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## Canton Rotary launches new community service campaign

Staff reports  
Jul 26, 2023

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Rotary Club of Canton

Rotary Club of Canton members recently created care baskets for all of the precincts in the Cherokee Sheriff's Office.

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The Rotary Club of Canton has started a new campaign, “Heart for Service,” which is expanding its community service efforts.

Through the new community service campaign, the club will be completing a hands-on service project once a month as part of one of its weekly lunch meetings. These projects will be in addition to the community service completed outside of weekly meetings by the club.

For the first project, the club July 18 traveled to the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office headquarters. There they heard a brief presentation by Sheriff Frank Reynolds while eating lunch. The second half of the hour-long meeting was spent creating care baskets

for all of the sheriff's office precincts. Each basket was filled with packaged snacks for deputies to enjoy and was accompanied by hand-written thank-you notes from club members, and the club donated \$250 to the sheriff's office foundation.

President Francisco Lozano said the campaign is a way to both help the community and engage club members in more service.

“Community service fills our hearts with joy and spreads hope in the community,” he said. “Our club for many years has spent one meeting each summer packing lunches for the MUST Ministries summer meals program for children. It is one of our most popular meetings and the service project that engages the most club members. Through ‘Heart for Service,’ we will have the opportunity to similarly help another dozen organizations that serve our community.”

The club meets at noon on Tuesdays for a luncheon program at the Cherokee Conference Center at The Bluffs, or at offsite locations for community service projects. For more information, including a meeting schedule, visit <http://www.therotaryclubofcantonga.org>.

[https://www.tribuneledgernews.com/lifestyle/canton-rotary-donates-to-hasty-elementary-food-pantry/article\\_0137ea7c-4d87-11ee-84c5-077d35fb4ba0.html](https://www.tribuneledgernews.com/lifestyle/canton-rotary-donates-to-hasty-elementary-food-pantry/article_0137ea7c-4d87-11ee-84c5-077d35fb4ba0.html)

## Canton Rotary donates to Hasty Elementary food pantry

Staff reports  
Sep 7, 2023

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Photo courtesy of Barbara Jacoby

Rotary Club of Canton members sort their donations for the club's "Heart for Service" project at Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy, its Partner in Education. For the project, Rotarians filled the school's food pantry for students in need

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The Rotary Club of Canton recently filled the food pantry at Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy with donations for students in need.

The pantry is used to send food home via backpacks with students whose families are in need. Club members also wrote messages of encouragement to students.

Also at the school, the club set up a thank-you buffet of snacks and soft drinks for teachers to enjoy.

The Aug. 29 project was part of the club's ongoing "Heart for Service" campaign.

President Francisco Lozano said he greatly appreciates the members for giving their time and club Community Service Chair Billy Peppers for organizing the projects.

“We serve to help others and spread hope in the community and look forward to even more giving,” Lozano said. “We hope our service will inspire more of our neighbors to join Rotary and help expand our positive impact in our community.”

The monthly “Heart for Service” campaign’s next project is the club’s annual Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon. The special event, which will be held during the club’s lunch meeting on Sept. 26, recognizes the community’s most outstanding public safety officers. The annual presentation is expanding this year to include special donations and scholarships. Sponsorship opportunities are available; for more information visit <https://www.therotaryclubofcantonga.org/>.

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SPOTLIGHT

## Cherokee County public safety workers honored at Canton Rotary luncheon

By Ethan Johnson [ejohnson@cherokeetribune.com](mailto:ejohnson@cherokeetribune.com)  
Sep 27, 2023



Ethan Johnson

Cherokee County Fire Chief Eddie Robinson (center left), Chief Marshal Jamie Gianfala (center right) and Sheriff Frank Reynolds were recognized with the Colonel George Bailey Distinguished...

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CANTON — The Rotary Club of Canton honored Cherokee County’s police, firefighters and other first responders Tuesday during its annual Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon.

The sixth annual event took place at the Northside Cherokee Conference Center at The Bluffs in Canton.

The club presented several awards for outstanding service to public safety workers from across the county.

The Colonel George Bailey Distinguished Leadership Award, named for the late community leader and Canton Rotarian, was presented to Cherokee County Fire Chief Eddie Robinson.

Canton Rotarian Rebecca Johnston presented the award to Robinson.

“Over the years, Chief Robinson has earned many accolades that span both his years serving in the Army and in fire service — earning 33 service ribbons from the U.S. Army and the distinguished Georgia Fire Chief Certification from the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs in 2020,” Johnston said. “Chief Robinson has given a lifetime of service and dedication to serving his country and community. He is the epitome of a hero for hope.”

Cherokee County Sheriff Frank Reynolds earned the Canton Rotary Community Leadership Award and Cherokee County Chief Marshal Jamie Gianfala earned the Canton Rotary Public Safety Service Award.

Cherokee County Educational Foundation Executive Director Lisa-Marie Haygood presented the leadership award to Reynolds.

“He has a deep commitment to this community and gives back every year through Frank Reynolds Charities and the Cherokee Sheriff’s Foundation... and has continued these initiatives valiantly,” she said.

Canton Rotary President Francisco Lozano presented the service award to Gianfala.

“We are very thankful for your heart for service,” he said. “He really puts his heart and soul into making sure first responders know they are important to this community. Thank you, Jamie.”

Public Safety Employee of the Year Awards were also presented during the event.

These awards are presented to at least one representative from each community agency.

The honorees are:

Officer Erik Witherington of the Ball Ground Police Department

Officer Courtney Rogers and Sgt. Jesse Hamilton of the Canton Police Department

Crime Analyst Erin Mason of the Holly Springs Police Department

Officer Josh Buckner of the Woodstock Police Department

Firefighters Jessie Brookshire and Gregory (Zeb) McAllister of the Woodstock Fire Department

Officer Samira Rezagholizadeh of the Cherokee County School District Police Department

Investigator Drew Alexander of the Cherokee County Solicitor-General’s Office



Senior Investigator Brandon Owens of the Cherokee County District Attorney's Office

Communication Officer Genesis Beltran of Cherokee County E-911

Capt. Dwayne Casteel of the Cherokee County Marshal's Office

Division Chief Chad Davis of Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services

Deputy Renato Guido of the Cherokee Sheriff's Office.

The club also presented the Public Safety Business Partner of the Year Award to Cherokee Trophies. Nominees also included Alma Coffee, Woodstock Public Safety Foundation and MC Wraps and Signs.

Scholarship donations of \$1,000 were also presented to the Canton Police Department, Holly Springs Police Department, Cherokee County Marshal's Office, Cherokee County E-911, Cherokee Sheriff's Office, Cherokee County Fire EMT, Cherokee County Fire and Emergency Services and Cherokee County Fire Station 8 through the Rotary Club of Canton Charitable Fund. Five of the eight public safety scholarship funds were contributed by the Haygood family, an event sponsor.

Scholarship funds were awarded to individual agencies to determine the best use. They can be used by an employee of the department or by an employee's family member, or for a student in the department's Explorer-type career exploration program. Funds can be used for continued education, certifications and for books and fees.

The club also donated to holiday charity giving programs through the Rotary Club of Canton Charitable Fund included Canton PD's Shop with a Cop, Holly Springs PD's Shop with a Hero and the Cherokee Sheriff's Office Christmas Joy.

Sen. John Albers spoke to the public safety workers in attendance, and shared his family's connection with public safety. He also talked about the importance of mental health awareness for first responders and remembered the first responders that gave their lives to help others during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Being a first responder is much more than a tradition or job, it's a calling," Albers said. "Thank you for your service."

Albers also played a message from Gov. Brian Kemp to those in attendance. In the video, Kemp thanked "the many public safety heroes gathered here."

"Georgia depends on the service of our officers, firefighters, EMTs and others who put the well-being of our fellow Georgians above your own," Kemp said. "Your efforts have made your families, friends, the people of Cherokee County and the entire state proud."