

**Rotary**  
Club of Nashville



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

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022-2023**

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

It is hard to believe another Rotary year is coming to a close. Since 1914, Rotary Club of Nashville members have shared a proud tradition of providing organized community service with a motto of "Service Above Self". This year was no exception! Watching members return to the Wildhorse in increasing numbers, learning from intriguing programs, enjoying fellowship and impacting our community through our service projects sent the clear message that the Rotary Club of Nashville is strong and making a difference!

We continue to attract a diverse group of community and business leaders. As Nashville continues to grow, we serve as a welcoming and respected organization for those just arriving and those that have spent a lifetime in our city.

This year we launched People of Action projects as we executed two events created and selected by our members. The highlight of this program was a visit to the National Museum of African American Music, where we hosted residents of Cheatham Place for a tour and lunch with Rotarians. In addition to these special projects, we continued our important work with Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville, Warner Elementary and Book 'Em.

Rotaract of Nashville was launched in March 2023-a major initiative that will influence the future of Rotary Club of Nashville for years to come. We exceeded our membership goal, boasting over 60 founding members, ages 22-35, within the first two months. Watching these young professionals develop and lead this Club has been the highlight of my year and I am confident that these impressive Nashvillians will be the future leaders of Rotary and the Nashville community.

What an honor to lead this Club for the past year. The strength of the Club is our members. I want to especially thank the Board of Directors, committee chairs and volunteers. We are fortunate to have Olivia Leow and her amazing team working tirelessly to keep the Club going week after week. I know next year will be another exciting and successful year and I hope you will be part of making this the best Rotary Club in the world!

Kindest Regards,  
Lisa Ferrelli



# OUR MISSION + LEADERSHIP

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

## Board of Directors

Lisa Ferrelli, President  
Joanne Pulles, VP/President Elect  
Jim Regnier, Secretary/Treasurer  
Leisa Gill, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Lauren Lane Payne, Immediate Past President  
Kristine LaLonde, NRST Grants Chairperson  
Jim Schmitz, Finance Committee Chairperson  
Angie Adams  
Jacky Akbari  
Jessica Averbuch  
Maya Bugg  
Alfred Degrafinreid, II  
Kristen Keely-Dinger  
Kim Estep  
David Fox  
Lydia Lenker  
William Liles  
Bob Stokes  
Ken Youngstead



**Nashville Rotary Past Presidents**

# ROTARY BY THE NUMBERS

**476**

**We welcomed 51 new members this year, ending the year with 476 total members. Thank you for sponsoring community leaders in your network!**

**24**

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

**\$94,000**

**We awarded \$94,000 in grants to 3 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 49 speakers to the podium including political, education, 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 3 Rotary After Hours events:

- Votes for Women tour at Nashville Public Library
- Happy Hour at Blue Moon Waterfront Grille
- Tour & Happy Hour at Four Seasons Hotel



## Social Media



1,318 Facebook followers  
@NashvilleRotaryClub



1,944 Twitter followers  
@NashvilleRotary



841 Instagram followers  
@NashvilleRotary



854 LinkedIn followers  
Rotary Club of Nashville



# FORUM FOR FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Board Liaison: Kim Estep | Rotary After Hours: Brian Taylor & Aoife Burke  
Communications Board Liaison: David Fox, Committee Chair: Wendy Burch



Rotarians are leaders who seek to better understand our community. The program committee brought a diverse group of timely and relevant speakers to the Rotary podium this year. Rotary hosted 42 meetings.



Speakers included Governor Bill Lee, Mayor John Cooper, university presidents, healthcare, business and community leaders. Topics ranged from current affairs, sports, music and social issues. A highlight of the year was former Governors Bredesen and Haslam launching a new project focused on civility from the Rotary stage.



# FORUM FOR UNDERSTANDING



---

We create a forum for service.

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

**People of Action Projects:** This year, we launched People of Action Projects--service opportunities created and selected by Rotarians. We packed medical kits with Project C.U.R.E. and organized a tour and lunch for members of the Inspiritus community at the National Museum of African American Music.

**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 21st 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.

**Habitat for Humanity-** In June, we worked to build a home for our neighbors. We swung a hammer alongside the new homeowners to build Nashville's newest community.

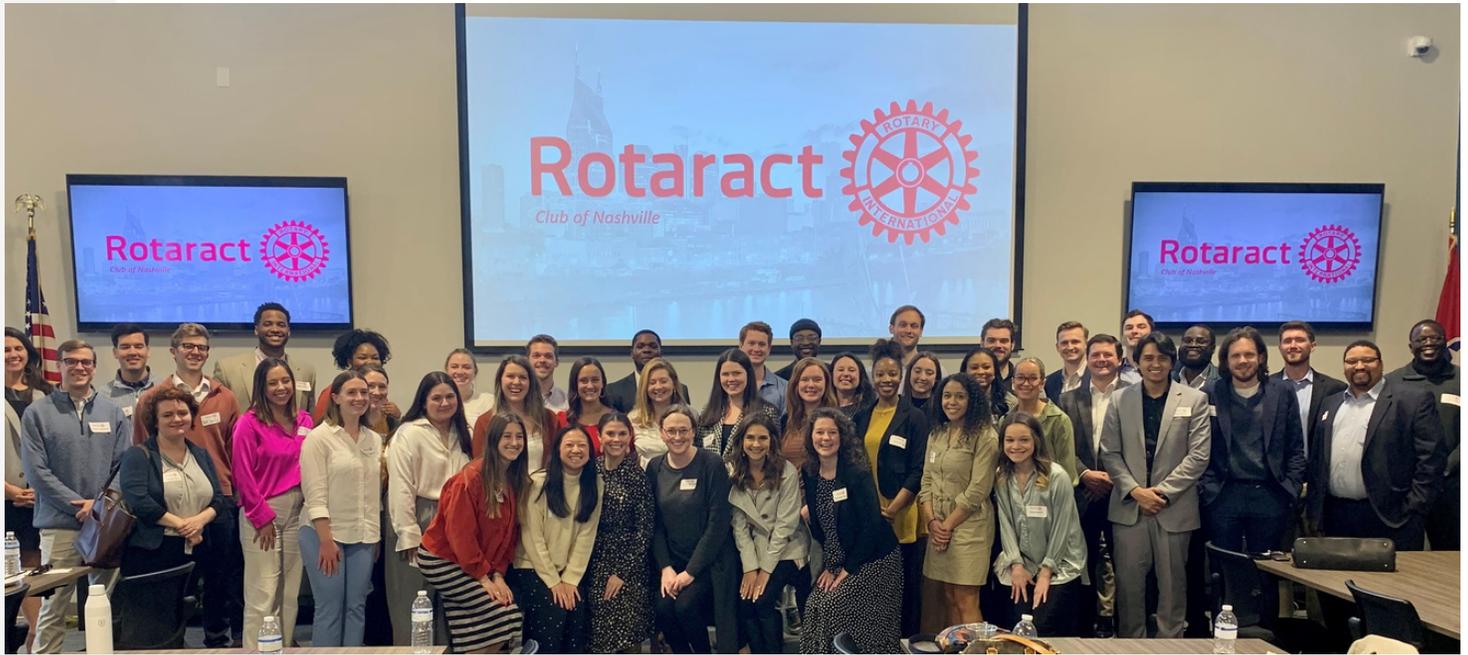
**Book 'em-** Rotarians met with an assigned classroom several times throughout the year, delivering a story and a free book for each child.

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

---

# FORUM FOR SERVICE

Board Liaison: Lydia Lenker | Habitat: Mark Blaze & Chip Jones, Backpacks: Uma Srivastava & Chip Jones, Feed the Need: Lee Molette & Bill Norton, Book 'em: Michelle Lewis; Warner Elementary: Michael Ward; NRST Investment: Dana Moore; NRST Committee/People of Action: Kristine LaLonde



Rotaract is an opportunity to be involved in Rotary for college students and young professionals. We sponsor two Rotaract Clubs. Internationally, there are nearly 11,000 active Rotaract Clubs.

**Fisk Rotaract:** Fisk Rotaract Club was founded in 2015 and is thriving on campus at Fisk University. Fisk Rotaractors meet regularly to learn from community leaders and serve the community. Rotarians Chad Jones and Clint Story served as chairs for this committee.



**Rotaract of Nashville:** In March 2023, we launched Rotaract of Nashville, a Nashville Rotary sponsored opportunity for top-notch young professionals ages 22-35. Rotaract of Nashville has grown to over 60 founding members. Rotaract of Nashville meets once a month to learn from timely and relevant speakers. The second monthly gathering alternates between a service opportunity and fellowship event.

# ROTARACT