

The Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation
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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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ROTARY FOUNDATION NEW LEADERS

Gaithersburg, MD, 1/18/2017: The recently-formed philanthropic foundation of the Gaithersburg Rotary Club is organized and ready in 2017. It can provide limited amounts of grant funding for both local and international activities that fit the priorities of Rotary International, interpreted broadly. These priorities are (1) Peace and conflict resolution, (2) Disease prevention and treatment, (3) Water and sanitation, (4) Maternal and child health, (5) Basic education and literacy and (6) Economic and Community Development.

The Gaithersburg Rotary Foundation was registered as a Maryland non-stock corporation near the end of 2011 and was given 501(C)(3) status by the IRS in 2014. It began to accumulate funds and then made its first grants in 2016.

The foundation's first president was Ed Forrest (now deceased), and the second was David Sickler. The President for 2017 is Diana Swanson, Publications Lead for the firm, AstraZeneca. Besides Dr. Swanson, the Board of Directors is composed of John Cabrera of CF Alliance Insurance, Bob Bokma, retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jack Bell of Nourish Now and Tom Breece, who is the owner of Tom's Cleaners.

To date, the foundation has awarded grants to Disaster AID USA for flood relief in West Virginia, the Robotics Club of Kingsview Middle School, Friends in Need Foundation for rebuilding Ellicott City, Automobile Dealer Education Association for tools for apprentice mechanics, Rotary Club of Gaithersburg for activities in Asbury Methodist Village, the Mpambara-Cox Foundation for a school garden in Uganda and Remember Niger for sanitary facilities in a school in that country.

Funding for the foundation is provided by fund-raising activities of the Rotary Club of Gaithersburg and individual donations.

Rotary is an international organization with some 34,000 clubs in nearly every country in the world. In the United States, many of its clubs have foundations so individuals can support their activities and receive deductions from their income tax.