



Upcoming Events

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



Don't Miss This!

Don't miss these important items in this newsletter.

The following are current Sign-Ups & Action Items in Rotary:

- **Rotary International Conference cost increases 12/15.**
- **Sign up for the Club Social.**
- **Sign up for the Blood Drive.**

Charlotte Rotary Holiday Schedule:

No Rotary meetings on Dec. 23 & 30;
The club office will be closed Dec. 24–25 and Jan. 1–2.

Tues., Dec. 16 - Weekly Meeting: Dr. Will Kohlway, Extension Specialist for Christmas Tree Production & Marketing at NC State University. Joined by Santa Claus and a holiday Sing Along!

Thurs., Dec. 18 - Club Social: Swing Into the Season at the club Holiday Party, 6–8 p.m., \$60, InTown Golf Club, 4425 Sharon Rd, Suite M200A.

Now Full! Thurs., Dec. 25 - Volunteer Opportunity: Christmas Morning Breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission, 6:00–8:30 a.m. Email [Tracy Reading \(treading1@mac.com\)](mailto:treading1@mac.com) with questions.

Tues., Jan. 6 - Club Event: American Red Cross Blood Drive

This Week's Meeting



Marinn Esch
President, Good Friends



Velva Woollen
Charlotte Rotarian
Trustee, Good Friends



Peter A. Pappas
Chairman, Good Fellows



Jubal A. Early
Vice Chair, Sponsorship, Good Fellows



Nancy McNelis, Moderator
Director, Good Friends

This week we enjoyed the spirited leaders of two of Charlotte's most iconic charitable institutions – Good Friends and Good Fellows – moderated by a familiar face at Rotary, Nancy McNelis. With touching videos and plenty of friendly banter, the panel highlighted how both organizations provide rapid and practical help to neighbors who “fall between the cracks” of traditional support systems.

Panelists Marinn Esch and **Velva Woollen** shared the inspiring story of Good Friends, founded in 1987 after being told women “couldn’t raise money like the men.” They proved that notion spectacularly wrong, raising \$32,000 at their very first luncheon. Good Friends raised \$850,000 at their most recent luncheon and is quickly approaching a major milestone of nearly \$10 million in lifetime impact. Panelists Peter Pappas and Jubal Early reflected on how Good Fellows has maintained its simple but powerful tradition for 109 years to help working families facing difficult times. Good Fellows celebrates a record year at about \$2.4 million raised, providing emergency support to over 2,000 families. Both groups take pride in the same principle – 100% of donor dollars going directly to those who need it most. **Click here to read more.**

Here are the recordings:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1145475441?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1145476470?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The speaker's introduction starts at about 26 minutes and 35 seconds.





Club News



A Joyful Arrival!

Congratulations to [Kimberly McMillan](#) on the birth of her first grandchild, Millicent Jones Moye, born on November 22, 2025 — a very special day that also happens to be Kim's birthday!

Mom and baby are doing well, and the family is happy and healthy. Kim will be making plenty of trips to Charleston, SC to soak up all the grandmother joy.

A Quick Check-In with Bill Constangy - Bill shared happy news that Debbie is doing very well — her cancer is gone. She continues to work through some residual neuropathy from chemotherapy, but spirits are high. Bill sends his warmest wishes to everyone for a joyful, healthy Christmas and a New Year filled with many blessings.



Celebrating Our Rotary Member: Tchernavia Montgomery

We are proud to recognize Rotary member **Tchernavia Montgomery**, CEO of Care Ring, who has been named **The Charlotte Post's 2025 Newsmaker of the Year**.

Tchernavia is being honored for her leadership in expanding access to community health through a \$3 million campaign for Care Ring's new facility and the growth of vital services, including prenatal care, mental health support, and a food pantry.

As the first Black leader in Care Ring's 70-year history, she truly reflects Rotary's spirit of service and community impact. *Please join us in congratulating Tchernavia on this well-deserved recognition.*



The Salvation Army

For the 31st year, Charlotte Rotary is proud to support The Salvation Army by ringing bells at Trade & Tryon and at Truist Ballpark.

This Tuesday is your last opportunity to purchase Salvation Army raffle tickets! Tickets will be sold at the meeting, and the raffle drawing will also take place on Tuesday, with participants eligible to win some great prizes. All proceeds provide vital financial support to The Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army serves our community through programs addressing homelessness, emergency response, Christmas assistance, and youth development. Highlights of their youth services include:

- Since 1934, The Salvation Army has supported children and teens through Red Shield Youth Centers and summer camps, offering safe, nurturing spaces to build character, confidence, and life skills.
 - Two Red Shield Youth Centers serve our area—one in Sedgefield on Marsh Road and another in the Belmont community near Plaza Midwood.
 - Youth and teens receive daily support with homework, financial literacy, career education, healthy lifestyle programming, and recreation.
-

Rotary
Club of Charlotte



*Swing Into
the Season!*

HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 18

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Intown Golf Club

4425 Sharon Road, Suite M200A
Charlotte, NC 28211



\$60 per person

Plus-ones welcome!



Bring an unwrapped toy for entry
– all toys will be donated

Ugly sweater contest!

**RSVP by December 11 to:
CHRISTINE CIPRIANO**

Now Full - Charlotte Rescue Mission Christmas Breakfast

This volunteer event is now full. If you have already signed up but have questions, email [Tracy Reading \(treading1@mac.com\)](mailto:treading1@mac.com).

Event Details

- Date: Thursday, December 25, 2025
- Time: 6:00–8:30 a.m.
- Location: 907 W. 1st St., Charlotte, NC 28202
- Parking: Community Matters Café lot; walk down to the CRM Beatty Center
- Attire: Black pants + white shirt (simple, clean, and easy)

Year-End Rotary Foundation Giving — Donate Now

As we close out the year, please consider making (or completing) your gift to **The Rotary Foundation**. Your support powers life-changing projects, locally and around the world, like clean water, disease

If you've been meaning to give, now's the time—year-end gifts help ensure our impact continues strong into the new year. Thank you for helping Rotary do the most good, where it's needed most.

The 2024-25 Annual Report can be found [here](#).



Blood Drive
Rotary Club of Charlotte

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
201 S McDowell St
Charlotte, NC 28204

Tuesday, January 6th, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To make an appointment or for more information, please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or scan the QR code below and enter Sponsor Code [Charlotterotary](#).

Bring your Red Cross Donor Card or Photo ID.
Walk-Ins are welcome, appointments honored first!



Come to give Jan. 1-25 for chance to win a Trip for 2 to Super Bowl LX in Cali | rcblood.org/SuperBowl



Schedule your appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood App



December 8, 2025

Dear Rotary Club of Charlotte Members

Thank you so much for the generosity shown during the November book drive to support the children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas.

The club donated 133 new books. Such a special gift! The "gift of reading" provides lifelong benefits. It is considered a transformative skill, it is empowerment, it is a source of joy and it is a tool for navigating life!

Big Brothers Big Sisters serves over 1000 young people from under-resourced environments in our community. We empower them to perform well in school, avoid risky behaviors, graduate from high school with a plan for success in life.

I am personally so proud to be a Rotarian and grateful to all of you for making a positive difference in children's lives.

Thank you again! Wishing all of you a very happy holiday season!

Yours in Service to Youth,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Y. Dunlap'.

Donna Y. Dunlap
President & Chief Executive Officer

8514 McAlpine Park Drive Ste 130 | Charlotte, NC 28211 | 704.910.1301 |



Insider Tips

Insider Tip: Holiday Schedule

Rotarians, take note! There will be no weekly club meeting on Tuesdays, December 23 and 30 so you can enjoy the holidays with family and friends (and maybe even recruit a few future Rotarians at the dinner table).

The club office will be closed on the following dates:

- Wednesday, December 24
- Thursday, December 25
- Thursday, January 1
- Friday, January 2

We'll be back to "Service Above Self" and regular routines right after the holidays—see you in the new year!

Rotarians in the Community

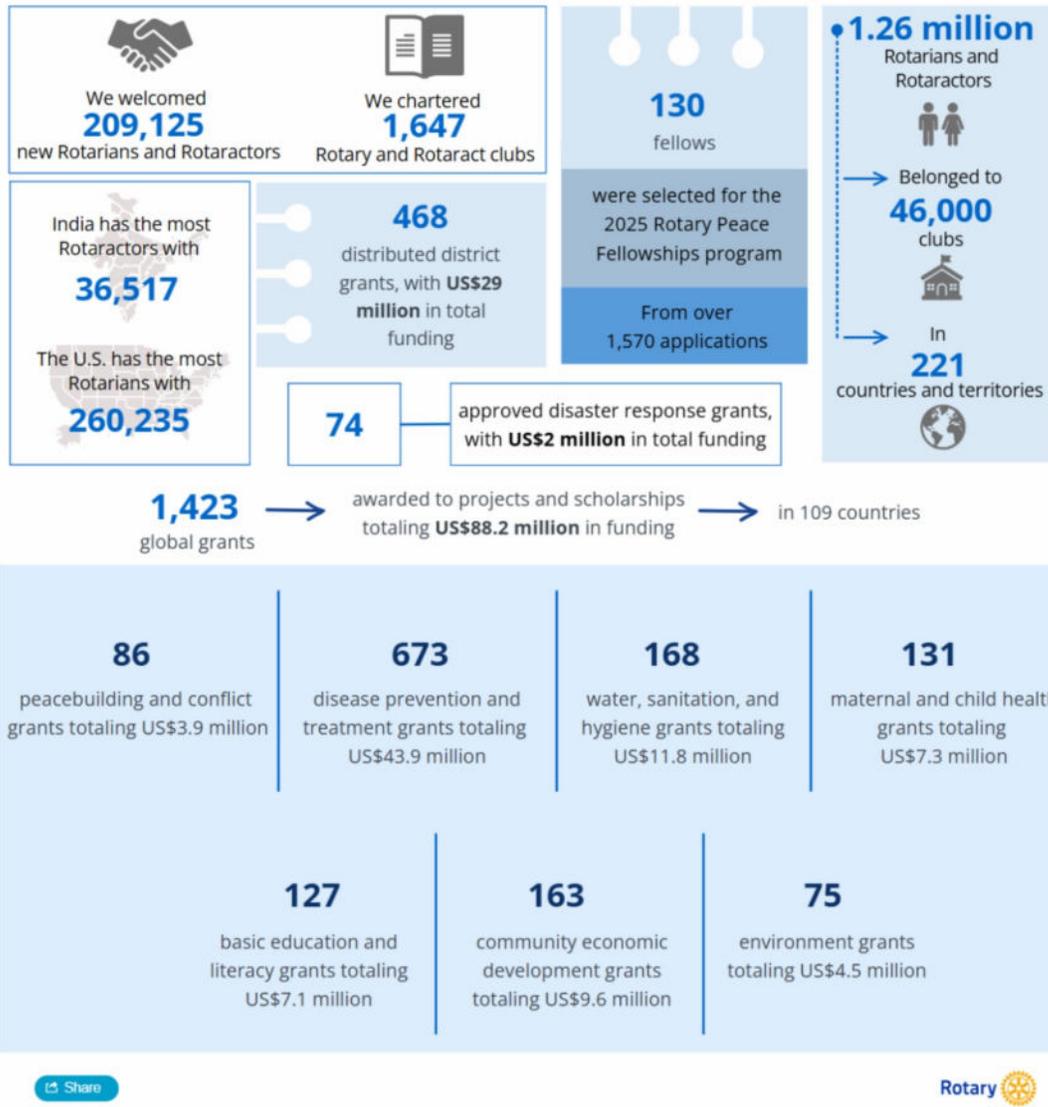


Dena Diorio, **Jim Martin**, President **Patrick Baker**, and **Mike Wollinger** wrapped up our Salvation Army bell ringing strong—ending the season with generosity and Rotary spirit.

Beyond the Club

Rotary International News: Take a look at Rotary's Annual Report Infographic for a snapshot of the impact, progress, and service made possible around the world. The 2024-25 Annual Report can be found [here](#).

2024 - 25 Fast Facts



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026

convention.rotary.org

Rotary  

Price increase on December 15th!

Join Us in Taipei! Register for the Rotary International Convention

Rotarians from around the world will gather in Taipei, Taiwan, for the 2026 Rotary International Convention, and you won't want to miss it! This is your chance to connect with fellow Rotarians, attend inspiring sessions, and experience the rich culture, cuisine, and energy of one of Asia's most vibrant cities.

From networking with global leaders to discovering innovative service ideas, the Convention is an unforgettable opportunity to celebrate Rotary's impact while exploring new ways to make a difference in your community and beyond.

Don't wait—register today and be part of this extraordinary global gathering! Registration cost increases on Dec. 15. For more information and registration details, visit **Rotary International Convention**.

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
11/30/2025 215
12/09/2025 213 (Dumont Clarke)

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025: 101

Guests in attendance: Adaeze Ajoku (Fort Lauderdale Rotary), Catherine Browning ([Marilynn Bowler](#)), Alice Folger ([Luther Moore](#)), Taylor Gloyd ([Tish Atkins](#)), William Herndon ([Peirce Ward](#)), Jim Mulligan ([Will Barnhardt](#)), Paul Norris ([Richard Malnati](#))

Milestones (Week of Dec. 16 - 22)

Birthdays

16 – Jim Rogers
18 – John Tabor

Rotary Anniversaries

20 years: Karen Calder
17 years: Gray Langley
10 years (12 total): Stuart Hair
1 year: Ayo Johnson

Wedding Anniversary

18 – Lori & Daniel Gougeon
18 – Mercedes & Jim Hintz
19 - Pamela & Vernon Goode
20 - Kristi & Jerry Walters

2025 - 2026 Board Members

- **President Patrick Baker**
- **President-Elect Bill Bartee**
- **Immediate Past President Kim Brattain**
- **Secretary Bill Gill**
- **Treasurer Craig Field**

Current Directors: Benton S. Bragg, Byrd Bergeron, John F. Cantrell, Karen N. Calder, Tish Atkins Charles, Dena R. Diorio, J Hill, Jesse G. Hite, Ayo M. Johnson, Lori Keeton, Michael B. Orzech, Elizabeth Teagarden, Virginia Owen, Michael Wollinger

Contact Us

For more information about how to get involved, volunteer opportunities and meeting topics, contact [Christine Cipriano](#), Executive Director, 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](#) 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 \(jotform.com\)](#)



Rotary Club of Charlotte | 1850 E 3rd St, Ste 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 US

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