

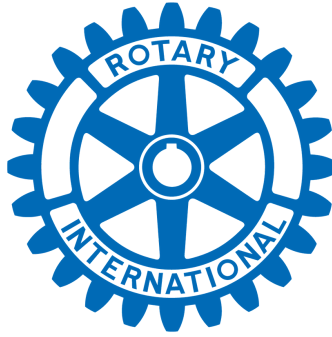
THE CHATTANOOGA ROTARY CLUB:

THE MOST INCLUSIVE EXCLUSIVE CLUB IN TOWN

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE



Dear Friends of Rotary,

Thank you for the support you provide to the Rotary Club of Chattanooga. Whether you are a long-time member, one of our weekly speakers, a visitor or an organization or individual who has benefitted from our Club, you are part and parcel of what makes our Club such a special place.

We often say that Rotary is the most 'inclusive exclusive club in town'. Our membership is comprised of civic and business leaders, elected officials, corporate and small business owners, young emerging leaders and elders who've led the way in the past and guide us with expertise gained over time. Each member brings a unique skillset, experience and perspective to our Club. Each member is equally appreciated and accepted. It's what makes the Rotary experience in Chattanooga respectful... and respected.

As you consider the information in these pages, I hope you will take great pride in a Club that has not only met the challenges of the past few months, but has also grown and thrived in this environment. It's an honor for me to serve as President of this group; however, my pride began years ago when I was asked to become a member.

Thank you for one of the top honors of my professional life.

For the Club,



Elaine Swafford

CHATTANOOGA DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB HISTORY

The year was 1914. James Matlock Littleton was Mayor of Chattanooga. The beginning days of World War I had the country on edge as the top song of the day, 'It's a Long Long Way to Tipperary' played across Chattanooga's radio air waves. And even while there was a sense of uncertainty in the country, a group of 24 businessmen looked toward the future and started the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, the third in the state and the 103rd in the world.

Within 18 months, 86 members were designated as charter members and weekly meetings were held in the Hotel Patten. In June 1971, the Club moved to the historic Read House Hotel until once again, membership growth led to the Club's current location at the Chattanooga Convention Center in 2001. The 19th largest club in the world, the Rotary Club of Chattanooga has more than 340 business men and women as members. Seventy-five percent are male and 25% are female; however, rumor has it that number is on the move!

We've had 107 presidents, seven district governors, three female presidents and one International President, John Germ.

While our Club was founded to "...help the up-building of Chattanooga and vicinity, to encourage the exchange of business ideas and methods, to promote good fellowship among its members, to teach that happiness is obtained through service to others, to make better citizens and happier individuals," today's Rotarians are as committed to our global efforts as we are to those that make a difference right here at home. That's a history that should be celebrated and a future that should be anticipated with excitement.

CHATTANOOGA DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB LEADERSHIP

In a year that's been anything but typical, our Club has leadership in place that is able to meet the challenges we face. While our meetings went virtual, our club did not. We are as engaged and engaging with those we serve as ever before. We couldn't do it without leaders like the ones below.

We are grateful for their wisdom and guidance during these difficult days.



Elaine Swafford
President

Craig Holley
President-Elect



Robert Moss
Rotary Foundation Chair

Martina Harris
Secretary



Robin Derryberry
Public Relations Chair

Warren McEwen
Treasurer



Charlie Arant
Past President

In all we do, our members and leaders are guided by the FOUR WAY TEST:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

ROTARY GIVES BACK (But this year we got more creative than usual)

WHO KNEW POLIO AWARENESS COULD BE SO TASTY?



Support for the eradication of Polio around the world is part and parcel of the important work Rotary does. Children who've received their Polio vaccine have their little fingers dipped in purple ink to note receiving their vaccination. Our club marked awareness by partnering with Dunkin Donuts to provide 'purple pinky' doughnuts to classes around our community. It was a fun 'teachable moment' for students to know that Rotary works around the world to meet the needs of others.

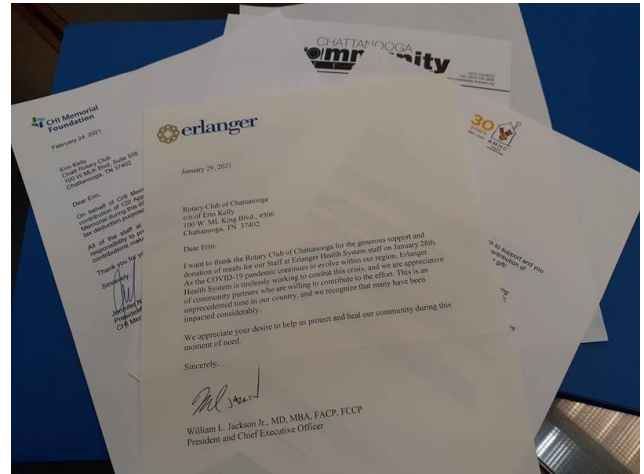
15 VIRTUAL LEARNING CENTERS ESTABLISHED:

Our club was proud to support the improvement of digital equity in Chattanooga. With \$25,000 of funding to the Enterprise Center, 15 virtual learning centers were established in urban neighborhood churches affiliated with Kingdom Partners.

The result? The most vulnerable children in our community were engaged, supported and encouraged to continue learning throughout the pandemic.

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT OTHERS ON THE FRONT LINE

When our board voted to provide funding to feed those providing front line healthcare to those impacted by the pandemic, our goal was to send something to thank them for their dedication and to let them know how much their work was appreciated. What we didn't realize was that our financial support of food was also a gift to those providing meals. We partnered with small locally-owned restaurants to prepare and deliver meals.



Our gift of \$5000 provided meals to healthcare workers at Erlanger, Memorial and Parkridge Hospitals. It also provided valuable dollars to small businesses which kept their doors open.

ROTARACT PROVIDES SUPPORT TO CHAMBLISS CENTER FOR CHILDREN



In the fall of 2020, the new class of Rotaract began brainstorming ways to participate in an event with Chambliss Center for Children. Since Chambliss was not allowing visitors due to the pandemic, Rotaract had to improvise with a virtual event. Rotaract would be working with four classrooms of children ranging in age from 6 to 12 years old.

Rotaract ultimately decided to host a virtual craft project to save the teachers time, stress, and clean up.

The theme of the craft project was "Under the Sea", so each classroom made a different sea animal using minimal supplies. The animals included a crab, sea turtle, shark, and a jellyfish. Beginning the week of November 9, three to four Rotaract members virtually worked with one class of about 12 students a day to create their sea creature using just glue, paint, cardstock, and a paper bowl. The week-long virtual events were a great success and both Rotaract members and Chambliss students had a blast making their creations!

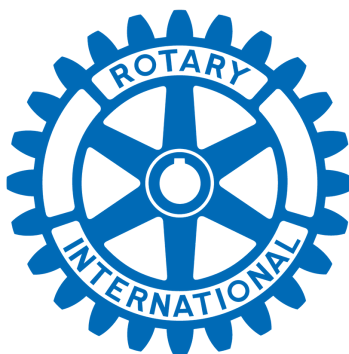
SO HOW DO WE FUND OUR PROJECTS?

Chattanooga Rotary Club members are givers. Whether personally or through their companies, our members are committed to funding efforts that transform our community. We don't sell products. You won't find us smoking or baking food (and probably wouldn't want to), and you won't find us asking the community to fund our projects.

Instead, we share the needs of the community we all share with our members. In turn, they become engaged with the investment of time and funding to make a difference. We strongly believe in the power of partnerships. It's that belief that has guided us since our very beginning and something that has sustained us through the current difficult days.

Here are the projects we've funded this year:

Siskin Children's Institute / Rotary Feeding Center:	\$35,000
Tech Goes Home / The Enterprise Center:	\$25,000
Chattanooga Food Bank:	\$13,000
Convention Center Staff -Grocery gift cards:	\$10,000
YMCA First Responders Child Care:	\$9,000
Chattanooga Community Kitchen:	\$5,000
Community Foundation / Covid Response Fund:	\$5,000
Northside Neighborhood House:	\$5,000
Partnership for Families Children and Adults:	\$2,000
CFC Foundation Operation Get Active:	\$2,000
Hospital COVID Units: Parkridge, Erlanger and Memorial 351 Meals:	\$4,170
Total COVID response from the Rotary Club of Chattanooga:	\$115,170



For many of our members, Rotary is a family tradition. Below you'll find a list of just a few of our families. We appreciate our legacy members and encourage our new members to make a little history of their own!

Fathers and Children

Max Bahner
Cliff Betts
James Catanzaro, Sr..
Edward Y. Chapin, III
Peter Cooper
John Crimmins (Past President)
Joseph Decosimo
Joe Ferguson
Steven Frost
Fred Hetzler, Sr.
Robert F. Huffaker, Sr. (Past President)
Nat Hughes
Patrick Kelly
Less W. Lee, Sr.
Howard Levine (Past President)
Hugh Maclellan
Frank W. McDonald (Past President)
Fred Moore, Sr.
Cam Searce
Hershad Shah
John Stophel
Robert Summitt
Robert Kirk Walker (Past President)
Ray Webb

Catherine Daniels
Julie Betts Brandao
James Catanzaro, Jr.
Ed (IV) & Bill Chapin
Katie Cooper Harbison
Ryan Crimmins
Nick, Fred, Rose, & Tom Decosimo
Scott Ferguson
Jonathan Frost
Fred Hetzler, Jr.
Robert F. Huffaker, Jr.
Frank Hughes
Mayor Tim Kelly
Less Lee, Jr.
Jim Levine
Chris Maclellan
Frank McDonald
Fred Moore Jr.
Lesley Searce
Shalin Tejani
Kevin Stophel
Martin Summitt & Virginia Anne Sharber (President-Elect)
Caroline Walker
Mike Webb