

2019–2020 Annual Report

Rotary
Club of Ann Arbor



a2rotary.org



Note from the President

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Every day the world surprises us! There is so much change around us globally, in our nation, in Ann Arbor and in our homes. And the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor is no exception to the rule. Our Club experienced several major changes even before the coronavirus pandemic turned our world upside down:

- We returned to our historical home at the Michigan Union on February 5, 2020 after 21 months of luncheon meetings at Weber's Restaurant and Hotel.
- We migrated digitally to the use of ClubRunner, to an enhanced online Harpoon and other social media.
- We experienced a reduction in membership numbers and revenue.
- And then, there was the coronavirus pandemic! COVID-19 changed us and the way we serve the community.
- Our last weekly face-to-face luncheon meeting was March 11, 2020 and we rapidly converted to online virtual Zoom meetings.
- Our Committees worked at a distance and reconfigured to respond to the unfolding physical and economic disaster in our community.

This annual report is the story of our members' resilience, hard work and caring in the time of a pandemic. Members followed this year's RI President's theme, **Rotary Connects the World** by:

- Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic (p. 3)
- Providing for local needs (pp. 4-5)
- Helping youth develop and achieve (pp. 6-7)
- Working with global partners (p. 8)
- Caring for our members (p. 9)
- Being good financial stewards (pp. 10-11)



Rotarians are resilient and anchored in their values. Although social distancing and the need to stay home interfered with the easy fellowship that the group enjoys, the Club and its members are still a strong, vibrant caring force. It has been an honor to serve alongside a distinguished Board of Directors as your President.

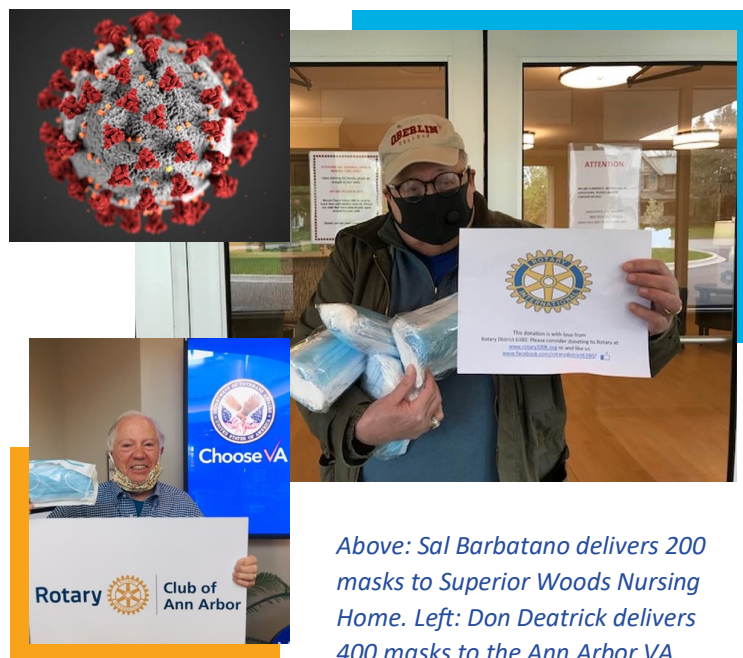
Yours in Service,

Rosemarie Rowney
President 2019-20

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Disaster Response Committee (DRC)

Less than a month after COVID-19 hit our community, the Board of Directors formed the Disaster Response Committee and set up a Pandemic Response Fund to provide for community needs related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The DRC's priorities included providing personal protective equipment for frontline workers identifying and supplying unmet needs in human service organizations. Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians, friends and hard working Committee members, they raised more than \$62,000 and awarded grants.



Above: Sal Barbatano delivers 200 masks to Superior Woods Nursing Home. Left: Don Deatrick delivers 400 masks to the Ann Arbor VA. to the VA Hospital.

Project/Partner

Club Contribution

District 6380 10K Mask Challenge

Masks for healthcare providers and first responders

\$10,100

Washtenaw Shelter Association of Washtenaw County

Non-contact thermometers and staff support for homeless

\$7,500

SOS Community Services — Food Pantry Support

\$5,000

The Corner Health Center — Summer Nutrition Program

\$5,000

Packard Health — Blood pressure home monitoring units

\$5,000

Peace Neighborhood Center

Online activities/tutors for vulnerable youth

\$5,000

SafeHouse — Overtime staff for domestic violence/sexual assault services

\$3,000

Hope Clinic — Shelter for clients waiting to get food/meals

\$5,000

Avalon Housing — Groceries, medications, support services

\$5,000

\$50,600 in Grants Awarded (DRC still has \$11,400 remaining to award)

Providing for Local Needs

This was both a year of challenge and accomplishment. A pandemic is never anticipated, but upon its arrival, its impact was significant. It affected every aspect of Community Services, but our committees adjusted to the challenge and exceeded expectations.

The **Community Allocations Committee (CAC)** processed 44 applications—a recent record— and granted \$62,500 to 13 community nonprofits. In addition, the CAC sponsored a district grant of \$7,500 to the Children's Literacy Network, providing both Rotary volunteers and money for the BookPals project.

In their own words...

"On behalf of the Michigan Foster Care Closet, our foster parents and the children we serve, our deepest thanks to the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor...for your grant to support our Back to School Celebration event for children in foster care. We had over 125 children register for the event where they were able to select brand new clothes, shoes, undergarments, a backpack and school supplies. We loved having your members volunteer with shopping at the event."

"Donations like yours make a big difference in the lives of children in foster care. Something as simple as picking out their own clothing, a pair of shoes, and supplies creates a level of confidence that helps them cope during a difficult time in their lives. We are so grateful for your support of this event."

Michigan Foster Care Closet was a recipient of a District Grant last year.

Project/Partner	Club Contribution
Youth Build Program Habitat for Humanity	\$5,000
Learning is a Family Thing (LIFT) Washtenaw Literacy	\$5,000
Virtual-based Summer Program Community Action Network	\$5,000
Replacement of aging equipment Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad	\$5,000
Child Abuse Prevention Washtenaw Area Council for Children	\$5,000
Expand BookPals Program Children's Literacy Network	\$7,500*
Emergency Children's Clothing Fund IHN at Alpha House	\$1,972
Life Skills Education Program Girls Group	\$5,000
Personal care items for Food Pantry Catholic Social Services	\$5,000
Improved sensory space in youth shelter Ozone House	\$5,000
Upgrade outdoor play area SafeHouse Center	\$5,000
Back-to-School clothing event MI Foster Care Center	\$5,000
Kinder Concerts Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra	\$3,028
Total Projects	\$65,500

*Denotes District 6380 \$2,500 matching grant

Providing for Local Needs

Veteran's Initiative

On November 5, 2019, the Club sponsored a hiring event for unemployed veterans. This project began in 2015, and has grown every year, attracting more employers and veterans. Since the project's inception, 471 veterans have participated and have earned over \$2 million.

Doers of Good Service (DOGS)

Last fall DOGS participated in helping rebuild the Eberwhite Playground along with other volunteers in the community.

Girls on the Run

Seven Rotarians provided the staff for the pre-run activities for the girls. Our Rotarians helped Girls on the Run by leading six different activities: hula hoops, a photo shoot with fun frames, a plastic fruit toss, star power, a gratitude garden, and card making for seniors at St. Joseph Village. It was a lot of fun and many, many girls participated along with their families. It was great visibility for Rotary in the community.

Rotary Fights Hunger

This year's goal was to raise \$15,000 in cash and enough food for 90,000 meals. However, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, closing of schools and suspension of our weekly lunch meetings, members did not have the opportunity to make in-person donations. Despite these hurdles we raised more than \$26,500 which was matched by another donor. The end result is we collected enough for 160,000 meals—double last year's results!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

This program provides free tax preparation to low-income individuals and families, allowing them to receive the maximum refund possible, to meet current basic needs or save for the future. Support and training are provided by knowledgeable volunteers, United Way employees, the Michigan Department of Treasury, the Detroit Accounting Aid Society, and the IRS. Rotarian volunteers can serve as Intake and Exit Specialists, Tax Preparers or Quality Reviewers. This year volunteers logged in 2,360 + hours helping to complete over 1,000 tax returns securing clients over \$2 million of refunds and avoided preparation fees.

In their own words...

"I got a job through Hire MI Vet, where I learned many skills needed to get the position. During the same time I got a Bachelor of Science Degree from EMU"

—Veteran attending the hiring event



Above: Doers of Good Service.

Right: Rotary table at Girls on the Run event.



Helping Youth Develop

Rotaract Club

The Club's Rotaract Committee supports and mentors members of the University of Michigan Rotaract Club in providing its mission to create community by working together to provide local, national, and international service. This year, Rotaractors provided service to numerous local organizations including Food Gatherers, Natural Area Preservation, and Rockin' for the Hungry. Our Rotaract Committee is thrilled to be working with these dedicated students and believes they do a magnificent job of demonstrating "service above self" even after they graduate.

Fifteen Rotaractors performed international service over their spring break by traveling to El Porvenir, Honduras to volunteer with the Honduras Child Alliance. Working alongside locals and other volunteers, they helped put a new roof on a building to be used as a school. They are now experts in construction carpentry! This is the third time our students have worked in this location, and many have said the relationships they forged have had a lasting impact on them.

Our Rotaract Committee is thrilled to be working with these dedicated students and believes they do a magnificent job of demonstrating "service above self" even after they graduate.

Interact Clubs

RCAA also sponsors two Interact clubs at Ann Arbor Pioneer and Huron High Schools. Both clubs participate in community activities related to food insecurity, environmental issues and polio eradication. On March 13, the Ann Arbor Public Schools canceled school and all activities due to the COVID-19 virus. All Rotary volunteers were asked to leave and schools were closed.



U-M Rotaract at Food Gatherers.

In their own words...

"Greetings! I am a little over a month into my 27 month journey with the Peace Corps in Peru, and I wanted to reach out and share a recent experience I had here with Rotary. This past week, we had a panel of community stakeholders visit our training center to talk about their jobs, especially in the areas of health, education, and social development programs. To my surprise, a Rotary member from the club in Lima showed up and welcomed me with open arms once I told him about my connections with Rotary back home. It was a great interaction that reminded me the presence of Rotary and the wonderful people who are a part of it all around the world. So fun!"

—Abbey Edwards, Past President,
University of Michigan Rotaract Club

Helping Youth Achieve

Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Values of Education (STRIVE)

The STRIVE scholarship program completed its 22nd year in 2020. Rotarians who participate in this program mentor students attending Ann Arbor's Pathways to Success Academic Campus. The Rotarians guide mentees through their senior year and prepare them for the next step in their educational journey through monthly group meetings and individual face to face meetings. Clearly, the COVID-19 pandemic created many hurdles but in the end, the energetic and creative committee persevered, maintaining contact with their mentees virtually to the end of the school year. This year, the RCAA awarded a record \$25,200 in scholarships to 17 Pathways to Success who committed to performing well in high school and pursuing higher education. The students will use the scholarships to attend Washtenaw Community College.

Service Above Self Scholarships

Service Above Self scholarships are awarded to students attending Washtenaw Community College who demonstrate the Rotary trait "service above self." Our Club awarded eight scholarships, \$1,250 per semester, with an option for renewal.

Rotary Readers and Tutors

Rotary Readers and Tutors, whose purpose is to foster a love of reading and books at a young age, had another strong year until their work was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. Seventeen Rotarians tutored students at Angell, Burns Park and Northside elementary schools, Clague Middle School and Skyline High School. Four tutors helped preschoolers at Beatty Early Learning Center in Ypsilanti. Each class had 10–12 children.

Junior Rotarians

Students from Community, Pioneer, Huron, Greenhills and Father Gabriel Richard high schools were recognized by RCAA for their exceptional achievements in academics and community service.



Pioneer High School Student Choir

Working with Global Partners



Paulie the Polio Bear and Dan Lewan on a tricycle for disabled in the Congo.

Paulie helps End Polio Now

PURPLE, not maize and blue, was the color that the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor chose to help raise funds for End Polio Now. PURPLE, as in Paulie, the Purple Polio Bear a ten inch stuffed teddy bear, sporting a purple sweater with the End Polio Now logo. Handknit by Rotarians in the UK, Paulie was a big hit when he came to Ann Arbor, and he was photographed with Rotarians and Rotaractors around town. Paulie's photos were featured during the month leading up to World Polio Day on the club's website, Facebook page and at meetings. District Governor "Sparky" Leonard auctioned off Paulie at the club's Polio Day meeting netting \$2,000 for the End Polio Now program. The club proudly sent \$28,416 to Rotary International, with the Gates Foundation matching that donation 2:1, the total donation was \$85,248.

International Humanitarian Projects Committee (IHPC)

The IHPC developed and approved a new project application and tracking process. The system will help the club apply for and track district grants and global grants, as well as meeting minutes and financial reports. Below are the district and global grants that were approved and implemented during 2019–2020.

District Grants	RCAA Match	District	Total
CONGO: Tricycle Fabrication for the Disabled	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$4,500
HAITI: Laptops for FSIL Student Computer Lab	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: HPV Lesion Diagnosis & Treatment	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
NIGER: Solar Lighting for Medical Clinics	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$3,750
HONDURAS: Rotaract Service Trip HCA-Honduras Child Alliance (February 29–March 7, 2020)	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$5,400
Sub-total	\$17,100		\$25,650
Global Grants	RCAA Match	District	Total
VIETNAM: Classroom Based Libraries for Elementary Schools	\$1,500	NA	\$42,000 Support
GG 2011064 INDIA: Pune Metro Happy Schools Project	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$81,913 Support
ZAMBIA: Copperbelt Malaria Elimination, Phase 2	\$2,000	NA	TBD Support

Caring for Our Members

Membership Update

New members who have a history of service and leadership are invited to join the Club. The 2019–20 classes welcomed 16 new members, three transfers and two reinstatements. As of June 30, 2020, we had 266 active members, six honorary members and seven inactive emeritus members.

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

In 2019–20 Distinguished Service Awards, our Club's highest honor, were presented to the following members.

Dave Williams. A member since 1994. Dave served for 14 years as Sergeant at Arms for 14 Boards of Directors. He was also a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Sustainers Society.

Ashish Sarkar. A member since 2003. Ashish served as President in 2015–16. He was chair of the 2019 Golf and Tennis Outing. He was Co-Convener for the 2017 World Peace Conference plus multiple other leadership positions. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, member of the Sustainers Society, a Legacy member and major donor to Rotary International.

In Memoriam

In the past year we lost six valued friends who enriched our Club and our community:

Charles "Chuck" Ritter	November 13, 2019
Robert "Bob" Kerry	January 19, 2020
John Eman	May 17, 2020
Michael "Mike" James	May 31, 2020
John Hammond	June 11, 2020
Charles "Chuck" Olson	June 28, 2020



New member, Kathy Waugh



Emeritus Joe Fitzsimmons



Rotary is a family affair! Pictured with family, Dave (center) is his Rotarian daughter, Deb Bolino (left) and wife, Carol, (right) who frequently helps at Rotary events. Dave's father was also an active Rotarian.



Rotary is a family affair! Ashish and Norma Sarkar, both Club members.

Being Good Financial Stewards

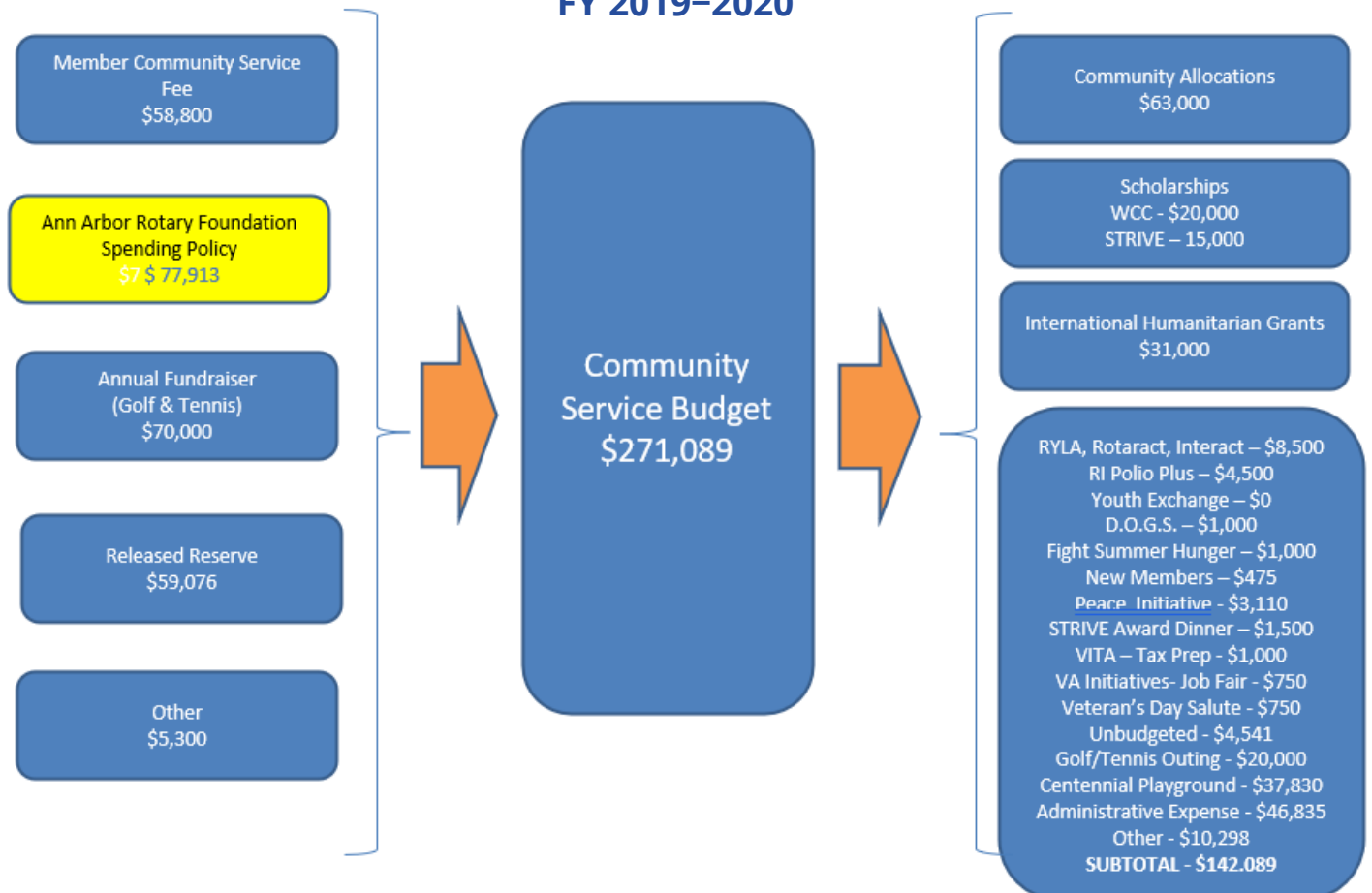


Lori Walters, Executive Director, (center) greets the golfers with members help.

Golf and Tennis Outing

The Golf and Tennis Outing held September 9, 2019 was one of the most successful ever. The event raised \$82,000, allowing some of the proceeds to stay within the Club for this year's projects. The GTO also recorded the largest number of guests and golfers; the highest amount of corporate sponsorship and the most profitable auction ever at this event.

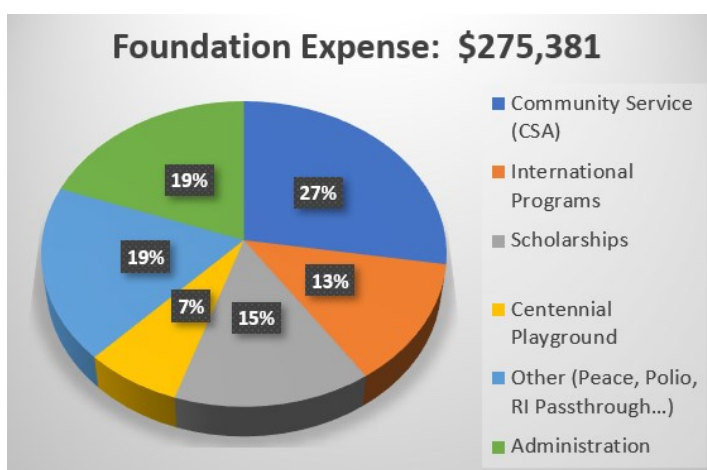
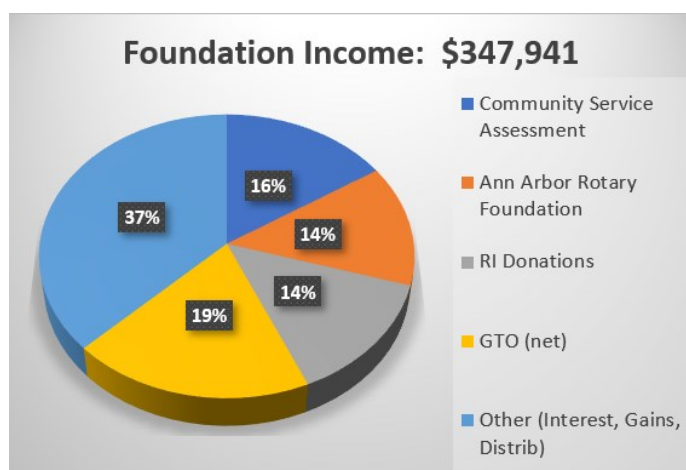
Rotary Club of Ann Arbor Community Service Fund Flow FY 2019–2020



Being Good Financial Stewards

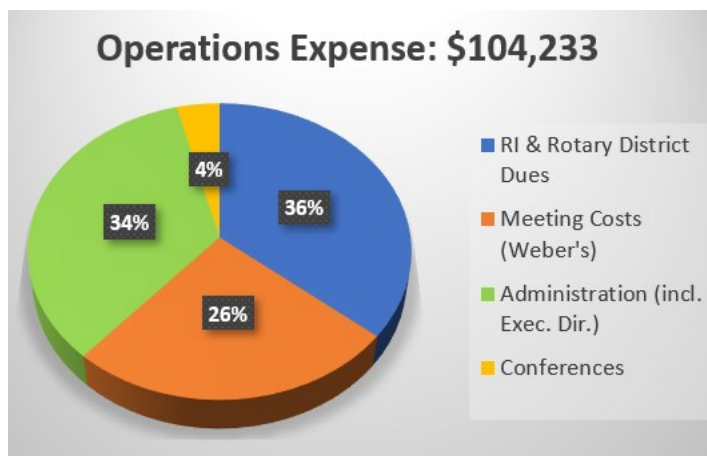
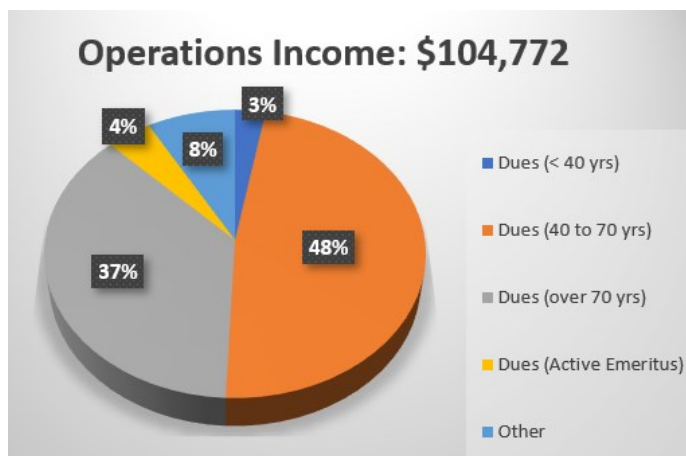
Foundation/Endowment

Our Club's permanent endowment was established in the 1980's to provide a sustainable and consistent source to fund our Club's local and global grants, projects and scholarships. The annual distribution from the Foundation portfolio have risen in FY 2020 to \$77,913, increased from \$74,104 in FY 2019, and averaging 6.8% annual increase over the past 15 years. In FY 2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) gifts to the RCAA Foundation totaled \$48,238. The principal balance in the endowment on June 30, 2020 was \$2,225,562.



Operations

Our club operations were balanced for 2020 in spite of a decline in revenue due to the loss of members. Our loss in income due to our decline in membership was recovered by no longer meeting in person at the Michigan Union thereby saving on expenses.



Celebrations!



Re-Union Celebration

John Hewko, Secretary General and CEO of Rotary International was the featured guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor's return to their historic home at the Michigan Union on February 5, 2020. Over 200 Rotarians and guests gathered for dinner in the Union Ballroom to celebrate.



Halloween celebration



Holiday celebration

Rotary 
Club of Ann Arbor

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Join Us!

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