

On October 24, 1984, a group of local businessmen and members of the Rotary Club of Portsmouth met to form a new Rotary Club in the Churchland area of Portsmouth. On January 11, 1985, the Rotary Club of Churchland was chartered with twenty-four members. The first President was Dr. Neal Davis.

Each year, the Rotary Club of Churchland sponsors two large fundraisers; an Annual Rotary Barbecue held in June in partnership with the Rotary Club of Portsmouth, and Williamsburg peanuts sold in November and December. Monies from these fundraisers have supported a variety of projects, including, but not limited to, scholarships to students from the community, needy families during the Christmas season, disaster assistance, Polio Plus, District 7600 Guyana Initiative, Adopt-A-Neighborhood-Peachtree Camp Rotary, a fishing pier at Tidewater Community College, and baseball dugouts at community ball fields. A special "Bowl-A-Thon" was held in November to enable the purchase of a van for H.A.P.P.I..

In 1999, a van equipped with a wheelchair lift was purchased by the club to be used by families in need of such a vehicle within the community.

Participation in Hampton Roads Paint-Your-Heart-Out began in 1997 with Rotarians and other volunteers painting and repairing houses for less fortunate individuals.

Churchland Rotary held a Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Cedar Point Country Club in May 1999 with proceeds raised in the amount of \$13,000 going to the Help and Emergency Relief Shelter. In May 2000, the tournament was held at Riverfront Golf Course and \$11,500 was given to Oasis Social Ministry. Nansemond River Golf Course was the site of the 2001 tournament and proceeds benefited the Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless. The fourth Pro-Am held in September 2001 was held at Elizabeth Manor with proceeds supporting the efforts of Rotary International to eradicate polio in the world by 2005, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International. In September 2004 the club held a golf tournament at Sleepy Hole Golf Course with proceeds supporting the new playground at Churchland Elementary School.

Combining efforts with the Rotary Club of Portsmouth, the Churchland Club sponsored a Rotaract Club at Tidewater Community College on May 10, 1990. This Rotaract Club was formed again in 2004. An Interact Club was started at Churchland High School in November 1994 with 22 students. In 2000, we sponsored a second Interact Club at Western Branch High School.

A STRIVE program was initiated in the 1997-1998 school year at Churchland High School with twenty-six students completing the program in the 1998-99 school year. One full scholarship and two partial scholarships to Tidewater Community College are awarded each year under the STRIVE program. In addition, the club provides an annual \$4,000 scholarship to a student from either Western Branch High School or Churchland High School. This program was held for the final time in 2008.

The first club sponsored Ambassadorial Scholar was that of Mr. Trey Childress in 1996. In 2003 Christine DeTriquet was sponsored by the club as an Ambassadorial Scholar. Mr. Childress studied in England and Ms. DeTriquet studied in Italy. In 2006 our club's third nominee, Dan Owens, a "Teach for America" candidate, was selected as an Ambassadorial Scholar. He studied in Argentina, South America.

Several Rotarians from Churchland Rotary have traveled to Guyana to assist in various projects for that country. Textbooks from the Portsmouth Public Schools and Nansemond-Suffolk Academy were collected, boxed and shipped. School supplies, tools, first aid supplies and other items were also provided. A "Shoebox" project was initiated in 1997 to send small items to needy children in Bolivia.

Churchland Rotary hosted its first guests on a Group Study Exchange from Argentina in 1997. The club hosted guests from a Group Study Exchange from Turkey in 2002, a team from Australia in 2005, and a team from the British Virgin Islands in District 7020 in 2008.

In February 1999, Ector and Carol Hamrick welcomed Duween Krammer to their home. Duween came to Portsmouth from Guyana SA where he had been discovered several months earlier by a Rotary 7600 ministry team. Duween had a life-threatening lesion on his face. The Hamricks, along with Churchland Rotary, Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, and volunteer doctors have worked together since 1999 to help Duween obtain the surgeries and medical care to improve his health so that he can return to his family in Guyana.

The club has participated in two matching grants with Rotary International. Both grants supported projects in Buenos Aires, Argentina

In July 2000 Churchland Rotary, with support from Bless the Children, Inc., Food for the Poor, Inc., and TCC-Portsmouth Campus started the Med-Link Project. Through this program, used and surplus medical supplies and equipment are collected, inventoried, and shipped to countries less fortunate. In 2002 a Med-Link committee, with members from various Rotary Clubs in District 7600, was formed. Physicians for Peace participated in the program in the later shipments. The program ceased operations in 2009. From 2000 to 2009 over 35 containers with equipment and supplies valued at \$20 million was shipped to 12 countries.

The club obtained a Discovery Grant in 2002 to visit Honduras to explore forming a medical clinic. As a result of this grant, Churchland Rotary along with the Lions Club and other volunteers has formed P.I.C. "Partners for International Clinics." The first project of P.I.C. was the establishment of a medical clinic in Honduras. In July 2002, a reverse raffle was held at Cedar Point Country Club and approximately \$18,000 was raised to support the medical clinic in Honduras. A reverse raffle has also been held in 2003 and 2004 to provide additional financial support to the medical clinic. A second visit to the medical clinic was made by Rotarians and other volunteers in February 2003. Dental and eye care was provided to local residents. During this visit, the clinic was officially named in honor of Julia Knight. Visits by Rotarians and other volunteers were also made in February 2004 and 2005 to once again provide medical care to local residents.

The club has also held a reverse raffle and silent auction in 2005 and 2006 with proceeds used to support the club's Disbursement Fund with a portion of the proceeds from the 2005 event used to support the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. In 2009 a reverse raffle was held to provide funds for surgeries for Duween Kramer.

In 2005 the club celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rotary Club of Churchland. To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International, Churchland Rotary participated in a Centennial Project. The club's Centennial Project was the construction of a

new community playground at Churchland Elementary School. The first phase of the project was completed in the fall of 2003 and included removing the current fencing, installing new fencing and security bollards, and landscaping the playground area. Local businesses donated various materials and labor totaling over \$22,000 for the first phase of the project. The club had volunteers from the Navy and Coast Guard as well as teachers, parents, and PTA members from Churchland Elementary School. The second phase of the project, completed in November 2004, included installing the playground equipment. The club donated \$10,000 to purchase new playground equipment and Churchland Elementary raised an additional \$11,000 for the project. A \$5,000 District Simplified Grant from Rotary District 7600 was obtained for the project. Including the cost of the playground equipment and the labor and materials donated, the total project cost was approximately \$50,000. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on February 23, 2005 which was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of Rotary International. A plaque was constructed at the school acknowledging the Centennial Project.

In 2005-2006 the club received a \$5,000 District Simplified Grant for landscaping to Edmarc Hospice in Portsmouth. In 2006-2007 the club partnered with the Rotary Club of Portsmouth in applying for – and receiving – our third District Simplified Grant. Each club contributed \$2,500 so that the \$5,000 DSG resulted in a \$10,000 contribution for the Portsmouth Reads adult and child literacy program. Members from both clubs volunteered at monthly “Family Reading Night” and Child Provider training sessions.

As the club started to receive larger contributions for Med-Link and PIC, The Rotary Club of Churchland Foundation was formed in September 2000. The foundation qualifies as a tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. By 2006 the club found that its Foundation’s 501 (c) (3) status was not needed to attract donations to the Med-Link program. The Foundation was liquidated, and \$41,000 was distributed to organizations with which the club had established previous relationships.

In 2007 our club’s first annual Bowl-a-Thon was held on St Patrick’s Day. The event raised over \$15,000, and half of the net proceeds were donated to the Rotary International Foundation in the names of the club members who had secured the donations. In February of 2007 our club partnered with the Rotary Club of North Suffolk on a project at the Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve. Club members worked to clear and maintain a new trail and boat launch area, and arranged for two trees to be professionally removed from the boat launch / oyster pier site. Additionally, the liquidation of the club’s Foundation provided Hoffler Creek with a check for \$2,000. In the spring of 2007 the club teamed with 16 other Rotary clubs from District 7600 to sell tickets for the first annual “Savor the South” fellowship / fundraising event held for the benefit of EDMARC Childrens’ Hospice, held on June 2, 2007.

During the 2007-2008 year, Churchland Rotary embarked on a fundraising campaign along with several other local Rotary clubs and raised \$12,800 to sponsor the planetarium at the new Children’s Museum in downtown Portsmouth. Our second annual Bowl-a-Thon was an overwhelming success, achieving our budgeted financial results and exceeding our budgeted fun quotient. The club continued to partner with the downtown Portsmouth club for the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Rotary BBQ at the Portsmouth campus of Tidewater Community College and worked with a plethora of local Rotary clubs in supporting the second annual “Savor the South” to benefit EDMARC Children’s’ Hospice. The membership had net membership growth of 5.

During the 2008-2009 year the club supported the theme for the year to “Make Dreams Real” by donating funds for two Rotary International Grants: the Healing Hearts Competitive Grant sponsored by the Suffolk club to provide life saving heart surgeries to at least 45 children in Guatemala and the 3H Zambia Bridges 3H Grant used to build walking bridges in Zambia sponsored by the Newport News club. Churchland Rotary supported the Gates Challenge Grant by donating \$1,684 to the Polio Plus Eradication effort. Club members hosted the GSE team from the British Virgin Islands in District 7020 during the same weekend of our district conference in Portsmouth. In support of District Governor Bill Pollard, over 20 members attended and volunteered at the District conference at the Portsmouth Renaissance and hosted a hospitality suite. In partnership with the Smithfield Rotary club, North Suffolk Rotary club, Churchland Baptist Church, and Ebenezer United Methodist Church, a Stop Hunger Now event was held in February 2009 where over \$40,000 meals were packaged for starving children and their families throughout the world. The club was saddened by the passing of charter member, past president, and past District Governor Mike Moreland in January. In his honor, the Churchland Rotary club established and awarded “The Mike Moreland Humanitarian Rotary Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. The club also held a successful third Bowl-a-thon along, peanut sales and joint fund raiser of an annual BBQ with the Downtown Portsmouth Club. During the 2009-10 and 2010-11 Rotary years the club continued to support its signature community projects and The Rotary Foundation.

In 2011-12 the club supported the following organizations and programs: \$1,000 Physicians for Peace for children’s mattresses for the Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti; Table and \$250 donation for Safe trick or treat in downtown Portsmouth; sold peanuts; \$100 donation to the Horton Wreath Society; club social in December at the president’s house; Salvation Army bell Ringing; Delivered presents and food to those in need during the Christmas season; \$500 to STARBASE; Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event; \$3,500 donation to the Boys & Girls Club in Portsmouth; February: \$200 to Andrew Eaton’s Peaks for Peace program (Children’s Hospital Burn Camp); \$500 donation to Paradise Creek for naming tree rights with the Portsmouth Club also donating \$500; Bowl-A-Thon; Paint Your Heart Out; \$1,000 donation to Hoffer Creek; concluded the Club’s obligation to Duween Kramer who graduated from Churchland High School; started the Community Garden; Awarded 4 scholarships,, \$2,000 to the TCC Ben Forsythe Scholarship, \$2,500 The Mike Moreland Humanitarian, \$2,000 to CHS student and \$2,000 to a WBHS student; Rewrote/simplified the scholarship “requirements”; 30<sup>th</sup> annual BBQ - made minor modifications to the event. Including adding two desert vendors and had three bands as opposed to one band. Also raised over \$17,000 in sponsorship money.

The club has been a strong supporter of the Rotary Foundation with per capital giving to the Annual Programs Fund consistently above \$150. All-time giving to the Foundation is over \$257,000. In 2008-2009 the club became a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club in honor of Mike Moreland. The majority of the membership participates as Sustaining Paul Harris Fellows. 43 current members are Paul Harris Fellows, 23 current members are Benefactors, 4 current members are in the Bequest Society, and 1 current member is a Major Donor. Including former members, friends, and family, the club has 116 Paul Harris Fellows.

Five Churchland Rotarians, all past presidents of the club, have achieved higher offices in District 7600. Mike Moreland served as District Governor in 1994-1995. Bill Pollard served as District Governor in 2008-2009. Three Rotarians have served as Assistant District Governor: Les Halstead (1994-1997), Julia Knight (1996-1997), and Bill Pollard (2004-2006). David Stephenson was Co-Chair of Grants for District 7600 (2003-2005). Mike Moreland served as Chair of the Permanent Fund for District 7600 (2002-2003). Bill Pollard is serving as the District Foundation Chair from

2010 to 2013. In 2002, Julia Knight was presented the Rotary International “Service Above Self” award. A maximum of 150 Rotarians throughout the world receive this award in any one year.

The Rotary Club of Churchland undertakes a wide variety of service activities. Current projects include:

- Awarding *college scholarships* to graduates of local high schools
- Sponsoring and sharing joint projects with our *Interact* club and Western Branch High School and our *Rotaract* club at Tidewater Community College
- Raising moneys for the ongoing support of worthy local *community needs* with various fund raisers including peanut sales, bowl-a-thon, and the annual BBQ with the Portsmouth Rotary club.
- Working the local river shores in *Clean the Bay Day* and *Hoffler Creek*
- Participating in the *Salvation Army* bell ringing
- Providing *Christmas funding* to local “at need” families
- Repair and paint homes belonging to senior citizens or handicapped individuals in need with *Paint-Your-Heart-Out*
- Holding a Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event with the Rotary Clubs of Smithfield and North Suffolk along with Ebenezer United Methodist Church and Churchland Baptist Church
- Starting a Community Garden in Portsmouth

As a requirement of being a member of our club, each Rotarian is expected to participate in our annual fund-raisers: While there is no ceiling placed in the amount each member can sell, each member is asked to sell a minimum designated dollar amount or else donate the designated dollar amount each year to the campaign. We are proud of the fact that **100%** of all money we raise goes directly to the charities and service projects we support. None of the money raised is applied to our operating and administrative expenses.

As of July 1, 2013, Churchland Rotary has a membership of 49.

The Rotary Club of Churchland is in Rotary District 7600, Area 13. District 7600 consists of 63 clubs in Central and Southeastern Virginia and over 2,900 Rotarians.