Men's Tournament and Friday, March 21st at 11:30am EDT for the Women's Tournament.

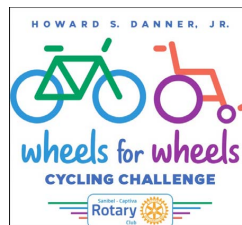
Watch the games and cheer on your teams from March 20 to April 7!
Winners of the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club March Madness Fundraiser will be announced Friday, April 11.
Don't miss the deadline!

Good luck, have fun, and thank you for your support!

Questions? Contact Senior Bracketologist and Rotarian, Paul Tritaik at pr@tritai.com or 239-309-5728.

*The non-profit group selected should be a 501(c)3 organization supporting one of the Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus, which include promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water/sanitation/hygiene, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment.

Wheels for Wheels



April 5, 2025

Sanibel-Captiva Rotarian John Danner created the Wheels 4 Wheels fundraiser in honor of his father, Rev. Howard S. Danner, Jr, a Pastor and College Professor, who was struck by a drunk driver while biking and was paralyzed from the waist down, leaving him in a wheelchair for his remaining 17 years.

On John's 60th birthday, he rode his bike from just north of Fort Lauderdale to Key West, a total of 190 miles as a fundraiser for wheelchairs. He was calling it Wheels for Wheels/60 for 60. His goal was to raise enough money to purchase 60 wheelchairs. He ended up raising an incredible \$22,000 by himself, and helped distribute over 200 wheelchairs in Trinidad later that year. The next year, in 2020 pre-COVID, Danner wanted to ride his bike once again as a fundraiser, a cause Rotary contributes to annually, and include Rotarians in the fundraiser. It was named the "Howard S. Danner, Jr. Wheels for Wheels Cycling Challenge". A generous \$26,000 was raised in the first year of this cycling fundraiser. This allowed for the purchase and delivery of over 250 wheelchairs to Barbados and Trinidad. This year will be the 4th year of this event. Over the past five Wheels for Wheels events, over \$132,000 was raised by the riders and their sponsors, which enabled the Wheelchair Foundation to purchase more than 1,400 wheelchairs for distribution to those who cannot afford one. "Our last Wheels for Wheels event resulted in 280 wheelchairs being delivered to Belize. Those of us who were part of the trip and the distribution saw life after life being transformed almost instantly by the mobility made possible by their new wheelchair. We hope to raise \$35,000 this year. Personally, I am so grateful for this chance to honor my Dad's memory. His life was made so much better by his wheelchair, and it is wonderful seeing so many others experience the same." said Rotarian John Danner, creator of the Wheels for Wheels Cycling Challenge.

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, to promote the joy of giving, create global friendship, and to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen, and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one. For those people, the Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club and Wheelchair Foundation delivers hope, mobility and independence to many.

[Read More](#)

In case you missed it!



Speakers

March 14, 2025
Nicole McHale
CHR

March 21, 2025
Jarrod Demming
Rotary Technical College

March 28, 2025
Jennifer McBride
Lee County Mosquito Control

April 04, 2025
Zach Gurick
Shell Point Community Positive Aging

April 11, 2025
Darryl Keys
DEI in Rotary Clubs

Birthdays

John Anthony Raho
March 12th

Darrin Patrick
Grotrian
March 14th

Patricia Ann Norton
March 15th

Jennifer Lusk
March 16th

Richard Riad Hassad
March 25th

John Wahlfeld
March 28th

Lee Schaff
March 29th

Josef John O'Sullivan
Reum
March 31st

Alison Charney
Hussey
April 2nd

Daniel W. Small
April 6th

Wedding Anniversaries

Charles Emerson
March 18th

Melanie A. Holliday
March 28th

David Mark Hare
April 4th

William H. Harkey
April 4th

Sam Ankerson
April 7th

David Liscinsky
April 11th

Years of Service

James C. LaVelle
03-26-2004
21 Years

Rene Lohser
03-23-2011
14 Years

Paul Prestia
03-27-2015
10 Years

Annie Campbell
04-09-2018
7 Years

Logan Douglas Lee
04-05-2019
6 Years

James Evans III
03-31-2023
2 Years

Kathryn Brintnall
03-31-2023
2 Years

Jack Kozik
04-01-2023
2 Years



Upcoming Events!

****The International Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada will be June 21-25. Members can register at convention.rotary.org.**

****March Madness Fundraiser
Brackets for Men's and Women's NCAA Tournaments:**

Email invitation to follow
Deadline to purchase brackets is:
Thursday, March 20th at 12:00pm EDT for the Men's Tournament
and Friday, March 21st at 11:30am EDT for the Women's Tournament


****Wheels for Wheels, April 5th
at the Community House**

****Installation Dinner, Thursday, April 10th
at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and Aquarium
to celebrate our club and formally install
our new Board of Directors for the Rotary 2025-2026 Year.**

Committee meetings and board meetings: all members welcome. Please contact Rachel for Zoom link if needed.

Please send your pictures of any Rotary events to:

Photos@sanibelrotary.org

<p>Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club</p> 	<p>Send Photos: photos@sanibelrotary.org Email Questions: rachel@islandtherapycenter.com</p>	 SanibelRotary.org	 Facebook	 Instagram
---	--	---	--	--

Friday's Speaker

**This week we will hear from
Nicole McHale, CHR**



Nicole Decker-McHale

As Executive Director of Community Housing and Resources, Nicole has worked to maintain CHR's strategic vision and continues to lead decisions that drive growth and donations for the organization and its island community. Since being appointed to the Executive Director role in May 2023, she has raised \$6 million in private donations, with the help community donors and sponsors. Nicole and CHR's Board have also initiated a \$7 million Capital Campaign in 2024 that is currently \$2.5 million away from its goal. This campaign will provide reconstruction of affordable housing lost to Hurricane Ian.

Nicole started her volunteer journey 30 years ago with the PTA at the Sanibel School, where her children attended at the time. Upon her children's graduation, Nicole was drawn to continue her commitment to the Sanibel community after hearing Sam Bailey speak about the importance of giving back to the island. She started volunteering with FISH and soon found herself serving almost every local organization. She served as Secretary of the Board, Chair of the Board and Vice Chair of FISH over a span of ten years; and currently vice chairs the Sanibel Public Library Board.

Nicole served as a volunteer and provided fundraising support to CHR for many years before joining the board and being appointed to her current position. Above all, Nicole fosters and values resilient relationships within the Sanibel-Captiva community. The propulsion CHR's mission is only possible through the strengthening of community bonds.

Nicole's dedication to both the island and greater Southwest Florida community has not gone without recognition. In 2024, she was awarded SWFL Inc Citizen of the Year and was named Non-Profit Board Leader of the Year in 2020 by Excellence in Nonprofit Yearly (ENPY). In 2019, Nicole was also issued the Sue Rocio Gray Volunteer of the Year by SanCap Chamber of Commerce and was named Committee of the Islands' Citizen of the Year for 2018.

Our regular weekly club meetings are at 8:00am, doors open at 7:30am. Our meeting will take place at

The Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

Meetings will also continue to be available by zoom for those unable to physically attend.
Here is the link to connect to zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/>

88513773856
Here is the number to connect by phone: (646) 931-3860
Meeting ID: 885 1377 3856
Passcode: 955563

See you Friday morning!

Rotary March Theme



What Is your Rotary Club doing to focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in March 2022? Clean water, sanitation and good hygiene is a human right. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives. We don't just build wells and walk away. Rotary members integrate water, sanitation, and hygiene into education projects. When children learn about disease transmission and practice good hygiene, they miss less school. And they can take those lessons home to their families, expanding our impact.

Clean water is a basic human right that many are often denied. There are 2.5 billion people in the world that lack access to improved sanitation and 748 million people that don't have clean drinking water. Nearly 1400 children die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. When people have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives.



In 2015, the United Nations introduced their new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and promote prosperity while protecting the environment and addressing climate change. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation encourages us to address universal access to drinking water and sanitation along with improved water management to protect ecosystems and build resiliency. * Rotary members are committed to reaching the water and sanitation SDG through projects like building wells, installing rainwater harvesting systems, and teaching community members how to maintain new infrastructure. During March, Rotary Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month, we're celebrating our commitment to create healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Here are just a few examples of club service projects around the world that are creating a lasting impact:

- The Rotary Club of Morning Tide Bugolobi together with Hamilton Rotary Club and all other Rotary and Interact clubs in Bermuda (D7230) are the international partners. The project consists of a water catchment to provide clean water for the residents of, Rwempungu, Mitoma District in rural western Uganda (640km West of Kampala).
- The Rotary Club of Utumishi in Kenya together with 11 Rotary clubs in D7230, undertook a project to provide natural filtration to the water of 26 springs, impacting more than 1500 families.

HOW ROTARY MAKES HELP HAPPEN Rotary has issued a global challenge to its members, asking them to work collectively to improve education quality and access — particularly for girls — by working with communities to improve teacher training, curriculum, and water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.

ROTARY'S TARGET CHALLENGE to develop sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and education projects is being piloted in five countries: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Kenya. **ROTARY HAS PARTNERED WITH THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** to implement sustainable, long-term projects to improve water supply, sanitation, and hygiene in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines.

Rotary makes amazing things happen, like:

- Strengthen the ability of communities to develop, fund, and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems.
- Provide equitable community access to safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene.
- Support programs that enhance communities' awareness of the benefits of safe water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- Support career-minded professionals' studies related to water and sanitation.
- Create tools and resources that facilitate, measure, and enhance high-quality water and sanitation projects worldwide.
- \$ 24 - is all it takes to provide one person with safe water
- 23 million people now have safe water because of Rotary
- 21 million people have access to sanitation and hygiene thanks to Rotary projects
- 2030 is the year Rotary hopes to finish providing everyone with safe water, sanitation, and hygiene
- [Join Rotary](#) and help extend the flow of clean water to everyone.
- [Give now](#) to support a water project.
- [Rotary - Providing Clean Water](#)

RESOURCES & REFERENCE

- [See how our members are bringing clean water to the world in Rotary Showcase](#)
- [Find a project to support on Rotary Ideas](#)
- [Learn more about our WASH in Schools Target Challenge](#)
- [Apply for a UNESCO-IHE scholarship \(for water and sanitation professionals\)](#)
- [Learn more about our partners](#)

Scholarships available for advanced training in water solutions: The Rotary Foundation and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education are offering up to 10 scholarships for graduate study at UNESCO-IHE's Delft campus in the Netherlands. The aim is to increase the number of trained professionals who can devise, plan, and implement water and sanitation solutions in developing areas.

- [Review the application toolkit](#)

2024-2025 President Contact Info

**Our 2024-2025 Sanibel-Captiva Rotary President:
Rachel Tritaik**



Contact information for our 2024-2025 President, Rachel Tritaik
rachel@islandtherapycenter.com or cell 239-297-4997

Mail:
Rotary Club of Sanibel-Captiva
P.O. Box 686
Sanibel, FL 33957



Club Meeting

Sanibel-Captiva
Meets at Sanibel Community House
2173 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957
Time: Friday at 07:30 AM

