

Rotary
Club of Canton



CREATE HOPE
in the **WORLD**

Events

April 23rd, 12:00-1:00 PM

[What is Your Rotary Why? DG Brandy Swanson @ Conference Center](#)

April 30th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[Law Day @ Cherokee Conference Center](#)

May 21st, 12:00-1:00 PM

[87th Anniversary Celebration - Rebecca Johnston @ TBD](#)

April 26th, 12:00

[Rotary District 6910 Conference 2024 @ Lake Lanier Islands](#)

May 14th, 12:00-1:00 PM

[Heart for Service Scholarships \(Awards\) @ Canton City Hall](#)

Canton Rotary Presents Teasley Middle School Career Day

Friday, April 12, 2024



What an incredible Career Day at Teasley Middle School, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Canton! A huge shoutout to all the students who engaged with enthusiasm and curiosity, exploring various professions and pathways to success. Your eagerness to learn and your willingness to dream big truly inspire us!

As an important aspect of our Rotary Vocational Avenue of Service, Canton Rotarians Terry Gill, Lori Flink, Chaitanya Narula, Vocational Service Chair JoEllen Wilson, and President Francisco Lozano made this event possible to discuss different professions and provide the students with career information and inspiration.

We thank Ms. Kerry Voytek for her tireless efforts in helping us organize such an enlightening event. Her guidance and mentorship are invaluable in shaping the future leaders of our community. As we wrap up this fantastic day, let's encourage these young minds to keep dreaming, keep exploring, and keep serving our community. Remember, the sky's the limit, and with determination and ambition, anything is possible!

Together, we are Creating Hope in Our Community and the World!



Canton Rotary Welcomes New Community Members

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Please join us in welcoming our new members! We are happy to have the Cherokee County Coroner's Office join us with a corporate membership! Coroner Sally Sims and Genella Dewrell were recently inducted into the club. We are also happy to welcome Jonathan Fancher with Empower Cherokee to the Rotary Club of Canton. Jonathan was inducted last week. Welcome Sally, Genella, and Jonathan! We're honored to have you serve with us!



April Heart for Service Day: Encompass Ministries

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

We had a full house for our Heart for Service Day with [Encompass Ministries](#)! We were honored to present a financial gift to Executive Director, Canton Rotarian Lynne Saunders to support their great work in our community. President Francisco Lozano and Past President Nicole Doll presented the check at today's meeting following our members' collection of items for the food pantry. Thanks to City of Canton Georgia for hosting us at City Hall!



Education as a Building Block of Peace: Rotary Provides Disaster Grant to Ukraine

By Dr. Anu C. Narula on Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Can you "imagine" yourself in the shoes of parents, guardians, teachers, and caretakers who are not able to help their children pursue their education for a variety of reasons in the war-ravaged areas of Ukraine? Can you find yourself in a position to help "create hope" in those parts of the world where schools have been fully or partly destroyed? Can you "serve to change lives" to make a difference, a passion that inheres in each one of you by virtue of being a Rotarian?

All of these are rhetorical questions that incorporate the themes or mottos given to us by the Immediate Past Rotary International (R.I.) President (2022-23) Jennifer Jones, current R.I. President (2023-24) R. Gordon R. McNally, and Past R.I. President (2021-22) Shekhar Mehta, respectively. I already know the answer that will come from each one of you to acknowledge our collective ability and our willingness to do what's in our power to "reach" out, "engage," "adapt," and help make an "impact" on the lives of the brave families battling the challenges and adversities posed by war in different parts of the world. All the four references in this sentence are not buzz words, these are strategies of the Action Plan given to us by R.I. in 2021.

I vividly remember the day, almost a year ago, when Iryna Odyntsova, the Literacy Chair and President of the Rotary Club of Dnipro Novyi in District 2232, reached out to me via an email that was hard hitting to say the least. In this email, Iryna shared with me images of the destruction that had ravaged schools and homes in Ukraine. It goes without saying that those images deeply impacted my sensibility with a sense of tragic loss. I felt the need to do something, not just say something by way of words of support to Iryna, my fellow Rotarian from across the world. I asked her if she could propose a Rotary global grant for rebuilding the partly destroyed schools and providing the much-needed school supplies and devices for children to regain access to education. I knew this was not going to be an easy prospect amidst the acute challenges posed by the long-drawn war that was affecting Iryna's community in Ukraine.

Iryna rose to the occasion and, along with her team of fellow Rotarians and community members, Iryna researched the needs of local schools in detail and found suppliers who could supply the types of products that were needed by some of these schools. Not only did Iryna send me a structured plan for a disaster grant, she directly bonded with me as a friend whose personal agony



I related to as a committed Rotarian, someone who was deeply concerned about the loss of educational opportunities for the children in her community. Over time, Iryna morphed into my soul sister and my Rotary hero as we tangibly felt a spiritual connection while communicating with each other almost every day. Iryna shared with me that several schools in her district had requested her Rotary club to supply books and electronic devices for organizing online classes for students who were either unable to make it to school or students whose schools had been partly or completely destroyed.



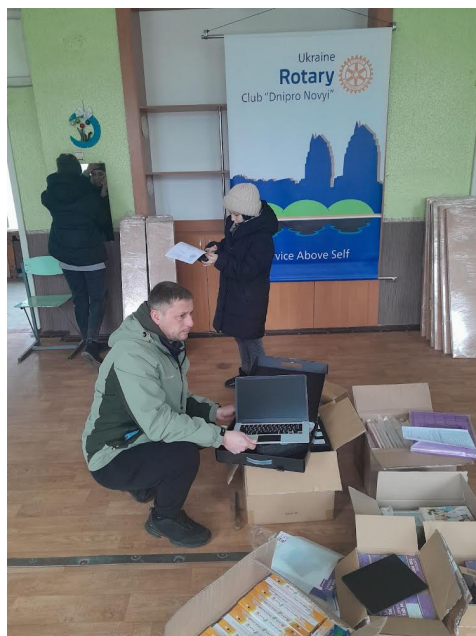
Recently, when I took a look at the disturbing findings pertaining to the wide-spread death and devastation in Ukraine, I found a news article on <https://apnews.com/> published on February 25, 2024, which affirms that as many as 31,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in action in the last two years. According to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission data gathered in Ukraine, published on February 22, 2024, on the <https://reliefweb.int/> website, 30,457 civilians have been killed and wounded, including 587 children and 9,241 people who have been killed by explosive weapons. As many as 14.6 million people, including more than 3 million children, are in desperate need of help and 80% of them need mental health support. Approximately 4 million people are displaced in Ukraine, and women make up 58% of the internally displaced. The poverty levels in Ukraine have increased from 5.5% to 24% in 2022 alone. 5.9 million Ukrainian people are refugees and 67% of the internally displaced say they want to return home one day. As per a story titled "Tanks on the Playground" published by Human Rights Watch (<https://www.hrw.org/>) on November 9, 2023, over 3790 educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed due to the ongoing war. Behind each one of these statistics, is a family and a community experiencing acute loss and unspeakable trauma as a result of war.

Today, I feel grateful in sharing with you a peace building initiative by our very own District 6910 that has successfully provided a disaster grant of \$25,000 to Rotary District 2232 in the war-ravaged areas of Ukraine. Over the last one year, it has been a meaningful learning experience to work with the D6910 Foundation team comprising District Foundation Chair PDG Bruce Azevedo, District Governor (2023-24) Brandy Swanson, and District Foundation committee member Janice Davis from the Rotary club of Lanier-Forsyth. Together, we have worked with the R.I. Foundation officers and District 2232 in Ukraine for the successful allocation of \$25,000 to provide school supplies, books, and laptops to schools adversely affected by the war in Ukraine. Thanks to this disaster grant, hundreds of children in the combat zone in the Dnipro region of D2232 in Ukraine now have the opportunity to continue to achieve their goals in "Basic Education and Literacy," which is one of the seven areas of focus in Rotary. Kids from different schools in D2232 can now resume their reading and writing skills from English textbooks and books for first grade children. This grant has enabled the teachers to conduct quality classes both online and offline.





Under the leadership of Iryna Odyntsova and the D2232 district leadership, the Rotary club of Dnipro Novyi has been instrumental in purchasing, stockpiling, and delivering school goods to the Vyvodovskaya School in the Nikopol district of the Dnipropetrovsk region, and the Pokrovskaya School in the Sinelnikovsky district of the Dnepropetrovsk region of Rotary D2232 in Ukraine. Some of the school supplies and educational materials distributed in these two schools include books, dictionaries, counting kits, stationary, textbooks, didactic school materials, school albums, 10 laptops for teachers, and 25 laptops for children. This Disaster Grant was also used to manufacture and distribute school furniture and equipment, desks and chairs, and upholstered furniture for the junior grades in school buildings that were partly destroyed due to the ongoing war. In the words of Iryna Odyntsova, she felt the power of emotions and surprise when, after all, the promised things arrived in rural schools. This initiative and collective project created hope in the hearts of children in an extremely complex educational process.





In the act of being soulfully involved in the procedural aspects of this Disaster Grant, I felt that my belief in the peace building initiatives of Rotary International was reinforced with the realization that Peace is not a monolith. It is more like a mosaic built with blocks of myriad hues and textures, all of which compose a cohesive whole comprised of many parts that come across as a beautiful unified art object. Just like this mosaic, peace building has been endemic to all seven areas of focus and service in Rotary International (R.I.). Peace building and conflict resolution through humanitarian projects in Rotary has been a timeless global endeavor, in partnership with organizations like the United Nations (UN). Rotarians across the world have participated in peace building and conflict prevention by ensuring all-round health, safety, shelter, economic development, education and literacy, environmental sustainability, water and sanitation, and empowerment of our girls and all our “new generations” through a host of local and global projects. “Positive Peace,” according to the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), which is one of the partners of Rotary International since 2017, is comprised of a systematic and composite whole of “the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies.”

Peace building clubs, Rotary Peace Fellows, Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) members, IEP Ambassadors, along with the Practitioners, Educators, Mediators, and Advocates of Peace work tirelessly to find ways of promoting and building Peace around the world. Rotary also supports the Peace Core volunteers to resolve conflicts in war-ravaged areas around the world. Awareness is the first step to action, as they say. In the last three years, it has been my honor to “shine a light” on some of the peace building projects and discussion forums in my home district through my stories published in the District Governors’™ newsletters. Along with my fellow Rotarians, it has been a joy to participate in some of the peace building projects in my home district. I also enjoy learning about global peace projects in webinars organized by the RAGFP.

As a long-time educator and a mother of two, I am so grateful for the opportunity to play an active role in the team effort for the allocation of this Rotary Foundation Disaster Grant that will help children, families and communities in Ukraine continue their journey on the path of “Basic Education and Literacy.” As a Rotarian, I will continue to believe in the theme of the proposed Peace Park at the R.I. Convention in Singapore from May 25-29, 2024. According to this theme, entitled “Rotary: Where Peace Runs Deep,” “At the heart of Rotary, lies a commitment to peace. Ingrained in our history, mission, and vision. From nurturing peaceful communities to fostering inner tranquility, deep-rooted in peace, not just as a concept, but as a fundamental part of our identity.”

The sterling efforts of Iryna Odyntsova, her fellow Rotarians, and her community members in restoring the opportunities of education for children in their communities takes me back to 500 B.C. when Confucius affirmed, “Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.” The essence of this quote matches the call for peace made by R.I. President R. Gordon R. McNally in the April 2024 issue of the *Rotary* magazine, which motivates us to believe in the power of “empathy” as the “most powerful tool of peace to create hope in the world” with all our thoughts and actions. Amen.



Birthdays



Ashish Makhija
April 15th



Shane M. Burr
April 17th



Sandra Harrison
April 24th

Years of Service



Lynn Epps
11 Years



Kristi Estes
4 Years



Jonathan Fancher
New Member!
