

What is Rotary?

Rotary is an international service club whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. It is a secular organization open to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, or political preference.

There are 3,482 clubs and over 1.2 million members worldwide. The members of Rotary Clubs are known as Rotarians. Members usually meet weekly for breakfast, lunch or dinner, which is a social event as well as an opportunity to organize work for their service goals.

It all started...The first Rotary Club was formed when attorney Paul P. Harris called together a meeting of three business acquaintances in downtown Chicago at Harris' friend Sylvester Schiele's office in the Utility Building on Dearborn Street on February 23, 1905. In addition to Harris and Schiele (a coal merchant), Gustave E. Loehr (mines engineer), and Hiram E. Shorey (tailor) were the other two who attended this first meeting. The members chose the name Rotary because initially they rotated subsequent weekly club meetings to each other's offices, although within a year, the Chicago club because so large it became necessary to adopt the now-common practice of a regular meeting place.

Paul Harris Fellow

Individuals who have contributed more than \$1000 to the Annual Program Fund, or to the Rotary foundation are recognized as Paul Harris Fellows. Additionally individual Rotary Clubs may, from time to time, honor individuals as Paul Harris Fellows. These honorees are individuals who meet high professional and personal standards set forth by Paul Harris.



Triple Crown Club

The Thomasville Rotary Club was presented the "Triple Crown Award" by the Rotary International President, Kalyan Banjee, during the Rotary Foundation Banquet in November, 2011. To achieve this award, every club member must be a:

- Paul Harris Fellow
- Sustaining Member
- Benefactor

We were the 13th club in the world to become a Triple Crown Club.

Rotary's Areas of Focus

Rotary clubs serve communities around the world, each with unique concerns and needs. Rotarians have continually adapted and improved the way they respond to those needs, taking on a broad range of service projects. The most successful and sustainable Rotary service tends to fall within one of the following six areas:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development

For more information on Rotary International go to www.rotary.com. The Thomasville Rotary Club address is P O Box 444, Thomasville NC 27361. Programs and/or projects listed for the Thomasville Club in this brochure may be changed, added to, or deleted as directed by the local club.



The Rotary Foundation was born as an endowment fund in 1917, the brainchild of Rotary International President Arch C. Klumph.

It is a not-for-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

As an endowment fund for Rotary "to do good in the world," its initial contribution was US \$26.50 in 1918. Today the donations to the Rotary Foundation are in the millions, with 93% of the money collected going towards the work of Rotarians around the world.

In his 1917 address, RI President Arch C Klumph said: "We have called the attention of the organization this year to the possibility of a future endowment fund for Rotary. Carrying on, as we are, a miscellaneous community service, it seems eminently proper that we should accept endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world, in charitable, educational or other avenues of community progress; or such funds could be well used for extension work. I know of no more commendable use for the vast millions possessed by men in this country than that certain sums might be endowed to Rotary for the purpose of establishing Rotary clubs in all nations of the world".



Arch C. Klumph

Rotary at Work

After 25 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed



now to root it out once and for all. It is a window of opportunity of historic proportions.

Since 1985, there has been a 99.8% decrease in polio cases.

As of today, polio has been eliminated in every country with the exception of Pakistan and Afghanistan, with only a few cases reported.



Triad Flight of Honor



The Triad Flight of Honor was a service project of Rotary District 7690, which includes the 11-county region of the Piedmont. Rotarians and other community organizations and businesses united to honor World War II Veterans for their courage, valor and sacrifice to our country. From October, 2009 thru November 11, 2011, thirteen flights taking 1,300 local WWII Veterans on a one-day trip to Washington DC. It was our privilege to honor these veterans for their service.

THOMASVILLE ROTARY CLUB WORKING AROUND THE WORLD -GLOBAL PROJECTS-

The Thomasville Club joined other Rotary Clubs in Canada, Ghana, Switzerland and the USA to fund water systems to provide clean water and help eradicate Guinea worm in Ghana.



Rotaract Club is a service, leadership and community organization for young men and women between the ages 18-30. Rotaract focuses on the development of young adults as leaders in their communities and workplaces. Clubs around the world also take part in international service projects, in a global effort to bring peace and international understanding to the world.



Interact is a service club for youth ages 14-18. Clubs benefit from sponsorship by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance. Interact clubs are self-governing and self-supporting and can be either school or community based. Members are dedicated to community and international service.

The Thomasville Club has two Interact Clubs—one at Davidson Early College and at Oak Grove High School.