

## ***2018-19 Rotary Club of Lynn Haven, FL Annual Report District #6940 Rotary "Club of the Year"***

**2018-19 has been a challenging year for all including the Rotary Club of Lynn Haven, FL.** Our club President was Beverly Nield did a great job guiding the club through adversary, challenges and successes. Here is our year in review:

### ***Club Activities:***

In July 2018, our club began with a successful Pancake breakfast fundraiser. The City of Lynn Haven has a diverse 4th of July celebration, to include: a main street parade; fireworks; city park music and vendor a presence. Thousands show up for the events. For some years, our club has asked for donations for a pancake and sausage breakfast. Over half our club turned out as volunteers and we raised \$ 2,200. The proceeds went toward a water safety education project in six of the local Elementary Schools. The "Josh the Otter" program is an education and reading program. We taught classes and distributed over 300 books to local first graders. There are over 350 children drowning a year. Drowning is the #1 cause of unintentional death in children 1-4 years old. Most of these deaths are preventable with some education and adult oversight.

In August, we hosted one of the First United Methodist Church's Saturday Breakfasts. We bought the food, volunteered to cook, serve and clean up. We served over 150 struggling members of the community with a full breakfast. It was a great feeling to pay it forward.

In September, we conducted a fun and "noisy" club auction at the Panama Country club. Items were donated and members bid on them. We raised \$1,500 for the Rotary Foundation. For the third year, we fielded the Bay Rotary team in Panama City's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's. The club raised \$1,800 for the fight to end Alzheimer's.

On October 10, 2018 our world was turned upside down as Hurricane Michael ravaged our area. Since that day most of our community efforts have been focused on hurricane recovery assistance. Over half our club membership was displaced or rendered homeless due to severe home and business damage. Despite this catastrophic disaster, we were the first local Rotary club to meet after the Hurricane meeting less than 10-days after the storm in the devastated parking lot of the Panama Country Club in Lynn Haven. We hugged each other that we survived, identified some actions needed, promised to check on the status of every member, took a picture and left to rebuild our lives and businesses. We found a new meeting location in a local Coffee bar café in Lynn Haven. Even with the loss of several displaced members our new membership is on the rise.

From October 2018 to today, over \$100,000 as been distributed directly by our club to help specific community needs. Most of the donations came from district Rotary Clubs and clubs around the country. Donations have included cash, gift cards, water, food, clothes and volunteers from with in and outside our club. John Medina, our district governor and President Beverly Nield have worked diligently to identify community needs, coordinate donations with clubs and distribute goods and services in the area.

Some highlights included: 150 Boston butts cooked and delivered by the Pensacola club to feed those in need; Pallets of water distributed by Jacksonville club; Food delivery's by Deland club; winter clothes donated by Tallahassee club to local elementary schools; New Jersey club volunteers tarping leaky roofs; \$1,000 grant to displaced FSU students; Over \$1,500 in \$25-100 gift cards were donated to local teachers and seniors in need by several Florida clubs; \$250 was donated to rebuild the Callaway Historical Society; \$30,000 donated by the Jacksonville Rotary club for tree replacement; over \$60,000 in donations to local elementary schools by New Port Richie; \$7,500 district grant to Arc of the Bay and many more outpourings of generosity by fellow Rotarians. Donations continue to come in and we have adjusted giving to the changing community needs.

In April 2019, we hosted our annual Arc of the Bay Golf Tournament raising over \$10,000. Arc of the Bay is a 100-year-old agency for adults with disabilities and special needs. Our club has been a on-going donor for over 20 years. More than 65% of their operating budget comes from private donations like ours; we sponsored two Mosley High School 10-graders to Spring District RYLA;

In May, we hosted a Derby Day party and fundraiser and netted \$2,200 for a new ROTOACT club at FSU/GCSC and in assisting on-going Interact club projects at Mosley High School.

In June, we hosted an installation dinner and 37 members and guests attended; Awards presented included: Paul Harris Fellow; Rotarian of the Year; Service above Self; and Perfect attendance.

Throughout the year our club supported the Military Welcome Center at the Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) with over 288 volunteer hours a year.

This has been a challenging year: Several members are still displaced from their homes; Our club lost about 10-members to storm related issues; some have returned; other have moved out of the area and we have several new members. We are rebuilding our club and being relevant to our community. **We are 850-strong.**

**Membership Growth:**

**Foundation giving:**

**District grants:**

**Presidential and DG Citations:**

- report submitted by Rich Filippi, PP, PHF  
on behalf of the: ***Rotary Club of Lynn Haven, FL #4239***  
*PO Box 9, Lynn Haven, FL 32444*

***Beverly Nield***, President 2018-19; 850.867.2472  
***Irvin Clark***, President 2019-20; 912.844.2018