

CONGRATULATIONS ROTARACTORS ON A MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR

By Madeleine Blunt, Assistant District Rotaract Representative

As the Rotary year comes to a close, we would like to thank all of our outgoing club presidents; Javoniel Trowers from Howard University, Ela Pinar from George Washington University, Elise Franchino from Washington DC, Eric Gillentine from Howard County, Amber Charles from Johns Hopkins University, Kate Fin from Georgetown University, Joshua Hirakwa from Annapolis, Diane Hale from American University, Mike Spano from UMBC, Minahil Cheema from UMD-College Park, Ji Hye Park from UMD School of Dentistry, and Audrey Kacur from Frederick Community College. Thank you for your time and service; and welcome to the incoming presidents!

The Rotaract Club of American University has been actively serving those communities most at need during these times of unrest. Club member, Elizabeth Anderson, organized a fundraiser for individuals displaced by and affected by the riots, while at home quarantining in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In two days, she was able to raise around \$1000. With the help of a few friends, she bought non-perishable foods, baby supplies, cleaning supplies, and other necessities. She then brought them to drop-off sites and helped distribute them as needed. Great job Elizabeth and American University!

The Rotaract Club of Howard County is actively recruiting new members for the upcoming Rotary calendar year. On June 3rd, they hosted a virtual open house and info session for prospective members. On June 30th, they hosted a virtual induction ceremony for new members and officers. If you know anyone who is interested in joining this fantastic club please email hoco.rotaract@gmail.com.

ROTARACT AND INTERACT CLUBS

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, DC Interact & Rotaract Adviser

The Rotaract Club of Washington DC was honored to use a portion of their DC Rotary Foundation remaining funds to support health care workers responding to the COVID-19 crisis. The club purchased 240 face shields through Project Shield, an initiative by Rotary District 5320 in southern California. Shields will be donated to first responders at Howard University Hospital.

The Rotaract Club of George Washington University was pleased to host a virtual fundraiser to raise funds for Food*4*DC*Kids. The Club used a portion of their remaining DC Rotary Foundation yearly budget to provide additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funds (\$500) to this organization.

Food*4*DC*Kids, launched in response to COVID-19, provides delicious prepared meals to needy students and families from DC schools. Sponsored by WNDCEducational Foundation, Food*4*DC*Kids is collaborating with local farmers and FreshFarm Markets' Food Hub to provide at least 50 meals per day. The program is working with the Columbia Heights Educational Campus and other DC schools to distribute meals to families affected by COVID-19. <https://wndceducationalfoundation.org/>

The Interact Club of Columbia Heights Educational Campus (CHEC) was pleased to use their remaining yearly DC Rotary Foundation budget to provide the Rotary Club of San Salvador Maquilishuat with a \$1035 grant for disaster relief efforts as a result of Tropical Storm Amanda in El Salvador.

On May 31, 2020, hundreds of Salvadoran families had to evacuate their homes due to the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Amanda. Many have died,

many families have lost everything, and many more have been affected by this terrible event.

Local Rotarians from District 4240 Rotary Clubs are working hard in distributing help. They are working in supplying relief, support and hope.

"In the context of COVID-19, tropical storm Amanda has exacerbated the needs and vulnerabilities of children being left homeless, losing their belongings, including school supplies and have had to move to shelters to protect themselves," says UNICEF Representative Ivette Blanco.

The DC Rotary Foundation added an additional \$1000 grant towards relief efforts as a result of Tropical Storm Amanda.

In addition, DC Rotary Club member, Marilyn Nevy Cruz was able to raise \$1500 through a birthday fundraiser to provide a \$750 donation to the Rotary Club of San Salvador Noreste to buy 39 mattresses for families who lost everything as a result of Tropical Storm Amanda. \$750 was also donated to the Rotary Club of San Salvador Maquilishuat to buy 80 non-perishable food packages for 80 families from the CRUZ ROJA community in the municipality of Cuscatancingo, in San Salvador.

The Interact Club of Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts hosted a fundraiser to raise funds for Best Kids. The Club was pleased to use their remaining DC Rotary Foundation yearly budget to provide additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funds to this organization. www.bestkids.org

The Rotary Club of Washington, DC along with its Foundation appreciates their clubs' energy and enthusiasm to support local and international causes during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will continue to support their interests and projects during the 2020-2021 Rotary year. We are very proud of all four clubs and couldn't have it any other way!