

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, January 1, 2025



Happy New Year!! Yes, There's a Meeting Today!

Our first meeting of 2025 will be today, Thursday, January 2. And what better way to start the new year than to discuss the topic of "new life" ... AKA babies!! **Our program will be a service activity presented by the non-profit, [Babies Need Bottoms](#).**

Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at TUTION HALL,
TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH.
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at
12:30 PM

Speakers

- January 02, 2025**
[Service Project - Diapers](#)
"Babies Need Diapers"
- January 09, 2025**
[Tom Hartye](#)
Metropolitan Sewerage District
- January 16, 2025**
[Shannon Vickery](#)
PBS - North Carolina
- January 23, 2025**
[Varied](#)
Teachers of Excellence
- January 30, 2025**
[City of Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer](#)
State of the City



Led by co-directors Megan Lyon Leimena and Alicia Heacock, the mission of Babies Needs Bottoms is to improve the lives of babies, toddlers, and parents in Western North Carolina through diaper distribution, community awareness and partnerships. Their work includes collecting and distributing diapers through community partnerships; collecting financial and in-kind donations to obtain diapers and diaper supplies at discounted rates; bringing awareness to the Western North Carolina community about local diaper needs; and advocating for changes in local, state and federal policies to improve diaper access.

Join us in person and enjoy a great lunch, or [virtually via this Zoom link](#).

Click below to electronically contribute Happy Dollars, Fines, and donations to our Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation, Inc.



Coming Events

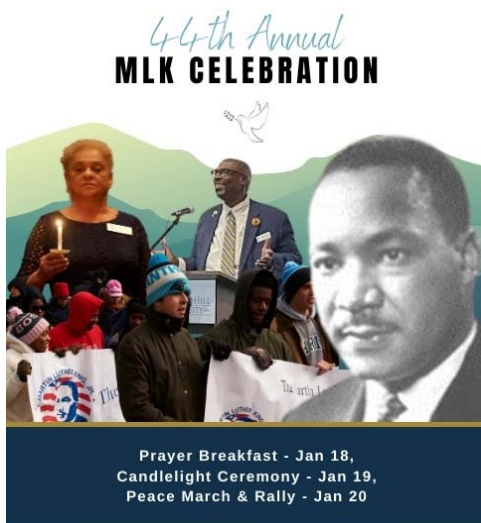
- January 1st
[Urban Hike](#)
- January 15th
[Thirsty Third Wednesday](#)
- January 18th
[44th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast](#)
- January 22nd
[Honduras Medical-Dental Brigade](#)

Club Leaders

[Eva-Michelle G. Spicer](#)
President

Club Sponsors 44th Annual MLK Breakfast

By Richard T. Devereaux on Wednesday, January 1, 2025
TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR CLUB MEMBERS!



One of the most celebrated January events in Asheville is the annual Asheville-Buncombe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast. And this year's event will be extra special given that our Rotary club is confirmed as a Bronze Sponsor and has reserved two, 10-person tables for club members to attend.

This premiere Asheville gathering inspires and unites over 1,000 community members each year and is recognized as one of the largest MLK breakfasts in the country. The [2025 44th Annual Prayer Breakfast](#) will take place at the Crowne Plaza the morning of **Saturday January 18, 2025. Doors open at 8am. Program starts at 8:30am. The guest speaker is Jonathan McCoy**, Director of the Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI) and Instructor of History at Mars Hill University (MHU).

If you'd like to go, please email DEI committee co-chairs [Rick Devereaux](#) or [Chris Werte](#) to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$30 per person, available on a first-come, first-served basis, for club members and their guest. If you need a "scholarship" to attend, reach out to Chris or Rick.

Morrill Community Grant Winners Announced

By David R. McCartney on Wednesday, December 25, 2024

The Rotary Club of Asheville announces its 2025 Harry R Morrill Community Grant winners!

As a reminder on how these grants began; in 1981 Harry R. Morrill donated funds to our Rotary Club with the intent to use the spendable income "for educational or local charitable donations that conform to Rotary ideals." This is our club's 43rd year of distributing these grants.

This year the Morrill endowment funded \$12,500 to be awarded to 10 recipients at \$1,250 each.

We had 22 organizations apply for a grant. The grant committee members evaluated all the applications, then selected 10 organizations to send to the club's board for approval.

The 10 grant recipients that the club's board approved are:

1. Verner Center for Early Learning
2. Haywood Street Congregation
3. RiverLink
4. The Hundred Movement
5. MemoryCare
6. The ARC of Buncombe County
7. Food Connection
8. Western Carolina Rescue Ministries
9. Astronomy Club of Asheville
10. On Track Financial Education & Counseling

These organizations will receive their \$1,250 checks in late December.

A representative from each of these organizations will join our meetings February 20th and 27th 2025 to share information about their organization, their work, and the project this grant is helping accomplish.

Thanks to club member and club historian Dick Hall on this piece of Rotary history about Harry Morrill:

Mr. Morrill moved to Asheville in 1965 and joined the Rotary Club of Asheville in 1972 at age 81. He was, however, very familiar with Rotary having been a Rotarian for 35 years in California and was District Governor of District 526 which covered Southern California-Nevada-Arizona at the time he was District Governor.

In 1981, on his 90th birthday he made the initial gift deposit for the Harry R Morrill Community Grants endowment and later, upon his death in 1986, he bequeathed additional funds to the endowment.

We, and the Asheville community, are fortunate to continue to benefit from Mr. Morrill's foresight and his love of Rotary.

Making a Difference--Club Tops \$322,000 in Helene Relief

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, December 20, 2024



At our December 19 meeting, President Eva-Michelle Spicer provided an update on the Rotary Club of Asheville's response to Hurricane Helene. The club has stepped up to make a meaningful difference in our community. Through our fundraising efforts, we have raised an impressive **\$322,668** as of December 18, 2024. This generosity came from **260 donors** spanning **38 states** and **two foreign countries**, including five contributions from Washington State alone. Most of the donors were other Rotary clubs.

Thanks to this incredible support, we have distributed **17 grants** to local nonprofits, helping to meet urgent needs and promote recovery efforts. Here's a snapshot of our grant recipients and their impact:

- **ABCCM:** \$7,500
- **Manna Food Bank:** \$7,500
- **Jewish Family Services:** \$5,000
- **Working Wheels:** \$5,000
- **Arts AVL:** \$5,000
- **Bountiful Cities:** \$2,500
- **Mountain True:** \$5,000
- **EcoForesters:** \$5,000
- **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church:** \$5,000
- **The Christine Avery Learning Center:** \$5,000
- **Habitat for Humanity Asheville:** \$5,000
- **Equal Plates:** \$5,000



[David Mans](#)
President-Elect



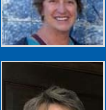
[Michelle Daniels](#)
President-Nominee
Club Director
International Service Chair



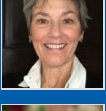
[Betty A. Doll](#)
Secretary



[Cathy Early](#)
Treasurer



[Anthony D. Lynch](#)
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



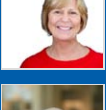
[Janet L. Whitworth](#)
Treasurer



[Timothy L. Owings](#)
Club Director
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Steven Shreiber](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Tracy Eames](#)
Club Public Image Chair



[Alexander P. Pence](#)
Club Director
Community Service Chair
Club Service Chair



[Zachary F. Lamb](#)
Club Director
Vocational Service Chair



[Marcia Whitney](#)
Club Admin Chair
Club Director





[Richard T. Devereaux](#)
Bulletin Editor
Diversity Equity & Inclusion Webmaster



[Chris Werte](#)
Diversity Equity & Inclusion



[Virginia Lawrence](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr
Club Director



[David T. Kaverman](#)
Club Director
Youth Protection Officer
Youth Services Chair



[Carol E. Bornstein](#)
Club Fund Raising Chair



[Albert Davis](#)
RYLA Point of Contact



[Patrick A. Snyder](#)
iPast President

Birthdays

Robby Cusic
January 1st
Diana Cusic
January 1st
Colleen S. Dieterly
January 4th
Brandon Quinn
January 11th
David N. Wilcox
January 13th
David T. Kaverman
January 15th
Martin Moore
January 18th
Holly Hixson
January 18th
James W. Zumwalt
January 22nd
Andrew Mercurio
January 23rd
Judy Mattox
January 27th
Sandra F Lindsey
January 29th
Eric W. Michael
January 30th

- **RiverLink:** \$5,000
- **Trauma Intervention Program:** \$1,800
- **Root Cause Farm:** \$5,000
- **Local Cloth:** \$5,000
- **Southside Community Farm:** \$5,000

Beyond grants, we've taken direct action to assist those affected by Hurricane Helene. To date, we've distributed **648 heaters, cleaned up Black Wall Street facilities, and aided the Hilton Head Rotary Club** in unloading a tractor-trailer of supplies in Lake Lure. Additionally, we've established **community resource centers** at Erwin and Owen Middle Schools and are now active participants in the **Buncombe County Long-Term Recovery Group**.



The Rotary Club of Asheville is deeply grateful to all donors and volunteers who have contributed to these efforts. Together, we are helping our neighbors rebuild and recover with resilience and hope!

These Rotarians gathered on December 19 at Highland Brewing to write personal thank you notes to all our donors. **THANK YOU!!**

David LaMotte to Open RI Convention in Calgary

By Richard T. Devereaux on Thursday, December 19, 2024



Longtime Rotary Club of Asheville partner and Rotary Peace Fellow David Lamotte is on the rise! This Black Mountain native has had a long and successful career as a singer-songwriter and musician, but that was never enough. He continually felt inspired to give back. David received a scholarship as a Rotary Peace Fellow in 2009 and founded a preschool project in Guatemala called [Senderos Guatemala](#). Our club has partnered with David on this project for several years, helping obtain a Rotary International grant and sending multiple teams to Guatemala to volunteer at the school. He's also a published author, writing *You Are Changing the World: Whether You Like It or Not* in 2023. As if that wasn't enough, David presented a TEDx talk in Asheville titled [Why Heroes Don't Change the World](#) which has garnered

over 50,000 views.

But David's roll doesn't stop there. He was featured in an article in last month's edition of Rotary Magazine in an article titled, [Songs in the Key of Change](#). This change agent's rise continues to skyrocket. In a recent [Facebook post](#) David revealed:

And the news is now finally public that I will be keynoting the opening plenary for the Rotary International Convention in Calgary this summer.

They are expecting nearly 30,000 people to be there in person, with many more online. Yes, that is by far the largest audience I have ever played for or spoken to (I am told that I will be doing both).

This is an extraordinary season in my life. Thanks for hanging with me all these years.

Wow!! **Our own David LaMotte will be singing and speaking as part of the opening convention ceremony in Calgary. Yet another reason to attend this summer's convention!**

The best way to congratulate David is through a donation to his foundation, Senderos Guatemala. [Here's a link!](#)

Sign Up for the Honduras Medical-Dental Brigade

Wedding Anniversaries

R. Scott White
January 6th

Alan L. West
January 19th

David N. Wilcox
January 24th



The Medical/Dental Brigade is headed to Honduras Jan 22-29 and has room for volunteers from our club. The estimated cost to the participant is about \$1500. Please [email Bob Haggard](#) with questions.

"We Still Need Your Help!"

By Eva-Michelle G. Spicer on Wednesday, December 11, 2024



Eva-Michelle Spicer
President of Rotary Club of Asheville

People of Action Nominations

By Patrick A. Snyder on Wednesday, December 4, 2024



Help us with the 2025 People of Action Gala by nominating your hero before Jan 8th!

Nomination Form Link: [https://forms.gle/](https://forms.gle/9eTsjrNGzPknUya6)

9eTsjrNGzPknUya6

Please also share this link with your community of friends and other local influences who might know others that embody our "Service Above Self" mindset, so that we can recognize people of action in our community across all seven Areas of Focus.

Thank you,
Pat

Now that we've completed the successful annual songwriters in the round event to raise funds for our annual scholarship program, it's time to redirect our focus to the People of Action Gala to honor our regional heroes in the seven areas of focus and raise funds for our other annual projects!

This year, the Gala will be held on Thursday, March 6th 2025 at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville from 6pm - 9pm. Nominations are now open and will be accepted until January 8th. Tickets will go on sale in late January.

I need your help today in getting the word out to the community that nominations are open! Please share the link below AND fill it out yourself if you know any community members deserving of this recognition. Feel free to include achievements from prior to 2024 as well, even though the community response across the region from Helene has been amazing across every area of focus. Help us find those heroes and honor them!

Aligning with Rotary International's seven focus areas, the People of Action Gala (aka Heroes Hoorah Gala) will recognize individuals who embody the organization's "Service Above Self" philosophy within the Asheville area and around Western North Carolina. These heroes align with Rotary's vision to take action and create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

[https://forms.gle/](https://forms.gle/9eTsjrNGzPknUya6) 9eTsjrNGzPknUya6

Please share this email with your influential circles, and if you see a call for nominees on social media, please also share those too! We want to have as many nominees as possible for this incredible event. And, if you have questions, let me know: Pat Snyder (psnyder@nationalland.com)

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat



The 4-Way Test

of things we do and say:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
 2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
 3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
 4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?
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