

[Below] Some of the participants in the August 22 Club Leadership Training.



GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE: STEPPING UP TO HUNGER

By Pamela Kreis, Chair, Hunger Relief: RC of Ellicott City

One of DG Jimmie Gorski's initiatives for 2020-21 in District 7620 is to focus on hunger relief throughout the district. We hope that all clubs will participate in their own unique ways. I am excited to head up this effort. I will be reaching by email and phone to gather the information needed to set a baseline and to hear more about your hunger-related projects. Your stories will inspire others.

Vision: Our vision is to increase the engagement by District 7620 Rotary Clubs in addressing food insecurity, especially locally.

There are many District 7620 Rotary Clubs that have (or have in the past) service projects to address hunger in our district. We would like to increase the number of such projects to see if we can help more children, seniors and families that are food insecure. Six months into the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting effects to the economy, jobs, schools and so forth, we find that increased demands on food pantries and food banks are moving at an incredible rate.

Besides bringing food to the food insecure through food centers, we, as people of action, can do more than just hand over food or money. We must look for ways to help everyone have access to locally grown vegetables and fruits including cultivating their own gardens. We can provide learning modules for use by teachers during virtual learning and later for the classroom. We can partner with community gardens and farms (traditional and hydroponic) and foster partnerships with growers and food centers that serve the food insecure population.

Strategy: Our strategy will be to let District 7620 Rotary Clubs do what they do best: identify needs in their communities; develop service projects that engage both Rotarians and members of the community in meeting those needs; look for innovative ways to break the cycle of food insecurity.

Clubs are encouraged to continue with service projects that are already in place and effective. Other clubs will be

challenged to add a project to their 2020-21 agenda.

We will assemble lists of resources and organizations to help clubs link up with distribution centers and partners.

Metrics for Success: We will begin with a club survey to determine the nature of projects undertaken in 2019-20 and where possible to quantify each project into the number of meals prepared/served. Our survey will also ask clubs to identify what projects they are planning for 2020-21 and to quantify in terms of meals.

- We will create a "Showcase" to highlight club projects related to Solving Hunger and include in the District Newsletter "Open Forum."
 - We will ask clubs for a monthly update to cover their related projects, service hours for those projects and number of meals provided.
 - We will help clubs convert their activities into meal equivalents.
 - We will work with clubs to add these projects to their Service page in Rotary Club Central and to participate in the Zone 33-34 Feed 10 Million initiative.
- What We'd Like Clubs to Do:**
- Make a list of your projects done in Rotary 2019-20. Try to determine the number of meals the event represented, the cost, and the number of Rotarians involved. Send to kreis@verizon.net.
 - Begin making plans for this year if you haven't already.
 - When you have an event in this Rotary year, send me the same info as outlined in the first bullet, include pictures if you have any and anything else about the event that you want to share.
 - Send me updates on the 15th of each month. If you need any help, ideas or resources, contact me at kreis@verizon.net.

Our goal is to raise awareness of local populations that are food insecure, to increase the number of District 7620 Rotary Club service projects addressing it, and to add substantially to Zone 33-34 Feed 10 Million project.