

ROTARY PROVIDES IPADS TO HEAD START CLASSROOMS

By *Temrah Okonski, President, Ellicott City Rotary Club*

"Unconditional love will have the final word in reality." Martin Luther King

As I stood in the hallway of one of the Community Action Council (CAC) Head Start

programs in Columbia by fellow Rotarians, CAC board members, and CAC executive staff Martin Luther King's words came to my mind and I felt incredibly grateful to be surrounded by such amazing community members.

Since its founding in 1928, a principal focus of the Ellicott City Rotary Club has been education. In 2015 the Sunrise Rotary Club helped all Howard County Rotary Clubs join together to support the CAC's Summer Enrichment Head Start Program. This effort expanded into Rotary Reads, a program where Rotarians volunteer to be special "guest readers" in Head Start classrooms. Most recently, the Ellicott City Rotary Club teamed up with the Rotary Club of Columbia Town Center to raise \$2,500

to buy I-pads for the Head Start classrooms. They then applied for and received a Rotary District matching grant for another \$2,500. Armed with the \$5,000, they were able to purchase 14 I-pads which were gifted to the Howard County Head Start centers on January 23rd. "I-pads are an essential classroom tool

for teachers to document student progress and to keep in touch with parents", noted CAC's Director of Resource Development.

Temrah Okonski, President of The Ellicott City Rotary Club realized that there was more that could be done. Knowing how popular the summer reading program was with Rotarians, she worked with the CAC to develop a year round, "Rotary Head Start Regulars" program that brings Rotarians into the classroom to read and run various class projects.

Our Rotary Mission "Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change—across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves" is front and center in Howard County.

8TH ANNUAL DUPONT CIRCLE TRIVIA FUNDRAISER

By *Kristin Post*

Join the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle for a fun afternoon of trivia, a silent auction, and fellowship! Proceeds from our 8th annual trivia fundraiser support our club's charitable foundation and the work we do with local non-profits. In December, our foundation donated winter coats to Friendship Place, with the help of a Rotary District 7620 Matching Grant. Help us continue to do similar good work in our community.

Date: Sunday, 1st March

Time: 1:30-4:30pm

Location: Astro Beer Hall, 1306 G St, NW Washington, D.C. Access: Garage parking nearby, elevator access

Join us to play trivia, bid on silent auction items, and enjoy food and beverages with friends.

Purchase single or team tickets online: <https://dupontrotarytrivia.eventbrite.com>



[Above] The Ellicott City Rotary Club teamed up with the Rotary Club of Columbia Town Center to raise \$2,500 to buy I-pads for Head Start classrooms.

[Below] The 8th Annual Dupont Circle Trivia Fundraiser will be held on March 1.

