

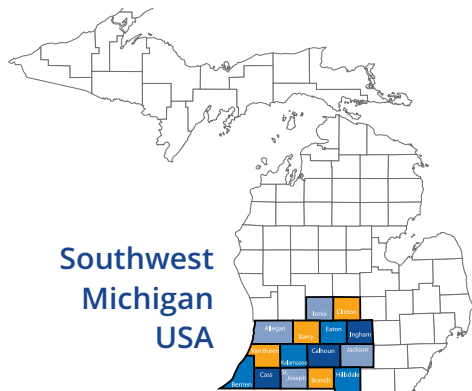
Rotary Heroes Recognition

Saturday, May 3, 2025



District Conference
Michigan Maritime Museum
South Haven, Michigan, USA

Rotary 
District 6360



Rotary
District 6360





Albion

John Williams *"Money Man does it all"*

Dr. John Williams is the 2025 Hero of the Rotary Club of Albion. John has been an Albion Rotarian for 25 years, having served the club as treasurer for 15 years. Over the years, he has assisted several other community organizations of which he, or his wife Donna, have been affiliated. He has been the one to turn to for help with accounting and record keeping. John and Donna are loyal supporters of the Albion community. They attend a broad and full assortment of events and participate in many community activities. Without discrimination, they do it all. John is a retired professor at Albion College in astronomy and other disciplines.



Battle Creek

Kathy Gallagher and Kelli Scott

"Super Transition Team"



The Rotary Club of Battle Creek underwent a huge transition during the year 2024-2025. We no longer have paid administrative support, so members had to step up to cover the approximately 12 hours of work each week to keep the club running. Two club members have been particularly crucial to our club making a smooth and successful transition: Kathy Gallagher and Kelli Scott.

Kathy took on many of the responsibilities of managing the day-to-day needs of the club such as communications, banking, attendance and maintaining DACdb. She pays our bills and works closely with our club treasurer and finance committee chair to make sure all financial requirements are met for the club. She helped facilitate a new online system for invoicing and collecting dues. She does much of the running around and attends to the minutia that keeps us running smoothly. This is in addition to everything she does for the club on an ongoing basis. These activities include Chair of the Membership Committee and sending out press releases as part of the Public Image Committee. She acts as a key liaison between our club and the district, especially regarding youth services, and District and International grants. She demonstrates leadership by engaging our club members in supporting the Rotary Foundation. She assists in welcoming club members at weekly meetings, recruiting potential members, and developing relationships with people in the community on behalf of the club. During this time of transition for our club, she has provided guidance and steadfast leadership.

Kelli Scott, is our club Treasurer. This past year, however, she has gone above and beyond her usual duties by leading the thinking about how we could transition from operating with professional administrative support to volunteer only. Kelli took on invoicing members for dues. She also created new financial policies, procedures, role descriptions and a calendar for essential club duties and events, creating documentation for all these new processes. She has patiently explained everything to the club's Finance Committee and administrative transition team. Kelli also improved our partnership practices with the Battle Creek Community Foundation for the education fund that we manage. Her role in our transition is invaluable.



Benton Harbor Sunrise

Cindy Kinney *"Doing It All"*

Because of Cindy Kinney, the Rotary Club of Benton Harbor-Sunrise is active, doing many different projects in our community. Cindy is always ready to raise her hand and do the work! She wrote last year's District Grant, and has been busy getting members to the library to work with visiting students. She is writing this year's District Grant, and jumped in when a member couldn't organize our highway cleanup. Then, when the weather was bad, she called everyone to change the time. She definitely wants all of us to be involved, and wants the club to be active. We couldn't do it without her!



Berrien Springs/Eau Claire

Rhiannon Cizon - *"Full of Creative Energy and Unrelenting Drive"*

Rhi spearheaded the club's 2024 Rotary Clock project. She managed the \$20,000 project and created the fundraising materials. She worked with the Village on site location and installation, overcoming several delays, including winter weather. She arranged installing electric service and pouring the cement base. For three years, Rhi never, ever gave up! Recently, Rhi voluntarily donated a kidney through the National Kidney Register for a recipient in Pennsylvania. She's recovered and back on the job as Executive Director of the History Center at Courthouse Square, where she has redesigned and renovated the museum's exhibits, reorganized and preserved archives (in progress), and continues improvements of the historic buildings. The Rotary Club makes modest annual grants to help the Center's educational programs. She's also on the organizing team of the Berrien Springs Pickle Festival, held on the History Center's grounds. Our Rotary Club is a sponsor and provides volunteers.



Cereal City Sunrise

Cassie Scramlin - *"Rotary Promoter"*

As the public image chair of our club, Cassie has pushed us to increase our social media presence. Not only bringing our Facebook page back from the dead, she pushed to start an active web page. She is continually learning new and better ways to increase our visibility within the community through various methods. She is one to reach out to other business leaders within our community to present at our meetings, which leads to new members. Cassie is truly an ideal Rotarian, promoting and supporting our club every chance she gets!



Charlotte

Barbara Fulton - *"Articulate Community Inspirator"*

Barbara has been very involved in the Charlotte community. She is Executive Director of Eaton Community Health (ECH), a nonprofit organization dealing with fundamental conditions for healthy communities. Prior to this position, she worked as the Director of Community Development at Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital for 14 years. Barbara has a long family history with Rotary, as her grandfather was a charter member of Rotary Club of Charlotte. Her father was a long-time member of the club, and her brother and sister are both members of the club. She is currently the Chair of the Charlotte Mirror committee and does an outstanding job in putting out our weekly publication. Barbara brings energy and passion to every role that she fulfills. We are proud to have her as our Rotary Hero!



Climax

Robert Scherer - "A True Rotarian"

Rob has been a dedicated supporter of the Climax community and our Rotary organization. As President of the Rotary Club of Climax for three terms, he prioritized aid to local schools, community members in need, and park maintenance. Beyond our local community, he encouraged contributions to PolioPlus, Rotary Clean Water Initiatives, and aid to refugees in Poland and Ukraine. Currently, Rob is our Past President and the New Membership and Youth Leader Chair, consistently exemplifying service above self. A true Rotarian!



Coldwater Township Sunrise

Kathy Merrill - "Rotary Champion"

Kathy Merrill exemplifies Service Above Self. She has her fingers on the pulse in Branch County and is great at networking and social events. Kathy embodies what "Rotary Service" and "Service Above Self" truly mean. She takes on active leadership roles, both formal and informal, in club governance and activities. Her attention to detail in organizing and executing social and fundraising events is a key element in ensuring the events we undertake are professionally executed, well respected in the community, and most of all, fun! Her involvement with RI ensures we have a solid connection on that important front, and her willingness (along with Rick of course) to offer their house and fine cuisine for Rotary social events and fundraising dinners is service above and beyond the call of duty. She has been a great asset to the club's Promise Scholarship Program Foundation effort for the past five years.



Delta Waverly

Larry Ewing - "Long-term Dedicated Rotarian"

Ninety-one-year-old Larry Ewing first joined Rotary in 1968 in the Lansing club. He transferred to our Delta-Waverly club in 1971. He served as club president there in 1977-78. After a job change and move to Florida, he joined the Gainesville club and was a member for 17 years. After retirement, he moved to Michigan and rejoined the Delta-Waverly club. Through the years, he has been involved in too many projects to mention, including hosting Rotary Exchange members. He regularly attends club meetings, and as an Upper Peninsula native, he loves telling humorous stories of his life as a "Yooper." We are proud to honor Larry Ewing as our Rotary Hero!



Delton Area

Wyoma Smith - *"Money! Money! Money!"*

Wyoma Smith joined the Delton Rotary Club in February 2018 after visiting numerous clubs and deciding she liked the hands-on, engaged-with-the-community approach of the Delton members. She has been the treasurer of our club since shortly after joining and has also been one of our successful grant-writers. She arranged for our club to purchase a Zoom membership at the beginning of the COVID pandemic so we could stay in touch, and was also instrumental in helping us purchase a Meeting OWL to make our Zoom experience user-friendly to all. We have members check in while on vacation, home sick, or when we have bad weather. Her financial prowess led to creating a Venmo account for our club so that dues, fundraisers, and happy bucks can be easily paid. She keeps our money straight, and we truly appreciate her.



Dowagiac

Jennifer Ray - *"Shining Light"*

As her last name indicates, Jennifer Ray brightens up any room she enters! Jennifer joined our club in 2005, new to Rotary the year it was celebrating its 100th birthday. When she became a Rotarian, she was head librarian of the Cass District

Library system. She has shared her organizing and leadership skills with our Dowagiac Rotary Club since that time, always putting "Service Above Self." It is fitting that the year she was club president, 2015-2016, the Rotary theme was: "Be a Gift to the World." Jennifer continues to "gift" us through her club membership while serving as club secretary for multiple years and participating in every club fundraiser and project. Jennifer Ray is truly a shining Rotary Hero!



East Lansing

Mark Henne - *"Energetic, Loyal & Reliable"*

Mark Henne joined the Rotary Club of East Lansing on November 1, 1997. He has been a very active Rotarian every year since he joined our club. He has served as our Club President on three occasions, in 2004-2005, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020. Mark served as our 6360 District Governor in 2012-2013. He has also served on virtually every committee within our club. He is currently our club's Sargeant-at-Arms, our Rotary International Foundation Chair, serves on our East Lansing Rotary Club Board of Directors, and on the East Lansing Rotary Foundation Board of Directors. Mark is also a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. There is not any East Lansing Rotarian that is more deserving as a Club Hero!



Eaton Rapids

Dr. Dan Wrubel - *"A Vision for a Better Future"*

Thirty years ago, Dr. Dan Wrubel visited the small Caribbean Island of Dominica to help perform eye examinations and prescribe and distribute eyeglasses to their citizens. A year later, Dr. Dan (as he is lovingly known) took over the Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) mission in Dominica. Now, celebrating VOSH's 30 years on the island, Dr. Dan is still working, organizing and growing VOSH's mission to help serve those in need. Dr. Dan's connections to Rotary helped to blaze the trail for this awesome "Service Above Self" project. The linking of the Eaton Rapids club to the Rotary Clubs of Dominica at Roseau and Portsmouth were integral in this mission's success. VOSH's mission in 2024 saw the 32 volunteers meet with nearly 1,500 patients, dispensing over 3,000 pairs of glasses and referring 140 patients for potentially serious conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension and cataracts. Dr. Dan Wrubel is a true Rotary hero who embodies Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.



Grand Ledge

Ariel Backus - *"Chicken Whisperer"*

Ariel brings everything fresh to our aging club! She's young and has tons of energy! In fact, after only being a club member for two years, she elected herself to become our club, President! But not only for one year, she offered her expertise for a consecutive two-year term! That's not only dedication to our club, but to our community as well! Ariel loves to serve her community, and you'll see her at almost every event and parade in Grand Ledge volunteering her time! She proudly teaches Hospitality at MSU! Go Green! She is also a board member for the Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce! When she's not busy volunteering, working full-time, and being an amazing wife/mom, she is highly sought after throughout the Midwest to judge chickens at County Fairs! Yes, Ariel is the "Chicken Whisperer" and she loves her judging role! We are so lucky and proud to have her as our 2025 Club Hero!



Gull Lake Area

Kim Lewis - *"Ambassador for Rotary"*

Kim is the perfect example of Rotary's motto "Service Above Self." She is very active in all club activities, service projects and fund-raisers. She has served as club president, a member of the Social Committee, and chair of the Youth Services Committee. When traveling, Kim and her husband Steve often find Rotary clubs to visit, and they have attended several Rotary International conventions. Kim has been instrumental in exceeding a long-standing club goal by establishing not one, but two Interact clubs in our area. She is a great ambassador for Rotary and for our club. Kim is now looking forward to serving as chair of the District 6360 Interact Committee.



Harbor Country

Tom Rosenbluth - *"Rotarian of All Trades"*

We have selected Tom Rosenbluth as our club's Rotary Hero with the title "Rotarian of All Trades." The sheer breadth and depth of Tom's contributions to Rotary qualify him as a hero. In his six years as a member of Harbor Country Rotary Club, Tom has led or played leading roles in an unusually wide variety of important initiatives, both in our club and the broader District 6360. This has included: serving as President of the club; driving the establishment of our club foundation; raising more funds for our service projects than any other member in our history; leading our Literacy program, providing hundreds of local kids with thousands of books, and tutoring them to read better; co-leading the district effort to encourage greater diversity of club members, and promoting greater opportunities for members from the widest possible mix of backgrounds to meaningfully contribute to their clubs' success; and facilitating the district initiative to ensure all our clubs develop strategic plans with defined objectives, leaders, and timelines for success, including leading planning processes at multiple clubs. We are truly fortunate to have Tom as a member of our Rotary Club!



Haslett-Okemos

Marla Ekola - *"Energetic Catalyst for Young Leaders"*

The Rotary Club of Haslett-Okemos is excited to honor Marla Ekola as our 2025 Rotary Hero! Marla is an exceptional leader in our community, serving for years as the Scoutmaster of the Scouting America troop sponsored by the Haslett-Okemos Rotary club. Marla is the Scoutmaster of one of the first all-female troops in Michigan, established after the Boy Scouts of America allowed girls to join in February 2019. She is also the District Chair for Scouting America in the Greater Lansing area. She is an energetic leader and has made an immeasurable impact on countless youths. Marla has and is organizing service projects in our local community, bringing together scouts and Rotarians to beautify our local parks and serve our neighbors. Marla makes a tangible impact on our community, and our Rotary Club is pleased to honor her as our 2025 Rotary Hero!



Hastings

Chelsey Foster *"Active Community Leadership"*

Chelsey transferred to the Rotary Club of Hastings from the Ithaca club in 2013, where he was President. Chelsey served as President of the Hastings Club in 2016. He has been very active in leading community projects, including the annual Christmas parade and the Barry County Roubaix Bicycle Road Race which draws over 5,600 participants. In addition to working on many of the club's service projects, Chelsey led the club's Polio Project and currently works with two neighboring Rotary Clubs leading the Imagination Library Project, which provides books monthly to hundreds of children in the area. Chelsey has travelled to the Dominican Republic as a member of the District's WASH Team. He has received the club's highest honor - The Red Rose Award. Chelsey's wife Jillian also has served as our club's President. Chelsey currently is the Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Highpoint Community Bank in Hastings.



Jackson Breakfast
Brent & Barbara Southwell
- *"Breakfast Club Family"*

Brent and Barbara Southwell were selected by their club as a couple because they do everything together and have really gotten involved in Rotary since they joined us in June of 2023. They have made "Service Above Self" one of their family goals, especially by hosting our exchange student for the year. Barb especially likes working on projects and fundraisers, and dives in as the leader. We are currently putting together a "Rotary in the Park" day at the Cascades county park, which will include a pickleball tournament and concert at the Rotary Bandshell, which they are championing. We enjoy their energy and welcome the continuous smiles they bring to our club!



Kalamazoo
Nick Boyd - *"Activator for Reigniting Interact"*

Nick Boyd joined the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo in 2017. Nick originally joined Rotary because his personal life mission and work as Regional VP of Primerica Financial Services aligned so closely with that of Rotarians: "being truth-tellers, building good will, better friendships and being beneficial to all concerned with a commitment of Service above Self." As the primary activator for reigniting Interact in Kalamazoo over the past couple of years, he has also served as lead chaperone for the Interact D6360 mission trip to the Dominican Republic for the 2024 and 2025 teams. He currently serves on the Kalamazoo Rotary Board, is a member of the District 6360 Young Leaders Committee, and was nominated to attend the 2024 Rotary Zone 28 Emerging Leaders seminar in Toronto. Thank you, Nick, for your dedication to the leaders of tomorrow and for living out our mission of Service Above Self!



Lakeshore
Sally Ernst - *"International Rotarian Champion"*

Sally Ernst is Rotary Club of Lakeshore's 2025 Hero, selected for her work with the Guatemala Literacy Program. The GLP involves students, parents, teachers, school and community in the education of their students. Three Rotary International Presidents have called this program the "Gold Standard" of Global Grants. Sally is also involved with the VOSH eyeglass mission to Kenya and Egypt. She has taken five trips to help distribute eyeglasses to people in need. As a member of the Rotary Youth Exchange program, Sally gives up her time to take inbound exchange students on monthly weekend trips to Chicago, Mackinaw City, Nubs Nob Ski Lodge and Niagara Falls. A member of Rotary since 1998, Sally is the epitome of an International Rotarian and is truly our hero.



Lansing

Jennifer Marsh - *"Dedicated Leader"*

Jennifer Marsh has been chosen as the Rotary Club of Lansing's Hero. Having served as Treasurer of both the Club and its Foundation for the past six years, Jennifer has demonstrated her financial expertise and leadership and her commitment to Rotary values and goals. In addition, as Foundation Treasurer, Jennifer actively assisted in the design and publication of the first Foundation Board Member Handbook, which features an entire section devoted to Budgeting and Financial Reporting. She also contributed to the Financial Policies section of the Foundation's Policies and Procedures. An informed and focused educator, Jennifer makes every effort to ensure that Club and Foundation Board Directors are up-to-date and knowledgeable about all financial issues that impact on our organizations. Her ongoing communication with all of us is invaluable.



Marshall

Jack Reed - *"Service Project Guy"*

Jack Reed is the 2025 Marshall Rotary Club's Hero. Jack and his wife Lisa moved to Marshall in 1993. Since then, they have been actively involved in several community improvement organizations. Jack served as Mayor from 2015 to 2018. He joined the Rotary Club in 2018. Jack directed a very successful year as club president in 2020-2021. Since then, he has been the club's "Service Project Guy". Club service projects that Jack has helped organize and coordinate include tree planting, painting fire hydrants, painting sidewalk markings for self-guided walks, Farmers' Market volunteers, music at the fountain and Rotary Band event volunteers, Fourth of July celebration volunteers, Christmas basket giveaway volunteers, Salvation Army bellringers, and park cleanups. He also helps with all club fundraising events, and he is on the committee that reviews club scholarship applications. Jack lives our moto "Service Above Self."



Mason

Melody Bennett - *"Energizer Bunny"*

Melody joined our club as a Corporate Associate in 2023. She was enthusiastic about the club, and when our nominating committee wanted to nominate her for President-Elect, it was a no-brainer for her. Her son Isaac is itching to become a Rotarian, so Melody is actively working with our Youth Leader program and the schools to get an Interact Club started. With our 40th anniversary this year, we are planning to have a celebration in conjunction with the city's dedication of new playground equipment. Melody has set up an Epic Day of Service to clean up our bandshell and the park around it. She is also encouraging students to come work and get their volunteer hours in. Melody has accomplished so much in the short time she has been a member of the club. She is taking "Service Above Self" to heart and getting our club reenergized.



Oshtemo

Gary Heckman - "Creating Positive Ripple Effects"

Gary Heckman has been named the 2025 Oshtemo Rotary Club Hero. This is a well-deserved recognition for his longstanding commitment to service above self. Over the years, Gary has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of those around him. He is always the "first on board" to volunteer. His volunteer work spans a wide range of local organizations and even helps log driver's training hours. You name it, Gary will be there with a pleasant smile on his face. His ability to inspire others, coupled with his selflessness, makes him a true role model for every person he meets. Plus, he always has the most thoughtful Happy Bucks that reflect his week's highlights. As the 2025 Oshtemo Rotary Club Hero, Gary embodies the spirit of Service Above Self, proving that one person's efforts can create a ripple effect of positive change throughout an entire community.



Otsego

Jason Smith - "Service with a Smile"

Jason Smith is a servant leader -- he serves all. He serves not only his community but also his fellow Rotarians. Every successful club has that one person who is basically the glue to keep everything together. Jason does that, and with a smile. Jason's being a youth pastor brings a wealth of traits and abilities that carry over to his Rotarian role. He is present at all events, with welcoming arms to serve. He is also serving his second term as Otsego City Commission, where he is working to ensure the community is being served. While he is excellent at serving the community, Jason really shines within our Rotary Club. Jason is the Past President and is currently serving as the Club Secretary. Jason fills what appears to be all of our gaps. Otherwise, I'm not sure how we would get anything accomplished! Jason Smith is our Rotary Hero.



Paw Paw Lake

Scott Krennek - "I Will Find Time"

The Rotary Club of Paw Paw Lake has proudly selected Scott Krennek, as its Rotary Club Hero for 2025. He was selected for this honor by a vote of our membership. Scott is our "I will find time" Rotarian. He is a charter member of our club and has served as club President twice. He always steps up when needed and encourages members to get involved. This has helped keep our club going. He is very active in Rotary and serves on many committees. Scott involves his family in Rotary. They are all Paul Harris Fellows and help with many fundraisers. Scott's son is a Paw Paw Lake Rotary member, and his daughter is joining our club. Scott is a true example of "Service Above Self."



Portage

Roy Dangel - *"Service for a Cause, Not the Applause"*

Roy Dangel serves for a cause, not applause. He is dedicated to our club and many other organizations in our community, contributing to his vocational talents with integrity and quiet confidence. Roy inspires others with his actions. Service Above Self is how he lives his life, often behind the scenes. A frequent attendee at community events, Roy is well known around the Kalamazoo area and has a great reputation. A past club president, Roy serves on many club committees and has been treasurer for several years. He has invested untold personal time in organizing our club's financial records and establishing processes. We are in good hands with Roy as our treasurer. He is always one of the first Rotarians to step up when help is needed. Roy has a huge heart, is an asset to our community and truly exemplifies what a Rotary Hero is.



South Haven

Ross Woodhams - *"Ross Does it All!"*

Ross has been a Rotary member for many years. He has always pitched in on Rotary projects, including the important Blueberry Pancake Breakfast at the South Haven Airport. In addition to registering the event with the airport authority and helping with set up and tear down, he provides a professional and entertaining play-by-play of the air show participants. Ross is also always there to help with the technical end of the Rotary Club's weekly meetings. Whether fixing last-minute technical glitches, sourcing new equipment or standing by to be the weekly IT administrator at meetings, he does it all. Technology today is not plug and play. In addition, he donates a lot of time to the high school music program and the Casco Band. Ross is always doing good.



St. Johns

Becky VanCamp - *"Take the Bull by the Horns"*

We selected Becky VanCamp as the St. Johns Rotary Club Hero this year. In 2024, the club decided to change their biggest fundraiser from a dinner to "Cow Races." In her true fashion of "taking the bull by the horns." Becky became chair of the event and executed it wonderfully. Since joining the club in 2020, she has always been an active member, board member, and volunteer with whatever project the club is working on. She has become a great asset to the club and now fulfills the role of Social Media Expert Extraordinaire, keeping our Facebook Page up to date with any and all speakers and events we have going on. She truly deserves the title of Rotary Hero.

**St. Joseph/Benton Harbor****Renee Borah - *"Ready & Reliable"***

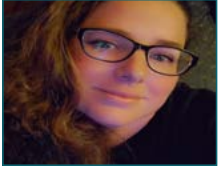
Renee is President-Elect of the Rotary Club of St. Joseph & Benton Harbor and her business, Affinity Salon and Spa, was voted one of the "Top 20 Businesses to Work For" in Southwest Michigan. Renee is an extremely high energy, personable, motivated, multi-tasking Rotarian, who jumps continually to serve our Club. Since 2018, she has co-chaired the club's signature annual track meet event and scholarship program, serving hundreds of athletes from schools across SW Michigan. She is also Co-Editor of the club's weekly newsletter, the eWheel, a Paul Harris +1 contributor, managed a Rotary Logo Apparel effort, and is a constant presence at Rotary meetings. She created the "Women of Rotary" campaign for Women's History month, and the "Who is this Rotarian?" committee. She participates in club events such as Adopt-a-Highway, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, and whatever needs support. She is very active in the community, and she runs marathons!

**Sturgis****Ondrej Seibert - *"Brave Beyond Borders"***

Ondrej Seibert is an amazing young man. The Rotary Club of Sturgis has been honored to have him as our youth exchange student for the 2024-2025 Rotary year. He is brave for coming on youth exchange. His bravery and strength have been exemplified by his participation in activities that he's never done before, such as football and track. He makes the most of every opportunity presented to him. His work ethic has afforded him the opportunity to participate in youth in government programs and play varsity basketball, all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. We are honored to have Ondrej represent our club as its 2025 Hero!

**Three Rivers****Kelly Hostetler - *"Tireless Advocate"***

Kelly Hostetler is a tireless advocate for the St. Joseph County community. As director of the SJC United Way since its inception more than 25 years ago, she now raises over \$1 million each year benefiting 42 funded agencies, families who have experienced a catastrophic loss, people who could use a nice holiday dinner, and many others. This success would not be possible without her attendance at all hours of the day or night at company-wide meetings, setup of an 18-hour Radio-Thon in the spring and week-long silent auction at the St. Joseph County Grange Fair in the fall, and dozens of smaller fundraisers throughout the year. Kelly truly cares about those she serves and will move heaven and earth to find solutions to problems. She has built positive relationships with local social service personnel, law enforcement, healthcare workers, store management, media, and many more who help when needed.

**Union City****Rachael Keller - "Hometown Hero"**

Rachael Keller was born and raised in Union City by her parents, Donald and Brenda Keller. Rachael is the proud mom of three amazing kids: Patience, Josilyn, and Annamea. She has been part of the Union City Auxiliary Fire Department for three years, and is co-owner of the family business, K & K Building Service, started by her father in 1950. Rachael became an official Rotarian in 2023, serving as co-chair of the Sap Committee, but she has been active in helping with this project since she was eight. Our annual maple syrup fundraiser is very labor intensive, requiring many hours daily over the course of five to six weeks. Rachael pulls the sap wagon around for pick up, organizes the work crews and helpers, and many other tasks that go along with the project. For all she does, Union City Rotary has selected Rachael Keller as our hero.

**Vicksburg****Michael Wunderlin - "Mr. Positivity"**

Mike is positive and innovative, always looking for ways to contribute and make a difference in our community. With Mike and others' efforts, the club has partnered with "It Takes a Village Tree Project" to fundraise and revitalize the tree canopy in the Village of Vicksburg. He helps grow the club's endowment through book auctions, providing a quick review of a book and encouraging club members to bid during meetings. Not only does it help the club's finances, but it also adds camaraderie and fun for the group. Mike rejoined the Vicksburg club in 2019, served a second time as club president and is currently a STRIVE mentor.

**Williamston****Denise White - "Solution Generator"**

A retired nurse who just recently moved to Williamston and joined Rotary, Denise White is our 2025 Williamston Rotary Club Hero. Fellow club members describe her as having a fresh perspective, being thorough, and willing to go the extra mile. She exhibited these attributes while chairing the 2024 Williamston Rotary Duck Race, which funds over 25K in community grants annually. She is a doer, not a spectator, always ready to pitch in, no matter the task. There are many "problem identifiers", but Denise is a unique "solution generator" who brings positive and creative energy to the Club. In addition, Denise is a community activist who assists in providing meals for our Rotary-operated Blessing Box, serves in several volunteer positions within the Williamston United Methodist Church, and most recently joined the board of the non-profit Sowing Growth, which operates the Williamston Farm and Artisan Market. Denise clearly inspires us to commit to service above self.

OUR CAUSES

Rotary is dedicated to causes known as the seven areas of focus that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio

“As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect.

By carrying out service projects and supporting our communities, members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.”



**PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION**



**DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT**



**WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE**



**MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH**



**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**



**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



ENVIRONMENT

> SMART

> COMPASSIONATE

> PERSEVERING

> INSPIRING



For more Heroes Stories visit:
www.district6360.com/