

2020-2021 Rotary Club of Lynn Haven FL Annual Report and Projects

2020-2021 was another challenging, active and ultimately successful year for the Rotary Club of Lynn Haven Florida (The Club). Some of our challenges included operating in a COVID-19 environment, maintaining an active membership and community engagement. Early in 2020 we met virtually via ZOOM conferencing. This proved an asset by keeping our members engaged and allowed us to recruit a variety of speakers virtually. We brought in speakers far and wide, from professional experts, politicians and organizations struggling to survive. ZOOM conferencing was so successful that we continue to use it today, even while meeting in-person, providing remote speakers, members and guests the ability to participate. Some club members have contracted COVID-19 and at least one death was connected to the virus.

Despite these challenges the Club continued to grow, fundraise and help our local and international communities with their needs. We provided over \$95,000 in donations through local fundraising, district and international grants. The Club fundraised over \$25,000 and volunteered in several local food drives and meal preparations, providing over 160,000 meals to those in need. We honored our first responders by partnering with a local restaurant and providing free-lunches throughout the year. The Club supported the Arts community with needed funds for supplies and materials. The Club provided needed funds and volunteers to various Bay County Schools; for essential COVID-19 PPE, teaching materials; gift cards; beautification projects and an on-going (third year) reading literacy program. The Club paid-it-forward in fundraising over \$12,500 toward Hurricane relief efforts in Louisiana and the Bahamas. We continued to sponsor active Interact and Rotaract programs. For over 10-years, since its inception, the Club continued active volunteer support to the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC). In our major fundraiser the Club raised over \$33,000 in support of ARC of the Bay, a local 501c3 organization providing life skills and work opportunities to over 250 adults with disabilities.

We earned the **Presidential Citation** achieving 23 of the 25 stated challenges.

We achieved all of **RI President Holger's Key Messages**: holding strategic meetings throughout the year, expanding our community reach and impact, writing the first Club bi-laws and identifying strategic goals; This year we donated \$500 toward RI Polio Plus efforts, totaling over \$30,000 in Club donations. We Improved membership engagement by increasing project participation and adapted to our changing environment (especially COVID-19 and economic challenges) using technology.

We achieved **District 6940's Key Messages**: We reversed our membership decline by increasing our membership by 20% (net 6); We gave \$1,500 to The Rotary Foundation and pledged to double giving to \$3,000 in 2021-22; The Club Improved the way we tell our Rotary Story with a new vibrant website, enhanced media coverage and more community engagement. We provided funding for local schools to source PPE (local

Hand wash initiative to combat COVID-19). Club officers participated in several District Conferences and Grant meetings.

President Doctor Irvin Clark did a remarkable job of leading us through two tough Rotary years (2019-2021) and leaves the Club a vibrant, growing, relevant organization. His successor Liz MacLean has great energy and ideas on moving the Club forward.

2020-2021 Rotary Club of Lynn Haven projects and events

As of 06/20/21

2020

July

07/17/20: The Rotary Club of Lynn Haven, FL (The Club) in partnership with the Culinary Institute at the Arc of The Bay provided lunch for the Lynn Haven Police Department. The lunch included grilled burgers and hot dogs with sides and trimmings and fruit and chocolate brownies. Afterwards, the students of the institute were able to meet and greet Sgt. Hamilton, Ofc. Marshall and Cpl. Meachum. 45 meals were served at a cost of \$340.

07/18/20: The Club provided \$250 and volunteer support to the 1st United Methodist Church of Panama City, FL Saturday Community Breakfast program which serves the homeless a full nutritious breakfast every Saturday as well as providing hygiene care and clothes.

07/22/20: The Club donated \$200 to Kaleidoscope Theatre in support of our local treater program.

07/21/20: The Club partnered with CareerSource Gulf Coast who hosted a drive-through local food distribution event at the Panama City Mall; we partnered with financial support and volunteers over 20,000 lbs. of food @ 17,000 meals were distributed.

August

08/18/20: The Club partnered with CareerSource Gulf Coast who hosted a drive-through local food distribution event at the Panama City Mall; we partnered with financial support and volunteers over 20,000 lbs. of food @ 17,000 meals were distributed.

08/19/20: The Club returned to in-person meetings at ARC of the Bay, Lynn Haven and continued the ZOOM video access option.

08/20/20: The Club distributed \$6,000 to the Bay County School District for COVID-19 relief efforts and PPE: The Club raised \$2,000; \$1,000 was received from Rotary District 6940's Disaster Response Grant from The Rotary Foundation; a matching \$3,000 grant came from the Bay Education Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, whose

mission supports the educational development of our Bay County students/teachers/staff. Many thanks to Rotarian Juan Andrada, Rotary Club of Panama City Downtown and President of The Education Foundation, for their support!

08/20/20: The Club donated \$200 to Kaleidoscope Theatre for needed supplies

September

09/15/20: The Club coordinated and distributed \$15,825 to the Panama City Drive-thru Community Food Distribution Project; LH Club raised \$2,000; Bay County Rotary Clubs raised +\$3,325; a non-Rotary partner donated +\$3,000; and a \$7,500 matching district grant provided funding for the food.

09/09/20: The Club donated \$2,500 toward Hurricane Laura Relief to the Rotary Club of Greater Lake Charles Rotary District 6200 Foundation, 2266 South College Road, Suite C, Lafayette, LA 70508

09/22/20: The Club partnered with CareerSource Gulf Coast who hosted a drive-through local food distribution event at the Panama City Mall; we partnered with financial support and volunteers over 20,000 lbs. of food @ 17,000 meals were distributed.

09/25/20: The Club's 2019-2020 Installation Dinner was held at ARC of the Bay; Dr. Irvin Clark to stand another term as President.

09/30/20: The Club partnered with a local Beef O'Brady Restaurant (owner is a club member) and donated \$379 toward a 1st Responder Appreciation Lunch.

October

10/24/20: The Club Drive Through "Pancakes for Polio" Fundraiser; the event was postponed due to COVID-19 concerns.

November

11/05/21: The Club provided \$165 in Interact T-shirts to the Club-sponsored Mosely High School Interact Club.

11/22/20: The Club partnered with the Lynn Haven Garden Club in restoring Rutherford High School entrance as part of beautification project after the severe damage from Hurricane Michael. The Club donated \$850 toward materials and provided several volunteers.

December

12/05/20: The Club provided \$5,000 and several volunteers to the Bay County Rotary Clubs Food Drive-thru program in the rural Freeport FL Community. Distributed 30,000 lbs. of food @ 28,000 meals

12/12/20: The Club provided eight volunteers for local Salvation Army Bell Ringing fundraiser at Lynn Haven Walmart

12/22/20: The Club participated in Wreaths Across American Bay County, Mount Hope Cemetery Lynn Haven.

The Club provided volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month, every 2nd Tuesday and Saturday, at the Military Welcome Center () at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC).

2021

January

01/20/21: Club approved a Goodwill Ambassadors (or Care) Committee (with a Chair).

*The Club provided volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month, every 2nd Tuesday and Saturday, at the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC).

February

02/05/21: The Club partnered with local Beef O'Brady Restaurant (owner is a club member) and donated \$585 toward a 1st Responder Appreciation Lunch.

02/14/21: The Club partnered with CareerSource Gulf Coast who hosted a drive-through local food distribution event at the Panama City Mall; we partnered with \$5,000 financial support and volunteers over 20,000 lbs. of food @ 17,000 meals were distributed.

02/28/21: The Club donated \$100 toward a Mosley High School Teacher Appreciation event.

*The Club provided volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month, every 2nd Tuesday and Saturday, at the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC).

March

03/11/21: The Club provided \$5,000 and several volunteers to the Bay County Rotary Clubs Food Drive-thru program in the rural Freeport FL Community. Distributed 30,000 lbs. of food @ 28,000 meals

03/27/21: 10th Annual "Arc of the Bay" fundraiser Golf Tournament; over \$33,000 was raised for Arc of the Bay, a local organization providing life skills and work opportunities to over 250 adults with disabilities. The tournament name changed to "DW Smith Memorial Golf Tournament" in honor of a recently deceased long-time member of the club and the Community.

*The Club provided volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month, every 2nd Tuesday and Saturday, at the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC).

April

04/10/21: The Club awarded a \$500 grant of Thanks to Wild Root, a local coffee shop that we had used as a temporary meeting location in 2019-2020 before relocating to our permanent location at ARC of the Bay.

04/13/21: The Club provided \$5,000 and volunteers to local Food Drive program in partnership with St. Dominic's Catholic Church Panama City FL.

04/14/21 - The Club raised \$10,000 toward a \$250,000 Rotary Global Grant distributed to District 7020 Abacos Schools Project - Hurricane Dorian Relief to rebuild schools damaged by Hurricane Dorian.

*The Club provided volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month, every 2nd Tuesday and Saturday, at the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC).

May

05/01/21: The Club hosted the 3rd annual Derby Day fundraiser and community social event which raised over \$2,800 for local charities.

05/03/21: The Club donated \$100 toward the Rotary District 6940 Food Pantry.

05/24/21: The Club presented \$500 to Beth Piccolo, the Mosley High School Interact Advisor for her club and civic efforts.

05/24/21: The Club presented \$400 to the Mosley HS JROTC in recognition of their community volunteer efforts and partnership with the Rotary Club of Lynn Haven.

*The Club provided volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month, every 2nd Tuesday and Saturday, at the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC).

June

06/15/21: The Club donated \$2,500 in support of the Dolly Parton Reading Library Project to Lynn Haven Elementary. This is the third year of club support to the project.

06/25/21: Installation Dinner at ARC of the Bay; Dr. Irvin Clark out-going President; Liz MacLean as 2021-22 President

*The Club provided volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month, every 2nd Tuesday and Saturday, at the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC).

*The Rotary Club of Lynn Haven FL continues volunteer participation of at least 16-hours a month at the Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (EPC) since January 2011. Additionally, Club members participated in special events honoring our military and veterans. In a normal year

volunteer hours average over 300 hours. Due to COVID19 airport closure the actual hours volunteered was approximately 125 hours. The Military Welcome Center is similar to the USO in function, providing support in snacks, drinks, internet access, transportation coordination, printing and faxing capabilities to active-duty and retired veterans using the airport. The Club has supported this effort since inception over 10-years ago.

- report submitted by Rich Filippi, PP, PHF