



Best Vocational Service Project

Rotary Year 2023-2024

**THE CANTON ROTARY
HOPE CREATORS
INITIATIVE**



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Rotary District 6910

April 15, 2024



THE CANTON ROTARY HOPE CREATORS INITIATIVE



Rotarians around the world are known as People of Action, Problem Solvers, Peace Makers, Community Builders, Change Catalysts..., and we have now added one more way to honor the identity and impact of Rotarians: **Hope Creators**.

Inspired by the vision of our Rotary International President Gordon McNally to Create Hope in The World, the Rotary Club of Canton planned, designed, and implemented the **Hope Creators Initiative** this Rotary Year 2023-2024.



WHAT IS HOPE CREATORS?

Hope Creators is a vocational service initiative that encompasses purpose-driven and intentional efforts to put Rotarians' professions and occupations to the service of our community (local and international) to restore and create hope.

These efforts are coordinated in a holistic approach that includes:

- ✓ Promoting Mental Health in Our Community – Conference & Panel of Experts
- ✓ Community and Youth Service Projects where Rotarians use their specific vocations to serve.
- ✓ Special Programs such as "End Human Trafficking Now".
- ✓ Career Days
- ✓ Vocational Visits/Tours
- ✓ Vocational Awards: Guardian of Ethics and Vocational Excellence
- ✓ Professional Networking Events
- ✓ Classification Talks
- ✓ Mentorship Program
- ✓ Study of Professions and Occupations
- ✓ New Award to recognize Community Servants with Vocations in the Business/Private Sector.

Our **Hope Creators** Initiative has helped us unite and take action to create lasting change and hope – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. It has also given a special sense of personal and professional fulfillment. One heart at a time! ♥



WHY HOPE CREATORS?

Mental health crises in our local and international communities have been exacerbated in recent years. Substance abuse, behavioral disorders, increased suicide rates, and mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression have been worsened by the fast pace of the digital era, social media misuse, public health issues, conflicts within and among nations, among many other problems.

Our Rotary International President Gordon McNally has urged us to “restore hope — to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves”. This is why the Rotary Club of Canton decided to take action through our Hope Creators Initiative which capitalizes on the power of Rotarians to make a positive difference.

Rotarians as **Hope Creators**:

- ✓ Promote mental health in our communities.
- ✓ Create opportunities for the most vulnerable such as the homeless and victims of abuse.
- ✓ Encourage and see the potential within every person, even when they cannot see it themselves.
- ✓ Help create the conditions for peace, starting in our local communities.
- ✓ Restore the faith in humanity.
- ✓ Nurture dreams and create a future worth living.



PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY CONFERENCE & PANEL OF EXPERTS



Date: March 19, 2024. 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Location: The Timbers on Etowah located at 225 Reformation Pkwy Suite 202, Canton, GA 30114

Description:

- ✓ This is the **pivotal project** of our **Hope Creators Initiative**. Canton Rotarians put their vocations to the service of our community by Creating Hope and Promoting Mental Health in an ambitious initiative, first of its type in our community.
- ✓ We planned, designed, and delivered a Professional Conference & Panel of Experts named, "Promoting Mental Health in our Community".



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- ✓ We addressed a top community issue: Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder. We informed, inspired, and promoted mental health in our community.
 - ✓ There are multiple organizations promoting mental health in our community, but their efforts had never been coordinated so they could join forces and create synergy together. As Canton Rotarians we blazed the trail and led the way to bring everyone together in a very impactful initiative.
 - ✓ We were initially hoping for 75 attendees; however, our initiative had tremendous success and gathered 200 community leaders.
 - ✓ Our keynote speaker was our fellow District 6910 Rotarian Kevin Tanner, Commissioner of the GA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.
 - ✓ **Panel of Experts:**
 - Moderator: Rotarian Nadine Blase Psareas, Best-Selling Author and Founder of Hopedealers Worldwide and The Recovery Organization of Cherokee County (The ROCC).
 - Panelists:
 - **How to promote mental health at the workplace:** Amy Leatherman, Human Resources Administrator at Universal Alloy Corporation.
 - **How to prevent substance abuse and promote long-term recovery:** Rotarian Britt Parramore LPC, CAADC. Founder / Clinical Director, PathLight Counseling. PathLight Behavioral Health.
 - **What the State of Georgia is doing and can do to promote mental health:** In addition to being our Keynote Speaker, Kevin Tanner joined our panel to interact with our audience.
 - **How to promote mental health for youth:** Zach Blend, Chief Executive Officer of Goshen Valley Foundation which also provides Therapeutic Services for youth in our community.



Topics Discussed:

✓ **Challenges and Misconceptions:**

- How specifically do mental health issues present themselves in our community today?
- What are some common misconceptions about mental health, and how can we educate our community more effectively?
- What do you perceive is the overall reason the majority of people struggling with mental health issues do NOT ask for help with behavioral health issues including substance use disorder, leaving millions in our nation left untreated?
- What are some ways we as a healthy community can support individuals and families experiencing mental health crises?
- What can we do individually and as a community to promote self-care practices as a means of maintaining mental wellbeing? What strategies for managing stress and anxiety in daily life prove to be most effective?

✓ **Seeking Help:**

- What are some effective ways we as a community can reduce the stigma surrounding seeking professional help for mental health issues?
- How can we encourage safe, open dialogue about mental health within families and social circles?

✓ **Mental Health at the Workplace:**

- How can workplaces promote mental health and wellbeing among employees? Please provide some examples of how mental health can be safely and effectively implemented in the workplace.

✓ **Education & Mental Health for Youth:**

- What do you perceive is the overall reason that youth don't feel comfortable reaching out for help?
- What is the role of therapeutic services for youth in promoting mental health in our community? What are the benefits of integrating mental health education into school curriculums, and how can it be done effectively?



✓ **Government:**

- How can government policies and funding support mental health initiatives and programs? What programs are currently in place and working successfully?
- How can we ensure that mental health services are equitable and accessible to all individuals, regardless of socioeconomic status?

Community Partners:

- ✓ Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- ✓ Northside Hospital Cherokee
- ✓ Hopedealers Worldwide
- ✓ The Recovery Organization of Cherokee County
- ✓ Goshen Valley Foundation - Therapeutic Services
- ✓ PathLight Counseling, PathLight Behavioral Health
- ✓ Cherokee FOCUS - Families of Cherokee United in Service
- ✓ Highland Rivers Mental Health
- ✓ Cherokee Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad
- ✓ Kaiser Permanente
- ✓ Georgia Harm Reduction
- ✓ Cherokee County School District Social Workers
- ✓ Open Door Talk
- ✓ Love Like Reed
- ✓ Universal Alloy Corporation
- ✓ The Timbers on Etowah
- ✓ Center Cut Catering
- ✓ Thrivent Abundance Advisor Group
- ✓ Cherokee Impact Soccer
- ✓ Dr. Kay Kirkpatrick, Georgia Senator
- ✓ Gleichman Law Firm
- ✓ In Harmony Pediatric Therapy
- ✓ Homeless Coalition of Cherokee County
- ✓ Cherokee County Commission Chairman Harry Johnston

BUDGET FOR PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

CONFERENCE & PANEL OF EXPERTS

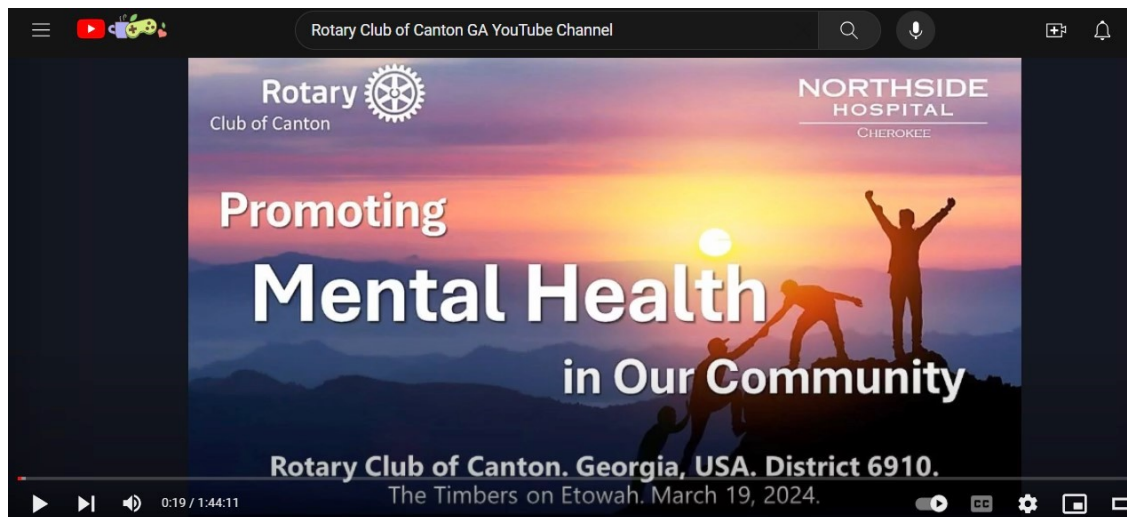
EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Center Cut Catering	\$1,925.00
The Timbers on Etowah	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,925.00

Income (Sponsorships)	\$14,239.25
Expenses	\$2,925.00
Net	\$11,314.25

* The proceeds will be used to create hope, promote mental health, and support charitable initiatives during our Rotary Year 2024-2025.

Public Image and Membership Recruitment:

- ✓ In addition to promoting Mental Health and Creating Hope, we were also able to put Rotary in a very good light. The feedback from our community has been very positive.
- ✓ We already received several applications for Membership and have additional prospective Rotarians considering joining our club as a result of them seeing Rotarians in action at our conference and panel of experts. Members of our community are also asking for us to make this a yearly event.
- ✓ **Video:** A full recording of this successful and enlightening event is available on our Canton Rotary YouTube Channel. Click on the image below:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsIBVa-NxrA>

- ✓ **Flyer:**
https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6910/Downloads/4156/Canton_Rotary_Promoting_Mental_Health_2024.pdf
- ✓ Our event was covered by the Cherokee Tribune & Ledger-News:
https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6910/Downloads/4156/TribuneLedger_News_Promoting-Mental-Health-Community_2024.pdf



✓ Social media postings:

- Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/rotarycantonga/posts/pfbid09Rwq8rokbVcouQDhSXYRahqH772q74hUd6S7YwjejuR5DirGYsjJH5UkDRb8ZKiHl>

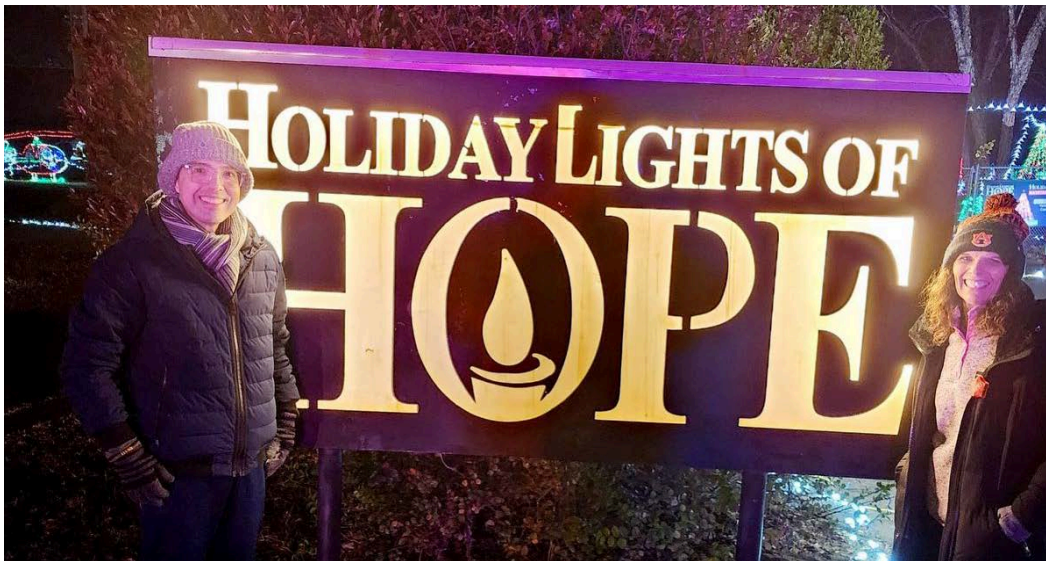
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/C4t35cuLZmq/?img_index=1



HOLISTIC APPROACH AND COORDINATED EFFORTS OF HOPE CREATORS

In addition to our **Promoting Mental Health in Our Community Conference & Panel of Experts**, our **Hope Creators Initiative** has provided the guidance for additional efforts to enhance our **Vocational Service** as we Create Hope.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS OF HOPE FOR CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS



Date: December 16, 2024. 6:45 PM – 10:15 PM.

Location: Hobgood Park located at 6688 Bells Ferry Rd, Woodstock, GA 30189.

Organization: The Anna Crawford Children's Center is dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect, protecting children and giving them hope in their darkest moments.

<https://www.cacga.org/>

Project:

- ✓ We volunteered at the Holiday Lights of Hope festival which is the main fundraiser of the Anna Crawford Children's Center. We greeted visitors, collected



tickets, assisted with the line at the Santa tent, and were present in certain areas around the park to usher visitors to the light displays.

- ✓ President Francisco Lozano, as well as Canton Rotarian and Cherokee County District Attorney Susan Treadaway led the volunteer efforts. Preventing child abuse and protecting children is one of the top priorities of Susan's vocation.
- ✓ Members of The Recovery Organization of Cherokee County (ROCC) joined us as well. As Canton Rotarian and Founder of The ROCC Nadine Psareas says, "We love to help patients in recovery and give them projects and opportunities to work on community service projects because when we are serving others it helps them in their long term recovery and to feel greater fulfillment and purpose".





VETERANS DAY: MENTAL HEALTH & APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



Date: November 6, 2023, 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Cherokee Veterans Park located at 7345 Cumming Hwy, Canton, GA 30115.

Organization: Cherokee Veterans Park - Home of the new L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Jr. Recreation Center located on 149 acres in northeast Cherokee County, Cherokee Veterans is one of the largest parks in the county's park system.

<https://www.playcherokee.org/224/Cherokee-Veterans-Park>

Project:

- ✓ Canton Rotarians and Veterans put their vocation to the service of this special program. Sheriff Frank Reynolds, Fire Chief Eddie Robinson, Treasurer Shane Burr, Rotarian Norman Bushee, and Rotarian David Urffer were honored.



- ✓ We addressed the important issue of Mental Health of Veterans and honored them with a special program. We started the program outdoors by installing a Peace Pole at the park.
- ✓ Then we went inside the Buzz Ahrens' Recreation Center to host 8 Veterans for lunch and a great program in their honor.
- ✓ We heard from Sheriff Frank Reynolds, as well as former Cherokee Commission Chairman Buzz Ahrens and Cherokee Fire Chief Eddie Robinson who are veterans.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT AT TEASLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Date: February 29, 2024, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Teasley Middle School located at 151 Hickory Log Drive, Canton, GA 30114.

Organization: Teasley Middle School opened its doors in 1986 initially serving students in grades six, seven, and eight in the northern section of Cherokee County. The school's namesake, Marie Archer Teasley, whose family donated the land on which the original school was built, had a passion for the school, and her son Bill Teasley founded the family's plans to establish the Teasley Family Foundation to "improve student achievement." <https://tms.cherokee12.net/>

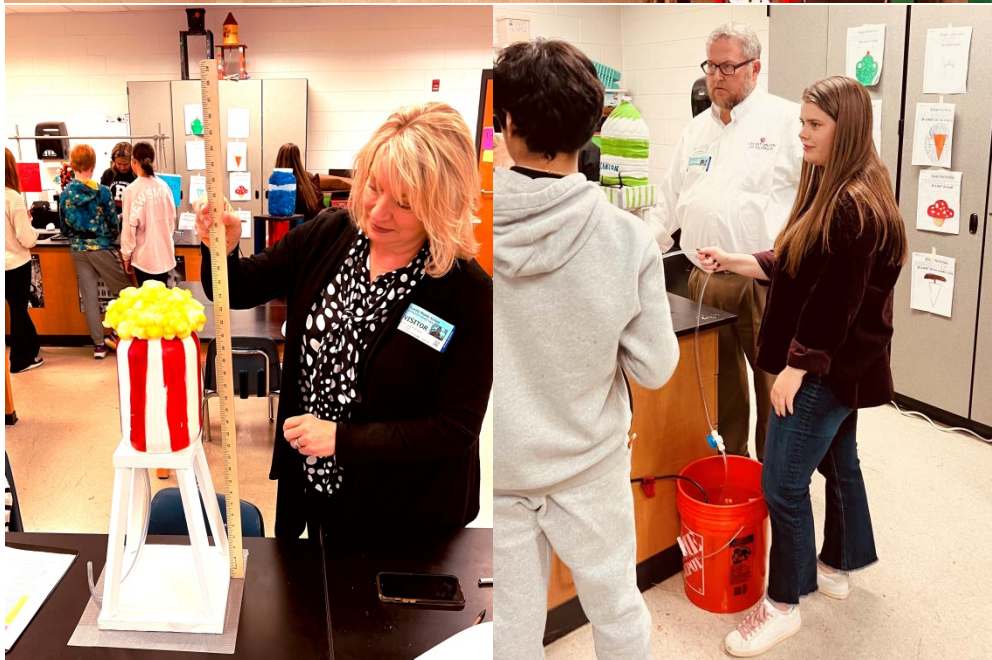
Project:

- ✓ Secretary Rebekah Gibson put her professional expertise as an Environmental Scientist to the service of our community. Along with Canton Rotarians Kathy Homschek and Jason Blakey, Rebekah assisted Teasley Middle School Students with the water tower contest on February 29th.
- ✓ This is a fun and meaningful educational program of the Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority that focuses on local students learning about water



conservation and complex concepts such as hydraulic and structural efficiency while thinking green and using recycled materials.

- ✓ Rebekah talked about environmental science and interviewed the students.
- ✓ Kathy did water tower measurements.
- ✓ Jason tested hydraulics.
- ✓ More details here about this program here: <https://ccwsa.com/model-water-tower-competition-2/>





CREATING HOPE THROUGH OUR "END HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOW" PROGRAM



Date: January 23, 2024, 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Canton City Hall located at 110 Academy Street, Canton, GA 30114.

Program:

- ✓ Canton Rotarian and Cherokee County District Attorney Susan Treadaway put her vocation to the service of our community by leading an "End Human Trafficking Program" hosted by our club for our members and community leaders.
- ✓ We heard from Hannah Palmquist, the Georgia Human Trafficking Unit Chief from the Office of Attorney General Chris Carr. It was heartbreaking to hear about how human trafficking can happen in our world and often remain undetected. Canton Rotarians the Honorable Shannon Wallace and DA Susan Treadaway have done tremendous work fighting against human trafficking and prosecuting human traffickers over the past several years.
- ✓ The Georgia Human Trafficking Unit allows for our legal system to better prosecute traffickers who often commit crimes across different counties and states. We were educated on how human trafficking typically happens and what to look out for.



PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FOR HOPE CREATORS



Date: September 30, 2024, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Training Facility of Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services located at 3985 Holly Springs Pkwy, Holly Springs, GA 30115.

Program:

- ✓ Canton Rotarian, Firefighter & Paramedic Brice Futch out his vocation to the service of our club and community. He led a public safety training with firefighters and paramedics
- ✓ Members of our community and Rotarians received training on how to respond to an active shooter event, learned and practiced life saving techniques such as how to apply a tourniquet, how to isolate a room, and how to render first aid.



EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS OF CHEROKEE COUNTY



Date: October 7 – 21, 2024. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Location: The Roger D. Garrison Law Enforcement Training Center located at 516 Chattin Dr, Canton, GA 30115.

Program: Canton Rotarians put their vocations to the service of our community by delivering an "Empowering Young Leaders of Cherokee County" program.

- ✓ Young Leaders Creating Hope by Rotarian Nadine Psareas
- ✓ Preventing Substance Abuse by Rotarian Sonia Carruthers
- ✓ Promoting Mental Health for Young Leaders by Rotarian Britt Parramore
- ✓ Entrepreneurship for Young Leaders by Rotarian Lori Flink
- ✓ Great Leaders of the World and their Inspiring Journey by Rotarians Whitney Spear and Rachel Ashe
- ✓ Leadership and Community Involvement by President Elect Marcie Smith
- ✓ Young Leaders with a Heart for Service by President Francisco Lozano



CAREER DAY AT TEASLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Date: January 23, 2024, 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: The Media Center of the Teasley Middle School located at 151 Hickory Log Drive, Canton, GA 30114.

Organization: Teasley Middle School .

Project:

- ✓ Canton Rotarians delivered an incredible Career Day at Teasley Middle School, led by Vocational Service Chair JoEllen Wilson and Interact Advisor Kerry Voytek.
- ✓ Eighth-grade students engaged with enthusiasm and curiosity, exploring various professions and pathways to success.
- ✓ As an important aspect of our Rotary Vocational Avenue of Service, Canton Rotarians spoke with the students about their professions and provided them with career information and inspiration.
 - Rotarian Terry Conroy Gill is a Ceramic Artist. She talked about Fine Arts.
 - Rotarian Lori Flink is an Entrepreneur in the business of promotional products. She talked about ideas for youth to start their own businesses.



- Rotarian Chaitanya Narula is a Chemist. He talked about science and opportunities in engineering, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- President Francisco Lozano is a Data Scientist and Perfumer. He talked about career opportunities in the manufacturing industry, particularly fragrance creation, as well as business intelligence and data analytics.
- ✓ Our Career Day provided guidance and mentorship which are invaluable in shaping the future leaders of our community.
- ✓ We encouraged the Teasley Students and Interactors to keep dreaming, keep exploring, and keep serving our community when they grow up.





VOCATIONAL VISITS/TOURS

ARYLESSENCE, INC.



Date: October 3, 2023. 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: The Research & Development facility of Arylescence located at 1091 Lake Drive, Marietta, GA 30066

Vocational Visit: Arylescence, Inc. The largest privately held fragrance and flavor manufacturer in North America. We learned about the art, the science, and the business of fragrance creation. President Francisco Lozano works at Arylescence and shared about his roles as a Perfumer, as well as Business Intelligence & Data Analytics.

<https://arylescence.com/>



THE CHARLIE FERGUSON COMMUNITY CENTER



Date: March 5, 2024. 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: The Charlie Ferguson Community Center located at 1398 Reinhardt College Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114

Vocational Visit: We visited the Charlie Ferguson Community Center, a remarkable facility that stands as a symbol of the power of volunteerism and community engagement. <https://cfergusoncc.org/>



ACTIVE ACADEMIES CAMPUS



Date: September 12, 2023. 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: The ACTIVE Academies Campus located at 8871 Knox Bridge Hwy, Canton, GA, United States, 30114

Vocational Visit: We had a fantastic program at ACTIVE Academies. We were impressed to learn about all of the unique and extensive learning and vocational opportunities available to students in Cherokee County and how we can volunteer and serve.
<https://www.cherokeek12.net/schools/active-academies-campus>



CHEROKEE COUNTY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES - STATION 9



Date: February 27, 2024. 12:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Location: Cherokee County Fire & Emergency Services – Station 9 located at 1467 Reinhardt College Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114

Vocational Visit: We had a great vocational visit to Fire Station 9 thanks to Canton Rotarians: Fire Chief Eddie Robinson and Firefighter & Paramedic Brice Futch.

We're so thankful to have the best of the best keeping our community safe. We're also honored to have some the fire department team members as corporate members of our club (Chad Davis and Kevin Lanier).

One of the highlights of our visit was definitely the lasagna, cobbler and ice cream prepared for us by the firefighters! <https://www.cherokeecountyfire.org/>

VOCATIONAL SERVICE AWARDS

Date: January 30, 2024. 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Location: Cherokee Conference Center located at 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, GA 30114

Program: We honored two Rotarians for excellence in their careers: The Robert Stubbs II Guardian of Ethics Award, as well as The Lee W. Arrendale Vocational Excellence Award.

THE ROBERT STUBBS II GUARDIAN OF ETHICS AWARD

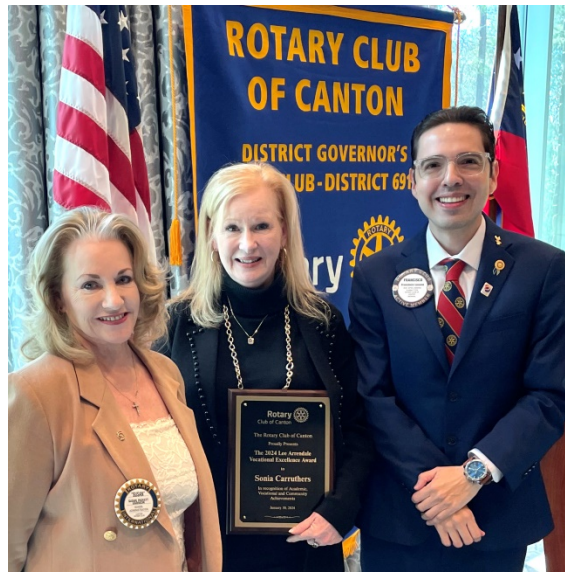


- ✓ Established to promote the ideal of ethics and recognizes an individual who has been a Rotarian for a minimum of three (3) years and who has made outstanding contributions that foster the development of ethics, has made significant contributions in his or her vocation and who has by his or her actions, writing, policies and public pronouncements strengthened and fostered development of ethical practices.
- ✓ Presented to Cherokee Sheriff Frank Reynolds, a 10-year Rotarian, who was praised for his 30 years of service to the community through his law enforcement



career. Elected to his current office in 2016, Sheriff Reynolds began his career with the Cherokee Sheriff's Office and also served with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office and as a U.S. Department of State diplomatic security contractor in Iraq. He earned his undergraduate degree from Reinhardt University and master of public administration degree from Columbus State University and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.

THE LEE W. ARRENDALE VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



- ✓ Established to promote vocational excellence, servant leadership and community engagement
- ✓ Presented to Sonia Carruthers, a 24-year Rotarian, who was praised for her dedication to improving the community through the nonprofit Cherokee FOCUS – Families of Cherokee United in Service, which she organized in 2001. A member of numerous local and regional organization boards in support of FOCUS, Ms. Carruthers earned her undergraduate degrees from Reinhardt University and Georgia State University.



PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS

CHEROKEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - SCHMOOZA PALOOZA



Event: Schmooza Palooza Networking Event in collaboration with the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce.

Date: August 10, 2023. 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

Location: Woodstock City Church located at 150 Ridgewalk Pkwy, Woodstock, GA 30188.



CITY OF CANTON - TERRIFIC TUESDAY



Event: Terrific Tuesday Networking Event in collaboration with the City of Canton.

Date: August 22, 2023. 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

Location: Canton Rotary Park located at 100 North St, Canton, GA 30114.

CLASSIFICATION TALKS

As an important part of Vocational Service, Canton Rotarians deliver Classification Talks where they share about their vocations, careers, and passions in life. We seek a balance between new members and legacy members to deliver their Classification Talks.



Date: October 17, 2023. 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM.

Location: Cherokee Conference Center located at 1130 Bluffs Parkway, Canton, GA 30114.

Program: Rotarians Annie DeLuca, Don Thornton and Lori Baker shared about their vocations, careers and passions in life.



Date: March 12, 2023. 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM.

Location: R.T. Jones Memorial Library located at 116 Brown Industrial Parkway, Canton, GA 30114.

Program: Rotarians Marietta Stalcup and Dog Fountain shared about their vocations, careers and passions in life.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- ✓ As an important part of our **Hope Creators Initiative**, Vocational Service Chair JoEllen Wilson formally established a **Mentorship Program**.
- ✓ After our new members receive their **Member Induction** new members are assigned a Rotary Mentor who is an experienced Rotarian who answers questions and provides information, guidance, and inspiration to new Rotarians.
- ✓ The Mentor keeps in close communication with the Mentee, follows up when the Mentee misses meetings or projects, etc.
- ✓ The Mentor also gets the Mentee involved in projects and/or committees so the Mentees can experience the joy of serving at Rotary and be engaged right away.

REVAMPED NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

- ✓ We revamped our New Member Orientation program to respond to the current needs of our club and the requirements of Rotary International and our District 6910.
- ✓ This program is delivered by our Membership Chair Kristi Estes and Membership Co-Chair Jennifer Puckett.
- ✓ We emphasize the object of Rotary and the importance of dignifying and enhancing our vocations, professions, and occupations when we put them to the service of our community.
- ✓ Here is the link to our revamped New member Orientation slide deck:
https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6910/Downloads/4156/2023-2024/New_Member_Orientation_2023-2024_updated_08-14-23.pdf



STUDY OF MEMBERS' OCCUPATIONS/CLASSIFICATIONS

- ✓ Per our District 6910's guidance, we conducted a study of our Members' Occupations/Classifications at the beginning of the Rotary Year (July 2023).
- ✓ Below is the direct link to the results of our study:
https://www.dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6910/Downloads/4156/Member-Classifications-Occupations_Study_July_2023_Canton-Rotary.pdf
- ✓ The key takeaway in terms of occupations/classifications was that we should diversify our membership. Particularly, we should increase our membership from the private/business sector.
- ✓ We were already aware of that, but now provided us with the statistics to support that claim. About 75% of our members are either from the nonprofit/government/education sector (59%) or retired (16%). About 25% of members are from the private/business sector.
- ✓ While we love and have continued to encourage new members who are retired or have careers in nonprofit/government/education (they are naturally driven to us due to their professions, availability and hearts for service), we also put a special emphasis on recruiting more members from the private/business sector and have been successful in that effort. We have increased of our membership from the private/business sector by 5% to date (April 2024).

THE SAM R. GALANTI DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

- ✓ In support of our efforts to increase the representation of the private/sector among Canton Rotarians, we established a new award: The Sam R. Galanti Distinguished Community Service Award.
- ✓ This award recognizes the servant leadership of Canton Rotarians with vocations in the private sector who donate significant time, talent, and treasure to serve our community.
- ✓ This award honors entrepreneurs, business owners or business professionals who work in areas unrelated to community engagement or public relations, yet they



enhance their professions by actively serving our community through their businesses, servant leadership, selfless volunteerism, and philanthropic efforts.

- ✓ This distinguished award is named in honor of former Canton Rotarian and Past President Sam R. Galanti, a businessman and philanthropist who served our country in the Korean War. He, along with his three brothers (Benny, Morris, and Isaac) was the owner of Blair's Super Market in Canton and was a Canton Rotarian for 45 years. He became a Paul Harris Fellow and Rotary Foundation Benefactor and was the first recipient of The Col. Carlisle N. Coxe Rotarian of the Year Award. Sam and his wife Ann served as Host Family for scholars of the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) for 26 consecutive years.
- ✓ The inaugural recipient of this award was Rotarian Lori Flink, an incredible community servant and businesswoman. The presentation was done during our Rotary meeting on October 17, 2024, at the Cherokee Conference Center.





UPCOMING VOCATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

We are hosting the Law Day Program in collaboration with the Blue Ridge Circuit Bar Association on April 30, 2024. 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM at the Cherokee Conference Center. Many Canton Rotarians have careers in the legal/judicial field. They are going to put their vocation to the service of our community during this special program.

CLOSING REMARKS

Our **Hope Creators Initiative** has empowered us to live up to the Object of Rotary which is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. In Vocational Service terms, Hope Creators is helping us apply of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life. Our initiative is a deliberate effort to dignify and enhance each Rotarian's profession/occupation as an opportunity to serve society and create hope.