

'The 812' Founder, Harmeyer, visits Greensburg Rotarians



(By Nathan Vandrey) Greensburg Rotary hosted Steven Harmeyer, founder of 'The 812' [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) providing coverage of events and news from all across southeastern Indiana.

Harmeyer opened his speech by quipping, "I never do live video because I can talk in circles." Despite this warning, he provided Rotarians with an entertaining, often amusing, and occasionally somber discussion of his path to founding The 812 and the experiences it has brought to his life.

Harmeyer was first enjoined to enter the field of media and news when a speaker from local radio station WRBI came to the career day at his high school in Batesville. Six months later he was working at the station part time.

WRBI became his fulltime employment location following college, and he worked there for two years before heading

for the larger audience of Cincinnati's 700WLW. As the station's only street reporter, Harmeyer found himself on-call 24/7 to cover emerging, major news stories across the tri-state area. Missing the atmosphere of small town Indiana, he eventually left Cincinnati for KORN Country 100.3 in Columbus, Indiana where he continued on a full time, full schedule news beat.

As happens in so many early careers, Harmeyer found himself burned out by working odd hours and odd times without taking a break or vacation. "I was just over news and radios," he said, "so I started working for the city of Batesville in the mayor's office." Harmeyer would stay at that position for five years, enjoying the position and expecting to continue into Batesville politics. Then 2020 happened.

2020 brought continuous national news on COVID, race riots, and a contentious presidential election. Feeling that his fellow Hoosiers might need some good news relief from all the bad news, Harmeyer purchased a video camera with the intent of marketing Batesville through local, feel-good stories. This effort to cover local people, events, and news let him to launch The 812 in May 2021.

Harmeyer said his first realization that The 812 was growing beyond Batesville came during his first visit to Greensburg Rotary in April 2022. "I remember asking you guys to raise your hands if you'd heard of The 812, and I was shocked, he said, recounting that nearly every hand in the room went up.

The 812 continues to grow and thrive despite a staff of one (with one more, Mary Kate Ketchum - reporter and sales rep, on boarding now). "I love covering news, but it's meeting the amazing people of Southeast Indiana - it's incredible!" Among the people Harmeyer has befriended are the family of Carson Hughes, a talented local high school photographer who drowned at Versailles Lake. Harmeyer's coverage of the story and interactions with Carson's family established a lifelong friendship with some of Southeast Indiana's "amazing people."

ROTARY CALENDAR

- Sep 02 - NO MEETING (LABOR DAY)
- Sep 09 - Meeting w/ Columbus Rotary in Columbus
- Sep 16 - Alison Beck - Mainstreet Greensburg
- Sep 20 - Service Project - Fall Festival Setup, 7am
- Sep 23 - Brian Wenning - 150 yr Anniv Books
- Sep 26 - Board Meeting - The Branch, 8am
- Sep 30 - Fifth Monday (TBD)

OFFICERS 2024-2025

Robert DeHoff	President
Robert DeHoff	Past President
Carrie Bedel	Secretary
Linda Simmons	Treasurer
Jeff Emsweller	Public Relations
Tami Wenning	Vocational Service
Daryl Tressler	Sergeant-At-Arms
Emily Steele	Club / Youth Service
Jerry Fox	Int'l Service
Kelby Owens	Membership Chair
Lora Williams	Rotary Foundation Chair
Steve Freeman	Program Chair
Mandy Lohrum	District Governor
Mike Sefton	President Elect

GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Dear Rotarians,

I am delighted to share that we are off to a strong start this year. Our attendance at meetings is on the rise, and I am thrilled to report that we have been able to donate a substantial amount of the money we raised over the past year back to our community.

As always, our focus remains on "Service Above Self," and I encourage each of you to continue actively participating in our service projects. Engaging in these initiatives not only helps those in need but also provides a deep sense of purpose and fulfillment.

In addition, I would like to remind you about our upcoming visit to the Columbus Rotary Club on September 9th. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians from another club, share ideas, and strengthen our network. The meeting will be held at Hotel Indigo in Columbus at 12:00 PM, and the meal will be provided by the Columbus Rotary Club. Please use the attached link in the bulletin to RSVP for this event.

Thank you all for your commitment to Rotary, I hope to see many of you in Columbus on 9/9. Have a safe Holiday weekend.

God Bless, Rob

The Zoom Link for our Monday meetings has changed

The new link is: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85149035092?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85149035092?pwd=zjHU6SLb3z7qazLeRVndnyeXibwfk.1)

[pwd=zjHU6SLb3z7qazLeRVndnyeXibwfk.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85149035092?pwd=zjHU6SLb3z7qazLeRVndnyeXibwfk.1)

The Meeting ID is: 851 4903 5092

The Passcode is: 491176

Zoom meeting etiquette.



Linda Simmons, Greensburg Rotary Treasurer, Announces 2024/25 Grant Recipients

(By Nathan Vandrey) During the 26 August Greensburg Rotary meeting, Linda Simmons, Treasurer for The Rotary Club of Greensburg, announced the recipients of Greensburg Rotary Grants for the 2024-2025 club year. Grant recipients are selected by the Board for the Rotary Club of Greensburg, with input/recommendations from members. Greensburg Rotary gave out \$13,084 in grants for 2024/2025:

Organization	Amount Received
<u>All for One Ministries</u>	\$1000
<u>Covenant Resources Miscarriage Ministry</u>	\$500
<u>Decatur County Community Foundation (Matching Fund)</u>	\$3334
<u>Decatur County/Greensburg Marching Band</u>	\$250
<u>Decatur County Memorial Hospital Foundation</u>	\$1000
<u>Decatur County Special Olympics Bus Transportation</u>	\$3000
<u>Decatur County YMCA</u>	\$1000
<u>Kids Closet</u>	\$250
<u>New Directions</u>	\$250
<u>Our Hospice Decatur County</u>	\$500
<u>Polio Plus</u>	\$1000
<u>Speranza House</u>	\$1000

Monthly Service Project: Greensburg Rotarians Helps Bread of Life with Meal Preps

(By Nathan Vandrey) For their August 2024 monthly service project, members of Greensburg Rotary Club made their way to the [Bread of Life](#) kitchen to help in preparing meals.to feed those in need.

Leveraging “rescued” food items from local groceries as well as donations and donation-purchased food items, Bread of Life provides food and comfort to the working poor, jobless/homeless, elderly on fixed incomes, and families in hardship, fulfilling their mission of “faithfully working together to provide a free meal to those in need.”

In addition to providing for the nutritional needs of the needy, Bread of Life also operates Garments of Grace, a clothing pantry to provide for emergency clothing needs (e.g. job interview) to adults.

Bread of Life also provides for spiritual needs, with Bible Study held every Thursday at 3:15pm, as well as educational opportunities for the community by hosting classes on a variety of interesting topics through their [RISE Education Series](#).

From their website: Since 2002, the Greensburg Community Bread of Life has rescued and received over 2 million pounds of food and transformed it into a nutritious hot meal. We are a place of hunger relief and a safe haven of Christian fellowship showing all who enter our doors hope, love, and mercy.



GCS Community Development Manager Speaks to Rotarians about Education Trends



Wes Anderson, Varsity Football Coach at Greensburg High School, as well as the school system's public relations and community development manager, spoke to Greensburg Rotary on 5 August about the start of the new school year and where education in Greensburg is headed.

Noting that enrollment appeared slightly down this year, Anderson said went on to highlight some initiatives that could not only bring up attendance, but also better prepare students for multiple potential career paths rather than just college prep.

A key part of growing those pathways to career success is the doubling of the existing workplace program that allows students to work at local businesses and industries for part of the day to experience work in a career field that interests them while also earning credits toward graduation and, potentially, a paycheck. Anderson has seen students step right out of high school and into careers in the community using the pathways and knowledge gained through the workplace program. Indeed, he mentioned that despite the increasing number of students, the number of local businesses seeking to be a part of the program is greater than the available number of students!

Anderson briefly discussed school funding, noting that the state funded "tuition" for students, paying for staff, while local property taxes paid for the operating fund which is used to "purchase stuff" and keep facilities operating. Greensburg teachers did receive a "substantial" raise this year, which Anderson said, "Is always our goal."

He also touched on the recent effort in the state government to rework graduation requirement for Indiana high school students. Noting that the early versions of this effort are reducing requirements for math and social studies, Anderson pointed out that those classes are still there for those on a path to college, but would no longer be required for student who are looking at a trades or military pathway after high school.

Greensburg Rotary Welcomes Newest Member - Jake Miller of Moeller Insurance

Jake Miller of Moeller Insurance Agency was inducted into the ranks of The Rotary Club of Greensburg #3437 District #6580 on Monday. Jake is shown with his sponsor Kelby Owens and Club President Rob DeHoff.

Per Moeller Insurance Agency's website, Jake was born and raised in Hope, Indiana. He graduated from Hauser High School, has his Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University, and Master's Degree from Liberty University. He started in the insurance industry as a producer in June 2015, joined as partner at Miller Insurance Services, LLC in August 2016, and acquired Moeller Insurance Agency Inc. in January 2022.

Jake currently serves as the CEO of Heritage of Hope, and also serves on the Board of Trustees at St. Louis Crossing Church.



Rotary Club of Greensburg Announces President-elect for 2025-2026 Rotary Year

During the weekly Greensburg Rotary meeting on 26 August, club president Rob Dehoff announced that Mike Sefton had been selected as the club's President-elect for the 2025-26 Rotary year.



Per his online biography at Homes.com, Mike Sefton, a lifelong resident of Greensburg, is a broker at ReMax Tower. Mike is a 1978 graduate of Greensburg Community High School. Before going into real estate, Mike and his father farmed together, giving him a great knowledge of agriculture and local land.

When he decided that it was time for a change in his life, Mike felt God calling him to real estate, which he feels is a perfect fit for him because of his background in sales and love for working with people. This has led to a prosperous career that he loves.

Mike's love for his community is evident through his work to make it a better place. He coached youth baseball for 39 years and high school baseball for ten years. He has served several terms as an elder at First Christian Church of Greensburg. Additionally, he has served on the board of directors or committees for five local organizations: Greensburg Chamber of Commerce, Community Action Coalition, Kids' Closet of Decatur County, All for One Ministry's Fundraising Committee, and the Greensburg Optimist Club, where he served as president.

Mike currently resides in Greensburg with his wife, Kay. They have three sons: Mitch (Courtney), Brad (Savannah), and Alex. In his spare time, you might find Mike spending time with his children and grandchildren, catching a baseball game, working with local youth, or vacationing at his home-away-from-home, Anna Maria Island, Florida.

Jess Barker Updates Rotary on Expansion of JAG Program for Local Students



JOBS FOR
AMERICA'S
GRADUATES

During the August 19 Greensburg Rotary meeting, guest speaker Jess Parker of the [Economic Development Corporation of Greensburg—Decatur County](#) informed members that the Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board (SEIWIB) announced the expansion of the [Jobs for America's Graduates \(JAG\)](#) program into three High Schools in Decatur County. Greensburg Community High School,

North Decatur J/Sr High School, and South Decatur Jr/Sr High School.

With the mission of “empowering our nation’s young people with the skills and support to succeed in education, employment, and life,” JAG is a national program seeking to solve employment challenges for youth leaving high school. It provides area Specialists that teach elective classes for credit in high schools, middle schools, and out-of-school school programs., providing vital job skills, hands-on experience, and a year of follow-up to support the transition from graduation to employment, military service, and/or post-secondary education.

Register Now for the Rotary International Convention 2025 - Calgary, Canada

Embark on an exhilarating journey of connection and inspiration at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary! Engage in riveting discussions, learn from distinguished speakers, and explore enlightening breakout sessions against the backdrop of Calgary's picturesque beauty nestled amid the Canadian Rockies.

Fueled by friendship and a spirit of collaboration, exchange best practices, ignite innovative projects, and form lifelong connections with fellow changemakers from around the world.

Take part in this transformative, one-of-a-kind event and experience the Magic All Around at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada 21-25 June 2025.

Click [HERE](#) for convention information and registration!



Family of Carson Hughes Honors His Talent, Memory with Website & Calendar Sales

The family of Carson Hughes, the teenager and talented amateur photographer from Osgood who drowned at Versailles Lake in March, has created a website collection of their son’ photography to honor his talent and memorialize him using pictures found on his computer in a folder labeled “pictures for when I create my website.”

As part of the site, the family is also offering calendars and notecards featuring his photos.

Out of respect for Carson and his family, and as a matter of legality, we are not publishing his photos in this newsletter, but hope that you will visit the site [HERE](#).

The picture of Carson (right) and the cover of the calendar with his works (left) are from the Facebook page honoring his memory. You can visit this Facebook page [HERE](#).



Don't forget to sign up for the September 9 meeting in Columbus with the Columbus Rotary Club for a presentation by Maj Gen Mark Pillar (USAF, Ret.) about his experiences on 9/11

Meeting starts at 11:45a, and Columbus Rotary is graciously paying for our lunches

Click [HERE](#) to add your name to the list!

There is now a [cashless option](#) to pay for your Happy Dollars and 50/50 tickets; simply mark the number of tickets and happy dollars on the meeting attendance sheet, and they will be added to your quarterly bill!