



March Newsletter - Reading Makes the World Go Round

COLLEGE PARK ROTARY LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO FIND A HUNDRED NEW DONORS TO DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Rotary Club of College Park became a partner with the Dollywood Foundation in 2012, and since that time, has distributed almost 40,000 books to families in ZIP codes 32804, 32805, 32808, and 32810 – at no cost to the parents!

Currently more than 700 local preschool children are receiving books each month through the *Imagination Library*, but there are thousands more children eligible in the four ZIP codes that could benefit from *Imagination Library*. The club has received grants from local partners, Florida Citrus Sports Foundation, United Way of Central Florida, and Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, but it is important that we also have broad community support.

We are launching an initiative to get 100 new donors at \$11 per month. This will provide funding for 500 children or 6,000 books for the year. One time donations are also welcome. You are invited to be a part of this group by going to www.cprbooks.com.



CLUB DONATES IMAGINATION LIBRARY BOOKS TO LOCAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS



College Park Rotary President Robert Stuart reading to preschool students at St. Michael's Preschool and Monarch Learning Academy.



Monarch students celebrating new DPIL books.



Robert Stuart with St. Michael's Preschool students

To celebrate distributing 40,000 books to area children through *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library*, College Park Rotary donated a complete set of *Imagination Library* books to the preschool programs at St. Michael's Preschool and Monarch Learning Academy. *Imagination Library* books are mailed directly to children ages birth to five years old. Each book is age specific to the child. Rotary Club President Robert Stuart delivered the books and read a few of the books to some preschool students. Both preschool programs are located in College Park.

Monarch Learning Academy is an independent Christian preschool, elementary and middle school for children ages one year through 8th grade. It is located at 1914 Edgewater Drive. St. Michael's Preschool is a ministry of St. Michael's Episcopal Church. It is located at 2499 N. Westmoreland Drive.



Robert Stuart presents DPIL books to Monarch Director Marguerite McNeil, Murray Christiansen, Director of Admissions, and Tammy Hammond, Preschool Director.

THE 20th TASTE OF COLLEGE PARK 2024 IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Taste of College Park 2024 is scheduled for October 10, 2024. This will be the 20th *Taste of College Park* held since the first one was held in 2000. *Taste of College Park* is the Rotary Club of College Park Foundation's premier fundraising event. In previous years, more than \$40,000 per year has been raised for local charities and projects including Ronald McDonald Houses of Orlando, the PolioPlus initiative of Rotary International, the Christian Service Center for Central Florida, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, One Heart for Women & Children, Shelter Box, and scholarships & awards for College Park students. *Taste of College Park* combines food, wine, and online/silent auctions for an extraordinary evening in College Park. It is truly "*College Park's Best Night Out!*" Local restaurants and distributors provide the food and wine, local retailers supply items for the online/silent auction, and College Park residents support the event by purchasing tickets, bidding on auction items and coming out to enjoy the evening.



Taste Restaurant Chair, Jane Callahan, presents plaque to Francesca Campos, Publix College Park Store Manager.



George Stuart presents Taste plaque to Tijuana Flats General Manager, Tabitha Rodriguez.

Newsletter Highlights

College Park Rotary Launches Campaign to Find A Hundred New Donors to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Club Donates Imagination Library Books to Area Preschool Programs

The 20th Taste of College Park 2024 is Thursday, October 10

March is Rotary Water & Sanitation Month

LEAP DAY Social at Digress Wine

Rotary History - Rotary Becomes Intercontinental

Club Learns About New Downtown Campus of UCF

College Park Rotary Awards Student of the Month to Area Schools

Rotary Club Installs New Member, Gary Kreisler

President's Message

Rotary

THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

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

MARCH IS ROTARY WATER & SANITATION MONTH



March is Water & Sanitation Month on the Rotary calendar. More than 748 million people do not have access to clean drinking water. Rotarians around the world build wells, implement rainwater harvesting systems, and promote low cost solutions to provide people with lifechanging solutions. You are invited to join us.

The Rotary Foundation is changing the world by providing grants for projects and activities around the globe and in your own backyard:

WASH Global Grant Projects: Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has invested in more than \$130 million in over 2000 projects worldwide. Through this investment, our volunteers of action have improved access to safely managed and basic WASH services to communities, schools and healthcare facilities, while protecting and conserving water resources.

Rotary-USAID WASH Partnership: Rotary and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assist communities and governments to plan, finance and deliver safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, while sustainably managing water resources.

WASH in Schools Target Challenge: Rotary challenges our members to develop sustainable projects that comprehensively address the most pressing water, sanitation, hygiene and education needs in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Kenya.

LEAP DAY SOCIAL AT DIGRESS WINE



The last time that LEAP DAY, February 29, fell on a Thursday was in 2004 and the next one will be in 2032. Instead of our regular morning meeting on February 29, we had a club social to celebrate! Our host was Taste of College Park wine provider, Digress Wine, with appetizers furnished by Duck and Drake Kitchen, also a Taste restaurant, HAPPY LEAP DAY until 2032.

ROTARY HISTORY - ROTARY BECOMES INTERCONTINENTAL

On August 1, 1912, the Rotary Club of London, Greater London, England, became the first Rotary club in Europe. Although Rotary had already become international in April of that year with the chartering of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the club in the United Kingdom earned Rotary the distinction of being an intercontinental organization.

After the London members organized the club, it took a year to receive its charter. Correspondence between General Secretary Chesley R. Perry and charter member Arthur P. Bigelow reveals some of the club members' questions about joining and paying dues to what was then the National Association of Rotary Clubs, made up of only U.S. clubs.

Perry encouraged them to "forget that the word 'national' is in the name," noting that if Winnipeg, London, and others were to join, the association would "simply have to change its name to the Inter-National Association."

A Message from Robert Stuart, President, 2023-2024

Reading makes the world go round. As you may already know, our College Park Rotary Club sponsors **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** for four local ZIP codes. Each month, we provide more than 700 children under the age of five, with a monthly subscription to an age appropriate book, delivered by the postman to the child.

Years ago, Dolly Parton created this incredible program that was inspired by her own journey out of poverty through education. As she looked back over her life, she realized the importance of reading and wanted to help other children do the same. Her goal . . . that every child will be able to read, at or above grade level, when they enter kindergarten.

Our club has recognized outstanding students in four College Park schools, provided scholarships for students, and a leadership camp (RYLA) for four students each year. Impacting our youth and providing resources for life-long learning is one of our priorities.

In addition to the many awards the organization has received, several milestones have been celebrated throughout the years. With each goal achieved, a new one takes its place, creating an ever growing and expanding organizational culture, much like that of Dolly's always-keep-dreaming mindset. As of January 2024, Dolly and her team of sponsors like the College Park Rotary Club have delivered almost 230 million books! That's right, 230 million! In Central Florida, our club has delivered over 35,000 books since we started in 2012.

Our club, like many other Rotary Clubs, is committed to making our community stronger! Please join us as we introduce a special opportunity to help us fund this program - the **Hunt for One Hundred**. We are looking for 100 monthly sponsors at \$11 per month to help us reach all children in our community. You can read more about it in this newsletter, or visit us, on Thursday mornings at 7:15p at the Historic Dubsdread Ballroom. See you then!

Club Learns About New Downtown Campus of UCF



President Robert Stuart, and President Elect Bryan Burns, welcome Dr. Ross Wolf to the Rotary Club of College Park. At our meeting of February 15, our speaker was Dr. Ross Wolf, Professor and Associate Provost of the Downtown Campus of UCF. UCF Downtown is a 15-acre campus located in Orlando's Creative Village. Made up of several buildings, the new shared campus incorporates innovative technology to create a 21st-century learning environment.

College Park Rotary Awards Student of the Month to Area Schools



Robert Stuart presents to Bishop Moore senior Kayla Kho. Also pictured is JP Kuhlman, and proud mother.



Robert Stuart presents to Emilia Campis Gutierrez, St. Charles Student of the Month. Also pictured, Dr. Jamie Rodriguez, Principal, and proud family.

The Rotary Club of College Park awards Student of the Month recognition to four College Park schools - Edgewater and Bishop Moore High Schools, College Park Middle School and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School. The Student of the Month is selected by the school's faculty for each month of the school year.

February Students of the Month were:

- Edgewater High School - Fabian Taylor
- Bishop Moore Catholic High School - Kayla Kho
- College Park Middle School - Amari Bennett
- St. Charles Catholic School - Emilia Campis Gutierrez

Rotary Club Installs New Member, Gary Kreisler

New member, Gary Kreisler, was installed on February 22. Gary has been a Rotarian since 2017. He is transferring from the Rotary Club of Apopka. Gary graduated from UCF and is employed by Trane Technologies.

Gary and his wife, Debbie, live in Longwood, and have four grown children. Debbie is the manager of SouthState Bank in College Park.



Gary and Debbie Kreisler with sponsor, George Stuart.

