



April 2020

3546
Rotarians

59
Clubs

33
Cases of Polio
in 2020

2019-20
Giving

\$265,633
95,891

Contributions to
the Annual Fund
Contributions
to Polio Plus

Maternal and Child Health Month

RI President, Mark Daniel Maloney

I spend a lot of time thinking of family, not just my own or the extended family of Rotary, but also the families we are helping in the communities we serve. In many parts of the world, mothers and children face challenges to survive that most of us will never comprehend. According to the World Health Organization, the risk of a woman in a low-income country dying during pregnancy or childbirth, or from related causes, is about 120 times higher than that of a woman living in a high-income country. It is encouraging that infant mortality rates are declining globally, yet 4 million babies annually still die within the first year of life.



[Read More](#)

Project Update: Polio Plus

In the midst of a global pandemic, we understand that attention to polio eradication will be temporarily diverted, and this makes it all the more vital for Rotarians to remain strongly committed to fighting polio and not let our progress be eroded.



It is imperative that we remain committed to our work eradicating polio. [Learn more](#) about how our work fighting polio is supporting the COVID-19 response and consider [making a contribution](#) to PolioPlus.

Rotary monitors the coronavirus impact

Rotary is closely monitoring the pandemic of COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, and continuously assessing the potential impact on Rotary operations, events, and members.

[Read More](#) about Rotary activities that may be affected.

[Read](#) how members are using ingenuity and flexibility to help people affected by coronavirus and to stay connected.

SEE BELOW how District 6690 Rotarians are getting involved in their communities during this pandemic crisis.

Around the District

As Rotarians, you are all undoubtedly helping your communities every day - whether it's helping people to cope with COVID-19 hardships or ensuring continuity in addressing existing needs - Rotarians are always thinking about service above self.

Below are just a few examples.

Matt Mazur, Member of the Short North Rotary Club doing great things:

This is a Posting from Sheila Ciferno on the Next Door Hoover Reservoir Neighborhood Group:

"Everyday Hero. I met one. I was sitting with ice on my knee, after going outside to

Investigate why I had water on the floor in the corner of my basement. I had surgery on my knee some weeks ago and as much as I hate to admit it, I'm not 100% yet. I figured the water was coming from somewhere outside. I went out to the side of my home in the pouring rain to see that my downspout had split and water was gushing out of the side of the downspout on to the ground instead of into the underground pipe that leads to the street. So, I'm thinking about my options knowing that if my son was here, instead of in Alaska, he would be my number one helper. I heard that contractors were not working and not available to assist people. I'm just thinking of my options trying to get motivated to do something. I read Matt Mazur's post. Matt offered to volunteer to help anyone in need. I figured, I would send him a note. I was basically shocked when Within minutes Matt called. Within minutes Matt was here with his tool bag. He fixed my downspout temporarily. He fixed a carriage light hanging off my garage. I cannot express how grateful I am to this man, this volunteer. Thank you so very much! I have some work to do, but I think I am better prepared having met one of our everyday heroes right here in our neighborhood. Thank you so very much, Matt!"



Athens Sunrise Rotary Reaches Out

Following the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic Athens Sunrise Rotary took to coming up with a manageable yet impactful service project. As Rotarians we live for the mottos: **Service Above Self and People of Action**, naturally we identified a hurdle to help overcome.

The club created a sign up for two local nursing homes to create and drop off care packages. These

facilities had to eliminate visitors early on, isolating the residents from loved ones. The club shared the sign-up with the community and made it a truly collaborative effort. While the care packages don't replace hugs and hand squeezes from family we do hope that it provided a bit of light and love in their lives.

Rotary Sends Blessing (Bags)

Thanks to Rotary District 6690, individual Rotarians, and a \$25 gift card from Walmart, [New Life Community Outreach](#) was able to provide 50 "blessing bags" (gallon-sized ziplock bag filled with wipes, tissues, chapstick, a pair of socks, a toothbrush and toothpaste kit, an emergency poncho, and a trash bag) to people in need.



Westerville Sunrise Rotary - An example of a club continuing to serve.

Mark Morgan, President of Westerville Sunrise Rotary, provided the following summary of how the club is continuing while maintaining quarantine. Your club may be similar. We share this summary as an example of Rotarians adjusting to the constraints and the needs of their community.

"To District 6690 Leaders,

With everything going on, I thought it appropriate to update the District Leaders on how Westerville Sunrise Rotary is doing during this difficult time in our country.

1. We have officially cancelled all of our meetings through May 6, per the order of Governor DeWine. My guess is, we will be cancelling more meetings in May. Time will tell.
2. Chilly Open was a success this year. This is our clubs major fundraiser for the year, that is held the first Saturday of February at the Columbus Zoo. The money raised was down this year over previous years, because of some unexpected costs from the zoo and lack of a major sponsor. However, it was still a very successful event with over \$75,000 going to our beneficiaries.

3. Our Chilly Open breakfast that was scheduled for April, has obviously been cancelled for this year. This is where we have a breakfast thanking our sponsors and give out the checks to our beneficiaries. We will just be mailing the checks this year along with a letter from our Chilly Open Chair.
4. The Club Board has waived payment of our members 4th quarter meal dues. We bill quarterly for meals at \$75.00 per quarter for each member. Since we are not meeting, it didn't make sense to have the members pay. However, because we have managed our club funds wisely, the Club board has agreed to keep paying the salaries of the Wednesday morning Old Bag of Nails staff. Restaurant workers are getting hit very hard now and this was are way of saying Thank You, to the Restaurant Staff that helps us each Wednesday morning.
5. We have challenged each of the club members to "Pay-it-Forward" with their 4th quarter \$75.00 meal dues, to a local Westerville Charity. The Club board has agreed to Match any club members donation to WARM, a local Food Pantry, up to a max of \$5,000.00. We have already exceeded the \$5,000.00 match in just a few days. WARM is a very important part of the Westerville Community and their service to those in need is growing each week.
6. Last Friday we held the first ever, Westerville Sunrise Rotary Virtual Meeting/Happy Hour over Zoom. We had 43 members that joined in, during some point of the meeting. That is about half of our normal Wednesday Morning meeting attendance, but for a first try, I thought it was a good number. Once individual members learned the mechanics of Zoom, the meeting went very well and very smooth. It was very good to connect with each other, even if it was over our computers. We will be doing that again this Friday afternoon.
7. Field of Heroes is being talked about. This is where we put up over 3,000 US flags in the Soccer Fields across from the Westerville Community Center during the Memorial Day Weekend. We are still several weeks away from knowing if the event can go on as we have normally done the last 10 years. For this reason we are working on several different formats for this year's Field of Heroes. We will do something that weekend, it is just too early to know what we can do or should do. Our club can react and move pretty quick to whatever situation we are in at that time.
8. Our board members have reached out, and our continuing to reach out, to each of our 135 members to make sure they are all doing okay and if they need anything. So far the members are all healthy and are doing well. Keeping everyone connected is a very important goal of the Board and myself.

That is the highlights to date for Westerville Sunrise Rotary. As I am sure all of you are, we are figuring this all out as we go. In my PETS training last year, they didn't cover how to handle a Pandemic. The Board is staying in close contact with each other, so that is extremely helpful.

Yours in Rotary,

Mark

President Westerville Sunrise Rotary"

Project Update: Rafiki Bus

Great news on our District grant for the bus for the Rafiki Orphanage in Kenya. The bus has been delivered! Thank you to all who contributed to make this possible for the kids in the Orphanage.



Maintaining Member Engagement during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to support the Rotary Clubs of District 6690 in their efforts to maintain engagement during times when many clubs have reduced in-person meetings, projects or social events. We

have developed this guide with ideas and strategies for Club Leaders to consider. [READ MORE on the 6690 WEBSITE](#)

Public Image Grants

Reminder to all clubs who received Public Image Grant approval to **complete the final grant form by April 30th** and send to Christy Clark at cjclark206@gmail.com. Final grant forms are available on District 6690 website.

Conferences and Events

By now you should be aware that the Rotary International Convention and the District 6690 Conference have been canceled. Please check the [District 6690 Calendar](#) for the status of other Rotary events.



FOLLOW, LIKE & SHARE

District 6690 now has a [public-facing Linked-in page](#) (in addition to the [members-only group](#) that already existed.)

We can reach more prospective members, partners, and supporters if we're sharing "who Rotary is" with our professional networks. Please follow the District 6690 page and "Like" and Share weekly stories that have the Rotary logo.

Frequent impressions of Rotary and of you, as a Rotarian, will build awareness and respect for our organization and the work we do.



Newsletter Contributions

Tell the rest of the district what your club or committee is up to! Where do you need help? What successes can you share? What do you want to know more about? Send submission ideas to dave.ungar@gmail.com by the 1st of the month.

Social Media

Does your club use hashtags when posting on social media? Using **#RD6690** on your posts will enable the district to search and repost/retweet your messages. Let us help you reach a larger audience!

Follow District 6690:



Yours in Rotary

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Rotary District 6690

<https://rotary6690.org>

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