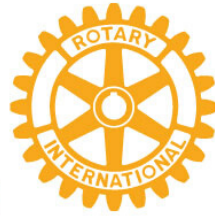


**Rotary**  
Club of Nashville



# **ROTARY CLUB OF NASHVILLE & NASHVILLE ROTARY SERVICE TRUST**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2019-2020**

[WWW.NASHVILLEROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.NASHVILLEROTARY.ORG)

Rotarians,

There are certain things, certain experiences that I will never ever forget and that will leave a lasting effect. Having had the honor to serve as the Rotary Club of Nashville's 105th President is certainly one of those experiences. My heart is filled with gratitude for all that we have accomplished together this year.

At the start of my Rotary year as President, I welcomed our new Executive Director, Olivia Leow, and considered it an honor to lead our club through such a significant transition. My friend, Suzanne Buchanan, had led our club for more than 30 years and while I was sad that she wouldn't be my Presidential Partner, I was thrilled to know that Olivia had accepted the opportunity. It has been a treat to work so closely with such a smart and dynamic leader.

During my remarks at the Changing of the Guard last spring, I mentioned four priorities for us as a club: inspiring leadership, maximizing engagement, igniting innovation, and driving impact. I'm really excited to say that we made significant progress as a club in each of these areas and our club is both large in number and in impact to Nashville. That is something for which we should all be proud.

All of our work was centered around a new mission statement for the Club. It was an honor to work with our Board of Directors to draft a mission statement that more clearly articulates our Club's purpose.

A week after finalizing our new mission statement, it was tested. On March 3, Nashville was devastated by a 50-mile track tornado that ripped through parts of North Nashville- an area of town that had been a focus of Rotary's efforts in the past. Our mission called us forth and our members sprang into action to meet critical needs of our neighbors. Then, two weeks later, our City saw its first cases of COVID-19 and we were faced with significant disruption due to sheltering in place. No longer could we fellowship in person over a meal at the Wildhorse as we pivoted to virtual meetings. And then our community was faced, most recently, with social unrest sparked by the killing of George Floyd and community-wide protests of racial injustice. Our new mission has been tested. Our community has been challenged. But we have been resilient, we have been thoughtful, we have been Rotarians.

I never anticipated facing the challenges we have faced this year. But I never anticipated the many ways we've been able to serve our city, either. Thank you for the tremendous opportunity to lead the best Rotary Club in the world during such remarkable times. It has been the experience of a lifetime.

Sincerely,  
Harry L. Allen  
Rotary President, 2019-2020



**MESSAGE  
FROM  
PRESIDENT  
HARRY ALLEN**

# NEW MISSION SAME PURPOSE

In February 2020, the Rotary Club of Nashville Board of Directors voted to change the mission statement to:

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

## Board of Directors

Harry Allen, President  
Richard Exton, VP/President Elect  
Craig Bechtel, Secretary/Treasurer  
Shane Douglas, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Ronald Roberts, Immediate Past President  
Kristen Keely-Dinger, NRST Grants Chairperson  
Angie Adams, Finance Committee Chairperson  
Christine Bradley  
Lisa Ferrelli  
David Fox  
Tony Heard  
Todd Henry  
Kem Hinton  
Veronica Marable Johnson  
Meredith Libbey  
William Liles  
Lauren Lane Payne  
Joanne Pulles  
Bob Stokes



# ROTARY BY THE NUMBERS

**579**

**We welcomed 76 new members this year, ending the year with 579 total members. Thank you for sponsoring community leaders in your network!**

**24**

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

**\$176,000**

**We awarded \$176,000 in grants to 9 organizations serving our community and beyond. 176,000 opportunities to serve our community. Thank you for giving to our Nashville Rotary Service Trust to make this possible!**

**7,430**

**Meeting attendees this year. 7,430 opportunities to understand our community better. 7,430 opportunities to be better community leaders. Thank you for showing up to listen and learn!**





We create a forum for fellowship.

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

-The Member Orientation committee hosted 4 New Member Orientation events in the homes of Club Past Presidents.

-A group of Rotarians and friends cheered on the Nashville Soccer Club at its season finale at First Tennessee Park.

-Rotarians enjoyed cocktails and a view at the SkyBar atop the newly finished Green Hills Hilton Hotel.

-Due to COVID-19, we took fellowship virtual, hosting 3 virtual coffee catch ups and 6 virtual Rotary After Hours events.



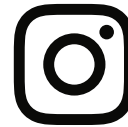
## Social Media



1,090 Facebook followers  
@NashvilleRotaryClub



1,935 Twitter followers  
@NashvilleRotary



401 Instagram followers  
@NashvilleRotary



145 LinkedIn followers  
Rotary Club of Nashville

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 4:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM

### Virtual Rotary After Hours



# FORUM FOR FELLOWSHIP



Rotarians are leaders who seek to better understand our what is happening in our community. The program committee brought a diverse group of speakers to the Rotary podium this year. Rotary hosted 41 meetings, 12 of which were conducted virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Speakers included Governor Bill Lee, Mayor John Cooper, Brad Paisley and Kimberly Williams-Paisley. We learned from education leaders, ambassadors and authors. Topics ranged from current affairs, historical lessons from the world of country music and a thrilling retelling from the adventure of the Arctic 8.



The Rotary Club of Nashville quickly shifted to hosting meetings virtually via Zoom. While not the preferred format, attendance was strong and feedback was positive, averaging over 180 in attendance per meeting.

The Rotary Club of Nashville sponsors an Interact Club at LEAD Academy and a Rotaract Club at Fisk University. These clubs share Rotary's values and promote service above self for members.

# FORUM FOR UNDERSTANDING





# FORUM FOR SERVICE

We create a forum for service.

Rotarians believe in Service above Self.

**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**- Our largest service project of the year, Over 250 Rotarians, along with their friends and family, gather for 4 service opportunities, packing and delivering food boxes to over 1,900 of our neighbors in need.

**Habitat for Humanity**- In September, Rotarians worked alongside homeowner, Doenesha, to bring her home closer to completion.

**Project C.U.R.E.**- Each month, a group of Rotarians sort donated medical supplies that will be shipped to medical providers in underserved countries.

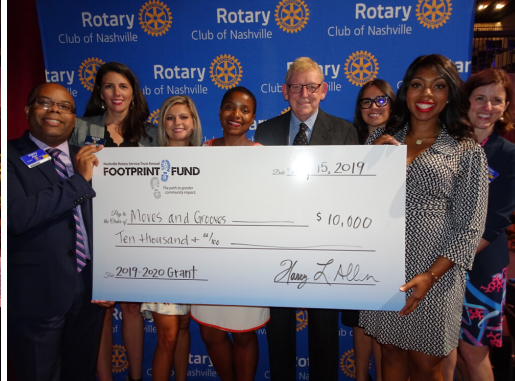
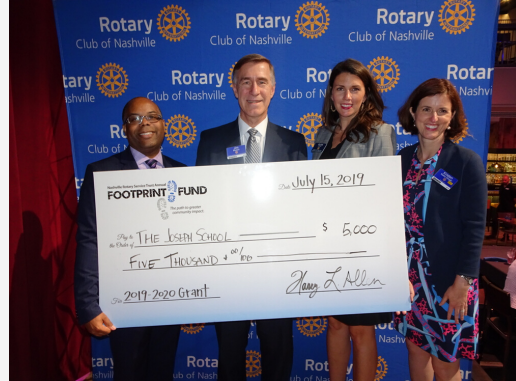
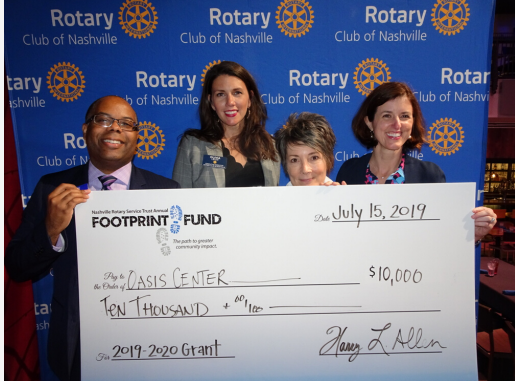
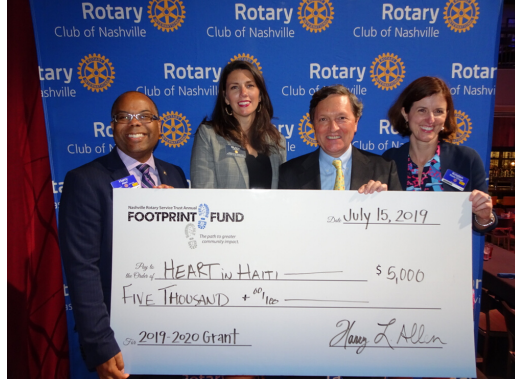
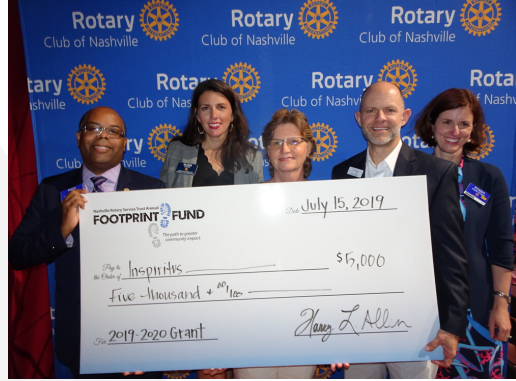
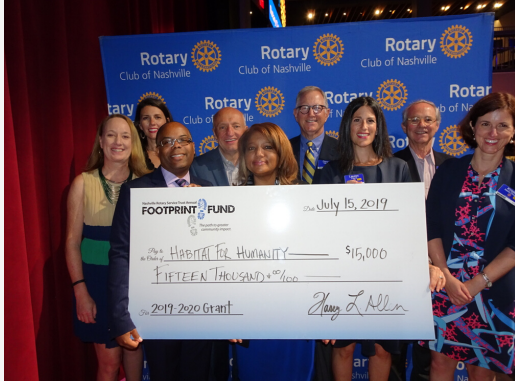
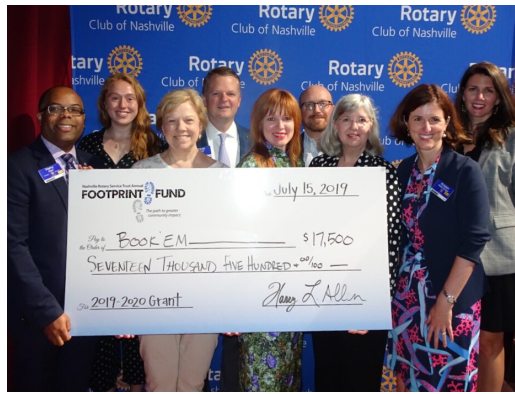
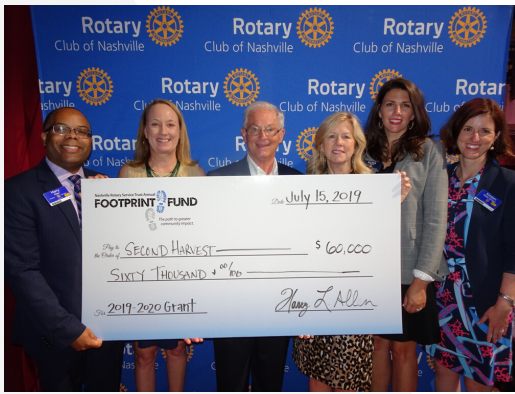
**Book 'em**- Rotarians meet with an assigned classroom several times throughout the year, delivering a story and a free book for each child.

**Inspiritus**-On a chilly morning in February, Rotarians worked to prepare healthy food gardens that produce healthy, free food for our neighbors in North Nashville.

**Tree Planting**- Our sustainability committee led the charge on donating and planting trees in the Nashville Greenfield Restoration Project.

**Disaster Relief**- On March 3, Nashville was hit by a deadly tornado. Rotarians donated supplies delivered to North Nashville and packed food boxes with Second Harvest Food Bank.





Each year, members of the Rotary Club of Nashville contribute to the Nashville Rotary Service Trust Annual Footprint Fund. A committee reviews grant applications and selects partners to support financially and through volunteer service. This year, we distributed \$150,000 to nine organizations working in Rotary's service areas of education/literacy, hunger/nutrition, community building and international support.

# NASHVILLE ROTARY SERVICE TRUST

Board Liaison: Tony Heard | NRST Grants Committee Chair: Kristen Keely-Dinger, Committee: Angela Goddard, Crystal Churchwell Evans, Kristine LaLonde, Kay Bowers, Ronald Roberts, Harry Allen, Richard Exton | Investment Committee Chair: Mark Lincoln | International Grants: Reggie Mudd



## COVID-19 Response

The Rotary Club of Nashville responded to the coronavirus pandemic by supporting the COVID-19 Response Fund at the United Way of Greater Nashville with an \$11,000 donation. The Board of Directors voted to support the servers at the Wildhorse Saloon by sending a generous financial gift.



We would like to say thank you so much for the gift card we received compliments of the Rotary Club of Nashville. We experienced alot of damage to our property and your generosity was a wonderful blessing.

Sincerely —  
Steve + Susan Corbitt

## Tornado Response

On March 3, a devastating tornado tore through our community. Nashville Rotary responded by collecting needed items and delivering to a church in North Nashville. Our Club applied for and received a disaster relief grant from Rotary International. With these funds, we purchased 150 \$100 Kroger gift cards that were distributed to those affected most by the tornado.

# DISASTER RELIEF