

# Rotary



## Club of Asheville THE COG

Monday, February 10, 2025



### This Week's Meeting (February 13, 2025) - Lisa Raleigh, RiverLink ED

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, February 7, 2025

"The French Broad Watershed in the Wake of Helene"



**Please join Lisa Raleigh, Executive Director of RiverLink, as she shares RiverLink's perspectives following Hurricane Helene.**

Founded over 35 years ago by Karen Cragolin, RiverLink has transformed the French Broad River from a neglected industrial corridor to a vibrant hub of parks, greenways, businesses, and creativity. However, Hurricane Helene's catastrophic flooding has underscored the urgent need for continued efforts to protect and restore the region. As RiverLink begins its next chapter, they remain committed to fostering the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed. They will focus on restoring flood damage, advancing climate resilience, and creating opportunities for conservation and recreation to ensure a thriving future for the region.

#### Lisa Raleigh, PhD

Lisa, a Montana native, resided in Colorado for the past 30 years before relocating to Asheville as RiverLink Executive Director. Prior to joining RiverLink, she was a nonprofit fundraising consultant and spent eleven years as the Director of Advancement for Colorado Rocky Mountain School. Lisa also co-founded Backbone Media — an outdoor industry specialty PR firm — and is a trained hydrologist with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma.

Join us in person and enjoy a great lunch, or [virtually, via this Zoom link.](#)

Click below to electronically contribute Happy Dollars, Fines, and donations to our Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation, Inc.



#### Club Meeting

Asheville  
Meets at TUTION HALL, TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH.  
60 Church St  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Time: Thursday at 12:30 PM

#### Speakers

##### February 13, 2025

[Lisa Raleigh, RiverLink Executive Director](#)  
River Resilience in the Wake of Hurricane Helene

##### February 20, 2025

[Varied](#)  
Community Grants Recipients

##### February 27, 2025

[Varied](#)  
Community Grants Recipients

##### March 06, 2025

[Ginger Frank](#)  
The Poppy's Popcorn Phenomenon

#### Coming Events

February 19th  
[Thirsty Third Wednesday](#)

February 20th  
[Red Cross Blood Drive](#)

March 5th  
[Urban Hike](#)

March 6th  
[Rotary People of Action Gala](#)

#### Club Leaders



[Eva-Michelle G. Spicer](#)  
President



[David Mans](#)  
President-Elect

[Michelle Daniels](#)  
President-Nominee

### February 6 Meeting Summary - New Member Talks!

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, February 7, 2025

It was a busy meeting this week that included a new member induction (Del Coufal), farewell speeches from AHS student Luna Toledo and Lola Altamir, and three interesting new member talks.

Our new member talks were Mary Brown, Ed Kolesar, and Dan Rogers.

[CLICK HERE FOR AN AI-GENERATED MEETING SUMMARY](#)



Club Director  
International Service  
Chair



Betty A. Doll  
Secretary



Cathy Early  
Treasurer



Anthony D. Lynch  
Attendance Secretary  
Sergeant -at-Arms



Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



Janet L. Whitworth  
Treasurer



Timothy L. Owings  
Club Director  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



Michael Thomas  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Tracy Fames  
Club Public Image  
Chair



Alexander P. Pence  
Club Director  
Community Service  
Chair  
Club Service Chair



Zachary F. Lamb  
Club Director  
Vocational Service  
Chair



Marcia Whitney  
Club Admin Chair  
Club Director



Richard T. Devereaux  
Bulletin Editor  
Diversity Equity &  
Inclusion  
Webmaster



Chris Werts  
Diversity Equity &  
Inclusion



Virginia Lawrence  
CCO-Club Comm.  
Offcr  
Club Director



New Member Del Coufal AHS Student Luna Toledo & Lola Altamir



Mary Brown Ed Kolesar



Dan Rogers





David T. Kaverman  
Club Director  
Youth Protection  
Officer  
Youth Services Chair



Carol E. Bornstein  
Club Fund Raising  
Chair



Albert Davis  
RYLA Point of Contact



Patrick A. Snyder  
iPast President

## Birthdays

Matthew Bacoate Jr.  
February 10th  
Donald P. Weidemann  
February 11th  
Steven Shreiber  
February 11th  
Kelly McCullough  
February 11th  
Harold Bradley Rouse  
February 19th  
Virginia Lawrence  
February 22nd  
Winston C. Payne  
February 22nd  
Marvin M. Thomas III  
February 22nd  
Millie J Farmer  
February 23rd  
Alexander P. Pence  
February 23rd  
Carter B. Webb  
February 23rd  
Sophia Stefanidis Ungert  
February 24th  
Sue Rhody  
February 26th  
David R. McCartney  
March 1st  
Christy Cheek  
March 3rd  
Anthony D Lynch  
March 6th  
Kyle R. Boyd  
March 10th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Patrick A. Snyder  
February 11th  
Carol E Bornstein  
February 13th  
Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.  
February 14th  
Frank Harwell Rutland  
February 26th  
Michael E. Greene

# Rotarians "Bring the Heat" to Needy Families

By Alan L West on Sunday, February 9, 2025



**Wow!**—what an amazing day we had today at **Covenant Community Church** for the February 8 Propane Exchange Day. I can't thank you enough for your **incredible generosity, commitment, and spirit of service.**

From the early risers who were there at **7:30 a.m.** to those who stayed until **3 p.m.**, Rotarians truly stepped up in every way imaginable. There were moments of busy action, quieter times, and plenty of teamwork in between. Whether you were:

- Directing traffic
- Working the clothing station
- Helping distribute food and meals
- Managing the car line
- Distributing propane tanks

Every single one of you played a crucial role in making this event a success. A couple of shout-outs: Jenny Bunn who mobilized those fantastic "Future-Rotarians" that are part of Interact...they jumped in wherever and whenever needed all day long! Carter Webb the marathon-man from sunrise to the end of the day!

## The Impact We Made Together

- ~175 propane tanks distributed to families in need
- 250+ meals handed out
- Countless clothes distributed to those who needed them

It was a **beautiful day outside** and an even more beautiful event to be a part of. I'm truly inspired by the way our club always comes together to make a difference.

## What's Next

We still have budget remaining, and we're already exploring the opportunity to hold **another propane exchange event** in the near future. I'm working with partners to coordinate and will share updates as soon as we have more details.

For now, please know how much I appreciate **each and every one of you**. As always, Rotarians answered the call to serve—and our community is better for it.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you do!

With gratitude,

**Alan West**  
Disaster Response Volunteer Coordinator  
Rotary Club of Asheville





## Asheville High Students Promote Peace

By Sharon Kay LeDuc on Friday, February 7, 2025



This **Peace Pole** provided to Asheville High School by Rotary Club of Asheville was planted and dedicated **on Thursday, February 6** at the school's Memorial Garden. 21 students from the Asheville High School Interact Club were in attendance.

A peace pole is a monument that displays the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in the language of the country where it has been placed, and usually the translation into other languages. The aluminum peace pole Interact planted displays the message in English, Spanish, Ukrainian and Cherokee.

Peace poles were the 1955 inspiration of Gai in Japan. The religious group he founded believed thoughts affect reality, and the chanting of the prayer was an effective way to world peace. There are over 200K around the world. If you see a peace pole, chant the prayer "May Peace Prevail on Earth". We need it!





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## Club Foundation - Disaster Support

By Patrick A. Snyder on Friday, January 31, 2025

**Total Donations/Grants Received: \$373K**  
**Results: \$148K in grants made to 29 organizations,**  
**\$112K for 994 heaters, propane, and water distribution.**

ABCCM	Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church	Riverlink
Arts AVL	Habitat for Humanity	Root Cause Farm
Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity	Jewish Family Services	Southside Community Farm
Asheville Downtown Association Foundation	Local Cloth	The Christine Avery Learning Center
Asheville Greenworks	Madison County Arts Council	Trauma Intervention Program
Bountiful Cities	Manna Food Bank	Western North Carolina Public Radio, Inc. (DBA Blue Ridge Public Radio)
Brother Wolf Animal Rescue	Mountain Housing Opportunities, Inc.	WNC Food Systems Coalition
CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort)	Mountain True	Working Wheels
EcoForesters	Pisgah Legal Services	YWCA of Asheville and Western NC
Equal Plates Project	Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County	



As of Jan 28, 2025

The Disaster Relief Committee is proud to update the club and all of our donors on the status of relief efforts. Since the first donations just days after the storm, our Club Foundation has raised over \$373K through donations from individuals across 41 states and through Rotary Grants provided by the district, zone, and Rotary International. Many of the grants have gone toward the purchase of roughly 1,000 electric and propane heaters as well as propane tanks and refill cards. These purchases were made from local businesses like Young's Ace Hardware and Blossman Gas. The club has worked with many non-profits across the region to get these heaters out to the people who need them most throughout the winter months. We also have an upcoming propane tank exchange day scheduled and are working on a grant for a multi-home repair project that will be announced soon.

Additionally, the committee has reviewed over 90 applications from other non-profits, churches and schools, and they've funded grants up to \$5K for 29 other organizations providing immediate relief, restoration, and capacity building. Funds have been fairly evenly disbursed across food security, crisis support, repair/rebuilding, and housing/rent support, as well as other causes such as environmental.

The committee continues to evaluate and award grants with a focus on:

- Facilitating immediate relief and long-term recovery, by providing grants to other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, government agencies, or churches acting in alignment with the intent of the disaster relief program.
- Strengthening community resilience by supporting projects that address systemic challenges and build sustainable capacity.
- Ensuring funding decisions reflect Rotary's commitment to ethics, inclusivity, and impactful service.

Interested qualified organizations are encouraged to submit a grant application with a project budget, their most recent IRS Form 990 or year-end financial statements, and any supplementary materials. Applications can be [submitted online](#) or emailed directly to Janet Whitworth by [clicking here](#).

Donations continue to come in and can be made [BY CLICKING ON THIS LINK](#).

## Bring us Your SWAG!

By Eva-Michelle G. Spicer on Wednesday, February 5, 2025

### SHOW SOME SWAGer!!

Each week we give out nice consolation prizes for our 50/50 raffle. We're out of prizes! So, if your company has cool SWAG (like a pot holder!) or you'd like to re-gift something that they "really shouldn't have" that you got over the Holidays, please bring it to our meeting tomorrow so that we can re-stock the prize closet. Your "stuff" might just be someone else's treasure!



## Tennent Scholarship Applications Open

By Sharon Kay LeDuc on Friday, January 31, 2025



### BUZZ TENNENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Rotary Club of Asheville decided in 1998 that there was a need for a scholarship program that was based upon academic merit as well as financial need. The funds for these scholarships are derived from fundraising and donations. The amount available varies from year to year as does the number of qualified students. In 2024, thirteen local students were awarded \$1,000-\$9,000 each.

Applications Due April 13, 2025

**CRITERIA**

- Be a high school senior
- Have un-weighted GPA of 2.0 if planning to attend 2 year program at technical school, community college or junior college and 3.0 if planning for 4 year college
- Be enrolled in a college, university, community college or technical school
- Have three letters of reference
- Be a Buncombe County resident

QUESTIONS? Contact Sharon LeDuc at SKLEDUC@PRODIGY.NET

Apply Here



TINYURL.COM/TENNENTSCHOLARSHIP



Applications may be submitted by high school seniors in Buncombe County for Tennent Scholarships. Multiple scholarships are awarded and are based both upon academic merit and financial need. Due date is April 13. Application is at [TINYURL.COM/TENNENTSCHOLARSHIP](https://tinyurl.com/tennentscholarship)

For more information, check out the [Tennent Scholarship folder on our website](#).

## Rotary Club of Asheville Honors Eight Outstanding Local Teachers

By Kyle Parks on Friday, January 24, 2025





The Rotary Club of Asheville hosted its third annual Teachers of Excellence Awards luncheon on Thursday, January 23 at Trinity Episcopal Church. Eight teachers were recognized this year, each receiving a cash award of \$2,000.

The following teachers were commended for their outstanding commitment to their profession and to their students:

- **Maired Smitka, Issac Dickson Elementary**
- **Gabriel Al-Shaer, School of Inquiry and Life Sciences**
- **Rodney Workman, Asheville High School**
- **Jesse Pitt, Asheville Middle School**
- **Thomas Oliver, Weaverville Elementary**
- **Samantha Aycok, Lucy S. Herring Elementary**
- **Hope Willis, Asheville Middle School**
- **Sarah Duffer, Asheville High School**

The goal of this program is to foster and encourage excellence in teaching and reward dedication to education in the Asheville City and Buncombe County School Districts.

The selection process began with 30 teachers nominated for the award. Each nominee and their nominator submitted essays that were reviewed by a selection committee consisting of three Rotarians and the presidents of the Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools Foundations. The Committee selected 10 semi-finalists, each of whom were interviewed. After these interviews, the eight Teachers of Excellence were chosen.

Our children and their futures are shaped and educated by the innovative, hard-working, and caring teachers who have dedicated their lives to bringing enthusiasm and expertise into the classroom each day.

[CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS AND BIOS OF THE EIGHT WINNERS!](#)

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## Rotary District 7670 to Host District RLI Event – March 29th, 2025

By Sarah J McGuire

Rotary District 7670 is excited to announce a **District RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute)** event on **March 29th, 2025**, at **Crossroads Church in Asheville, NC**. This is a fantastic opportunity for Rotarians looking to enhance their leadership skills and deepen their understanding of Rotary's impact.

### Event Details:

- **Date:** March 29th, 2025
- **Location:** Crossroads Church, Asheville, NC





- **Time:** 8:30 AM – 3:45 PM
- **Cost:** \$95.00 (includes lunch)

We are offering **all three parts** of the RLI program, designed to provide Rotarians with the tools and knowledge to become stronger leaders within their clubs and communities. Whether you're a new Rotarian or a seasoned leader, this event will help you build on your leadership capabilities and make

a bigger impact in Rotary.

The **\$95 registration fee** covers all three parts of the program as well as lunch, so you can focus on learning and connecting with fellow Rotarians throughout the day.

**Registration** is now open! To sign up, simply visit the following link:  
[Register for District RLI Event](#)

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to grow as a leader, connect with fellow Rotarians, and strengthen your understanding of Rotary's vital work. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## 2025 Rotary People of Action Awards Gala

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

[Tickets on sale now!](#)

On Thursday March 6th from 6-9pm, The Rotary Club of Asheville is delighted to host our second recognition gala honoring our local community heroes. Rotary clubs worldwide focus their efforts on seven areas, and we are thrilled to present awards for outstanding achievement to individuals who embody a "service above self" mindset in our local region. The following awardees will be honored for their dedication in specific areas at our People of Action Gala event:

- Peace-building and Conflict Resolution: Dr. Oralene Simmons (MLK Prayer Breakfast)
- Disease Prevention and Treatment: Dr. Shannon Dowler (US Dept. of Health & Human Services; MAHEC; CDC)
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene: City of Asheville, Water Resource Dept (Assistant City Manager, Ben Woody)
- Maternal and Child Health: Dr. Amy Marietta (MAHEC)
- Basic Education and Literacy: Marta Alcalá (Asheville City Schools)
- Economic and Community Development: Jeffrey Kaplan (Venture Asheville)
- Supporting the Environment: Lang Hornthal (EcoForesters)

We invite you to join us as we formally thank and highlight the accomplishments of these community leaders. Enjoy this celebration with drinks, music, and a seated dinner while we raise money for the Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation. This fundraiser supports our projects, including local scholarships, recognition of teachers and first responders, protection of the French Broad watershed, local food security initiatives, and international support for medical, dental, optical, and literacy projects in Guatemala, Honduras, and Argentina.

Tickets are \$150 per person or \$1,000 for a table of 8 and include dinner with your choice of Braised Airline Chicken Breast with Veloute Sauce, Center Cut Sirloin, or Vegetarian (Chefs Choice) and complimentary self-parking at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville (March 6th, 6-9pm)

If you have any questions, please reach out to [avl.rotary.gala@gmail.com](mailto:avl.rotary.gala@gmail.com)

Buy your tickets BEFORE Feb 24th at: <https://rotaryasheville.betterworld.org/events/people-of-action-awards-gala>

### **Basic Education and Literacy:**

#### **Awardee: Marta Alcalá (Asheville City Schools)**

Marta Alcalá, Executive Director of Equity for Asheville City Schools, has spent over 33 years promoting equity, racial justice, and literacy in Asheville. She founded *Motherhead*, a program

enhancing literacy and fostering racial equity discussions among multi-racial mothers, and co-founded the *Marvelous Math Club (MMC)*, an afterschool program empowering Black elementary students with asset- and justice-based practices. Her work extends to key initiatives like the Asheville Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative and the Asheville City School Foundation. She also co-authored *Relevant Education Grows All Learners (REGAL)*, a justice-centered education approach. Through her leadership, Marta creates safe, inclusive spaces that inspire growth and community transformation.

#### **Community Economic Development**

##### **Awardee: Jeffrey Kaplan (Venture Asheville)**

Jeffrey Kaplan, Executive Director of Venture Asheville, leads a \$150M mentorship-driven incubator fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in Asheville. Under his leadership, Venture Asheville has created 186 high-growth jobs and earned a Gold Award for Innovation from the International Economic Development Council. Kaplan launched initiatives like the Venture Asheville Honors, celebrating business resilience and raising \$1M to rebuild Western North Carolina's economy post-Hurricane Helene. He also plays a key role in the Mountain Community Capital Fund, supporting local business financing, and serves on the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology, and Innovation, promoting regional research and development.

#### **Disease Prevention and Treatment**

##### **Awardee: Dr. Shannon Dowler (US Dept. of Health & Human Services; MAHEC; CDC)**

Dr. Shannon Dowler, a family physician and public health leader, has dedicated decades to improving healthcare access and disease prevention. She served as NC Medicaid's Chief Medical Officer, leading its transition to managed care and advancing vaccine equity during COVID-19. Dr. Dowler has worked extensively in STD education, creating the internationally acclaimed rap video "Vigorous: STDs Never Get Old" and writing "Never Too Late: Your Guide to Safer Sex after 60." A past president of the NC Academy of Family Physicians, she has also led public health initiatives with MAHEC and the Buncombe County Health Department, earning numerous state and national awards.

#### **Environment**

##### **Awardee: Lang Hornthal (EcoForesters)**

Lang Hornthal, Co-Executive Director of the non-profit sustainable forestry organization, EcoForesters, co-leads an organization that is busy restoring and conserving Appalachian forests. Their effort over 10 years has resulted in over 100,000 acres being put under stewardship. Under his leadership, free workshops, panel discussions, and educational events were organized to promote forest health, wildfire prevention, and invasive species management. He also coordinated post-Hurricane Helene efforts, enabling crews to clear downed trees for communities in need and clear public trails. Lang's advocacy extends to partnerships with organizations like the USDA Forest Service and the NC Wildlife Resource Commission, as well as working with stakeholders to address the impact of the Canton Paper Mill closing.

#### **Maternal and Child Health**

##### **Awardee: Dr Amy Marietta (MAHEC)**

Dr. Amy Marietta has expanded MAHEC's Project CARA, a prenatal health program for women with substance use disorders (SUD), using a hub-and-spoke model to increase access to care across multiple counties. This initiative has led to fewer babies entering foster care and more women achieving recovery. Project CARA also improves birth outcomes, reduces infant mortality, and increases infant birth weights. As a founding advisory council member of Nurture NC, Dr. Marietta has united government leaders, Medicaid experts, managed care organizations, and philanthropic groups like Dogwood Health Trust and The Duke Endowment to address maternal and infant health challenges in North Carolina.

#### **Peace and Conflict Prevention**

##### **Awardee: Dr. Oralene Simmons (MLK Prayer Breakfast)**

Dr. Oralene Simmons is the founder and president of the MLK Prayer Breakfast in Asheville, which she has led since 1982, growing it to over 1,000 attendees. She is a pioneering civil rights leader from Western North Carolina, who served for 27 years as the Cultural Arts Supervisor under a contract with Asheville Parks and Recreation and led the YMI Cultural Center. She made history in 1961 by integrating Mars Hill College, earning recognition in *Jet* and *Time* magazines. Ms. Simmons has received numerous honors, including North Carolina's prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2016 and the Making of the King Holiday Award presented by Coretta Scott King. She remains a dedicated advocate for human rights.

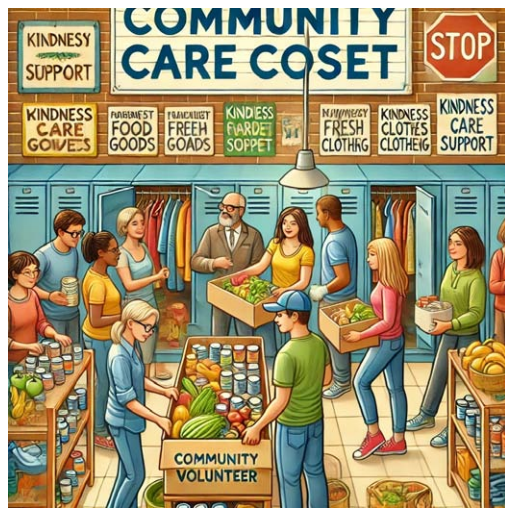
#### **Water Sanitation and Hygiene**

##### **Awardee: Asheville Water Resources Department, Ben Woody representing**

Assistant City Manager Ben Woody accepts the award on behalf of the Asheville Water Resources Department and the many individuals, agencies, contractors, and community members who united to restore potable water following Hurricane Helene. The department guided a coordinated response involving local and federal agencies, nonprofits, and private contractors to rebuild water infrastructure across the county. Heroes at every level worked tirelessly to assess the damage, engineer emergency and long-term solutions, and rebuild vital water infrastructure critical to Asheville and surrounding communities. Thanks to their dedication, potable water was restored in just 57 days. Ben Woody's strategic coordination and clear communication helped mitigate the public health crisis, showcasing the strength, resilience, and spirit of our community.



Tuesday, January 28, 2025



After the storm, several of us volunteered at the Resource Center established by United Way on the campus of Erwin Middle School. They have asked us to help them restock their pantry and clothes closet. Originally, Manna was to keep them supplied in food, but their resources are too limited at this time to fulfill that commitment.

From Emily Swan, Resource Coordinator: "Erwin Middle School Resource Room is open every Monday 5:00-6:30 for families to supplement their families' food, clothing and household items. From September-December the CAEMS Resource Room served around 300 people in the Erwin District. Often we will see our full students' families, including grandparents, siblings, aunt/uncles, etc. Families can make appointments, request items to be sent home/delivered, or visit on Mondays (where they can also enjoy a free catered meal and

tutoring). On an average day we have anywhere between 2-4 students requesting resources and using our center."

I will add they also offer a washer & dryer so that students and their families can do their laundry.

They established a wish list on Amazon to simplify donating - [here is a link to that list](#). Orders will ship directly to the school.

If you prefer to purchase items locally, bring them to a meeting, and we will make sure they are delivered.

In service,

Disaster Relief Committee  
Rotary Club of Asheville

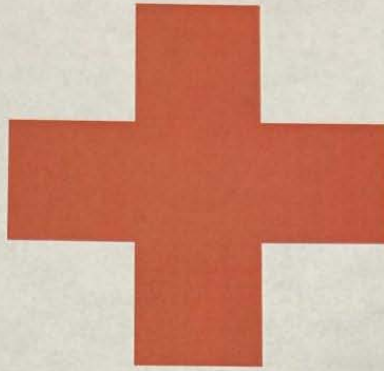
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## Give Blood - Help Save Lives!

By Reilly Wilkes on Saturday, January 18, 2025

Rotary Club of Asheville Red Cross  
Blood Drive on Thursday,  
February 20th, during our regular  
club meeting. Questions?? [email  
Reilly Wilkes](#)

Give blood. Help save lives.



**Blood Drive**  
**The Rotary Club of Asheville**  
**at Trinity Episcopal Church**

Fellowship Hall  
60 Church St  
Asheville, NC 28801

**Thursday, February 20, 2025**  
**11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, please call  
1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
and enter Sponsor Code "AVLRotary".

Bring your Red Cross or Photo ID.

**Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to  
Feb. 28 for a \$15 e gift card [rcblood.org/flurry](http://rcblood.org/flurry)**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

**American Red Cross**

1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
Download the Blood Donor App

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## Rotary Club of Asheville Offers Disaster Relief Grant

Friday, November 22, 2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Kyle Parks  
Parks PR, (813) 352-1325  
[kyle@parkspublicrelations.com](mailto:kyle@parkspublicrelations.com)

**Rotary Club of Asheville Offers Disaster Relief Grant to Support Recovery Efforts in**



## Western North Carolina

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (November 22, 2024) — The Rotary Club of Asheville has launched a Disaster Relief Grant program to aid in the recovery and rebuilding efforts following the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

Rotary Clubs and individuals in the United States and Canada have contributed more than \$150,000 in donations to help support this initiative, which will provide financial assistance to eligible organizations in our community.

Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies with 501(c)(3) status are invited to apply for grants of up to \$5,000. The Rotary Club of Asheville Disaster Relief Committee will evaluate applications on a bi-weekly basis, ensuring that funds are distributed efficiently to those with the greatest need.

"Our mission is to support recovery and rebuilding efforts for those affected by Tropical Storm Helene," said Janet Whitworth, chair of the Rotary Club of Asheville's Disaster Relief Committee. "We are proud to collaborate with Rotary Clubs across North America to help Western North Carolina."

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit a project budget, their most recent IRS Form 990 or year-end financial statements, and any supplementary materials. Applications can be [submitted online](#) or emailed directly to Janet Whitworth by [clicking this link](#).

The Rotary Club of Asheville will continue the grant process until the funds have been fully utilized, to make sure that the community receives the necessary support to rebuild and recover.

For more information or to submit an application, visit [www.rotaryasheville.org](http://www.rotaryasheville.org)

### **About the Rotary Club of Asheville:**

The Rotary Club of Asheville is a service club of engaged and passionate members who desire to do good in the community and world while honoring shared ethics and core values. The club, which has over 165 members from a wide range of backgrounds, finds ways to help the community at local, national, and international levels. This can involve anything from doing volunteer projects overseas to finding ways to support nonprofits in Asheville and Buncombe County. For more information, visit <https://www.rotaryasheville.org/>.

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