



Rotary Club of Louisville SPARKS Newsletter

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Club Leaders

Kevin S. Wardell

President

Gregory Patrick Braun

President-Elect

Craig W. Scherman

Secretary

Julie H. Schmidt

Second Vice President

John W. Hampton

Treasurer

Debe Skidmore

Club Executive Director

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Welcome to the Rotary Club of Louisville



Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. [More info.....](#)

Rotary membership provides the opportunity to: Become connected to your community. Work with others in addressing community needs. Interact with other professionals in your community; assist with RI's international humanitarian service efforts. Establish contacts with an international network of professionals. Develop leadership skills. Involve family in promoting service efforts. [More info.....](#)

RI President Congratulates RCL - First Club in KY!

2013-03-26

The Rotary Club of Louisville celebrated its 100th year of 'Service Above Self' in July, 2012.

The President of Rotary International, Sakuji Tanaka, sent a letter of congratulations for this achievement, as well as being the first Rotary Club in the state of Kentucky.

Of 34,000 clubs worldwide, the Rotary Club of Louisville was the 45th club. With 470+ members, the Rotary Club of Louisville is the tenth largest club in the world.



ROTARY MINUTE



Why are you a Rotarian? What does Service Above Self mean to you? How can you get more involved?

Hear answers to these questions and more from Rotarians around the world with Rotary Minute. Learn more about Rotary from club members themselves ... in a Rotary Minute!

[Click here to read more.](#)

First \$1 Million Announcement - Rotary Promise Scholarship!

2012-06-20

You turn 100 years old only once, and the Rotary Club of Louisville marked the occasion in a significant way.

While statues and ceremonies have their place, it was decided by the membership of this humanitarian organization, the 10th largest Rotary Club of more than 34,000 clubs in the world, to choose something with lasting and meaningful impact.

At noon on June 21, 2012, one month before our July 21 anniversary, we announced the Louisville Rotary Promise Scholarship. In the fall, when the freshmen class of Western High School arrived, students were given a promise. If they graduate with a minimum 2.5 GPA, 90 percent attendance and no major disciplinary issues and enroll at Jefferson Community & Technical College after graduation, they will attend the college tuition free while they earn an associate degree.



Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians, community members and the Kentucky Community & Technical College Foundation, we reached our first \$1 million mark, allowing us to launch the scholarship program in the first school. This was the first of a \$4 million, four-school goal.

We reached this day inspired by commitment from this community in 2010 to increase the number of residents with college degrees by 55,000 by 2020. The Rotary Club of Louisville already awards more than 60 scholarships each year, so we knew we could make a lasting impact by helping to change the lives of our young people through education.

To help 55,000 Degrees reach its goal, our plan was simple: promise students a tuition-free degree and in the process help create college-going cultures in high schools with traditionally low college-going rates.

By eliminating the cost of tuition as a barrier to college, we hope to motivate students to be successful in high school and prepare for higher education. We also want to make attending college an expectation not an afterthought, for the students and their parents. Rotarians also will serve as mentors.

Our idea was given a warm endorsement by Jefferson County Public Schools and 55,000 Degrees.

We found a strong partner in Jefferson Community & Technical College, which has a long history of working with first-generation college students and at-risk students and has developed partnerships with area high schools, the University of Louisville and other area colleges and universities.

The punctuation mark on this effort, however, has been the support of our donors. Since late 2010, gifts have come, both large and small, and all generous and heartfelt. In addition, a long-time Rotary member matches each Rotarian's gift made to the Louisville Rotary Promise Scholarship, and the KCTCS Foundation matched both, effectively turning each \$1 donation into \$4.

While we celebrate, and rightly so, we are not done yet. This was only one-fourth of our goal and we look forward to carry the program into three more schools.

To learn more about the Louisville Rotary Promise Scholarship, please contact Rotary at 589-1800.

Our Club's Rotary Promise Scholarship Program

2012-06-20

Rotary Club of Louisville promises college scholarships to high school freshmen *Program's goal is to motivate students to prepare for higher education*

On June 21, 2012, in Louisville, KY, Metro Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer and Jefferson County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Donna Hargens joined the Rotary Club of Louisville to announce a first-of-its-kind college scholarship program to benefit Louisville high school students.

Freshmen at Western High School are promised a full scholarship to Jefferson Community & Technical College, if they meet certain criteria through their senior year.

The Louisville Rotary Promise Scholarship announcement was made during a Rotary Club of Louisville meeting at the Galt House West, Archibald Ballroom.

Rotary presented a check to JCTCS President Tony Newberry for \$250,000, bringing fund-raising to an important goal, \$1 million, allowing the program to make its first promises.

"To celebrate our club's 100 years of service, our members said that helping to educate our young people was most beneficial to the students and to the future of our community," said Rotary president Stuart Alexander. *"Our goal was to create a program that motivates students to go to college by eliminating a critical barrier, the cost of tuition."*

The Rotary Club of Louisville has been raising money for the scholarship since late 2010. Each dollar raised by members is matched privately by a Rotarian, then matched again by the Kentucky Community & Technical College System, effectively turning each dollar donated into \$4. Rotary's goal is to raise \$2 million, then add matching dollars, and extend the program to four high schools. The money is held in an endowment.

The scholarship program is directed at enhancing the college-going culture in high schools that are working to improve student interest and enrollment in post-secondary education. Western was selected as the first Rotary Promise school, in part, because of its existing Early College partnership with JCTC, where students take college level coursework in high school and earn college credit. To qualify for the scholarship, graduates must have a 2.5 or higher GPA, high school attendance of at least 90 percent and no major disciplinary records.

"The generous members of the Rotary Club of Louisville are showing our students that this community believes in and is fully invested in their success," said JCPS Superintendent Dr. Donna Hargens. *"Our mission is to ensure that all JCPS students graduate prepared to reach their full potential and contribute to our society throughout life, and this extraordinary promise gives students the means to make that a reality."*

The Rotary Club of Louisville already annually gives more than 60 college scholarships. The Louisville Rotary Promise Scholarship supports the efforts of 55,000 Degrees to increase the number of area residents with college degrees.

The Club marked its 100th anniversary on July 21, 2012 with celebration and fund-raiser from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. at The Ice House, 217 E. Main Street.
