

# Rotary



# Club of Olentangy

## **This Week's Speaker:**

**Jan Ramer, VP of Animal Conservation from The Columbus Zoo**

Jan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from Purdue University and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Wisconsin. Her early career included work as an animal keeper and then associate veterinarian at the Indianapolis Zoo.

She served as the Regional Veterinary Manager for the Gorilla Doctors in central Africa. During that time, she led dozens of health interventions for wild and orphaned mountain gorillas. After her African field work, she returned to the US and held a role at The Wilds – a large safari-conservation center in Southeastern Ohio and part of the Columbus Zoo - as director of conservation medicine, and later Vice President.

Jan currently serves as Senior Vice President of Animal Care and Conservation at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium and The Wilds. She oversees animal-care operation: the welfare, veterinary oversight, husbandry, enrichment, habitats and protocols for all animals at the Zoo and The Wilds.

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## **Club Reminders:**

**IMPORTANT!!!!!! Football Fever NFL Raffle - Ticket sales close this Thursday afternoon. To date we've sold 414! Thanks to all that have participated...let's see if we can break our record over these last few days!**

**Final Board Meeting of the year will be held 11/13**

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## **Volunteer Opportunity: Honeysuckle Hackfest on 11/8**

**Visit the link below to sign up and help clear more than 5 acres of invasive honeysuckle at Deer Haven Park. There may or may not be parimutuel goat gambling - only way to find out is to show up!**

**<https://preservationparks.com/programs/honeysuckle-hackfest/>**

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**Make a Direct Impact: Enroll in Rotary Direct for a Chance to Win \$1000**

# The Rotary Foundation



This month, our **Zone 30–31 Rotary Foundation team** launched a new contest encouraging Rotarians to make their giving simple, automatic, and impactful through **Rotary Direct**, and there's an exciting incentive to join!

New Rotary Direct participants will be entered into a drawing to **win \$1,000 cash and 1,000 Foundation Recognition Points**. The district with the largest percentage increase in Rotary Direct enrollees will also receive a **\$5,000 cash prize**. *(No Rotary funds are used for this competition.)*

The contest is called **"Direct Impact"** and runs through **January 1, 2026**. It makes supporting The Rotary Foundation easier than ever. Rotary Direct allows you to set up **monthly or quarterly contributions** from your credit card or bank account, starting at just **\$10 per month**.

At \$10 a month, you'll be both an **Every Rotarian, Every Year** participant and a **Sustaining Donor**. At \$84 per month, you'll qualify as a **Paul Harris Society** member, giving \$1,000 annually to help Rotary fund life-changing projects around the world. [Read More](#)

## Celebration Honors Clubs for 2024-2025 Achievements

Club leaders from across District 6690 gathered recently at the Hofbräuhaus in Grandview to celebrate the achievements of Rotarians during the 2024-25 Rotary year. The festive evening highlighted the impact of strong leadership, dedicated service, and a shared commitment to Rotary's mission.

Immediate Past District Governor Gary Baker awarded 26 clubs with a Rotary International Certificate of Excellence for achieving at least 13 club goals. These goals included increasing membership, engaging members in sustainable service projects, contributing to The Rotary Foundation, building Rotary awareness in their communities, and maintaining an up-to-date strategic plan.

"I am thrilled to present these achievement awards to so many clubs in our district," Baker said. "Strong clubs are why we have a strong district. Congratulations to the club leaders and members for their exceptional achievements."

In addition to club recognitions, Baker presented Governor's Awards to three individuals and one club for outstanding leadership and service: **T.D. Griley Award – Fran Veverka (Delaware), for her tremendous service as district secretary more than 13 years**, [Read More](#)

## Westerville Sunrise Companion Club Expands Service, strengthens Fellowship



The Westerville area of Columbus recently gained a new Rotary club, but it's not the traditional club most Rotarians know. It's a Companion Club to the Westerville Sunrise Club. Starting with 12 members in July, the Westerville Sunrise Companion Club has added four new members and is led by club chair, Sue Castro.

"The companion club model shows that Rotary can evolve without losing its heart," Sue Castro, Companion Club chair, explained. "By creating more avenues to serve, we're strengthening our reach and ensuring that the values of fellowship and service grow."

The Westerville Sunrise Companion Club meets twice a month, typically in the evening, providing an alternative for those who can't attend the host club's early morning gatherings. Meetings are a blend of fellowship and hands-on planning, often centered on service projects rather than formal programs. The focus is on engagement and action — keeping Rotary service accessible, meaningful, and fun. At a recent companion club service project members made blankets for community residents.

[Read More](#)

**Stronger Together**



### Union Local Welcomes 5 New Members



The Union Local Rotary Club is growing strong with the recent induction of five new members, boosting its active membership to 19.

This small but mighty group is making great strides to enhance its public image and visibility in the communities it serves. President Tim Snyder has challenged each member to select an area of focus and develop a service project, creating new opportunities to engage, collaborate, and unite for good.

### Belmont County Rotarians Join Together for District Governor Visit

Rotarians from the St. Clairsville, St. Clairsville Morning, and Bridgeport clubs recently gathered for a special dinner in honor of District Governor Sandy



Knoesel's official visit.

The event was held at the enclosed Rotary Pavilion at the Capstone Pavilion Soccer Park—a beautiful community space that features a partial kitchen and fireplace. The pavilion serves as a hub for local gatherings, exemplifying Rotary's spirit of fellowship and service.

### Barnesville Club Celebrates Peace Pole Installation



In a proud moment for the community, the Barnesville Rotary Club installed a Peace Pole in a prominent location in their town. The new addition symbolizes Rotary's commitment to peace and understanding.

Barnesville was recently recognized by Ohio Magazine as one of the "Best Hometowns for 2025–2026," making the Peace Pole an especially meaningful tribute to the club's ongoing efforts to promote goodwill.

### St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary Prepares for Annual 'Stuff the Truck' Project

The St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary Club is once again tackling food insecurity with its annual Stuff the Truck service project. Partnering with local businesses, the club collects nonperishable food items to support area food pantries. Through teamwork and community collaboration, the project helps ensure families have access to nutritious meals throughout the year.



### Bridgeport Club Organizes Successful Food Drive



The Bridgeport Rotary Club's food drive was a resounding success thanks to the generosity of local donors and volunteers. In addition to providing prepackaged groceries to residents in need, the club also collected monetary donations to further support families facing food insecurity—a challenge that has doubled in recent weeks.

Their efforts reflect Rotary's dedication to service above self and compassionate community response.

### St. Clairsville Rotarians Teach 4-Way Test to Elementary Students

As part of its Peace Project, members of the St. Clairsville Rotary Club brought lessons of ethics and kindness to local classrooms. Rotarians read Elmer and Andy's Apple Dumpling Adventure to 150 elementary students, introducing the Rotary 4-Way Test in a fun and meaningful way. To sweeten the experience, students enjoyed an apple dumpling as they learned about honesty, fairness,

goodwill, and beneficial actions—values at the heart of Rotary.

Together, these clubs across Belmont County exemplify the theme Rotary: Stronger Together—demonstrating how collaboration, service, and community spirit unite Rotarians for lasting good.



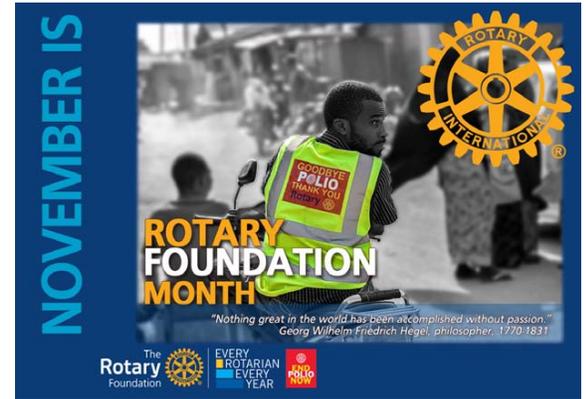
## November is Rotary Foundation Month

By William Grindle

November is **Rotary Foundation Month**, a time to celebrate the incredible impact we create when Every Rotarian, Every Year contributes to our Foundation. Through our collective generosity, Rotary supports projects that bring lasting change in **seven key areas of focus**:

- **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention**
- **Disease Prevention and Treatment**
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**
- **Maternal and Child Health**
- **Basic Education and Literacy**
- **Community Economic Development**
- **Supporting the Environment**

Each of these areas represents a cornerstone of Rotary's mission—and together, they form a blueprint for building a more just, healthy, and hopeful world. When we give to The Rotary Foundation, we're not just writing a check—we're investing in peace, health, opportunity, and sustainability for generations to come. Because of your support, last year we were able to fund o



### Our Local Impact Through District Grants

Here in District 6690, our clubs continue to make a profound local difference. The **Chillicothe First Capital Rotary Club's Children's Clothing Bank** is providing clothing and support for children living in poverty. The **Logan Rotary Club's Foster Child Care Packages** provided a duffel bag, blanket and personal items for children in foster care. These and over 50 more projects will be funded through our 6690 District Grants, and they exemplify how the Rotary Foundation dollars flow directly back into our communities—turning generosity into measurable impact. [Read More](#)

## Four Rotary Clubs Unite for Good for Breast Cancer Patients



In a shining example of Service Above Self, four Rotary clubs — Chillicothe, Chillicothe First Capital, Circleville, and Circleville Sunrise — joined forces last month to bring hope and comfort to women fighting breast cancer.

More than 50 Rotarians, along with members of the Pink Pack Tribe, a support group of cancer survivors, came together to pack 200 "Boxes of Hope" filled with care items, encouragement, and love for breast cancer patients.

Items for the Boxes of hope are provided by the Nightbirde Foundation founded by Granville Rotarian Mitch Maczewski in memory of his sister Jane, known worldwide as Nightbirde. She inspired millions around the world with her song "It's OK" on America's Got Talent in 2021.

The idea for the collaborative project began at the Rotary District 6690 Conference last April, when attendees packed boxes for the Nightbirde Foundation. Inspired by that event and the foundation's mission, Berno saw an opportunity to bring the same light of hope to her own community.

"Mitch's message really touched our hearts," said Robin Berno, president of the Chillicothe First Capital Rotary Club. "Assistant Governor David Crawford suggested that the Circleville and Chillicothe clubs work together on a project. I took that and ran with it. We had about 50 people between the four clubs, plus the Pink Pack Tribe — incredible women who have survived breast cancer and now support others on that same journey."

[Read More](#)

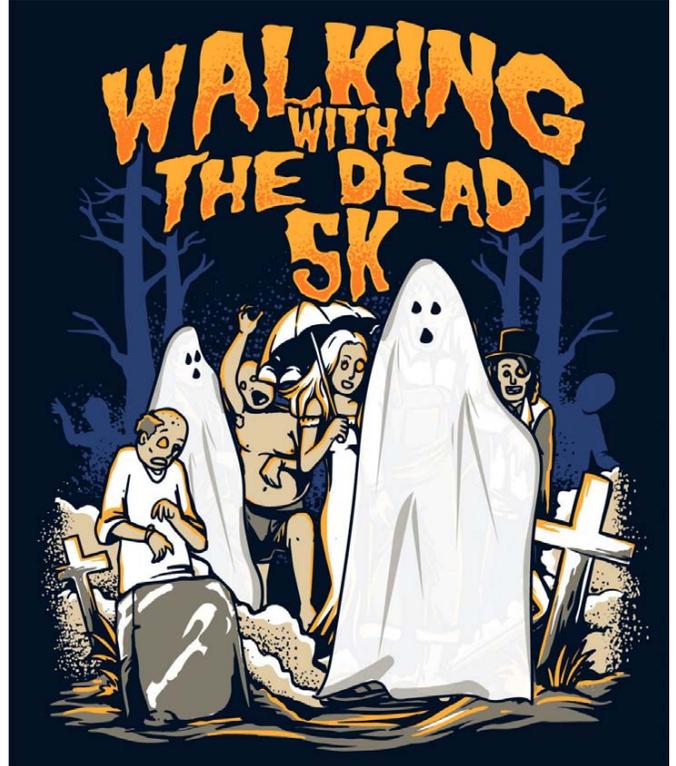
## Columbus Rotary Walking with the Dead 5K supports Greenlawn Cemetery

The Columbus Rotary's *Walking with the Dead 5K Fundraiser* at Greenlawn Cemetery on Oct. 3 was a hauntingly fun time!

With 276 participants and 15 dedicated Rotary volunteers, the evening was full of energy and community spirit. Runners and walkers—along with their four-legged friends—showed off creative costumes, with prizes awarded for both people and pets.

Participants enjoyed a festive beer garden courtesy of Nocterra Brewing and chillingly fun ghost tours hosted by the cemetery.

Together, the event raised **\$4,011 for the Rotary Club** and **\$1,000 for Greenlawn Cemetery**. It was a memorable night of fitness, fun, and philanthropy.



## DG Message:

By Sandra Knoesel



As district governor, I made a special effort to attend several PolioPlus fundraisers in our district last month as part of the World Polio Day celebration.

The celebrations began in Newark where the Newark, Newark-Heath, Granville, and Pataskala clubs joined together for Pilsners for Polio at Stockyard Grill, a new downtown restaurant.

Newark-Heath Rotary Club president Kirk Homrighouse and his wife, Laurie, welcomed guests wearing their "The End is Near For Polio" shirts they purchased at the District 6690 Fall Assembly.

Two days later, I joined the Westerville Rotary Clubs for a Smash Polio "Fun" raiser at the new Smash Park in Westerville.

This unique venue offers pickleball, corn hole, axe throwing, duckpin bowling and an arcade as well as a

karaoke suite

A big thank you goes out to club presidents Dave Read and Jim Caldwell for teaming up the clubs for this event.



On Saturday, I started the day in Granville with club president Amy Huddleston for the Granville Rotary Chili Cookoff. After tasting some good and some really hot, HOT, chili, my favorite was the Vegan chili made by Assistant Governor Steve Thaxton and his son. The Granville Kiwanis made the crowd's overall favorite chili.

The day ended in Grove City with the Grove City Rotary Club's Bourbon, Blues and Barbeque fundraiser at JP's Barbeque located at Bolton Field. I thought I was in Nashville listening to J. Edwards and Blue Spectrum musicians. A special thank you goes to Rotary President Troy Green, and Mary and Larry Titus for a memorable evening. Proceeds from the night went to MASH – Military and Service Heroes and Rotary's End Polio initiative.

So where are we in our 40-year fight to eliminate this disease? Currently, Afghanistan has 9 reported wild poliovirus cases and Pakistan has 29 cases. There is a captivating video about Rotary's fight to end polio called "Right now, at this very moment" on [rotary.org](https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_QoGdGZmzev343UNc.jpg?1756502880). I recommend you share the video with your family and friends at [https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md\\_QoGdGZmzev343UNc.jpg?1756502880](https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_QoGdGZmzev343UNc.jpg?1756502880).

Rotary International leaders recently visited Pakistan and met with government officials, who reaffirmed their commitment to polio eradication. The delegation included RI President Francesco Arezzo, Trustee Chair Holger Knaack, International PolioPlus Chair Michael K. McGovern, and aide to the president John de Giorgio. They were hosted by Aziz Memon, chair of the Pakistan PolioPlus Committee.



Everyone has a role in bringing about a polio-free world. Together, we **will** end polio.