**Subject:** Rotary Clubs of Polk County: Scholarship Housing Project 

Good afternoon! For those I have not had the privilege to meet, I am Herbert Gillis and President of The Ridge. During the first District meeting at PETS, several of us wanted an opportunity to conduct a countywide project that would benefit our Polk County community while providing an opportunity to connect our clubs and build lasting friendships. Jane Hammond, Lakeland Christina, had an exceptional idea to support the effort underway to provide homeless college students with housing.

Currently, 8 to 15 students attending the Winter Haven Polk State College Campus are homeless. Heart for Winter Haven is leading the effort to provide these students with safe and stable housing. The Scholarship Housing project will provide housing for 6 students and a residential manager.

The Living Word of Faith Assembly has provided a parsonage, located at 122 Avenue Q NW in Winter Haven, to Heart for Winter Haven for the project. The house is currently under renovation with completion planned for the Winter 2019-2020 Academic Calendar. Working together, we will achieve this goal for our community.

We need to raise up to $5,000 to purchase appliances (microwave, range, refrigerator and water heater), cabinetry and fixtures for the kitchen. This cost can be reduced by donations from local retailers. Additionally, Rotarians are needed for a workday on Saturday, 28 September 2019.

We are considering a tee shirt fundraiser and have the opportunity for 2 corporate sponsors. The tee shirts would feature the Rotary and Scholarship Housing logos and list the name of our respective clubs. The corporate sponsors would be promoted on the sleeves. The minimum donation for corporate sponsorship is $1,500.

Please refer to the Work Plan created by Jane and Brad Beatty, Managing Director of Heart for Winter Haven. The work plan details the construction materials and work needed to complete the project. Jane and Brad visited the house and assessed each room to determine what materials are needed. The kitchen is quite small, approximately 10’ x 12’. There is only room for maybe 3 upper and 3 lower cabinets and a small footprint of countertop. Our collective hope is that all the Rotarians that read the list may know a source for the materials.

As we move forward, every club in Polk County is invited to participate! This project is notable in that it will be the first countywide Rotary project, which is both exciting and historic! What an amazing opportunity for our county and our District.

Club participation is simple. Promote the project and collect donations (monetary or construction materials), participate in the tee shirt fundraiser, participate in the workday and participate in the opening ceremony.

Please contact me at (863) 594-7631 or hgillis@polksheriff.org with any questions.

I look forward to working with you as we connect our Polk County communities!

Warm regards,

Herbert

