

## The Crestwood - Sunset Hills Rotary Club

### A brief history

Chartered in 1960, the Crestwood Rotary Club voted to include the city of Sunset Hills in 1983 thus becoming the Crestwood - Sunset Hills Rotary Club. Eight members of the disbanded South St. Louis County Rotary Club joined the club in 2012.

Since its founding, the club embraces the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self". In order to raise funds to support community and international projects, the club started a barbecue in 1972. Members sold tickets and spouses baked and served desserts. For several years the barbecue was the major source of revenue.

In 1982 the club started a Fall Arts and Crafts Fair and incorporated the barbecue into the fair. Held the weekend before Thanksgiving, the Fall Fair soon became the club's major fundraiser and a popular St. Louis attraction. A Spring Arts and Crafts Fair was started in 2006 and is held two weeks before Easter. All profits from these fairs support community and international projects.

Over the years the club has assisted needy families with food baskets. In 2013 we began a weekend meals program that has grown into the Feed the Knowledge Weekend Backpack Program. Each year club members distribute over 6000 meal bags and essential supplies to elementary students in the St. Louis County and St. Louis City school districts.

Our Rotary Club is actively engaged with young people. The club has hosted Rotary Exchange students from Belgium, Argentina, Japan, Italy, France, Germany and Brazil. In 2009 the club initiated a Rotary Interact club in Lindbergh High School. That club holds fundraisers and community projects including Salvation Army bell ringing and assisting with food packing for the Feed the Knowledge Program. Interact students and Rotary club members went to Guatemala in 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016 to deliver and install safe and efficient stoves to native Guatemalans.

Visible community projects include the Rotary Garden at the Sunset Hills Community Center, a Rotary Pavilion at Whitecliff Park in Crestwood and a Rotary Pavilion and Marker in Minnie Ha Ha Park. Ongoing projects include a monthly cleanup of a local commuter parking lot and programs to provide supplies to needy children identified by local school counselors.

Our club is proud of its history, accomplishments and commitment to active service. We look forward to meeting and supporting the challenges and opportunities offered in Rotary such as eradicating polio worldwide.

May 2023

