



February Newsletter - The Tradition Continues

DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY - HUNT FOR A HUNDRED NEW DONORS

In 1996, Dolly Parton launched an exciting new effort. Dolly's vision was to foster a love of reading among preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. By mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes, she wanted children to be excited about books and to feel the magic that books can create. Moreover, she could insure that every child would have books, regardless of their family's income. Thus, was born **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. You are invited to be a part of this group by going to www.cprbooks.com.



Children are enrolled from birth to age five.



Each child receives an age-appropriate book each month.



Parents promise to read to their children for 15 minutes per day.

CLUB SERVES AT DAILY BREAD AT CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER

In the late 1960's, Orlando's downtown churches recognized a growing need to help provide assistance to the low-income and underserved residents of the community, a need greater than each of the churches could facilitate individually. As a combined effort from First Presbyterian Church of Orlando, First United Methodist Church of Orlando, Cathedral Church of St. Luke, St. James Cathedral and Trinity Lutheran Church, the Christian Service Center for Central Florida, Inc. was established in 1971 to provide direct assistance for individuals and families facing critical need. In 1995, College Park Rotary President, Robert Stuart, became the Executive Director of the Christian Service Center and the association with our club began. The Christian Service Center is a beneficiary of Taste of College Park and the club volunteers at Daily Bread. College Park Rotary Club Director, Jane Callahan, currently serves on the board of directors.



College Park Rotarians at work. From left, George Stuart, President Robert Stuart, Mary Daust, Susan Sackett, Liz Allport, Robert Dodrill. Kitchen & dining room manager, Lawrence Graham, is in the background checking on us.

THANK YOU TO TASTE OF COLLEGE PARK RESTAURANTS



Gabby Molden presents to Kelly Seidl of Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream.



Robert Stuart and Jorge Rosario of Armando's in College Park



George Stuart and Mary Elizabeth Howe, manager of Digress Wine.



George Stuart presents to Glenn Closson of Ivanhoe Park Brewing.



Frank McMillan presents to Lucy Rivera of Lucy's Puerto Rican Kitchen.

Taste of College Park has become **"College Park's Best Night Out!"** thanks to the outstanding support from our restaurants. We are pleased to announce the winners of the various restaurant awards for this year. We are especially thankful for the hard work and excellent presentation by everyone.

Newsletter Highlights

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library - Hunt for a Hundred New Donors

College Park Rotary Celebrates Holiday Season

Club Serves at Daily Bread at Christian Service Center

Thank You to Taste of College Park Restaurants

February is Rotary Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month

Rotary History - The First Four Rotarians

Club Learns About Hunger in the US and Throughout the World

College Park Rotary Awards Student of the Month to Area Schools

LEAP DAY Social at Digress Wine

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?

FEBRUARY IS ROTARY PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH FOR ROTARY FEBRUARY

"The practice of peace and reconciliation is one of the most vital and artistic of human actions."
Thich Nhat Hanh



Rotarians train adults and young leaders to prevent and mediate conflict, and aid refugees who have fled dangerous areas. During February, **Rotary Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month**, Rotary is celebrating our commitment to build peace and mitigate conflict.

The month of February is very special in the Rotary calendar because it includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on February 23, 1905, in Chicago. That day is now designated as the **"World Understanding and Peace Day"**.

On February 23, Rotary celebrates the 109th anniversary of that first Rotary club meeting. This is an opportunity for Rotary clubs and districts to promote Rotary's public image.

Millions of people all over the world are currently displaced by armed conflict or persecution. In fact, 90% of casualties in armed conflicts are civilians, half of which are children. Through service projects and Rotary programs, the Rotary family is committed to pursuing projects that address the structural causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

ROTARY HISTORY - THE FIRST FOUR ROTARIANS



The first four Rotarians. From left: Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram E. Shorey, Paul P. Harris.

On February 23, 1905, Paul P. Harris, Hiram E. Shorey, Gustavus Loehr, and Silvester Schiele, gathered in Loehr's office for what would become known as the first Rotary club meeting.

Harris' desire for camaraderie among business associates brought together these four men and eventually led to an international organization of service and fellowship.

Each of the first four Rotarians, and Harry L. Ruggles, who is often called the "fifth Rotarian," brought different professional perspectives to the organization.

Rotary's founder, Harris, a lawyer, was Rotary president from 1910 to 1912 and a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago until his death in January of 1947.

Loehr, a mining engineer, was a Rotarian for only a few years, never holding office at the club. But that first Rotary meeting was held in his office at the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. He died in Chicago in 1918.

Shorey, a merchant tailor, was a Rotarian for only a few years, too. He was born in Maine, in August 1862, and died in 1944.

Schiele, a coal dealer, served as the Chicago club's first president in 1905 and Rotary International's treasurer. He and Harris became lifelong friends and lived near each other on the South Side of Chicago. He died in December 1945.

Ruggles was a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and joined Rotary at its second meeting. He was treasurer of the Chicago club during its first year, club president from 1908 to 1910. He is known for having introduced singing to Rotary club meetings.

Club Learns About Hunger in the US and Throughout the World

Last week, our program was a presentation by Florence French Fagan, Senior Regional Organizer, Bread for the World. She talked about the mission of Bread for the World, especially in the US. Bread for the World is a non-partisan Christian advocacy organization based in the United States that advocates for policy changes to end hunger and helps others do the same.

College Park Rotary Awards Student of the Month to Area Schools



President Robert Stuart presents to Edgewater senior Keegan Edward. Also pictured EHS Counselor, Jessica Richardson.

Robert Stuart presents to Shaquille Jackson, CPMS Student of the Month. Also pictured Dr. Chandar Greene, Asst. Principal, and proud mother.

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.

January Students of the Month were:
Edgewater High School - Keegan Edward
Bishop Moore Catholic High School - Chase Stacy
College Park Middle School - Shaquille Jackson
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School-Hannah Gerulli

LEAP DAY Social at Digress Wine

The last time that LEAP DAY, February 19, fell on a Thursday was in 2004 and the next one will be in 2032. Instead of our regular morning meeting, let's have a social to celebrate! We will be meeting at Digress Wine for wine and appetizers furnished by Duck and Drake Kitchen. Come join us and bring a guest or prospect. HAPPY LEAP DAY until 2032.



Meet at Digress Wine at 5:30pm to 7:00pm on February 29.

A Message from Robert Stuart, President, 2023-2024

The Tradition Continues . . . In our January Newsletter, I talked about the founding of Rotary, how we got our name "Rotary" and our very first service project in Chicago in 1905. (If you missed it, just check out our website/Facebook.) This month, we celebrate the 119th Anniversary of the founding of Rotary on February 23.

Today, I want to express how grateful I am to those who started Rotary and created a motto, "Service Above Self," that continues until today. With the focus on serving others and a practical guideline for business and personal ethics, "The Rotary 4-Way Test," our club continues.

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 this edition, we focus on Dolly Parton's *Imagination Library* and its impact on families throughout the world and families right here in our community. Imagination Library started as a way to encourage reading for preschool students in East Tennessee. It has become the model for early learning in the United States and beyond. Our club sponsors more than 700 children each month.

Inspired by Dolly Parton's commitment to reading and her commitment to provide award winning books to preschool children, College Park Rotary, along with local donors and partners, makes this program work. The tradition of "Service Above Self" continues here in College Park. You can be part of this, too. You can help us by donating toward the *Imagination Library* or, better yet, come join us on Thursday morning at 7:15am for breakfast and learn about how you can be part of serving.

