

THE GOOD SPOKE





Rotary  Rotary Club
of Meriden Connecticut

May, 2022

Rotary Day of Service



"Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities."
- Anonymous

The Meriden Rotary volunteers held a very successful Day of Service activities at **John Barry Elementary School** on April 9th for the Massachusetts and Connecticut Rotary Day of Service. School Principal Dr. Kimberly Goldbach also joined to help out. One group of volunteers painted a large room the students use as a computer room, while other volunteers managed a food drive in the parking lot of the school. Area high school students also volunteered to help stuff 55 "Goodie Bags" for the John Barry Teachers and staff filled with snacks and comfort items.



CUNO Camp

Crystal Blake, Executive Director of the **Meriden Boys and Girls Club** joined us for

The Dangers of Vaping

Tricia Dahl from the **Tobacco Research in Youth (T.R.Y.)** at the Yale University School of Medicine spoke about the research on the



lunch to speak about the **Cuno Camp**, an outdoor day camp for youth ages 6-14. The camp property abuts the west side of Beaver's Pond and features an in-ground pool, 3 pavilions, 2 basketball courts, a large field, a challenge course, archery range, waterfront, dock, and an arts & crafts area. They are accepting registrations now for the summer at <https://www.bgcmeriden.org/cuno-camp-information/>

effects of Vaping, especially in teens. She presented some very strong medical evidence of a variety of damage including heart, brain and respiratory damage.

The team does research and develops intervention programs for adolescent tobacco users. They aim to discover the best behavioral and pharmacological combination to enhance quit rates among high-school aged students. For more info on E-cigarette education contact Tricia at Tricia.Dahl@yale.edu



Literacy is Life

Denise Calabrese from **Literacy Volunteers of New Haven** spoke to the Meriden Rotary Club about tutoring efforts for those who cannot read well or at all. Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven (LV) helps adults overcome obstacles and achieve their goals with the transformative power of reading, writing and speaking English. Their dedicated staff and volunteer tutors offer free classes in these critical skills. Denise oversees Basic Literacy and ESOL Programs with tutors and students from the Meriden/Wallingford area. She

works with students, tutors, program sites and partner/community collaboration. They look for companies as well that may have competent employees who wish to advance their careers by increasing their reading and writing skills. You can learn more at <https://lvagnh.org/>.

Easter Fun on the Meriden Green



Meriden Rotary and the Rotary Interact clubs were on the scene for the Meriden Parks and Rec **Egg-stra Special Easter** event. Several Meriden Rotary members and Students greeted the children and handed out 500 bunny stress balls. And thank you Chick Fil A! They came by

with chicken sandwiches and chips for everyone.

Triangle of Hope

The Meriden and Wallingford Rotary Clubs and the Polish National Alliance have joined together to try to send some aid to the Ukraine through **Maidan United**, a Wethersfield based 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This organization was started in 2014 after Putin's *first* invasion of Ukraine, and had raised over \$500,000 to purchase medical supplies and transportation to get these supplies to hospitals in Ukraine.

Now Putin has invaded the country *again* and the need has obviously grown and taken on life-and death importance. Donors know that 100% of their gift will be used to help the Ukrainian people, not to pay nonprofit organization overhead. All of the organizations involved are totally staffed with volunteers. This is local Meriden and Wallingford people helping a reliable, carefully vetted Connecticut nonprofit — a true "neighbors-helping- neighbors" effort.

How to donate: Please send your check made payable to either Wallingford Rotary Foundation at PO Box 213, Wallingford, CT 06492, or Meriden Rotary Foundation at PO Box 773, Meriden, CT 06450. In either case, please put Ukraine Fund in the memo section of your check. It is hoped that arrangements can be made soon to accept credit cards.



Everyone Loves a Parade



The Meriden Rotary marched with their float in the Meriden Daffodil Festival Parade to celebrate their 100 Year Anniversary.

There's No Place Like Home

After two years of ZOOM meetings during a pandemic and a couple of very comfortable temporary homes, the Meriden Rotary Club has found a great meeting place! Taino Prime on East Main St. in Meriden is our new home. We meet every Wednesday at noon for lunch while we conduct business and socialize. Come join us!



UPCOMING LOCAL PUBLIC EVENTS

Spring Anniversary Raffle

Bringing back our very successful raffle with great **CASH** prizes. Winning tickets will be drawn June 7th.

BLOOD DRIVE - Sponsored by the Wallingford and Meriden Rotary Clubs - Stay Tuned for Dates

Meriden Rotary Installation Dinner - **June 7th**

To be held at Il Monticello

Pet Fair, 5K Road Race and Dog Walk - **August 13th**

Bringing back our Pet Fair. Bring your pet!

Corn Hole Tournament - Stay Tuned for Date

Wine and Brew Fest Returns! - **September 30th**

Bringing back our very popular Brew Fest! Wine, Beer, Music and food!

Rotary International

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change

Visit Rotary International by Clicking on the Rotary Symbol below:



Join the Meriden Rotary Club

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in learning more about Rotary call one of our members or email Kristilee LaHaye at kleelahaye@aol.com

You may know some members already. Check out our member roster below:

[Member Roster](#)

