



# ROTARY REPORTER

## March 10, 2026

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



**March Donations:**

A Charlotte Rotary Baby Shower... **Donating to Moms and Babies in need!**  
Details below.

**Help Needed:**

Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo - Wed., March 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., The  
Park Expo and Conference Center, Liberty Hall. **Click here to sign up.**

**Tues., Mar. 17 - Weekly Meeting:** Carlos Evans, Chairman & Co Manager, Salem Capital

**Mon., Mar. 23 - Volunteer Opportunity: Care Ring,** 10 a.m. - 12 noon, 1514 N. Graham St, 10  
volunteers needed. **Click here to sign up.**

**Help Needed! Wed., March 25 - Expo Event:** Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo 2026, 10 a.m. - 4  
p.m., The Park Expo and Conference Center, Liberty Hall. **Click here to sign up to volunteer at the  
booth.** Details below.

**Sat., April 11 - Rotary Peace Center:** 23rd Annual Rotary Peace Center Conference – Research  
presentations by graduating Fellows from the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center on global peace and  
conflict issues. **Click here for more information.**

**Tues., May 5 - Volunteer Event:** American Red Cross Blood Drive, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfield Inn &  
Suites. **Click here to reserve your space** or call 1-800-redcross to make your appointment. Use  
sponsor code "Charlotterotary".

**Fri., May 29 - Sun., May 31 - District Conference:** **District Conference 2026**, Renaissance Asheville  
Downtown Hotel, 31 Woodfin St. Asheville, NC. **Click here for more information.**

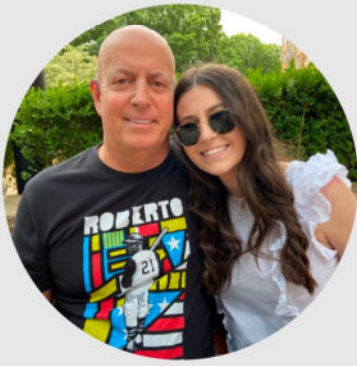
**SAVE THE DATE! Sat., June 6 - Volunteer Event: Nourish Up,** 9 - 11 a.m., 901 Carrier Drive. Details  
to follow. Space is limited so **sign up early.** Contact **Catherine Bracey.**

**July 16-19 - District Event: Rotary's Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL)** is a leadership camp  
for incoming high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, held July 16–19, 2026 at Gardner-Webb  
University. See details below.

## This Week's Meeting

**KENNY KAHN**  
*Co-Founder & Chair Musicland  
Gift Foundation*

by **Paul Bartholomy**



At this week's meeting, the Rotary Club of Charlotte welcomed Kenny Kahn, Co-Founder and Chair of the Musicland Gift Foundation. Kenny shared a deeply personal story that began in 2021 when he was diagnosed with Stage IV non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. During his treatment at the Levine Cancer Institute, Kenny discovered the powerful role music could play in helping patients cope with the emotional and physical challenges of cancer.

Kenny described the comprehensive supportive oncology care he received, which went beyond traditional medical treatment to address the whole person. Through services such as music therapy, nutritional counseling, psychological support, spiritual care, and physical therapy, the care team helped patients navigate the many

dimensions of the cancer journey. One particularly meaningful experience for Kenny was working with a music therapist who used music to provide comfort and distraction during chemotherapy treatments. [Click here for more.](#)

The recording can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1172605893?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1172605742?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program begins at about 24 minutes and 10 seconds.

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At the conclusion of this week's program, **Kenny Kahn** asked that we share his contact information with members who may wish to learn more about his work or continue the conversation. Kenny and his wife, Amy, expressed their sincere appreciation for the warm welcome from the club and for the opportunity to share their story with our Rotary community.

**Kenny@musiclandgiftfoundation.org**, 704-807-4032  
**www.musiclandgiftfoundation.org**

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#### *Correction from Last Week's Newsletter*

In last week's newsletter, the link to **Paul Bartholomy's** write-up on the State of the Club meeting was incorrect. We apologize for the error. [Click here for the correct link.](#) Thank you to Paul for the thoughtful recap.

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## Club News



**Welcome New Member!** We are pleased to welcome Lori Keller as the newest member of the Rotary Club of Charlotte. A Charlotte native, Lori graduated from East Mecklenburg High School and Campbell University, where she studied birth-to-kindergarten education and special education. Her passion for serving individuals with disabilities began in childhood through a close family connection and continued through years of volunteering and professional service. Lori has spent her career working in public, nonprofit, and private schools as a special educator, exceptional children's coordinator, director of special services, and head of school. She now serves as the Executive Director of GiGi's Playhouse Charlotte, a Down Syndrome Achievement Learning Center dedicated to changing the way the world views Down syndrome and promoting inclusion for all. Lori has been active in nonprofit work since the early 2000s, including service on the board of the Triangle Down Syndrome Network, and continues to support families through

advocacy, education, and community resources. She lives with her husband, Heath, a retired combat-wounded veteran and Purple Heart recipient who served 15 years in the U.S. Navy Seabees and U.S. Marine Corps. They have two daughters, Lily (10) and Stella (8). In her free time, Lori enjoys hiking, traveling, and family game nights. Raised in a home where service to others was a core value, she believes service is a gift and is honored to join the Rotary Club of Charlotte. *Welcome, Lori!*

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**BABY SHOWER**

to benefit: **CARE RING**  
THE HEART OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
*Lifting Up Moms and Babies in Need*

hosted by: **Rotary**  
Club of Charlotte

*How to Support!*

- Scan the QR code to visit Care Ring's [Amazon Wish List](#).
- Bring donated items to any Rotary meetings in March, **OR**
- Have items from the Amazon Wish List shipped directly to Care Ring

For more information, contact Elizabeth Caspers at [ecaspers@shgltld.com](mailto:ecaspers@shgltld.com).

### Rotary Baby Shower for Care Ring

During the month of March, the Rotary Club of Charlotte is hosting a Rotary Baby Shower to benefit **Care Ring**, a Charlotte nonprofit serving families who are uninsured or underserved. Each year, Care Ring supports more than 1,600 maternal health families, providing essential services and supplies for mothers and newborns.

Rotarians can help by bringing baby items to Rotary meetings in March or purchasing items from the Care Ring Amazon Wish List. Even simple necessities like diapers, car seats, and Pack-and-Plays make a meaningful difference for families welcoming a new baby.

Let's help give Charlotte's newest neighbors a healthy start.

### Serve with fellow Rotarians

Care Ring on Monday, March 23 (9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.) — tour the facility and help families in need. Sign up: **Care Ring: Uptown Charlotte Rotary Volunteer Day - Care Ring Food Pantry**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

FOR THE

CHARLOTTE AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**BUSINESS EXPO 2026**

Wednesday  
March 25th, 2026

The Park Expo & Conference Center  
800 Briar Creek Rd  
Charlotte NC 28205

### Volunteers Needed at the Charlotte Rotary Booth for the Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo, Wed., March 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., The Park Expo and Conference Center, Liberty Hall.

Charlotte Rotary will be participating in the Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo on Wednesday, March 25 at The Park Expo & Conference Center, and we need a few friendly Rotarians to help represent the club at our booth.

This is a great opportunity to introduce Charlotte Rotary to hundreds of business and community leaders from across the region. Our goal is simple:

- share what Rotary does in the Charlotte community
- meet potential members
- make great connections for our club

We will staff the booth in short shifts so volunteers can still walk the Expo and network.

What you'll do:

- Welcome visitors to the booth
- Share a little about Charlotte Rotary
- Invite interested guests to visit a meeting

- Help collect contact information for follow-up

If you enjoy meeting new people and representing our club in the community, this is a fun and easy way to help.

Volunteer shifts will be available throughout the Expo on Wednesday, March 25 (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). A small team will also assist with booth setup on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. **Click here to sign up to volunteer at the booth.**

Reach out to **Bill Gill** at [whgill3@outlook.com](mailto:whgill3@outlook.com) or 704-560-5640.

*Let's show Charlotte what Rotary is all about!*



### ***Spring Into Saving Lives with Charlotte Rotary!***

Give a gift. Get a gift. Save a life.

Fairfield Marriott Uptown  
Tuesday, May 5, 2026  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

When you donate blood, you're not just rolling up your sleeve; you're showing up for someone in our own community who needs you.

Let's turn an ordinary Tuesday into something extraordinary!

#### **Make Your Appointment Today:**

- Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code Charlotterotary
- Call 1-800-REDCROSS

Let's show Charlotte what Service Above Self looks like. See you on May 5!

## Insider Tip



### ***Recurring Payments Available in DACdb!***

Great news, Charlotte Rotarians!

You can set up recurring payments directly in DACdb, making it easier than ever to stay current on your Rotary account without having to remember to log in and make manual payments.

With just a few clicks, you can schedule automatic payments using your credit card or bank account (ACH) and choose the frequency that works best for you—monthly, quarterly, or more.

Once it's set up, your payments will process automatically so you can focus on what matters most: service, fellowship, and making an impact in our community.

#### **Why Use Recurring Payments?**

- ✓ Never forget a payment
- ✓ Save time each month
- ✓ Stay current with your Rotary account automatically
- ✓ Choose the schedule that works best for you

#### **How to Set It Up**

1. Log into **DACdb**
2. Click My Data → Finance Center
3. Select Add New Recurring Payment
4. Enter the amount and payment schedule
5. Choose credit card or ACH and confirm

Once scheduled, your payment method is securely stored and your recurring transaction is activated. Step-by-step instructions are available—**Click here.**

# Rotarians in the Community

## *Rotary & Interact Celebrate at the St. Patrick's Day Parade*

Members of the Rotary Club of Charlotte had a wonderful time joining the Myers Park High School Interact Club in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was a fun day celebrating community and supporting these outstanding young leaders.

Special thanks to Interact Advisors Robert and Anne Cullip for organizing the event and bringing the students together for such a great experience.

We also appreciate fellow Rotarian [Jason Otte](#) of Instant Impact for driving the trailer and helping make our Rotary presence possible.

A great day of fellowship, service, and Rotary spirit!





## Beyond the Club



### ***2026 District Conference in Asheville!***

Make plans to attend the **District 7680 Conference, May 29–31, 2026, at the Renaissance in Asheville, NC.**

Connect with Rotarians from across the district for inspiring speakers, club success stories, breakout sessions, fellowship, and hands-on service opportunities. Together, we will also support ongoing Hurricane Helene economic recovery efforts across Western North Carolina — a powerful reminder that Rotary's service never stops.

Optional service projects begin on Friday during the day. The official conference runs Friday evening through Sunday morning, concluding with our memorial service, district recognition, and business meeting.

Details can be found **here** on DACdb.

Come ready to reconnect and return home inspired. We hope to see you in Asheville!

Rotary  
District 7680



SEMINAR FOR  
TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS



## SUMMER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Unlock your potential this summer with the ROTARY 7680 leadership program!

### OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- ✓ For Rising Juniors and Seniors in High School
- ✓ July 16-19, 2026
- ✓ Gardner Webb University



APPLY  
HERE



### MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

<https://rotary7680.org/sftl/>



## Membership Update

07/01/2025 224  
02/28/2026 204  
03/03/2026 206 (Shelley Dean Reinstated)

Consider for Membership:  
Agnish "Nish" Chakraburty, Associate, Moore & Van Allen PLLC  
Sponsor: Bill Gill

Meeting Attendance - March 10, 2026: 80

This week's Guests: Tosin Ayedebinu ([Bill Gill](#)), Agnish Chakraburty, Cindy Curry ([Hallie Rojas](#)), David Fisk, ([Jim Mannix](#)), Cam Holmes ([Hunter Widener](#)), Amy Kahn (Wife of the Speaker) Joyce Mesick ([Lori Keller](#)), Christopher Patterson ([Richard Malnati](#)), Laura Schlesing ([Lori Keller](#)), Mason Swimmer ([David Zimmerman](#))

## Milestones (March 17 - 23)

**Rotary Anniversaries**  
21 years: Bob Finley  
18 years: Alan Simonini

**Birthdays**  
17 - Rory Wall

# 2025 - 2026 Board Members

- **President Patrick Baker**
- **President-Elect Bill Bartee**
- **President-Nominee Mark Norman**
- **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, Joel Ford, J Hill, Jesse G. Hite, Lori Keeton, Michael B. Orzech, Robert Shaw, Elizabeth Teagarden, 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](mailto: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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