

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

May 15, 2018

SEAN GARRETT

United Way of Central Carolinas



Today we had the pleasure of hearing from Sean Garrett, CEO of United Way of Central Carolinas. Sean grew up in NYC and Atlanta where he learned from his parents all about community service. His Father has worked for United Way Worldwide and United Way of Atlanta and his Mom a teacher to special needs children.

Sean is a graduate of Georgetown University and obtained his MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management. He has spent his entire working career with United Way since 2004 when he completed the UW national management training program in Dane County, Wisconsin. He later moved to Chicago in 2005 where he rose to director of planned giving. He moved to NYC with UW Worldwide in 2010 and served as VP of development beginning in 2013.

Sean is a fundraising veteran with relationships with many of the countries Fortune 500 and large foundations. In addition, he led the implementation of the first global standards assessment across United Way's 41-country network, focusing on ensuring accountability and transparency at the nearly 600 United Ways outside the United States. He and his wife Emily, with J P Morgan, moved to Charlotte in 2015 and have 2 boys, Ryan and John.

Sean began by asking who had heard of the UW - all hands went up. He asked if we had heard of the economic mobility study and that Charlotte ranked dead last out of 50 top cities, again all hands went up. And he stated we had all likely heard the line "a child born into poverty in Charlotte has almost no chance of getting out during their lifetime," many times and it just becomes another talking point.....until YOU see life through the eyes of a young child living in poverty.

Sean shared his experience as a 30 minute per week reading tutor through Tutor Charlotte, a UW initiative, for the last six months at Ashley Park Elementary in West Charlotte. This school population has over 75% of its students living in poverty. The stories these children share are gut wrenching about growing up poor in Charlotte, moving every few months and witnessing extreme violence at such young ages. His buddy is a five-year-old boy (same age as his son) that loves his teacher, loves to read, is very smart and talks about all the different people that come in and out of his life. He has moved many times due to unstable circumstances. He has seen violence in his young life that no one should have seen. Then just two weeks ago he was not there when Sean showed up. His mother came back into his life and he was gone again to another place. This is the life of so many poverty stricken youth in our community, on the move with little stability and support. Sean compared how completely different the

conversations he had with his young student and those with his son, yet both are a sponge for learning.

The good news is we can do something about this 50th ranking. The Leading on Opportunity report responding to this ranking that came out last year, outlines three primary things must happen for positive change: 1) High quality early childhood experiences, 2) stable affordable housing and 3) better access to primary and mental health care .

Sean stated, “we knew we needed to do our work differently at UW to get different results, so we launched two new initiatives.” In 2017, the United Way launched its programs to assist: 1) neighborhood work and 2) commitment to racial equity and inclusion.

Regarding the neighborhood plans, United Way began looking for ways to make our poorest neighborhoods more stable and desirable. They began working with national consulting firm Purpose Builder who is advising groups all over the country. UW formed United Neighborhoods Initiative to revitalize our most under-resourced communities to change the odds and improve outcomes for children. This initiative resulted in new significant investments that will be shared with the community in early June. But, more importantly, United Neighborhoods gave voice to the residents of these communities to continue driving the progress they have already made. Sean made the case that everyone wants to have a voice in what goes on with their neighborhood. From high quality child care, to amenities, parks, better food choices, how homes are kept to schools, churches and neighborhood associations. With this empowerment, these will be the things that move people forward....moves economic mobility forward!

The first two neighborhoods that United Neighborhood chose to partner are Renaissance West and Grier Heights, investing \$450,000 last year to support programs on early childhood education, tutoring for parents and job-search assistance. Both will be three-year commitments and he hopes this will encourage others to support their efforts here and in the 25-30 other neighborhoods that need similar attention.

UW is committed to being a system change agent. Sean shared that of all the major national funders of charitable giving, 97% of the largest national foundations gifts went to white led organizations. By changing just a bit of this giving to grassroot led organizations, this could lead to improving social equity and increasing social capital in these communities. The UW will also be acting more as a convener, facilitator and advocate in these communities – whether that is through affordable housing conversations, the county’s early childhood initiative, working with local shelter partners, or utilizing NC 2-1-1 as an entry point for homeless individuals and families. He recognizes that with commitments to these newer initiatives, it will mean investments in the more traditional agency partner will change.

Sean is often asked if we will always be 50th and he says NO. We as a community have built great sports teams, an airport, great skyline and so much more that we are all proud. We need to move forward to tell the story that no matter where you are born/live, you can make it in Charlotte!

We had a clear message today that our United Way is in great hands with this young passionate leader and I am confident these fragile parts of our community will continue to improve with Sean’s involvement.

Speaker Write-Up: George MacBain; Head Table: Chris Jackson, Katie Tyler, Mary Vickers-Koch, Floyd Davis; Invocation: John Tabor; Visitors & Guests: Martin Waters; Photos: Bert Voswinkel; Piano: Em Syrewicze

CLUB NEWS



This is Kuba, the club's 2018-2019 exchange student that arrives from Poland in August. Kuba will attend Myers Park High School, enjoys outdoor activities and is looking forward to exploring Charlotte.

An immediate need is to identify a family that can host Kuba from August – November. If you are in the Myers Park district or know of a neighbor that may be interested in hosting (this time frame or any other time frame), please contact **Bill Loftin**, bill@loftinco.com. Everyone should be thinking of an activity or something that could be done to support Kuba during his time in the USA.

Alexander Graham Middle School is in DIRE need for proctors during their end-of-year testing, May 25-June 8. Please feel free to sign up for a date(s) here: <https://bit.ly/2H7LsN4>. Proctors can sign up for however many days they would like to help. Questions: Courtney Armstrong, courtney.armstrong@cms.k12.nc.us.

Committee sign-up and roster updates/photos are due **May 21, 2018**. I accidentally omitted the **Literacy** committee as an option. Thanks to **Kim McMillan** who will chair this committee and let me know if you'd like to join this group.



Members of the Literacy committee were on hand when committee chair **Kim McMillan** presented Sheila Laury, Director and Founder of Fill My Cup!, with a check for \$2000. Fill My Cup provides tuition-free one-on-one and small group tutoring to adults, out of school youth, and families.

Chad Lloyd enjoyed graduation from Leadership North Carolina at the Old State Capitol building in Raleigh.

John Snyder is quite proud of his three sons/Carolina graduates...Patrick graduated from medical school on May 12 and also got his MBA. Ward graduated from undergrad May 13. And Field blazed the path being the oldest brother.

Burgl and **Ronnie Pruett** visited ancient Greek, Roman, and Byzantine ruins in the country of Albania. Photo of Ronnie exchanging Rotary banners with George Bouzas, president of Rotary Club of Corfu.



Karen Calder recognized donors to The Rotary Foundation and thanked them for their ongoing support. Paul Harris Fellow (\$1000 donation): **Chad Lloyd** and **Howard Hoyle, Jr.** Level Two (\$3000 donation) Rick Handford; Level Four (\$5000 donation) Floyd Davis; and Level Six (\$7000 donation) Ed Kizer.

Karen also acknowledged a very special donation of \$10,000 from **Martin Waters** in support of PolioPlus. Thank you Martin and thank you **Mark Markanda** for encouraging this gift.

Lunch opportunity on June 1st at the RT50 Conference (*UNC Charlotte Center City*) as Rotary International President-Elect Barry Rassin and RI Directors Ron Ferrill and David Stovall speak on the Future of Rotaract. Luncheon begins at 11:30. Registration: rt50eventbrite.com. Click on the green ticket button, choose individual, and at the top “enter promo” add RT50LUNCH. Remember to print and bring your ticket with you.

ROTARY 101

In 1917, Rotary President Arch Klumph announced his idea for an endowment fund dedicated to “doing good in the world.” With this short statement, Klump inspired the establishment of The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Today, TRF helps clubs and districts work together to perform meaningful, sustainable service. This top-rated, award-winning Foundation has spent more than \$3.7 billion on life-changing sustainable projects that help people in need around the world get clean water, medical care, literacy classes, and other essentials.

Polio eradication is Rotary’s top philanthropic priority. Rotary launched the PolioPlus program in 1985 and when Rotary began working with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, there were more than 350,000 polio cases in over 125 countries. As of 2017, Rotary’s contributions to the global polio eradication effort, with matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, exceeded \$1.7 billion.

Annual Fund-SHARE is the primary source of funding for a broad range of local and international activities. Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) is the fundraising initiative designed to encourage support for the Foundation’s Annual Fund.

You are considered a Sustaining Member by a donation of \$100 or more each Rotary year. When you have donated \$1000, you are recognized as Paul Harris Fellow. Additional donations in increments of \$1000 move you to the next level. So, when you have donated \$2000, you are a Level One donor; \$3000 is a Level Two donor, etc. Anyone donating \$1000 or more each Rotary year is a member of the Paul Harris Society. When you have reached \$10,000 you are recognized as a Major Donor.

The above barely scratches the surface on what The Rotary Foundation is all about. For additional information on TRF, visit www.rotary.org and click on Foundation.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2017	309
05/15/2018	290
Net Increase:	-19

New Members: Frank Mueller, Linwood Bolles
Resignations: Mark Duncan

Visitors	10
Club Members	120
Total	130 (49%)

Visitors & Guests: Laura Clark, Barbara Caldwell, Adam Hunt, Nancy Jones, LaRita Barber, Howard Hoyle, III, James Black, Nat Weiss, Leigh Bullard

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (05/24/18 – 05/30/18)

05/24 Lynn Johnson, Helmut Deussen
05/26 Don Millen, Rhonda York
05/29 Brad Crotts
05/30 Greg Hatcher

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (05/24/18 – 05/30/18)

05/25 Jane & Bob Brietz, Judy & Don Wishnek
05/26 Kandi & Gary Deitemeyer, Justine & David Tobin, Christine & Phil Volponi
05/27 Mariana & Mike Orzech, Sandra & Luther Moore
05/28 Karen & Doug Bean, Jessica & Devin Dupree
05/29 Lori & Glenn Paton, Claire & Brent Trexler

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (05/24/18 – 05/30/18)

01 year – Rhonda York
02 years – Alexandra Myrick
04 years – Brian Gibson
05 years – Greg Sizemore
06 years – Matthew Greer
15 years – Henry Cantrell

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

05/22 Sherry Chisenhall, Editor, Charlotte Observer
05/29 Interact Service Awards
06/05 Clarke Allen, Centre Stage Owner
06/12 Caroline Dudley, Accenture, Workplace Research
06/19 Phil Kirk, The Ten Governors I Have Known
06/26 Jessica Brown, Camp North End

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on [Flickr](#) [Click here](#)



