**District Grant Awards for 2023-2024**

Congratulations to the district clubs who have been approved for 2023-2024 District Grant funding for their projects below! Thank you to each club and Rotarian for *Creating Hope in the World.* You will make a positive contribution in your communities and the world through these District Grants.

**Arcola** - *Community Development* - **$2000**

Arcola Depot Visitor Center: The historic Illinois Central Depot serves as Arcola’s Tourism & Welcome Center & museum of local history. Club members will volunteer at the visitor center, perform upkeep on the interior & the exterior gardens, & restore some of the building’s windows and sill plates. The club & city will provide additional funds. Grant funds will go toward repairs & replacement windows.

**Bloomington** - *Community Development -* **$1500**

**Bloomington-Normal Daybreak** - *Community Development* - **$1500**

**Bloomington-Normal Sunset** - *Community Development* - **$1500**

**Normal** *- Community Development -* **$1500**

**Bloomington-Normal Sunrise** - *Community Development -* **$2000**

Bloomington Normal Rotary Mural: Five Rotary clubs are collaborating to develop a downtown mural that resembles a vintage drive-in theater on historic Route 66 to create a community meeting place where movies will be shown monthly (except during winter). Members will help with wall preparation, movie shows (with educational Rotary video shorts), & concession sales to benefit local projects. Clubs will do fundraisers & solicit sponsorships for additional funds. Grant funds will go toward artist fees & mural supplies.

**Bloomington Pub Club** - *Health* - **$2000**

Empowering Through Essentials: Club members will assemble personal care packages containing items for maintaining personal hygiene & well-being for Home Sweet Home Ministries, a charitable organization that provides support & assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness or facing challenging life situations. The club will hold fundraisers to raise additional funds. Grant funds will go toward personal care products for the care kits.

**Casey** - *Education* - **$1500**

Project Connect: This club will assist with updating an inefficient router at the Casey Township Library to improve WIFI speed, reliability, and coverage for library patrons and library programs. Club members will host monthly Popcorn Fridays at the library for the Gaming Club participants. Grant funds will go toward a new router.

**Champaign** - *Community Development* - **$2000**

Randolph Street Garden Optimization: This club will optimize a local community garden by cleaning the garden to prepare for spring planting, assembling drip irrigation kits, & providing a seminar to help students & families in the impoverished neighborhood grow their own fresh produce. Grant funds will go toward irrigation, compost, plants, & other garden supplies. Rotary signage will be placed in the social gathering area.

**Champaign-Urbana Sunrise** - *Health* - **$2000**

Winter Kits for Home Visiting Consortium: This club will create 400 Winter Kits for children aged 1-5 in at-risk families for distribution by a local home-visiting consortium. Kits will include mittens, hats, socks, books, & information on the importance of talk, play, & reading to children. Grant funds will go toward winter wear and books. Each kit will have a label crediting Rotary.

**Charleston** - *Education* - **$1250**

International Outreach: Creating a Culture of Care for EIU International Students: This club will deepen its connection to EIU’s Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) through participation in OISS programs, International Teas, & inviting students to attend & present at club meetings. Grant funds will go toward Rotary-branded items for new students, International Teas, & guest lunches. The club will provide additional funds.

**Clinton** - *Education -* **$1100**

Financial Literacy Month Book Read & Giveaway: This club will provide books about saving for a goal to 15 local elementary classrooms to help them learn important financial literacy skills. Rotarians will read the book to students, provide a lesson on the concepts, & hand out books to students. Grant funds will be used for the purchase of 250 books, which will each have a label with the Rotary logo.

**Danville** - *Community Development -* **$1750**

Thanksgiving Baskets: This club plans to provide Thanksgiving meals for over 30 low-income families. Rotarians will purchase & collect food, pack items, and deliver them to families identified by a local non-profit. Grant funds will go toward the purchase of food items & cooking supplies.

**Decatur** - *Community Development* - **$2000**

Ukrainian Family Project: This club’s ambitious project is to relocate & sponsor 2 families from Ukraine through the “Uniting for Ukraine” humanitarian program. To supplement grant funds, the club is donating funds, & securing generous sponsorships & donations to provide airfare, rent, food, clothing & other living expenses for these families for a year to help them get settled, secure healthcare, & find employment.

**Dwight** - *Community Development* - **$500**

Rotary Signage on “Welcome to Dwight” billboards: This club plans to purchase & install new “Welcome to Dwight” billboard structures at the 4 primary highway entrances to the town. A reflective Rotary sign will be included on each. Club members will install the signage.

**Effingham** - *Community Development* - **$1400**

Effingham Animal Control Appreciation Project: This club plans to hold an information drive & appreciation day for Effingham County Animal Shelter & Control, one of only 3 no kill/Control Centers in the state. The club will print & distribute information about the shelter’s services, donate supplies for the shelter, & provide fee support for spay/neutering services for several families. Grant funds will go to the printing, supplies, & vet fees.

**Eureka** *- Community Development* - **$2,000**

Eureka Lake Park Pavilion Project: This club will work with the city to build, place, & promote new picnic tables & a bench at the Eureka Lake Park Pavilion to enhance that recreation area & provide more seating for families, residents, & visitors. The club will match grant funds toward the tables & bench. A sign with the Rotary emblem will be included at the pavilion.

**Hoopeston**- *Health -* **$2000**

Encouragement Kits: This club plans to create & distribute 125 “encouragement kits” to residents facing difficult situations - homelessness, hospital & nursing home stays, being a shut-in, & for children living in tumultuous homes. They will work with local organizations to identify those in need & create age-appropriate kits. The club will provide additional funding & use grant funds for bags with the Rotary logo, hygiene items, clothing, food, books & games.

**Mahomet** *- Education -* **$2000**

Making Children’s Books More Accessible with Flip-Front Bins: Children are more likely to choose & check out library books when they can see the beautiful covers instead of just the spines, as is seen in standard library shelving. This club is helping the local library convert their children’s picture book section with 42 acrylic bins & a book relabeling project to prepare books for being shelved in a face-front configuration. Grant funds will supplement club donations & library funds to purchase bins & labels.

**Marshal**l - *Community Development -* **$1500**

Community Benches: This club plans to provide 4 community benches for Lincoln Trail State Park so that visitors have a place to rest & for sitting to watch the 2024 near total solar eclipse. Club members will also be installing Rotary plaques on the benches. Club funds & grant funds will go towards benches & plaques.

**Mattoon**- *Health -* **$2000**

Mattresses or Kids: A good night’s sleep is essential for the health & well-being of children. This club will work with the local school to identify youth who need mattresses & bedding, then select, purchase, & deliver 13 mattress sets from Slumberland, which will donate the bedding. Grant funds will be used for mattresses & Rotary tote bags for the bedding.

**Metamora-Germantown Hills** - *Community Development* - **$1500**

Park Benches for MTCO Park Playground: To support a playground that is to be built within the MTCO Athletic Complex in Germantown Hills, this club will purchase & install 2 benches to beautify the park & provide seating for young & old to enjoy. Grant funds will go toward the purchase of the benches. A permanent plaque will be placed on the benches recognizing Rotary’s contribution.

**Monticello** - *Community Development* - **$2000**

Helping Hand for “Small Hand – Piatt Country Cares, Inc.”: The Small Hand-Piatt County Cares organization serves needy families, single mothers, foster families, & the elderly throughout Piatt County with diapers, infant needs, & food. This club’s project is to clean up the outside & inside of Small Hand & help them restock their pantry. The club will match grant funds to purchase food, diapers, formula, baby supplies, & cleaning supplies.

**Moraine View****Satellite** - *Water -* **$1800**

Lead in Le Roy: Addressing Lead Exposures in Le Roy’s Water System: The city of Le Roy has found elevated levels of lead in the water supply. Until the city can fully address the issue, this club will launch an educational campaign to raise awareness. They will assist needy families, daycares, & schools in applying for lead testing & clean water grants & provide water filtration dispensers at no or reduced cost for up to 75 families. Grant funds will go toward educational materials & household filtration products.

**Rantoul** - *Health* - **$1850**

Outdoor Billboards to Increase Mental Health Awareness: This club will partner with the Rantoul Police Department’s 4U Rantoul Initiative on an information campaign to reduce stigma & raise awareness of mental health services. They plan a 6-month project of placing educational posters on billboards through the community & will amplify the messages through the media & Facebook. The 4U Initiative will match grant funds for the billboards.

**Sullivan** *- Health* - **$1000**

Team IMPACT: This club will work with Moultrie Counseling & Team IMPACT, a student action group focused on leadership development & community collaboration to assist marginalized youth anonymously request & acquire personal care items, clothing, & food. Rotarians will donate non-perishable food products & invite Team IMPACT members to participate in service & volunteer projects. Grant funds will be used for personal hygiene products.

**Tuscola** - *Health* -**$2000**

Teen Mental Health First Aid Program: This club will partner with RISE Behavioral Health & the Douglas County Health Department to bring Teen Mental Health First Aid (fMHFA) to all H.S. upper-classmen in Douglas County & teach students how to identify, understand, & respond to signs of mental health & substance-use challenges. Rotarians will host speakers & submit newspaper articles. Significant personal, club, organization & other grant funds will supplement this grant to support the training & facilitation of the program.

**Urbana** - *Community Development -* **$1850**

Plant People with Steer Place: This club will host monthly plant sessions at a public housing facility for seniors, encouraging them to mingle & meet their neighbors post-COVID. Residents can pot plants, get advice on their plants, and socialize with Rotarians & other residents over refreshments at the sessions. Grant funds will go toward plants, planting supplies & refreshments.