

## Rotary Clubs & Rotaract Club of Springfield, MO

1717 E Republic Rd. Ste. A  
Springfield, MO 65804

[www.downtownrotaryspringfieldmo.org](http://www.downtownrotaryspringfieldmo.org)  
[www.springfieldsoutheastrotary.org](http://www.springfieldsoutheastrotary.org)  
[www.sunriserotaryclub.com](http://www.sunriserotaryclub.com)  
[www.rotaryclubofspringfieldnorth.com](http://www.rotaryclubofspringfieldnorth.com)  
[www.springfieldmetrorotary.org](http://www.springfieldmetrorotary.org)  
[www.springfieldrotaract.org](http://www.springfieldrotaract.org)



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# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Anthony Roberts  
President, Springfield Rotary President's Council  
Phone: 417-227-5301  
Email: robertsa@cbco.org

## Springfield Rotary & Rotaract Clubs Turn Annual All-City Meeting into Donation to Support Discovery Center Covid-19 Relief Efforts

Springfield, MO (May 5, 2020) – In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Springfield Rotary All-City Meeting, originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled. The five Rotary Clubs and Rotaract Club of Springfield have voted to utilize funds budgeted for the All-City Meeting to support Covid-19 relief efforts taking place at the Discovery Center of Springfield. Local clubs raised \$4,200 and applied for a grant from Rotary International to match the funds. In total, \$8,400 will be donated from Rotary to the Discovery Center and will be used to purchase food and supplies as needed.

While the Discovery Center in downtown Springfield has closed their doors to the public, they have reopened as a childcare facility for crisis healthcare workers in just five days with enhanced safety and sanitation protocols to keep kids safe and engaged during the coronavirus crisis.

The Center's dedication to child safety is inspiring to observe and comforting to the families they are serving. Each class is limited to 10 students, and those students are kept from interacting with other classes. Plastic buckets of toys and supplies are switched out and sanitized in a bleach or chemical bath before being reused. Floors are mopped frequently with bleach, and bathrooms are

sanitized after every use to make sure the Center is ready to take care of kids from 6 AM through 8 PM and all 7 days a week until our community heroes no longer need help.

In just two weeks, the Discovery Center and its partners have:

- Offered 29,400 hours of care
- Served over 150 kids
- Provided over 5,600 free meals and snacks

"The Rotary Clubs of Springfield are proud to support the great work being done by Downtown Rotarian Rob Blevins and his amazing team at the Discovery Center," said Anthony Roberts, President, Springfield Rotary President's Council, "The Discovery Center is operating as a licensed child care facility and is providing services for children of health care workers and first responders in our community. We are so happy to be able to provide financial support to this worthwhile endeavor."

#### **About Rotary Clubs:**

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. Rotary membership provides the opportunity to become connected to your community, interact with other professionals in your community, assist with RI's international humanitarian service efforts, establish contacts with an international network of professionals and develop leadership skills all while encouraging the involvement of our member's family's in promoting service efforts.

#### **About Discovery Center of Springfield:**

The Discovery Center of Springfield (DCS) is a nonprofit, community funded science center that inspires curiosity and a life-long love of learning through memorable and engaging hands-on experiences in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education by delivering a world-class experience through cutting edge science. DCS is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, that relies on admissions, memberships, program fees, and donations to continue their educational mission, programs and exhibits. To learn how you can support the Discover Center during this crisis, visit [www.discoverycenter.org/help](http://www.discoverycenter.org/help).