

Rotary
District 7670



2023 Newsletter

Special Edition Newsletter

1 month since Hurricane Helene
District Governor Connie Molland

Rotary7670.org

District 7670 Launches Donation Match Program for Hurricane Helene Relief and Recovery

By Connie M. Molland



DONATE NOW and your gift will be matched dollar for dollar!!

District 7670 Donation Match Program For Hurricane Helene Relief and Recovery is now set up. This article explains why we set it up, how it works, and where the money will go.

Since the devastation of Hurricane Helene became into focus and District 7670/Western North Carolina was at the top of all news stories, people have reached out to ask, "how can I help." The first few weeks saw an outpouring of help – physically showing up to cut trees, removing debris, mucking and gutting flooded buildings, and bringing much-needed supplies and equipment. And many Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts, and friends of Rotary have provided financial support. While many of our communities are somewhat stabilized with roads being repaired, improved access to water, power and communication channels being restored, we are a long way from being "normal."

In an unprecedented move, the District 7670 Finance Committee and District Council voted to pull money out of our rainy day reserves* to create a dollar-for-dollar match program for gifts made to support the Disaster Relief and Recovery efforts in our District up to \$50,000. Gifts of all sizes are welcome! Even if you're only in a position to give \$25, that gift becomes \$50. Gifts of \$500 turn into a \$1,000 gift. You get the picture. If you are inclined to share this opportunity with friends and family who may have asked you how they can help, please feel free to let them know about this match program (this is not limited to Rotarians).

What will the money be used for may be the big question on your mind before giving or before sharing this opportunity with others. The difficult part about the devastation that Helene caused is that it is different in each community: residents in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties still have impassable roads, no electricity, and no water; businesses in Madison County (Hot Springs and Marshall) have been wiped out – the buildings are now gutted with a need to begin to rebuild, and as a result of tree damage, flooding, and landslides, more than 126,000 families have been displaced due to their homes being severely damaged or wiped completely away. One town lost its sewage treatment plant, while others, including Asheville, still have no access to potable water. The District has already received more than 15 requests from Clubs in our District to support the work that is being done to meet the specific needs in their community. The funds raised from this effort will support District 7670 Club requests for supplies, equipment, materials, for relief (ie heaters as the weather is beginning to turn cold) or to help with rebuilding. The process for Clubs to apply for funding is simple and will be quick to turn around.

I realize that there are many requests for support – I've already seen dozens of GoFundMe's and other asks for money by many great non-profits. This is not a push for another gift – it is an option for those who want to help, and they already know that Rotary will be good stewards of their money to help those in need and to help our communities rebuild.

Click [HERE](#) to be directed to the District Website to donate. If the preference is to write and mail in a check, make it payable to Rotary District 7670 Disaster Fund

and mail to PO Box 1412 Pisgah Forest, NC 28768.

Feel free to direct questions to our Finance Chair, Jim Cruickshank at jimcruickshank2@gmail.com or 706 231-5818.

*The balance of our reserves remains healthy but not too healthy. A rule of thumb recommendation is that non-profits have roughly six months of their operating expenses set aside as reserves in case something happens (like the pandemic or this hurricane).

Strength and Solidarity: One Month After Hurricane Helene in District 7670

By Julie P. West



As we mark one month since Hurricane Helene swept through Western North Carolina, our hearts are heavy with the memories of devastation left in its wake. Communities have faced significant challenges, with homes damaged, businesses disrupted, and many of our fellow Rotarians directly affected by the storm.

The impact on our beloved WNC region has been profound. Entire neighborhoods were submerged, and families have been left to pick up the pieces. The natural beauty we cherish has been marred by the destruction, but amid the chaos, a spirit of resilience has emerged.

In this challenging time, the strength of Rotary has shone brightly. Rotarians from across the United States have rallied to support our community. Generous donations of funds, supplies, and time have poured in, demonstrating the true essence of Rotary: service above self. From offering shelter to those displaced to organizing cleanup efforts, our fellow Rotarians have stood shoulder to shoulder with us, embodying solidarity and compassion.

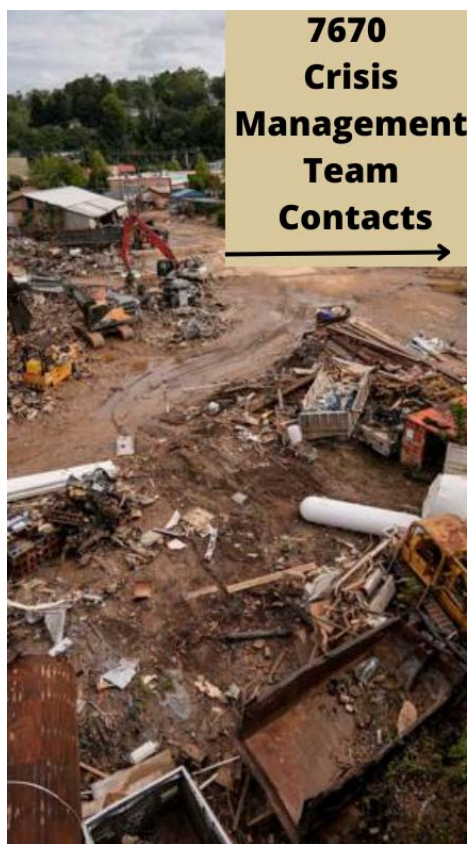
Local clubs have been pivotal in coordinating relief efforts, ensuring that aid reaches those most in need. Many Rotarians have taken the lead in rebuilding initiatives, showcasing the strength of our network and our commitment to helping our neighbors recover.

As we reflect on the past month, we also look forward with hope and determination. The road to recovery will be long, but together, we will rebuild. Let us continue to support one another, uplift our community, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as Rotarians.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our recovery efforts—your kindness and generosity will not be forgotten. Let us remain vigilant, ready to assist, and steadfast in our mission to serve. Together, we will rise from the ashes of Hurricane Helene and emerge stronger than ever.

Who To Contact

Tuesday, October 8, 2024



- **DGE Alpo Portelli**
 - *Supply Needs*
 - colalpo@gmail.com
 - 828-442-1196
- **DGN Paige Scott**
 - *Financial Donations/Needs*
 - paigecs123@gmail.com
 - 816-714-9998
- **DFC Jim Cruickshank**
 - *Financial Donations/Needs*
 - jimcruickshank2@gmail.com
 - 706-231-5818
- **DPIC Julie West**
 - *Communications*
 - JpwestRN1@gmail.com
 - 704-616-5090
- **Guy Gooder, District Community Service Chair**
 - *Volunteer Opportunities*
 - gooderfranklin@gmail.com
 - 828-421-4845

Silver Linings

By Holly Guyer

“Silver linings rise out of the most challenging circumstances”
Past R.I. President Jennifer Jones

As time marches on, our membership body continues to build goodwill amongst our community. Our 2023-2024 Rotary Theme was “Creating Hope in Our World.” As active



Rotarians, we have need to ask ourselves this question every day: ***How am I going to create hope in our world today?***

In reference to Past R.I. President Jennifer's quote, we ARE able to see (and share) the silver linings post Helene. We see our membership body continue to spread hope through acts of service and kindness to those who may have lost hope due to the aftermath of Helene.

We ARE creating hope in the aftermath of Helene, one act of kindness (or service at a time).

We ARE people of action!

Friends Helping Friends: A Heartwarming Gesture After Hurricane Helene

By Julie P. West



In the wake of Hurricane Helene's devastating impact, the spirit of community and friendship shines brightly. Friends of the Marion Rotary Club, Jennifer Carter and Rebecca Turner, made the journey from Georgia to lend a helping hand. Today, they delivered a generous load of supplies to the Camping World POD, demonstrating the power of friendship in times of crisis.

The supplies will go a long way in supporting those affected by the hurricane, showcasing the vital role that community organizations and dedicated individuals play in recovery efforts. Jennifer and Rebecca's selfless act of kindness serves as a reminder that, in difficult times, friends stand together to help those in need.

As the Marion Rotary Club continues its efforts to assist the community, we are grateful for the support of friends like Jennifer and Rebecca, proving that true friendship knows no boundaries. Together, we can overcome challenges and rebuild lives, one act of kindness at a time.



A Day of Service in Lake Lure: Confronting the Unimaginable

By Julie P. West



The Rotary Club of Brevard recently ventured to Lake Lure to assist at an informal aid station, where the scene was nothing short of 'abnormal' at its apocalyptic worst. Joining forces with an incredible crew, Rotarians helped unload essential supplies—

generators, heaters, and other critical items generously donated by Rotary clubs in South Carolina. It was a challenging experience, as they navigated the devastating impacts on the community, highlighting the stark reality of local needs that many of us can scarcely comprehend.



Rotary Club of Asheville Delivers Water

Filtration System to Verner School of Early Learning

By David Mans



In a significant step toward enhancing community access to clean water, Rotary Club of Asheville President-Elect David Mans, along with fellow Rotarians Steve and Gina Schmitt, delivered a trailer containing a state-of-the-art water filtration system to the Verner School of Early Learning in Swannanoa. This remarkable system can filter up to 20,000 gallons of water per day, providing potable water to at least 300 families and enabling Verner to resume cooking in its kitchen.

The initiative was met with enthusiasm, as evidenced by the celebration shared between Dave and Jessica May, Vice President of Philanthropy & Marketing at Verner. Their collaboration underscores the power of community support in addressing local needs.

Additionally, Rotarians Michael Thomas and Riley Wilkes from Greenville, TN, joined Dave in getting the filtration system operational. This team effort highlights the dedication and spirit of Rotarians working together to make a meaningful impact in the community. With this project, the Rotary Club of Asheville continues to demonstrate its commitment to improving the quality of life for those it serves.



District Rotary Friendship Exchange

By Isaac B. Owolabi



My fellow Rotarians,

We sincerely thank you for your willingness to host our Nigeria Friendship Exchange Team. However, due to the impact of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina, we must postpone the scheduled visit until further notice. Our Nigerian Rotary Friendship Exchange Team was understandably disappointed but fully understands the hardships this natural disaster has caused our region. Once we have a new date for the exchange, we will notify everyone. We are truly grateful for your interest and

support in hosting the team.

PDG Isaac Owolabi.

A Poem for Such a Time as This

By Barbara J. Bowers

**Our mountains call to us
As they always have and always will
Rotarians come together
As the winds and waters still
We mourn what was,
But we unite to build tomorrow
Our neighbors pain
Is now our personal sorrow
This is what it means to be North Carolinian
and human kind
Needs will be met
Help we will find
Hands and Hearts become one
When we need it the most
I am a Rotarian,
Its ok to boast
No mouths unfed
No homes not warm
Its true of all of us
Whether or not we are Appalachian born
The Four Way Test
will guide us to your doors
With our boots on the ground
We will scrape the mud from your floors
Join with me Rotarians
It is our time to do what we do best
Nothing will stop us
We will not rest**

Account Leaders



Margaret Fenton
Lebeck
District Peace
Ambassador



Sarah J McGuire
District RLI Chair



Connie M.
Molland
District Governor



Richard Molland
Chief of Staff



Sean Gibson
iPDG



Alex R Portelli
DG-Elect



Paige Carroll Scott
DG-Nominee



Tammy Mosteller
District
Membership Chair



Kenneth A. Shull
District Rotary
Foundation Chair



Julie P. West
District Public
Image/PR Chair



Jennifer L. Wilcox
District
Empowering Girls
Advocate



Michael Lanzilotta
District DEI Chair



Andie R Taylor
District CART
Chair



Cynthia K. Ireland
District Polio Plus
Chair



Karolyn W. Killian
District
Conference Chair



Kathy P Scott
Rotaract Chair



James A.
Cruickshank
District Finance
Chair



Michael
Stevenson
Youth Services
Chair



Laura J Phipps
Youth Protection
Officer



James O. Perry
District Treasurer



John F.
Baumrucker
International
Services Chair



Frankie L Adkins
Youth Exchange
Chair



Billi J. Black
DCO-District
Comm. Officer