

Feeding the Frontlines
OUR CLUB
DELIVERS TWO
MEALS TO
STRESSED
HOSPITAL WORKERS



**IN THE FACE OF LOSS,
ROTARY SHOWS ITS
STRENGTH TO ONE OF
OUR OWN**



RLI RE-SCHEDULED
COVID SURGE LEADS TO A NEW
DATE FOR THE ROTARY
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI)



NEXT CLUB MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 AT 7:30AM
TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT
PATIO - NOCATEE

THE.32081.ROTARIAN



Baptist Medical Center South is one of several Jacksonville area hospitals inundated with Covid-19 patients right now. Officials said late last week they had roughly 86 health team members serving over 200 Covid patients, many of whom are pulling double and even triple shifts to cover needs.

That's why the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra—inspired by a request from Jacksonville interfaith non profit, OneJax—recently stepped up to feed frontline health care workers. Last Tuesday members of our Club gathered to purchase and pick up pizzas from Nocatee's Pieology—which generously supported the project. From there, PV Rotarians delivered the pizzas, soda and cookies to a drop off point just outside Baptist Medical Center South. A similar food delivery occurred this past Thursday for another 40 hardworking health care workers at Baptist South, and plans are in the works to help feed more frontline workers at Baptist Beaches Medical Center where they have been especially hard hit by Covid.

This service project is consistent with one of Rotary's core tenets of "Service Above Self", and Club President Elect, Bob Wiltfong, said "it was an easy sales pitch to fellow Rotarians. As soon as we put out the word about this effort," Wiltfong said, "we were flooded with donations from our members. We want the medical personnel on the frontlines of this Covid surge to know we see them, we appreciate them and we will do whatever is necessary to support them." Aiding in

the effort were Andy Erickson and Denny Baldwin, co chairs of the Club's Service Committee, along with Club President, Mary Beth Murray.

Baptist Medical Center South is one of 5 Baptist Health hospitals in northeast Florida. As a system, Baptist Health is treating more than 500 patients in our community.

"Nearly 1000 team members have volunteered to work extra shifts to help care for these patients", Elizabeth Gunn, VP of Patient Care Services at Baptist Medical Center South, says, adding "On behalf of our team members who are working tirelessly throughout this pandemic to care for those in need, thank you. The kindness and compassion that the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra has shown through their donations to our healthcare heroes is truly appreciated."



As Feeding the Frontlines is an ongoing service project of Ponte Vedra Rotary, donations to the effort are still being accepted. Simply make your check out to Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra and bring it (or cash) with you to our next Rotary meeting or, if you prefer, mail your check to Ponte Vedra Rotary at 101 Marketside Avenue, Ste 404-111, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081. Many thanks to all Rotarians who have already contributed to this very timely project.



CELEBRATIONS!

Eli Tavaréz celebrates his birthday August 26th. Happy birthday, Eli!

Ian & Nikki Aguilar celebrate their 6th wedding anniversary on August 29th. Happy anniversary, Ian!

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 - Speaker: Dr. Mona Shah, Cardiologist at Baptist Health System

Aug. 31 - Social at First Watch

Sept. 7 - Speaker: Bob Wiltfong, Presentation Skills

Sept. 14 - Speaker: Jeremiah Blocker, Club Member & St. Johns County Commissioner

Another Reason Why Being a Rotarian is Awesome

By Bob Wiltfong

It started with a call from the US Embassy in Bangkok.

Two weeks ago today, I got a call on my phone from a man identifying himself simply as Nathan. He said he was trying to track down the US relatives of a person by the name of Michael D. Wiltfong. That's the name of my oldest brother (I'm the youngest of 6), but, the last I heard, Mike was in El Paso, Texas not Thailand. Sure enough, the call was legit. On behalf of the US government, Nathan told me Mike died August 7th in Bangkok from complications due to COVID-19.

Furthermore, Nathan told me that Mike was married to a Thai woman, had a daughter with her and had been living in the country for several years. Wait. What?!?

The surprises kept coming as we learned that Mike contracted Covid while sitting in a Thailand jail awaiting a court date for a visa overstay charge. He left behind a tangled web of financial assets, family members and no will. Oy! It was clear: this was a mess left to me and family to clean up. But how do you settle an estate when you're thousands of miles away, you don't know the language or the laws of that country, and you're just meeting the other heirs involved?

That's when Rotary entered the picture.



Desperate for English-speaking natives who knew the Thai culture better than I did, I reached out to the Rotary Club of Bangkok asking if any of their members could help with translation and/or legal help. That's when I met Greg Beatty. Greg not only spoke English, he was a native of Canada (where my nephew, Mike's son from a previous marriage, Michael, lived), a retired attorney (a job at the international law firm, Baker McKenzie, brought him to Thailand 30 years ago), and was married to a Thai woman (who naturally spoke Thai fluently). Like me, he valued "service above self." Like me, he applied the 4-way test to his interactions with other people. Like me, he was a doer. Like me, he was a Rotarian.

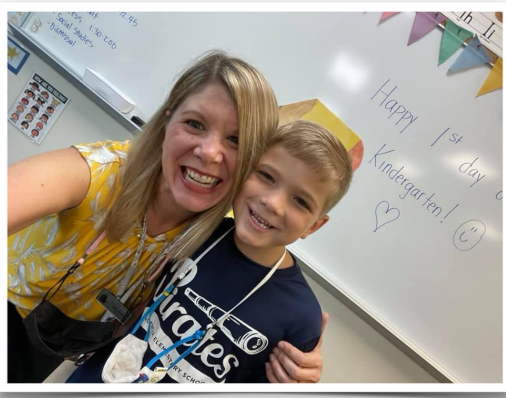
Since that introduction, Greg has visited with me and Michael on a late-night Zoom call, answered countless emails and introduced us to several quality attorneys in Bangkok (some of them Rotarians themselves). We don't have it all figured out yet. It's probably going to be several months (maybe years?) to get all of Mike's estate situated. However, I know that me and my family are in much better shape because of the help of my fellow Rotarians in Thailand. Greg's assistance has provided peace in a time when my family desperately needs it.

And that's why I now have another reason being a Rotarian is awesome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The date of the D6970 Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) originally set for August 28th has been changed to October 16th. The change was made after careful consideration of current COVID-19 activity. Register by going to: <https://www.rltraining.org/course-information/course-schedule/> and scrolling down to October 16th and clicking on "More info"
- Pre-order your Rotary license plate now! You can pre-order at any tag agency in the state of Florida or by visiting floridarotarytag.com. If you have any questions, contact District 6970 Governor-Elect, Jeff Michelman at dr.jeff.rotaryd6970@gmail.com. They will NOT make the plate if there aren't enough requests for it.

Here & There with Club Members



Sally & Caleb Huster on first day of school.



Riley & Cami Perkins on first day of school.



John Richardson's girls on first day of school.



Congratulations to our President, MaryBeth Murray!

For comments, questions or inquiries about the 32081.Rotarian
Please contact the Editor, Bob Wiltfong, at bobwiltfong37@gmail.com

Interested in joining the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra?
Please contact our Membership Chair, Ian Aguilar, at (315)-825-5220 or
ian.aguilar@wealthguards.com

Follow the
Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



Next Meetings

Tuesday, August 24 at 7:30am

In Person: The patio at Trelor Park Restaurant

Virtual: Zoom: ID - 388 019 0662; Password - 263 227

Speaker: Dr. Mona Shah, Cardiologist at BapCst Health System

Tuesday, August 31 at 7:30am

In Person: Social gathering at First Watch restaurant in Nocatee



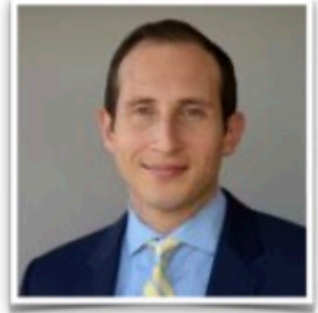
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