



Upcoming Events

*Speaker schedule and upcoming events can also be found on
Charlotte Rotary's website under "Events / News".*

***Tues., Nov. 5 - Weekly Meeting:** *Michael Bitzer, Ph.D., Politics Dept Chair and Professor of Politics and History, Catawba College*

**Remember to bring a coat, sweater, or any warm clothing for donation to Western NC.*

Fri., Nov. 8 - District Event: *Tree Planting in honor of RI President Stephanie Urchick's visit to the area.*

Lunchtime - Confirmation on time to follow. Mnt Museum, 2730 Randolph Rd.

Fri., Nov. 8 - District Event: *The Rotary Foundation Celebration*, Gastonia Conference Center, 145 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Gastonia, NC 28052.

Wed., Nov. 20 - Leadership Impact Group Monthly Meeting 5:30–7 p.m., Lost Worlds Brewing, 1100 Metropolitan Ave., Suite 165, Charlotte.

Wed., Dec. 4 - Volunteer Opportunity: *Big Brothers Big Sisters Book Drive*, Book assembly and social. Details to come.

Tues., Dec. 17 - Volunteer Opportunity: *Blood Drive!* Join Charlotte Rotary and the American Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code Charlotterotary or call 1-800-redcros to make your appointment.

This Week's Meeting



*April Whitlock, Head of Corporate Citizenship, LendingTree and Executive Director, LendingTree Foundation
"Disruptive Philanthropy"*

by Rick Handford

Karen Calder introduced April Whitlock, the Head of Corporate Citizenship at LendingTree, who has been the Executive Director of the LendingTree Foundation since 2020. April initially joined the fintech company over 20 years ago when it was a start-up, and, after leaving to work on other ventures, she has returned to lead the strategic development and execution of impactful relational giving programs and volunteerism across LendingTree's U.S. footprint.

April is a creative strategist who excels in helping organizations, including the Foundation for the Carolinas and Carolina Pad, turn big

ideas into successful ventures. Before LendingTree, April served as the Interim Director of Charlotte Corporate Affairs Professionals and was the business owner of Fundanoodle, a series of educational readiness products. In other entrepreneurial ventures, April started the Charlotte market for Mom Corps, a staffing firm for professional parents seeing flexible jobs so they can contribute at home and at work.

A Duke University graduate and Charlotte native, April values the importance of community and currently volunteers on the City of Charlotte Arts & Culture Advisory Board, the Children's Theatre of Charlotte Board of Directors, Share Charlotte, Classroom Central, and the Women's Impact Fund. She was recently honored as one of the 2023 Charlotte Ledger's "40 Over 40 and has also been named as Charlotte Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and Mecklenburg Times' "50 Most Influential Women." [Click here to read more.](#)

[Click here for a recording of the meeting.](#) The program's introduction begins at approximately 24 minutes and 30 seconds.





Club News



Congratulations to District Governor Kevin Kendrick!

On Tues., Nov. 12th, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, NC, Charlotte Chapter will honor District 7680 Governor Kevin Kendrick at the National Philanthropy Day 2024: Honoring Charlotte's Philanthropic Leaders event.

The National Philanthropy Day celebrates individuals and organizations making a significant impact on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community through philanthropy, showcasing the diversity of "giving back." Hosted by AFP Charlotte for over 15 years, this event brings together over 500 leaders to celebrate the power of philanthropy in creating a more equitable society. DG Kevin will be recognized as the Outstanding Champion of Diversity.

Congratulations and thank you for your remarkable contributions DG Kevin!



Leadership Impact Group

On May 9, 2024, the Rotary Club of Charlotte chartered a satellite club called the Leadership Impact Group. This was the launch of a new service, social, and networking group for leaders in the Charlotte area and aims to bring together growth-oriented leaders from diverse backgrounds for service, socializing, and networking.

The Leadership Impact Group was started because many young professionals and leaders cannot attend our regular lunch meeting and program every Tuesday. And we also know many are interested in getting connected to a service, social, and networking group at a modest membership cost. Most of the events and service initiatives will be open to newcomers. There is a modest membership category for those who wish to join formally. If you know someone in your life that is interested in joining this club, reach out to [Mordecai Scott](mailto:mscott@loftinco.com) at mscott@loftinco.com.

This group meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 5:30-7 p.m. currently at Lost Worlds Brewing, 1100 Metropolitan Ave., Suite 165, Charlotte.

Welcome to all our Leadership Impact Group members!



Club Board Elections

In addition to the national elections on Tuesday, Nov. 5, the Rotary Club of Charlotte will also have elections for the club's future Board of Directors. Along with President-Elect [Patrick Baker](#), the Nominating Committee will present the President-Nominee as well as a slate of Charlotte Rotarians who would like to serve as Directors and Club Officers, taking office on July 1,

2025. At this meeting, the floor will also be open for additional nominations. If there are no nominations from the floor, the slate will be approved by a voice vote of those in attendance. Your current board can be found at the end of this newsletter. For more information, contact the Nomination Committee Chair, Immediate Past President [Edwin Peacock](#) or Executive Secretary [Christine Cipriano](#) at christine@charlotterotary.org.

HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE!

EVERY TUESDAY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER!



**GOAL: 100+ BOOKS TO PROVIDE WINTER
BREAK READING FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS!**

PLEASE BRING NEW BOOKS!

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, OR HIGH
SCHOOL READING LEVELS!



GREAT SPOTS TO SHOP!

WALMART, TARGET, BOB'S, COSTCO, SAM'S CLUB, OR AMAZON!



Throughout November, Charlotte Rotary is collecting books for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas Holiday Book Drive! Help bring joy and inspire young readers by bringing a new book each Tuesday. Your donations will make a wonderful impact this holiday season. Let's come together to make a difference—one book at a time!



Help Charlotte Rescue Mission with Thanksgiving Food Boxes!

The Charlotte Rescue Mission is seeking support for its Thanksgiving Food Box collection to aid local nonprofits and Title 1 schools. With 22 days left, they're still in need of 3,093 food boxes and 4,236 turkeys to meet this year's goal of 5,000. Each box should contain specific items and be packed in a "Small Packing Box" (available at U-Haul, Lowe's,

Home Depot, or Walmart). Delivery days are Fri., Nov. 22 (9 AM - 4 PM) and Sat., Nov. 23 (9 AM - 2 PM) at 624 McNinch St. Frozen turkeys can be dropped off at 915 W. 1st St. from November 18-24. To participate, email thanksgiving@charlotterescuemission.org for detailed instructions. **Click here for more information.** Spread the word to family, friends, and colleagues!



Get involved in our impactful year of service!

Charlotte Rotary's 2024-2025 Monthly Service Focus schedule highlights a range of opportunities to make a difference, from supporting Classroom Central last August to the Goodwill Christmas in July drive next summer. Each month offers a chance to contribute to meaningful initiatives led by our dedicated committee chairs.

If you are interested in the Service Committee, contact Service Chair, [Donna Dunlap](#) at donna.dunlap@bbbscentralcarolinas.org or Executive Secretary [Christine Cipriano](#) at christine@charlotterotary.org to find out how you can help.

Let's come together to make a positive impact throughout the year!

*Note: Western, NC Support is underway separately - See below.

- **August** was Classroom Central Supply Drive (Karen Calder, Chair)
- **September** was the First Responders Scholarship Luncheon (Rex Reynolds, Chair)
- **October** was the Polio Proclamation and Polio fundraiser for Polio (led by Laura Meier and Tish Atkins)
- **November** =
 - The Rotary Foundation Awareness (Chair, Joe Morris)
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters Book Drive with a book assembly and social on Dec. 4 (Donna Dunlap, Chair)
- **December** =
 - The Salvation Army Bell Ringing and Red Kettle Campaign (Chaired by Mark Norman and Maggie Mitchem-Flanigan)
 - American Red Cross Blood Drive, Tues., Dec. 17 (Terri DeBoo, Chair)
 - Charlotte Rescue Mission Breakfast (Tracey Reading, Chair)
- **January** = Crisis Assistance Ministry Hat, Glove & Scarf Drive (Chair needed)
- **February** =
 - Scouting for Food/Scout's Food Drive (Jonathan Russell, Chair)
 - Coins For Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART) Even on Feb. 20 (Tish Atkins, Margaret Donovan, and Virginia Owen, Co-Chairs)
- **March** = Tree Planting Project (Phil Volponi, Chair)
- **April** = Ronald McDonald House Project (Denise Cubbedge, Chair)
- **May** = Samaritan's Feet Project (Carol Hardison, Chair)
- **June** = Nourish Up Project (Catherine Bracey, Chair)
- **July** = Goodwill - Christmas in July Drive (Jennifer De La Jara, Chair)

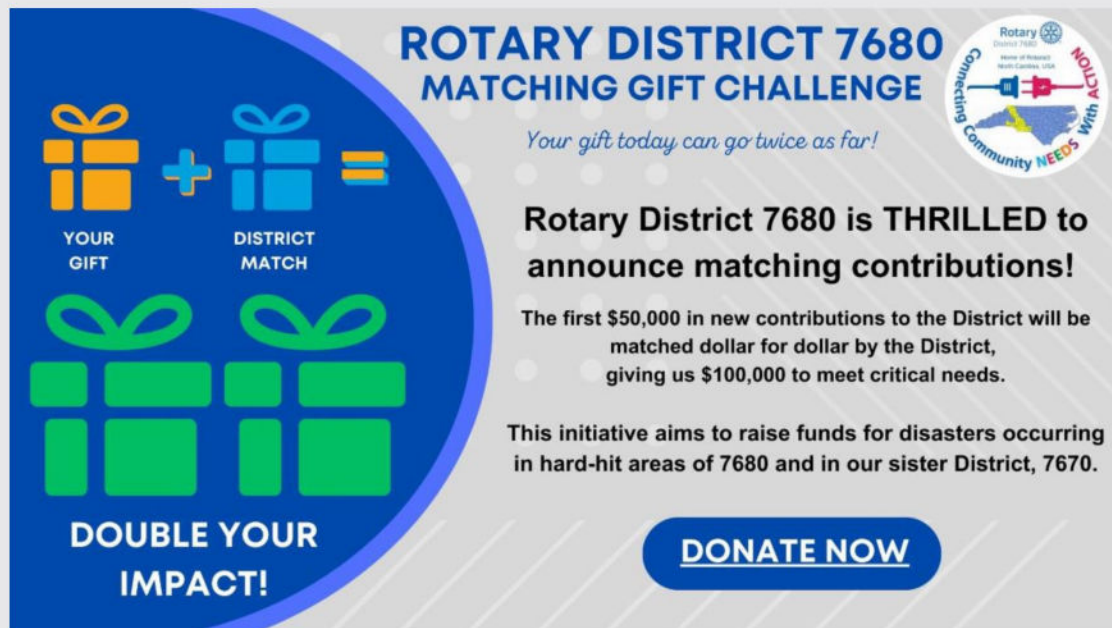
Western NC Disaster Relief



Charlotte Rotary's current efforts to help Western NC, led by Past President [David Anderson](#) and [Robert Shaw](#), are to donate to organizations already making a significant impact in Western North Carolina relief. If you'd like to contribute items, Charlotte Rotary's efforts are focused on coats, blankets and sweaters. Please bring warm clothing to donate at our next meeting. The items you bring will be distributed through Crisis Assistance Ministry. David will be collecting the items on the hotel level of the parking deck.

David and Robert are also looking for volunteers to help collect the coats. Reach out to David if you can help at dlanderson62@gmail.com.

Our meeting venue, Fairfield Inn and Suites, is also actively supporting Western NC. The hotel is focused on baby and pet supplies. We invite Rotary members to help by donating pet food at next week's meeting—small bags, a few cans, anything helps!



**ROTARY DISTRICT 7680
MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE**

Your gift today can go twice as far!

Rotary District 7680 is THRILLED to announce matching contributions!

The first \$50,000 in new contributions to the District will be matched dollar for dollar by the District, giving us \$100,000 to meet critical needs.

This initiative aims to raise funds for disasters occurring in hard-hit areas of 7680 and in our sister District, 7670.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

DONATE NOW

Rotary District 7680
District of Western North Carolina, USA
Connecting Community NEEDS With

Western NC Disaster - Charlotte Rotary members are encouraged to visit the **Rotary District 7680 website** for the latest opportunities to support our neighbors in Western North Carolina who have been devastated by Hurricane Helene. Your assistance can make a meaningful impact as we work together to help with recovery efforts in the region.

Rotary District 7680 is also thrilled to announce matching contributions! The \$50,000 challenge is still in effect and District 7680 will match every dollar donated in that challenge for a total of \$100,000. We know that this money will be used for midterm and long-term needs in two districts.

Here is where/how you can make a directed donation:

Disaster Recovery | Rotary International Zones 33/34 (rizones33-34.org)

PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO OUR DISTRICT PO BOX AND NOT TO THE ZONE. THE ADDRESS IS:

Rotary International District 7680

P.O. Box 79132

Charlotte, NC 28271

Click here for instructions on how to donate.

The District is also presently working to provide grant applications to those in need. More information on applications will be coming very soon.

Beyond the Club



Don't miss out on the latest updates and insights in the District Newsletter—it's a great way to stay connected and informed!

Click here to read the District Newsletter.



Foundation Celebration!

Friday, Nov. 8, 5:30–9 p.m., Gastonia Conference Center, 145 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Gastonia

Join District 7680 in welcoming Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick as keynote speaker! Register now using this link: **Register (dacdb.com)**

You can take advantage of the District Sponsorship categories and perks, and a flyer with all the details is above. Please share this information with any potential sponsors you know. If you prefer, you can pass along their contact details to **Mike Walker**

or the District team, and we'll handle the outreach. **Register now!**

Membership Update

07/01/2024 249

09/30/2024 253

10/29/2024 250 (Resignation: Austin Hegele)

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, October 29, 2024: 109

Recommended for Membership (*comments to Rotary office by November 8, 2024*):

Ayo Johnson, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Central Carolinas

Sponsor: J Hill

Endorsed: Woodson Bradley and Donna Dunlap

Guests in attendance: Jacob Cantrell (Leadership Impact Group), Lemuelle Claud (Leadership Impact Group), Sharon Dowell (Leadership Impact Group), Jennifer De La Jara ([Woodson Bradley](#)), Ayo Johnson ([J Hill](#)), Dana Klein, Adrienne-Elaine Lamptey (Leadership Impact Group), Laura Little (Leadership Impact Group), Catherine Monroe ([Fred Monroe](#)), Alicia Morris-Rudd (Leadership Impact Group and [Joe Morris](#)), Emily Murdoch ([Kim Brattain](#)), Patricia Van Pelt (Leadership Impact Group), Karen Rezza ([Elizabeth Caspers](#)), Mordecai Scott (Leadership Impact Group), Damon Stinson ([J Hill](#)), Kevin Utsey (Leadership Impact Group), Richard Walker ([Chris Jackson](#)), Michael Woodard (Leadership Impact Group)

Milestones

(Week of Nov. 5 - 11)

Rotary Anniversaries

24 years: Ron Kimble

2 years (7 total): Chad Lloyd

2 years (42 total): Ken Shortridge

Birthdays

5 - Travis Vance

7 - Rob Thomas

Wedding Anniversaries

5 - Rae Anne & Patrick Baker

5 – Page & Ed Kizer

5 – Vanessa & David Stolen

6 – Patricia Shafer & Daniel Hagt

7 – Anne & Russell Ranson

10 – Jan & Ron Kimble

2024 - 2025 Board Members

- President Kim Brattain
- President-Elect Patrick Baker
- Immediate Past President Edwin Peacock
- Secretary Bill Gill
- Treasurer Craig Field
- Sergeant at Arms Mike Wollinger

Current Directors: Linwood Bolles, Woodson Bradley, Benton S. Bragg, John F. Cantrell, Tish Atkins Charles, Terri DeBoo, Andrew "Andy" B. Dinkin, Dena R. Diorio, Donna Y. Dunlap, Joel D. Ford, Stuart P. Hair, David Head, Jesse G. Hite, Virginia Owen

Contact Us

For more information about how to get involved, volunteer opportunities and meeting topics, contact Christine Cipriano, Executive Secretary at christine@charlotterotary.org



Photos from our luncheons, historical photos, and other events and projects can be found on the club's Flickr site. Click here [charlotterotary6006](https://www.flickr.com/photos/charlotterotary6006/) to view pictures from recent meetings.



Recordings of weekly club luncheons can be found on the club's Vimeo site. Click here <https://vimeo.com/user24733153> to watch recent videos.



Guest Check-In If you have a guest who would like to preregister for the weekly meeting, a QR code is provided for easy scanning, or the link can be found here: [Visitor Pre-Register \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)



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