**District Grant Awards for 2022-2023**

Congratulations to the district clubs who have been approved for 2022-2023 District Grant funding for their projects below! Thank you to each club and Rotarian for *Serving to Change Lives.* You will make a positive contribution in our communities and the world through these District Grants.

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

The Arcola Community Building is widely enjoyed by local citizens for public & private events, & its kitchen is an important facility for food-related fundraisers for the club & for activities of other groups. Club members will update the kitchen by thoroughly cleaning the space & painting it. They will supply non-slip floor mats & a new commercial stove with grant funds, matched by the club.

**Bloomington-Normal Daybreak** *–Health -* **$1384**

A local shelter is a restorative home for survivors of human trafficking & extreme abuse. This club will help the residents on their healing journey by building a gazebo, garden, & bird sanctuary to create a safe, healing space. Club members will work in teams to do the construction. Grant funds will fund the gazebo.

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

Children in the local school district share one pair of shoes in their household. If it is not a child's day for the shoes, they do not go to school. This club is working to supply shoes in various sizes to these children. Club members will liaison with Promise Shoes to purchase & distribute shoes. Grant funds will go for shoes. Club members will donate & hold fundraisers to raise additional funds

**Bloomington-Normal Sunrise** – *Education* - **$1500**

Club members will serve as volunteers for the Children’s Discovery Museum after-school outreach program STEAM activities. They will also support the Carle BroMenn Medical Center literacy program by supplying books & reading to young patients. Grant funds will purchase books for pediatrician offices.

**Bloomington-Normal Sunset** - *Education* - **$700**

This club will work to provide e-learning stations to a boys & a girls elementary school in the village of Jalamb, in the state of Maharashtra, India. These stations include a large tv monitor on the wall & software. These stations result in an increase in attendance & enrollment of students at the schools. A member of the club will travel to India to supervise the installation.

**Champaign** – *Community Development* - **$1755**

First String is an organization which brings sports programming to an underserved area of the community. A popular program is the annual basketball camp. Club members will volunteer at the camp & through the year to assist with such things as registration, serving meals, coaching, and other tasks. Grant funds will cover T-shirts at the camp.

**Champaign-Urbana Illini After Five** - *Education* - **$1500**

The more that beginning readers read at home, the more they improve in a wide range of academic areas. This club will work with an elementary school to incentivize young readers by providing a visual display of home reading progress by grade & prizes for reading done. Grant funds will go for books & prizes. Rotarians will participate by reading to students & participating in a reading event.

**Champaign-Urbana Sunrise** - *Education* - **$2,000**

This club wants to help Books to Prisoners secure much-requested GED Test Prep guides for incarcerated people in Illinois prisons. They will use grant funds to purchase at least 125 of the guides & hope to supplement that order with club member donations. Rotarians will select & donate books, then pack them for mailing at the Books to Prisoners workspace.

**Champaign West** *– Environment --* **$2000**

This club will plant milkweed in a natural area of Heritage Park to foster a Monarch butterfly habitat, with educational signage & a QR code for additional self-study. This is expected to be a pilot project model for other clubs in the district & a future tourist destination. Grant funds will go towards plants & a visitor bench. Club members will install, maintain & sustain the milkweed habitat.

**Charleston** – *Community Development* - **$2,000**

This club wants to create a multi-sport Rotary Field with signage, scoreboard & seating in Sister City Park as part of a larger community development plan to promote sports & future economic development through tournaments. Grant funds will assist with scoreboard & bench costs. Club members will work with community leaders on the field & will do significant fund-raising for project costs.

**Clinton** – *Community Development* - **$2000**

This club plans to replace old, damaged basketball hoops at Rotary Park with new hoops to improve the park & to promote exercise of community members. Rotarians will work with the city on the installation of the new basketball hoops & will participate in raising additional funds to cover the costs and freight. Grant funds will go towards the basketball hoop system.

**Danville** – *Health -* **$1154**

This club plans to purchase camouflage book bags for local veterans & fill them with basic needs items & resources to assist in their transition to civilian life. Club members will purchase & pack supplies, then organize an event where they can distribute the filled bags to service men & women. Grant funds will go for backpacks and basic needs items.

**Danville Sunrise** *- Health --* **$2000**

This club wants to support mothers with essential items to raise a healthy child by working with the Danville Women's Clinic. Grant funds & club fundraising projects will allow the club to provide cribs, crib mattresses, and car seats to mothers in need. Club members will also help to deliver & set up essential items & offer transportation for moms to appointments.

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

This club plans to partner with local Decatur organizations for community revitalization and beautification by fixing up homes & providing landscaping assistance in blighted neighborhoods. Funds will go towards tools and landscaping materials to assist low-income & elderly residents. Rotarians & their families will assist with home repairs & beautification projects.

**Dwight** - *Community development* - **$500**

This club plans to purchase & install Rotary *4-Way Test* signs near benches along a popular path in a local wooded park & on the picnic shelter in Rotary Park to increase public image and awareness of Rotary for walkers, joggers, bikers, & those using the shelter. Club members will install the signage.

**Effingham** *– Education --* **$2000**

Citizens who live outside of a public library taxing district cannot always afford a library card. This club wants to partner with Reader's Bridge to help provide library cards to these unserved people. Grant funds, plus club member donations, will fund library cards for 25 families & support a library literacy event. Rotarians are active in Reader's Bridge & will help with the library event.

**Effingham-Sunrise** *- Health* - **$2,000**

Installing a laundromat at Enduring Freedom Ministries will help families who do not own their own washer & dryer. Rotarians will prep, paint, stain, rough-in plumbing & electrical connections, & install the laundry equipment in the new laundry room. Grant funds will supplement club & member contributions to purchase the construction materials, washers/dryers, wash tub, & a folding table.

**Fairbury** *– Environment --* **$2000**

Central Illinois sits within the migratory flight path for fall monarch migration. This club will create pollinator areas to provide habitats for monarch butterflies & other pollinators in Munz Nature Park. Grant funds will be supplemented by donations from the club & Pheasants Forever to purchase plants. Rotarians & families will do site preparation & installation of plants.

**Mattoon** *- Peace -* **$2000**

Community youth can be displaced from their homes due to family crisis or domestic violence. This club will provide these youth with backpacks, personal hygiene products, & notes of encouragement to support them during these times. Grant funds will purchase backpacks & hygiene products. Club members will solicit or donate books, games, & activities, which will all be packed at club meetings.

**Metamora-Germantown Hills** - *Education* - **$500**

To build student skills & character development, each grade level in the local grade school will be participating in a service project during the school year. Rotarians will assist with identifying projects for the school to consider & will welcome the students at their Rotary meetings when they attend to report on the projects. Grant funds will go towards service project supplies.

**Moraine View** *– Community Development -* **$2000**

The Moraine View satellite club wants to help develop a parking lot into a more engaging, adaptable, & aesthetic space to enhance the downtown business area of Le Roy. Club members will provide landscape labor, purchase & install plants, a stone path, & a Rotary bench to make it a more welcoming spot. They will fundraise to supplement grant funds, which go towards the plants, bench, & stone path.

**Normal** - *Health* - **$2,000**

Dental healthcare is seriously lacking in coastal Kenya, Africa. This club is partnering with the Lamu Center in Kenya to support their mission of providing free preventative healthcare to local residents by providing equipment, supplies & dental tools to the clinic. Club members will provide donations & hold fundraisers to supplement grant funds.

**Paris** – *Community Development* - **$2,000**

Previous playground equipment in Sylvan Park was removed for a utility project & it could not be returned due to age & safety standards. This club plans to partner with the Paris Park Board to provide new, safe equipment to again make the park a destination for local youth. Grant funds will go towards new equipment. The club will assemble & install it with the help of the local InterAct Club.

**Rantoul** – *Community Development* - **$2,000**

The Chanute Air Force Base was decommissioned years ago, but many service members have returned to Rantoul. The club wants to enhance the Veteran's Memorial by using grant funds towards a granite bench, etched with a soldier & U.S. Flag, as a place for veterans & visitors to rest & reflect. Rotarians will participate in a dedication event with the Regional Veterans' Memorial Organization.

**Tuscola** – *Community Development* - **$2000**

This club has a project to provide a new playground in Ervin Park. The club itself will provide significant funding, & club members will work with local organizations to secure additional capital, assist in preparing the site, build the equipment, name & dedicate the playground, which will provide exercise & entertainment for youth from 5-12. Grant funds will go towards playground equipment.

**Urbana** – *Peace* - **$2000**

The club will create a "peace park" in King Park, by developing a site to contemplate & pray for peace, unity & understanding, with the permanent installation of a peace pole, designed with help from a local artist. Seating, landscaping, & interpretive signs will be added. Grant funds will go for a "paint your own peace pole" workshop. Other events will involve Rotarians & neighborhood residents.