

**Rotary**  
Club of Nashville



# **ROTARY CLUB OF NASHVILLE & NASHVILLE ROTARY SERVICE TRUST**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021-2022**

[WWW.NASHVILLEROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.NASHVILLEROTARY.ORG)

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In Amy Lynch's book, "Service above Self: A history of Nashville Rotary," it closes with a section on "Where to from here?"

Allow me to share a bit from this ending as it is so incredibly applicable:

"In many ways, the story of Nashville Rotary is the story of Nashville. Since 1913, the city has shaped the club and, in turn, the club has shaped the city. . . Through two world wars, through boom times and depression, the Rotary Club of Nashville has alternately struggled and prospered, offering a lively reflection of the city it calls home."

And, I would like to add that we have been around long enough to go through not one, but two once-in-a-century pandemics, the Spanish flu in 1918 and now Covid.

For 110 years, Nashville Rotary has illustrated "Service above Self" with remarkable energy and innovation. We have built a strong foundation and legacy.

I believe that is the reason why we have survived, continued to thrive, and continued to serve our community. It is also what attracts new members, even in the middle of a pandemic. They want to be "in the room", they want to engage, and they recognize that Rotary is made up of people of action.

Now, as we approach a new year Rotary, the club's resources are many - a large and diverse membership that is over 500 strong, a wide variety of service projects addressing the needs of our community, a robust series of programs, and a history rich with tradition.

It has been an absolute honor to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Nashville this year and I am grateful for the support of not just our Board of Directors and committee chairs, but also for you, our members.



Sincerely,  
Lauren Payne



# OUR MISSION + LEADERSHIP

**To impact our  
community by  
creating  
forums for  
fellowship,  
understanding  
and service  
among  
engaged  
leaders.**

## Board of Directors

Lauren Lane Payne, President  
Lisa Ferrelli, VP/President Elect  
Ken Youngstead, Secretary/Treasurer  
Leisa Gill, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Richard Exton, Immediate Past President  
Angela Goddard, NRST Grants Chairperson  
Jim Regnier, Finance Committee Chairperson  
Jacky Akbari  
Jessica Averbuch  
Alfred Degrafinreid, II  
Kristen Keely-Dinger  
Kim Estep  
David Fox  
Veronica Marable Johnson  
Lydia Lenker  
William Liles  
Joanne Pulles  
Bob Stokes



**Nashville Rotary Past Presidents**

# ROTARY BY THE NUMBERS

**507**

**We welcomed 65 new members this year, ending the year with 507 total members. Thank you for sponsoring community leaders in your network!**

**15**

**15 service projects completed this year. Thank you for signing up and showing up to live out our motto of Service above Self!**

**\$150,000**

**We awarded \$150,000 in grants to 9 organizations serving our community and beyond. Thank you for giving to our Nashville Rotary Service Trust to make this possible!**

**42**

**42 opportunities to learn more about our community at Rotary meetings. We brought 62 speakers to the podium including university presidents, healthcare and business leaders.**



We create a forum for fellowship.

The Rotary Club of Nashville is known for creating opportunities for fellowship among engaged leaders.

-The New Member Mixer committee hosted 3 events welcoming our newest members both in the homes of our members and over breakfast at the Cafe at Thistle Farms.

-We hosted 5 Rotary After Hours events:

- Happy Hour at The GreenHouse Bar
- Exclusive hardhat tour of the new MLS Stadium
- Afternoon tour of National Museum of African American Music
- Guided backstage tour at TPAC
- Aviary experience at Radnor Lake



## Social Media



1,318 Facebook followers  
@NashvilleRotaryClub



1,973 Twitter followers  
@N4ashvilleRotary



671 Instagram followers  
@NashvilleRotary



616 LinkedIn followers  
Rotary Club of Nashville



# FORUM FOR FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Board Liaison: Lydia Lenker | Fellowship: Abe Mbow & Falon Scott  
Communications Board Liaison: David Fox, Committee: Alice Chapman, Lydia Lenker, Deb Varallo, Joyce Vise



Rotarians are leaders who seek to better understand our community. The program committee brought a diverse group of speakers to the Rotary podium this year. Rotary hosted 42 meetings. We navigated the need for evolving safety protocols and mostly met in a hybrid format, allowing members to join the meeting in-person at the Wildhorse Saloon or virtually via Zoom.



Speakers included Governor Bill Lee, Mayor John Cooper, university presidents, healthcare, business and community leaders. Topics ranged from current affairs, sports, lessons on racial justice and guests from around the country.



The Rotary Club of Nashville sponsors an Interact Club at LEAD Academy and a Rotaract Club at Fisk University. These clubs share Rotary's values and promote Service above Self for members. The Fisk Rotaract Club won Rotaract of the Year at the District Conference.

# FORUM FOR UNDERSTANDING



We create a forum for service.

Rotarians are People of Action who live out Service above Self.

**Backpacks with Second Harvest-**Every month of the school year, Rotarians gather at Second Harvest Food Bank to pack 1,225 food packs to be distributed to children who experience food insecurity on the weekend.



**Feed the Need-** We celebrated our 20th Feed the Need this year as Rotarians, along with their friends and family, gathered for 3 service opportunities, packing and delivering food boxes to over 1,900 of our neighbors in need. We returned to Second Harvest as a group, working together again at our largest service project.

**Habitat for Humanity-** In September and April, we worked to build homes for our neighbors. We swung a hammer alongside the new homeowners to build Nashville's first ever Habitat townhome community.



**Book 'em-** Rotarians met virtually and in-person with an assigned classroom several times throughout the year, delivering a story and a free book for each child.

**Inspiritus-**On a beautiful morning in April, Rotarians worked to prepare healthy food gardens that produce healthy, free food for our neighbors in North Nashville.

**Environmental-** The environmental committee planted trees at Percy Warner in the fall and gathered at Shelby Bottoms in the spring to remove invasive species from the park.

**Warner Elementary-** We continued to support teachers and staff at Warner Elementary by catering appreciation lunches throughout the year.

# FORUM FOR SERVICE

Board Liaison: Angie Adams | Habitat: Scott Carey, Inspiritus: Kate Mosley & Tuwisha Rogers Simpson, Backpacks: Uma Srivastava & Davis Turner, Feed the Need: Allen Buchanan & Van Pond, Environmental/Sustainability: Clark Spoden; Book 'em: Kali Huff & Alex Sollberger; Warner Elementary: Monchiere Holmes-Jones & Randy Brothers; NRST Investment: Mark Lincoln; NRST Committee: Angela Goddard