

May is Youth Service Month in Rotary – a time to recognize, promote, and celebrate the powerful role young people play in creating positive change, both locally and globally. Rotary clubs around the world dedicate this month to showcasing their commitment to the next generation of leaders through programs, partnerships, and community engagement. Whether it's high school students running community projects through Interact, young adults growing through Rotaract clubs, or emerging leaders being inspired at RYLA, Youth Service Month reminds us that investing in youth means investing in a better future for all.

There are many activities that clubs do to support youth. Some clubs give scholarships to support the best students in their communities. Some clubs give scholarships, via programs like STRIVE and SORA, that involve activities that encourage students to improve academically. Some clubs sponsor Interact Clubs and work with them on service projects. Many clubs send and/or receive Youth Exchange students through our North Star Youth Exchange program. If you came to our Conference of Clubs in April, you saw the traditional flag presentation ceremony done by this year's inbound Youth Exchange students. After that, they joined with members of both the Twin Cities and South Metro Rotaract Clubs for a service project (see below). This was a great example of the next generation having a real impact. Speaking of Youth Exchange and North Star, I had the opportunity to attend the annual gathering of the North American Youth Exchange Network (NAYEN) in March in Houston. (You can see more on this below.) Over 300 Rotarians involved in Youth Exchange were there, including more than 100 from outside of North America. Not only did our North Star win an award, but they are also held up as a model Youth Exchange organization by many other Districts. We should be proud.

Our current Rotary Friendship Exchange team has spent 10 days in Argentina. From all of the photos that I have seen,

May 2026

Events



<https://www.rotary5960.org/district-projects/lift/>

Collecting used mobility devices to deliver to those in need and divert from landfills

CRUTCHES 4 AFRICA



9,000 LIVES IMPACTED



they had a great experience. I am sure, if you ask one of them, they will be more than willing to present a program to your club. If you missed out on being a member of this team and have an interest in the Friendship Exchange program, do not worry. We are doing an exchange with District 4640 in Parana State in southern Brazil. Our outbound team will travel there in September. Look for additional information soon.

???????

Finally, we still have two months remaining in this Rotary year. This is not the time to coast. You and your club should push hard through June 30 and beyond. Have one more service project. Get in another social event. Submit a proposal for a District or Global grant. Reach out to that person you have been thinking of bringing to Rotary and invite them to a meeting. Better yet, invite them to a project so they can see first-hand what your club does to improve the world.

Make Peace Visible: A Powerful Weekend of Connection, Learning, and Service



Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Youth Exchange students from across District 5960 came together April 17–18 at the

DoubleTree by Hilton St. Paul East for the 2026 Conference of Clubs, *Make Peace Visible*. With 136 attendees representing more than 30 clubs, the event was a vibrant celebration of Rotary’s impact—and a reminder of the power we have when we come together.

From the opening session led by District Governor Glenn Bowers to an inspiring closing keynote by Joe Cavanaugh of Youth Frontiers, the conference delivered meaningful content designed to energize and equip Rotarians for the year ahead. Attendees explored a wide range of topics through interactive breakout sessions, including artificial intelligence tools for clubs, public image strategies, membership growth, mental wellness, environmental leadership, and how to bridge divides in our communities.

A highlight of the weekend was the powerful storytelling work of Alex Krafft with Narrative 4, emphasizing empathy and human connection as essential tools for building stronger communities. Friday evening featured Joseph and Hannah Barisonzi, who shared their compelling message through the Year of Water initiative—reminding us that protecting our natural resources is also about investing in people and future generations. On Saturday, Dr. Henry Emmons offered practical insights on resilience and mental well-being, while the conference concluded with an uplifting message on character and leadership.

Conference Speaker Video Links: [CLICK HERE](#)

[Read More](#)

Rotaract & Youth Exchange Partner for Service at District Conference



Service was front and center at the Rotary District 5960 Conference of Clubs as Twin Cities and South Metro Networking Rotaractors joined forces with North Star Youth Exchange students for a hands-on service project. Working side by side, the group created 20 tie blankets, each one crafted with care and purpose.

The completed blankets were donated to 360 Communities and Children's Hospital, supporting individuals and families in need with warmth and comfort. This collaborative effort showcased the power of connection across Rotary programs—bringing together Rotaract members and Youth Exchange students to make a tangible local impact.

Projects like this highlight the spirit of Rotary: building relationships, taking action, and serving communities in meaningful ways. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and energy to make this project a success.

NAYEN Award

BIG NEWS!
DISTRICTS 5960 & 5950
Gold Standard!

RECOGNIZED AT THE
2026 NAYEN CONFERENCE
Houston, Texas

North American Youth Exchange Network
Certificate of Achievement

This GOLD certificate is presented to
District 5950/5960

In appreciation of your commitment to excellence
and dedication to continuous improvement.

Mike Dolan, President, NAYEN March 27, 2026
Date

John Bennett Deal March 21, 2026
Chair, NAYEN Achievement Awards
Date

UNITE FOR GOOD

CHANGING LIVES.
Cultural immersion.
Leadership development.
Global understanding.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS.
Creating friendships that
transcend borders.

PROMOTING PEACE.
One exchange at a time.
A better world for all.

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION

Congratulations ♥
**TO ALL OUR YOUTH EXCHANGE VOLUNTEERS,
ROTARY LEADERS, HOST FAMILIES & SUPPORTERS!**

TOGETHER, WE INSPIRE YOUTH. WE CHANGE LIVES. WE BUILD A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD. ♥

Rotary Districts 5960 and 5950 are celebrating an exciting and well-deserved honor—receiving the **Gold Certificate of Achievement** at the 2026 North American Youth Exchange Network Conference in Houston!

This prestigious recognition highlights the outstanding commitment of both districts to excellence in **Rotary Youth Exchange**, one of Rotary’s most impactful programs for building global understanding and peace.

[Read More](#)



Join us on **Wednesday, May 6 at 4:00 PM (virtual)** for Shark Tank 2026—an exciting event where Rotary clubs pitch grant-funded service projects to fellow Rotarians for funding support.

Clubs from **Rice Lake, Stillwater, and Hudson Daybreak** will present their ideas, while participating “Shark” clubs allocate funds to bring these projects to life. It’s a fast-paced, collaborative event that showcases the power of Rotary working together to make an impact.

All Rotarians are welcome to attend and be inspired!

Pre-registration is required to receive the Zoom link.
Register today! [ZOOM LINK](#)

LEGACY GIFT LEADS TO TRIPLE CROWN DONOR



The Triple Crown Donor (TCD) recognition was initiated in District 5960 in 2022-23. A TCD makes an annual Paul Harris Society gift (\$1,000), is a Major Donor (cumulative giving of \$10,000+) and a Bequest Society member.

TCDs have numbered 41-45-45 in the first three years. “We expect the total to surpass the 50 mark this year,” says D5960 Endowment/Major Gift Adviser PDG Tom Yuzer. In 2024-25 and so far in 2025-26 there have been 9 Rotarians who have informed Rotary of their intention to make a future Legacy gift of \$10,000 or more and another four Rotarians who have made outright gifts at this level. Thus they become Bequest Society members.

These gifts will go to Rotary’s permanent endowment fund. “Most of these current or future gifts are designated to World Fund-SHARE. “By designating the gift to SHARE one half of the resulting endowment earnings will come directly to District 5960 as DDF funds,” Yuzer explained.

If you have considered making an estate gift to Rotary, contact Yuzer (tomyuzer63@gmail.com or 951-805-4468) for assistance.

DG Michael-jon Pease Installation



OFF TO THE RACES
District Governor Line + Club President Elect Installation

Saturday, June 27,
2026, 2-4 p.m.
260 Summit Ave
Saint Paul
\$60 per person



Off to the Races – Don’t Miss It!

Rotary District 5960 is kicking off the new Rotary year in style—and you’re invited! Join us for a one-of-a-kind garden party at historic Dove Hill as we celebrate and install our incoming district and club leaders.

- Live music
- Incredible bites + hosted bar
- Race-day fashion (yes-bring the hats!)
- Connection with Rotarians from across the district

Date: June 27 | 2–4 PM

Location: Dove Hill, Saint Paul

Spots are limited—and this is one event you’ll want to be part of.

Register early to secure your place at the starting gate:

[LINK](#)

Unite for Water – A Multi-District Rotary Initiative

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION

Unite for Water
Act Today for Water Tomorrow

WHO WE ARE

5 Rotary Districts united across the upper Midwest:

- Districts 5580 • 5610 • 5950 • 5960 • 5970
- Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin and NW Ontario

9,200 to 10,400 Rotarians

If Just 10% Take Action...

10% → **920–1,040 Rotarians** taking action

Imagine the Impact

- 1,000** storm drains adopted
- Tons** of litter removed from waterways
- Thousands** of native plants restoring habitat
- Hundreds** of local water protection projects

Cleaner lakes • Healthier rivers • Stronger ecosystems • Thriving communities

Act Today for Water Tomorrow
Join the **Unite for Water** Movement

Beginning April in conjunction with Earth Day, Rotary clubs across multiple Districts are coming together for a powerful,

shared purpose—**Unite for Water: Take Action Today for Water Tomorrow.**

This collaborative effort will engage more than 9,200 Rotarians in meaningful, hands-on projects focused on protecting and preserving one of our most vital resources: water.

Across our region, clubs will lead a variety of impactful initiatives. Some will organize **river and stream cleanups**, while others will focus on **waterway restoration, educational outreach, infrastructure improvements, and advocacy efforts**. Each project will reflect the unique needs of its community—but together, they will form one unified story of service.

From projects already being planned—such as stream cleanups led by clubs in Sioux Falls and Yankton—to educational events that raise awareness about water conservation, this initiative highlights the power of Rotary members working both locally and collectively.

While each club's approach may differ, the mission is the same: **to protect water resources today to ensure a better tomorrow.**

[Read More](#)

Faribault Rotary Club Youth Camp

Did you know that the Faribault Rotary Club owns a youth Rotary Camp right outside of Faribault? We welcome you to experience the fresh air – wide open spaces with your area youth organizations.



The camp is focused on serving youth. If you have a youth group in your club we encourage you to consider an adventure day at the camp. Bring your young people to

experience the great outdoors, free from screens! Play outdoor games, try fishing from the dock, pitch a tent for an overnight thrill, enjoy a bonfire.

[Read More](#)

Grow Your Rotary Skills with the Rotary Learning Center



Grow Your Rotary Skills with the Rotary Learning Center

Did you know that Rotary offers a powerful online training platform available to every member? The Rotary Learning Center is a comprehensive resource designed to help Rotarians and Rotaractors strengthen their skills, deepen their understanding of Rotary, and become more effective leaders.

Accessible through your My Rotary account, the Learning

Center features **more than 1,000 courses available in over 20 languages**. Topics range from leadership development and public image to youth protection, membership growth, project planning, and Rotary fundamentals. Whether you are a brand-new member or a longtime Rotarian preparing for a leadership role, there is something for everyone.

[Read More](#)