

Michael Step
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Biweekly, April 19, 2021



NEWSLETTER | www.rotarydistrict6490.org | www.facebook.com/rotarydistrict6490

APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH



Maternal and child care is one of Rotary's main causes. Rotary makes health care available to vulnerable mothers and children so they can live longer and grow stronger.

It is estimated that close to 6 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation, which can all be prevented. Rotary clubs and districts dedicate their efforts to improve access to quality care so that mothers and children can have long-serving opportunities for a healthy future. Projects to support mothers and children include mobile prenatal clinics, cancer screening, immunizations, and training on how to protect themselves and their children from disease.

Several projects highlight innovative solutions that provide health care to mothers and children:

- Nigeria averages only one physician for every 2,500 people and creative solutions are needed to expand health care reach. [Read about](#) how innovative integration of telehealth medicine have helped those living in rural Nigeria.
- Brazil has experienced high infant mortality rates and several Rotary clubs partnered together to provide solutions. [Read about](#) how a Rotary club partnership led to an increase in resources for the incubators and access to Neonatal intensive care units at the Dr. Leopoldo Bevilacqua Regional Hospital in Brazil's Ribeira Valley.

DISTRICT EVENTS

- April 20th
[In person - Tuscola Rotary - DG Mike Step Visit](#)
- April 20th
[In person - Clinton Rotary - DG Mike Step visit](#)
- April 20th
[In Person - New BLM Satellite Club Open House - DG Mike Visit](#)
- April 21st
[In Person - Blm Pub Club Satellite - DG Mike Step visit](#)
- April 22nd
[In Person - Danville Sunrise - DG Visit](#)
- April 22nd
[In person - Bloomington Rotary - DG Mike Step Visit](#)
- April 28th
[Virtual - BN Sunset - DG Mike Step Visit](#)
- April 29th
[In Person - CU Sunrise Social - DG Mike Step visit](#)
- May 1st
[ONLINE - 2021-2022 Leadership Assembly - Rotary District 6490](#)
Speaker: Hosted by DGE Heather Stoa, Decatur Rotary Club
Subject: Training and Support for incoming Rotary leadership 2021-2022
- May 3rd
[In person - Decatur Rotary - DG Mike Step visit](#)
- May 5th
[In person - Hillsboro Rotary - DG Mike Step visit](#)
- May 6th
[In Person - BN Daybreak - DG Mike visit](#)
- May 10th
[District Committee Chair Meeting With DG Mike Step](#)
Speaker: DG Mike Step
Subject: Bi-Monthly meeting of District Leadership to review progress on goals
- May 11th
[Women of Rotary Speaker Series: Jennifer McCarron](#)
- May 11th
[VIRTUAL TRAINING: Attraction/Engagement Strategies](#)
- May 12th
[In Person - Metamora/Germantown Hills - DG Mike Step Visit](#)
- May 15th
[District 6490 Award Nominations Open](#)
- May 19th
[In Person - Effingham Noon Rotary - DG Mike Step Visit](#)
- May 20th
[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)
- May 26th
[In Person - Champaign West - DG Visit](#)
- June 3rd

Throughout April, Maternal and Child Health Month, help us support this main rotary cause. You can get involved in the following ways:

- Join the [Reproductive Maternal and Child Health Rotary Action Group](#)
- Join the [Clubfoot Rotary Action Group](#)
- Access [detailed project planning guidance](#) for a club or district project to save mothers and children
- See how Rotary and Rotaract clubs are bringing health care and more to mothers and children over the world in [Rotary Showcase](#) and post about your club's successes. Showcase also helps you find an international project to support.
- Read stories about maternal and child health projects on the [Rotary Voices blog](#) and the [Service in Action blog](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ShelterBox celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2020. Those first 20 years have been marked by change and adaptation to different kinds of disasters in a variety of environments.

ShelterBox USA Ambassadors Mary and Tom Hodson are available for Zoom Rotary Club presentations on ShelterBox's first twenty years and on-going deployments, as well as recent changes in response to the covid-19 pandemic.

ShelterBox Website: <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>

ShelterBox on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shelterboxusa/>

To schedule a presentation, contact Tom Hodson at tzhodson@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Danville Sunrise Virtual Scavenger Hunt & 5K April 1 - April 30

Ready, set, go! This first annual event is being hosted to raise funds for scholarships that are available to our local high school students. Each participant will receive a custom t-shirt and commemorative medallion/medal. Swag pickup will be May 22nd, 2021 at a location in Danville TBD.

How to Virtual Scavenger 5K

To participate fully in our event, you must interact! We have an event [Facebook Page](#) in which we ask that you photograph three items that you find during your 5K.

1. A water feature (Be creative! This can be a glass of water, a fish tank, a waterfall, a mud puddle- whatever you find during your 5K)
2. A monument, award, plaque, or dedication (Again-be creative! If you are on a treadmill, take a picture of a past trophy or award. Out and about? Find a memorial bench or statue).
3. Something alive! Person, thing, creature, bug- your imagination is the limit!

Register at [racewire](#).

Baby & Teen Item Drive April 19 - 30

Looking for a way to make a difference this spring? Consider grabbing some items for Journey Bags while you're out shopping this weekend.

Did you know that often, children enter foster care with their personal belongings in a garbage bag? Imagine what that visual communicates to the child.

Will you help us ease the transition into foster homes for children right here in our

District Global Grants Meeting

Speaker: PDG Kevin Yonce
Subject: District 6490 Global Grants

June 7th

[In Person - Paris Club - DG Visit](#)

June 8th

[Women of Rotary Speaker Series: Colleen Kannady](#)

June 12th

[ROTARY INTERNATIONAL "Virtual" CONVENTION](#)

June 17th

[Virtual Happy Hour w DG Mike Step for Club Presidents](#)

June 23rd

[In Person - Mattoon Rotary - DG Mike Step Visit](#)

June 27th

[District 6490 Installation Ceremony for 2021-2022](#)

DISTRICT LEADERS



Michael D. Step
DG
District Governor



Heather Stoa
DGE
District Governor Elect



Connie D. Walsh
DGN
District Governor Nominee



Janet Ellis-Nelson
DGND
District Governor Nominee Designate



Kevin W. Yonce
PDG
Vice District Governor



Douglas Bock
Assistant Governor



Hank Campbell
Assistant Governor



Joseph Fearday
Assistant Governor



Michael C. Hirschi
Assistant Governor



John Hoblit
Assistant Governor



Mary Fraser Hodson
Assistant Governor



Jeremy LaKosh
Assistant Governor



John P. Mahaffey
Assistant Governor



Michael W. Martin
Assistant Governor



James D. Matthews
Assistant Governor



John B. Meek
Assistant Governor

community?

We will happily accept any number of items listed below as you feel called to donate. Just drop them in the collection boxes at any of the listed drop off locations.

Journey Bags are distributed by [The Forgotten Initiative](#).



SPRING GIVING EVENT
BABY & TEEN
ITEM DRIVE
 BENEFITING
THE FORGOTTEN INITIATIVE

APRIL 19 - 30, 2021

DROP OFF DONATIONS IN THE BINS AT
 THESE LOCATIONS:

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Little Jewels Learning Centers 1730 Evergreen Blvd. Normal 4117 E. Oakland Ave. Bloomington</p> | <p>Iron Coyote Challenge Park 4113 Oakland Ave. Bloomington</p> |
|---|---|

210 N. Williamsburg Dr. Bloomington

Bloomington-Normal Family
Rotary
 Club

ITEMS NEEDED

| | |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">BABY</p> <p>diaper bags • 0 - 18 mo clothing pacifiers • bottles • teethingers diapers size 1 - 3 • wipes lotion • shampoo • baby wash rash cream • socks • blankets sippy cups • stuffed toys • rattles baby books • baby bibles</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">TEEN</p> <p>duffle bags • backpacks • PJs (lg) socks • underwear • blankets body wash • shampoo • conditioner lotion • feminine hygiene products deodorant • toothbrushes • toothpaste • lip balm • hair ties journals • pens • teen bibles</p> |
|---|---|

Bloomington-Normal Family
Rotary
 Club

 **The Forgotten Initiative**

Spring Forward with the May 1 District Assembly!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 1, from 9:00-11:30 for a fast paced, hands-on "how to" Zoom morning at District Assembly. Join fellow Rotarians as we explore topics such as:

- Improving club communications through newsletters and websites,
- Working with social media to reach different age groups of members and



Judith Story
Assistant Governor



Deborah West
Assistant Governor Coordinator



Julie L. Dobski PDG
Director of Public Relations



Beverly A. Soltwedel, DTM
District Trainer



Kevin D. Kuebler
District Treasurer



Thomas P. Redington
Director of Youth Service



Larry J. Howell PDG
Director of Foundation & International Service



Julie A. Stump
Achievement Awards



Elizabeth Palma
District Newsletter Editor



Jane Chamberlain
District Communications Officer

BE SOCIAL



Website: www.rotarydistrict6490.org

Email: rotarydistrict6490@gmail.com

Mailing Address: Rotary District 6490, P.O. Box 265, Downs, IL 61736



Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



Create
Once
Publish
Everywhere



- potential members through Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.,
- Applying for District Grants and Global Grants, organizing a PolioPlus campaign,
 - Incorporating technology into your meetings,
 - Entering and editing data in DACdb, using pmail to keep members informed, building a calendar, inviting guests and potential members to club meetings, socials, and service projects,
 - Conducting New Member Orientations, successfully mentoring new members
 - Registering for a "My Rotary" account and entering goals into Rotary Club Central.

Please contact District Trainer Doug Nelson: doug@nmtmidwest.com or District Governor Elect Heather Stoa: hhstoa@gmail.com if there are additional topics you would like to see covered. They want club and district leaders to have the knowledge and tools they need for success in the upcoming year.

Women Speaker Series May 11, 12:00 PM

Supporting Women of ROTARY Presents: **WOMEN SPEAKER SERIES**

IT'S NOT WHO YOU KNOW, IT'S WHO KNOWS YOU!

Women of Rotary District 6490 is excited to announce a virtual series featuring entrepreneurial, technical, professional, and innovative Women speakers every month, and is hosted by Women of Rotary District 6490.

Rotary District 6490

JENNIFER MCCARRON
Business Builders Marketing
May 11, 2021
12:00pm CST
The role of power in the workplace: relationships and leadership

AMBER GRUENLOH
Easterseals Central Illinois
Emcee

Free Online Event
To register and for more information, visit www.womenrotary.com/speaker-series

Join the Virtual Rotaract Preconvention

The Rotaract Preconvention, scheduled for 11-12 June 2021, in Taipei, Taiwan, will now be a virtual event in response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

Follow the [Rotaract Facebook page](#) to be the first to learn more about the virtual Preconvention, including registration details and breakout sessions.

District Assembly May 1

"Hands-on How-to" May 1 District Assembly
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Rotarians throughout the district are invited to join the May 1 Virtual District Assembly for peer-to-peer training. Club and district leaders will be offering practical tips and experiences during two 25-minute breakout sessions. Sessions are purposefully being kept short and breakout rooms will be small so that participants have the opportunity to interact with other Rotarians as we share ideas and answer questions.

Sessions include:

Improving club communication through newsletters: create a club newsletter and find out how to submit articles for publication in the district newsletter,

Working with social media to reach different age groups of members and potential members: learn how to influence internal and external audiences through our Rotary stories,

Foundation Basics: discover what you need to know to apply for District Grants and Global Grants and how to organize a purple pinkie fundraiser for a PolioPlus,

Incorporating technology into meetings: explore and adapt to our new digital age with Zoom basics and more during the pandemic and beyond,

Using DACdb (District and Club database): an introduction on how to navigate DACdb, record information, communicate with members and potential members, and connect with others in our District and Zone

Conducting New Member Orientations: share ideas and models for engaging and connecting new members to fellow club members, the district, and Rotary International

Entering goals into Rotary Club Central: a step-by-step guide to set and track goals for membership, foundation giving, service, working with young leaders, and promoting Rotary,

Putting the "International" in Rotary International: learn about opportunities to Adopt a Community Health Worker to combat malaria and how to connect clubs in District 6490 with clubs in Mexico through Heart 2 Heart♦s 100 in 100 (100 projects in honor of 100 years of Rotary in Mexico).

The meeting will open early at 8:45 for members to meet and greet each other before the Assembly begins at 9:00 with introductions and a short business meeting to approve the district budget for 2021-22. A review of the budget will highlight new initiatives planned for the upcoming year - scholarships for emerging leaders, additional funding for Rotaract and Interact, and matching grants for PolioPlus monies raised for World Polio Day on October 24th. Presidents-Elect will vote on the budget.

Please submit questions on the breakout session topics ahead of the Assembly to District Governor Elect Heather Stoa at hhstoa@gmail.com or to District Trainer Doug Nelson at doug@nmtmidwest.com. Their goal is to provide training that fits the needs of club and district leaders as we work together to create lasting change in our clubs, communities and ourselves.

Register for the District Assembly on the District 6490 Website. Join us for a fun, fast-paced morning on May 1 from 9:00-11:00 AM.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

NORMAL ROTARY CLUB

Rotarian Marcia Dennisl has given 100 new adult books and 32 children's books (these books were given to each member by Past District Governor Julie Dobski at her visit to the club) to the STAR Literacy of McLean County. The children's books were given to children to read and the adult books were sold at the annual book sale to earn money for the STAR Literacy programs.

\$500.00 was also donated to the STAR Literacy. If you would like to donate money, please write a check to the Normal Rotary Foundation and put a notation on the bottom of the check for Literacy. Mail these checks to the Normal Rotary Club, Box 333, Normal, IL 61761 by June 1st.

STAR Adult Literacy provides free tutoring for Adult Basic Education (ABE) students and English Language Learners.

BE SOCIAL

Be up to date on our District's news and events.



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