



Best Youth Service Project

Rotary Year 2023-2024

**THE CANTON ROTARY
EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS
INITIATIVE**



Rotary District 6910

April 15, 2024



THE CANTON ROTARY EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS INITIATIVE



What does it mean to be empowered? For young people throughout the world, empowerment is to discover the life treasure within themselves, the ability to make educated choices, inspire others, and create positive change in their own lives, as well as in their families and communities.

Empowered youth discover their potential to become leaders with a heart for service. Making a positive impact on the youth of our community is the purpose of The Rotary Club of Canton's **Empowering Young Leaders Initiative** during the Rotary Year 2023-2024.

We supported young servant leaders of Cherokee County with leadership education, personal and public safety training, and an awards program (scholarships). Additionally, we included an "End Human Trafficking Now" program and an "Active Shooter Training" for grownups who interact or work with youth in our community, which enhanced our initiative and made it even more impactful.



CLASSES

Students:

- ✓ We offered this program, free of charge, to boys and girls of Cherokee County between 15 and 18 years old.
- ✓ They made a firm commitment and had reliable transportation to attend the full program (three Saturdays). A waiver to participate was signed as well.
- ✓ We had 20 students who were be invited from schools/organizations such as: The Interact Club of Cherokee County, Cherokee High School, Sequoyah High School, Creekview High School, and Cherokee FOCUS – Families of Cherokee United in Service.
- ✓ We organized a graduation ceremony at the end of the program. Participants received an "Empowered Young Leader Certificate".

Duration: 3 weeks – Once a week on Saturdays, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

- ✓ **Day 1:** Saturday, 10/07/23. Inspiration by Rotarians. Personal/Public Safety Training by Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters.
- ✓ **Day 2:** Saturday, 10/14/23. Inspiration by Rotarians. Personal/Public Safety Training by Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters.
- ✓ **Day 3:** Saturday, 10/21/23. Inspiration by Rotarians and Graduation Ceremony.

Location: The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office provided the use of the following venue free of charge:

The Roger D. Garrison Law Enforcement Training Center

516 Chattin Dr, Canton, GA 30115

EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAM

DAY 1: Saturday, October 7, 2023. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM		
TIME	SESSION	SESSION LEADERS
9:00 AM – 9:25 AM	Introduction to Leadership and Personal/Public Safety*	Rotarians Lori Flink and Francisco Lozano
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Session with Police Officers	Corporal Josh Watkins & Sgt. Chip Pike
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Break	
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Session with Firefighters	Firefighter & MedCom Beau Witcher

DAY 2: Saturday, October 14, 2023. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM		
TIME	SESSION	SESSION LEADERS
9:00 AM – 9:55 AM	Session with Firefighters*	Firefighter & MedCom Beau Witcher
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Young Leaders Creating Hope	Rotarian Nadine Psareas
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Break	
11:00 AM – 11:25 AM	Preventing Substance Abuse*	Rotarian Sonia Carruthers
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Mental Health for Young Leaders	Rotarian Britt Parramore

DAY 3: Saturday, October 21, 2023. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM		
TIME	SESSION	SESSION LEADERS
9:00 AM – 9:25 AM	Great Leaders of the World and their Inspiring Journey*	Rotarians Rachel Ashe and Whitney Spear
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Entrepreneurship for Young Leaders	Rotarian Lori Flink
10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Break	
10:10 AM – 10:35 AM	Leadership and Community Involvement*	Rotarian Marcie Smith
10:40 AM – 11:05 AM	Young Leaders with a Heart for Service*	Rotarian Francisco Lozano
11:10 AM – 12:00 PM	Graduation	Session Leaders & Rotarians

* We gave participants five-minute breaks in between sessions.



INTRODUCTION TO SERVANT LEADERSHIP



**PERSONAL/PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING WITH POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS AND
PARAMEDICS**



Young servant leaders learned self-defense, first aid, and life-saving techniques.

YOUNG LEADERS CREATING HOPE



Young servant leaders learned about the importance of creating hope for the most vulnerable of our community and everyone around us.

PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE



Young servant leaders wore the "alcohol and marijuana goggles" and experienced a simulated reality of the negative effects of these substances in their vision and understanding of the world around them.



MENTAL HEALTH FOR YOUNG LEADERS



- Very reactive to ups and downs of life even on minor issues
- Being self-critical and always apologizing
- Easily influenced by peers
- Blaming
- Reluctance to learn new things or avoid
- Over-reacting to things and situations
- Being unable to make choices or solve
- Putting themselves down



Young servant leaders learned about the importance of mental health and how to promote it.

GREAT LEADERS OF THE WORLD AND THEIR INSPIRING JOURNEY



Our young servant leaders learned and were inspired by the journeys of great leaders of the world such as Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, and Malala Yousafzai.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR YOUNG LEADERS



Young servant leaders can also lead the way as entrepreneurs and use their businesses to make a difference in our community!



LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Young servant leaders start by changing the three feet around them!



SERVICE PROJECT: ORIGAMI TO CREATE HOPE



Our young leaders enjoyed working on a hands-on service project. They learned how to create origami (paper folding) figurines that can be used to decorate notes of encouragement for people in hospitals or just to brighten the day of someone in need of a little hope! ☺



GRADUATION CEREMONY



During a fun and emotive graduation ceremony, our young servant leaders received their Empowered Young Leader Certificates.



President Francisco Lozano also presented our community-based Interact Club of Cherokee County with their Certificate of Organization and installed their officers.



EMPOWERED YOUNG LEADER AWARDS (HEART FOR SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS)

Description: Merit-based scholarships awarded by the Rotary Club of Canton to Interactors in honor and recognition of their servant leadership and community involvement as an important component of our **Empowering Young Leaders Initiative**.

Requirements: Scholarship recipients must:

- Be high school seniors in good academic standing and show exemplary conduct with plans to start post-secondary education the summer or fall term immediately after graduating high school.
- Be active members of an Interact Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Canton (school based or community based).
- Participate actively in Canton Rotary Youth Service initiatives such as Empowering Young Leaders of Cherokee County, Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA), District 6910 Interact Conference, and/or Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, among others.
- Have a proven track record of meaningful participation in service projects and initiatives of their Interact Club, community and/or school.

Notes and Selection Process:

- Qualified children, grandchildren, or relatives of Canton Rotarians can apply. They will follow the same process and will be considered equally, as any other candidates.
- Scholarships will be awarded once a year based on availability of charitable funds. For the purposes of District 6910 Grants funding, we will treat them as "Empowering Young Leaders Awards".
- Interact Advisors will nominate their most qualified candidates annually, by March 31. Nominations will be submitted to the Canton Rotary Youth Service



Chair who will share the nominations with the Canton Rotary Selection Committee.

- The members of the Canton Rotary Selection Committee will be:
 1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Youth Service Chair
 4. Community Service Chair
 5. Vocational Service Chair
- Scholarship recipient selections will be made by April 15.
- The presentation of the scholarships will be done during a Scholarships Program at a regular lunch meeting of the Rotary Club of Canton in April, May or June. This year, it will held on May 14, 2024, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, in the auditorium of Canton City Hall located at 110 Academy Street, Canton, GA 30114.
- Recipients will be invited to attend the presentation meeting with two family guests in addition to their Interact Advisor.
- The scholarships will be presented as a check from the Canton Rotary Charitable Fund, Inc.

Nomination Form: <https://forms.gle/J3WFC35MRHbchf5F9>

OTHER CLASSES IN CONNECTION WITH OUR INITIATIVE

Classes for grownups who interact or work with youth in our community, which enhanced our initiative and made it even more impactful:

PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FOR ADULTS WHO WORK WITH YOUTH



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 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.



YOUTH PROTECTION AND "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 to protect youth.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.



RESOURCES NEEDED

- ✓ Law enforcement officer(s) instructors for self-defense (paid).
- ✓ Firefighters (volunteer Rotarians).
- ✓ Rotarians (volunteer) who were known as, "Empowering Young Leaders Mentors".
The "sweat equity" of Rotarians included:
 - Delivering Saturday classes.
 - Promoting the initiative.
 - Organizing and delivering the "End Human Trafficking Now" program.
 - Organizing and delivering the "Active Shooter Training".
 - Creating the "Empowered Young Leader Awards" program (Heart for Service Scholarships).
- ✓ Materials, water, snacks for classes.
- ✓ T-shirts for students, Rotarians, and other volunteers.
- ✓ Space for the classes. The Roger D. Garrison Law Enforcement Training Center.

BUDGET

Income Items

Item Name	Amount
District Grant	\$2,250.00
Canton Rotary Club Matching Funds	\$2,250.00
Income Total:	\$4,500.00

Expense Items

Item Name	Amount
Public Safety Training Instructor Fees (Two instructors, \$200 per instructor per session, \$400 per session, 1 session)	\$400.00
Water bottles, snacks for each session (3 sessions)	\$200.00
Certificates of completion for students (20 certificates, \$5 each)	\$100.00
T-shirts (80 cotton t-shirts: 20 for students, 60 for Rotarians)	\$800.00
Empowered Young Leader Awards (The Heart for Service Scholarships)	\$3,000.00
Expense Total:	\$4,500.00



CONCLUSION

Our **Empowering Young Leaders Initiative** represents the exceptional support, love, and hope that Canton Rotarians provide to children of our community through our Youth Service, Vocational Service, and Community Service.

- ✓ WE KNOW... that through this initiative, young leaders of Cherokee County were empowered to discover their potential to become leaders with a heart for service.
- ✓ WE HOPE... that our young servant leaders are prepared to face the challenges of today's world with grace, confidence, and love for our community.
- ✓ WE BELIEVE... that the joint efforts of Rotarians, Public Safety Professionals, and Community Leaders providing empowerment to youth are improving our community and the world.

We sowed the seeds of empowerment and helped young leaders discover that they have a voice in their own futures, the opportunity to choose wisely for themselves, the confidence to pursue their goals, and the ability to create positive change in their own lives, families, and communities.

We ignited the light of hope in Young Servant Leaders, one heart at a time! ♥