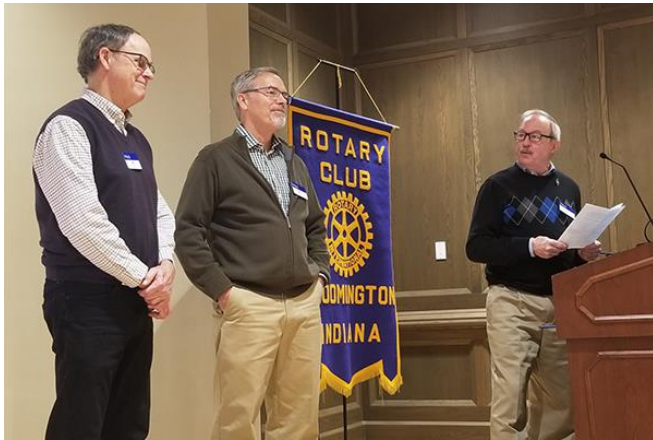


ROUNDTABLE – Tuesday, February 13, 2024

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting in the Frangipani Room, at noon on February 20, will be our CLUB ASSEMBLY. We'll vote (and, of course celebrate) our new leadership slate for the 2024-25 Bloomington Rotary Club year. We'll also be reviewing the amazing Strategic Plan, a project led by **Michael Shermis**. Additional announcements will be made, so don't miss the fun.

THIS WEEK'S NEWS



Mike Baker introduced **Jim Capshew** and **Bill Brown** as the club's most recent Paul Harris Fellows.



Welcome, Returning Member

We are thrilled to welcome back to membership in the club [John Whitehart](#), retired Ivy Tech Community College chancellor and past Bloomington deputy mayor. If you'd like to congratulate John publicly, please look for the [FB post on our Page](#) and share it with your friends.

We're also happy to see Past President **Tim Thrasher**, retired director of operations for the MCCSC, joining us in person.

Wanted: Hoosier Hills Food Bank volunteers

Up to 15 volunteers are needed on Tuesday, March 5, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., to work at Hoosier Hills Food Bank, 2333 W. Industrial Park Dr., in Bloomington Please sign up here: [Hoosier Hills Food Bank Sign Up](#). A big thank you to those who already have volunteered.

Rotaract Fundraiser

The impressive group of students at IU who make up the Rotaract group are looking for financial support to assist with a service project in the greater Cincinnati area. If you're interested to help this endeavor, please [contact Natalie](#) to find out how.

Join us for the Rotary District Conference April 20

The Rotary District Conference – just 9 weeks away – is where friendship and learning come together to inspire you. In Evansville (a beautiful drive from Bloomington down Highway 69), you'll connect with people of action from around the district at Rotary 6580's biggest event of the year. New Bloomington Rotary Club members are eligible for funding to cover conference registration. Please contact Natalie for more information. [Registration for all Rotarians is available here >](#)

FEBRUARY 13 PROGRAM



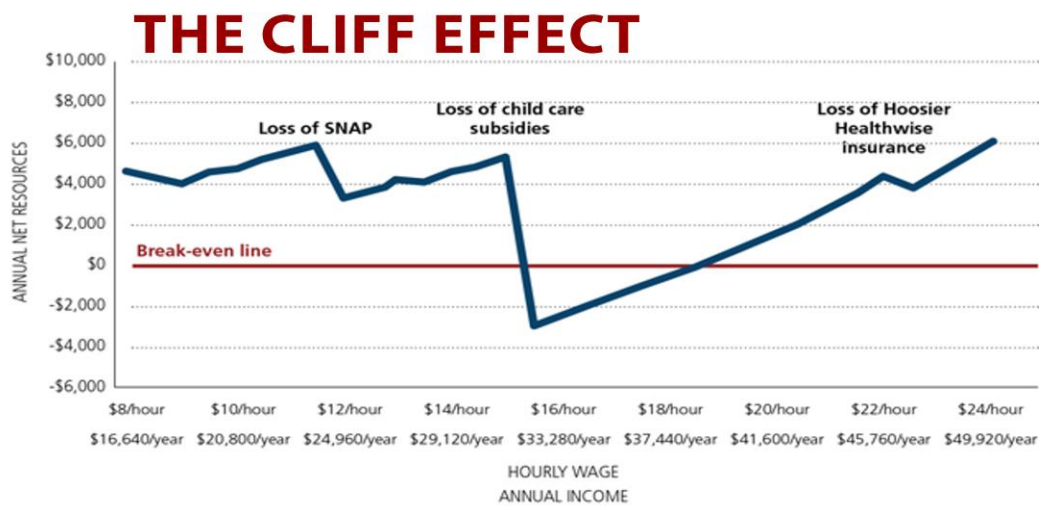
Michael Shermis introduced Randy Rogers, CEO of [United Way of South Central Indiana](#). Known for his deep empathy and kindness, Randy is responsible for all aspects of the organization, including development, operation, and board engagement.

Randy explained that the name of the organization has changed from “United Way of Monroe County” to “United Way of South Central Indiana.” Serving seven counties under one umbrella allows for greater efficiency.

“United Way brings together partners to work collaboratively on complex issues so that everyone can weather life’s unexpected challenges and thrive,” Randy said.

With changing times, the United Way is adapting and taking into account the sophistication and variety of local agencies, which continue to fundraise and operate in increasingly complex ways. From both a fundraising and programmatic point of view, United Way is in the process of reimagining its future. He looks forward to a strategic planning exercise within the organization. Because workplaces have changed and online giving behavior is now leading the way, methods of engagement need to change. Randy said that IU continues to be a vital partner.

A striking statistic Randy cited was 46 percent. Almost half of that 46 percent is the ALICE population – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, but Employed (formerly called the “Working Poor”). This group lives on the cusp of disaster. If just one major unexpected expense appears, the stability of the individual or family is at risk. The Cliff Effect also impacts the ALICE population. A set of trigger points at which income increases can lead to a sudden drop of state and federal financial support. Twenty-three percent of households in our community live in poverty.



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty's Family Resource Simulator, Indiana 2011

United Way of South Central Indiana provides

- \$600,000 in annual grants and support
- financial empowerment programs in coaching, tax services, and banking support (last year tax services enabled clients to save nearly a million dollars)
- disaster relief in times of need
- truancy and mentorship programs, especially in Lawrence and Greene counties
- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library, which provides books to children.

A substantial focus has been on the “Heading Home” program, which provides emergency shelter, affordable housing, and finally home ownership. Leveraging partnerships in the city, including one with Habitat for Humanity, makes this initiative possible.

Looking to the future, United Way of South Central Indiana will focus on Impact Initiatives, where partnering and collaboration drive outcomes. It will also look at “opportunity grants” to local organizations so that they can receive funds for one-time and unexpected needs.

[You can view this week’s presentation here >](#)

In honor of Randy Rogers’ presentation, a donation will be made to the Sycamore Land Trust.

UDPATES

President **Ron Barnes** shared a thought for the week: "Confidence isn't optimism or pessimism, and it's not a character attribute. It's the expectation of a positive outcome." — Rosabeth Moss Kanter

Charlotte Zietlow offered her reflection. Two phone calls this past Sunday had a striking impact on Charlotte’s perception of goodness in the world. While visiting Charlotte, the son of Julie Lawson, a dear departed friend, received a call from a very excited and relieved **Judy Schroeder**, who said that the cat she had adopted on Julie’s death had been found after having been missing for 12 days. Then **Raj Haddawi** called to say that he had found a doctor in Indianapolis to help with Charlotte’s needs. With such trauma in the world, the calls combined to remind her that there is good in the world, and that much of the good around her comes from the Rotary Club and organization. “You never know about the things that bring us joy and happiness,” she said. “The world is a community in which each of can play a meaningful part.”

Steve Wickes introduced our guests:

- Two Rotaract members: Jun Wan and Ethan Fragoso
- Emerson Orante

Joy Harter introduced guests on Zoom:

- Megan Gearhart, Global Peace Scholar, joining us from France
- Leslie Kutsenkow, director of philanthropy at WonderLab

Birthdays:

- **Lance Eberle** – February 11
- **Forrest Gilmore** – February 12
- **Arty Levy** – February 12
- **Judy Witt** – February 14
- **Erica Kovacs** – February 15
- **Yolanda Treviño** – February 15

Member Anniversaries:

- **Geoff Bradley** – 10 years, 3 of them with our club

Acknowledgments:

- Greeter and introductions: **Steve Wickes**
- Zoom host: **Joy Harter**
- Camera/Mic operator: **Traci Jovanovic**
- Zoom and audio producer: **Tylar Martin Nichols**

Alain Barker, Reporter

Jim Bright, Photographer