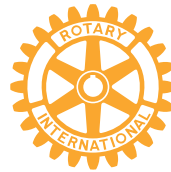


2020–2021 Annual Report

Rotary
Club of Ann Arbor



a2rotary.org



Rotary Opens Opportunities

From the President

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Well, it was a year like no other in the history of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor (RCAA). For one solid year, we met via our new virtual format due to the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic. While we certainly missed our fellowship in the Anderson Room, it was impressive for a group whose average age is 65 to have pivoted to the virtual format. Some meeting attendance reached over 100.

While the pandemic put a damper on our in-person activities, true to the Service Above Self spirit, we forged ahead. This issue of our Annual Report highlights the Club's activities and accomplishments of the year, some of which included:

- A successful Midsummer Italian Dinner with the good folks at Paesano Restaurant and an online auction to replace our annual GTO fundraiser to Help Kids Succeed
- Formation of the Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) to help educate ourselves about systemic racism
- The tweaking of our membership onboarding processes to rolling admission for new members
- Continued humanitarian projects in partnership with Rotary Clubs worldwide
- Outreach to our senior members and veterans during the holidays
- Installation of the new Environmental Signs at our Universal Access Playground
- Placement of our Peace Pole in Gallup Park (see cover)
- Adopt-a-Highway (and some trash talking)
- Saturdays in the Park for some face-to-face fellowship
- A virtual gathering to hear the songbirds of our beloved annual Wine, Women, and Song event

Another highlight and honor was having RI President-elect nominee Jennifer Jones speak to our Club. In this edition of the RCAA annual report, you can read more about the ways that our Club worked to support RI President Holger Knaack's theme, Rotary Opens Opportunities. While the

year was not what we envisioned, I think we can all agree that we rose to the challenge and stayed true to our mission as we worked to make the world a better place and strived to stay connected. I am grateful to our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and to each member of the RCAA for joining me in these efforts. It was an honor and a privilege to have led our Club through this extraordinary year.

I am grateful for your support, kind words, and the gift of your friendship and fellowship.

Yours, in Service,



Joanne Marttila Pierson
President, 2020-21

I promise to always turn back toward you.

(~Dr. Meescham in *Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DeCamillo)



Leadership

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President	Joanne Marttila Pierson
President-Elect	Susan Froelich
Past President	Rosemarie Rowney
Secretary	Barbara Eichmuller
Treasurer	Mark Oiumet

Directors

Club Outreach	Norma Sarkar
Club Service	Tom Millard
Community Service	Peg Talburtt
Public Image	Lauren Heinonen
Youth Achievement	Steve Pierce
Your Development	Arthur Williams
Executive Director (ex-officio)	Lori F. Walters



Presidents – Present, Past, Future



Arthur, Mark, Joanne, Barbara

Providing for Local Needs

The COVID-19 pandemic brought on special challenges to our fundraising efforts for our projects in 2020-21. But, as is our way, the members of the RCAA stepped up to the plate. This year, the Community Allocations Committee (CAC) processed 30 applications, which was down from the previous year, most likely a result of many organizations' services being on hold due to the pandemic. We were able to fund 12 local nonprofit organizations' projects. Additionally, we received a District grant to support the work of the Children's Literacy Network. A total of \$57,000 was given to our local community.

Local Organization Grant Amount

Corner Health Center	\$5000
Food Gatherers	\$5000
Foundations Preschool of Washtenaw County	\$3000
Girls' Group	\$5000
Jewish Family Services	\$4500
North Star Reach	\$5000
Peace Neighborhood Center	\$4000
SOS Community Services	\$5000
Student Advocacy Center of Michigan	\$5000
Summer Camp Scholarships	\$3000
Washtenaw Camp Placement	\$3000
Washtenaw Literacy	\$5000



COVID and cold weather didn't stop Rotarians from helping our veterans

Providing for Local Needs

Veteran's Initiative

The RCAA is committed to helping our local veterans. Once again, RCAA members assisted Hire MI Vet with their 6th Annual Hiring Event. Hire MI Vet connects unemployed veterans and local employers to help our men and women who served in our armed forces gain employment. As with most events this year, Hire MI Vet went virtual through facilities from Washtenaw Community College. In attendance were 68 veterans, 30 employers, and five Rotarians, which culminated in another successful hiring event.

During November, the Veteran's Initiative committee collected personal hygiene kit materials from RCAA members and the public to donate for VA Ann Arbor veterans. On a brisk December day just prior to the year-end holidays, RCAA members bundled up and assembled 100 personal hygiene kits outdoors on picnic tables at the County Farm Park. The kits were then delivered to the VA Hospital where they were distributed to homeless veterans.

Doers of Good Service (DOGS)

In September 2020 and April 2021, the RCAA Road Waste Warriors attacked the 2.1 mile stretch on the I-94 corridor between State St. and Platt Rd. during the Club's newly instituted participation in the State of Michigan Adopt-A-Highway Program. Club members (i.e., enemies of roadway trash) swept the area clean of a total of 117 bags of trash, plus various other items including car parts, pieces of tires, cell phones, a computer tablet, a boogie board, and one gold lamé skirt. Afterwards, in the Kensington Hotel parking lot, a much-missed,



Road Waste Warriors

Rotary-style luncheon was enjoyed by Club members who truly live Rotary's motto of *Service Above Self*. They helped enhance the Club's public image by driving home the point that Rotary knows where the rubber meets the road.

Rotary Fights Hunger

For the second year, our Rotary Fights Hunger food drive was virtual due to the pandemic. Food Gatherers' partners reported as much as a 300% increase in people seeking assistance and 40% of visitors had never used a food pantry before. Mindful of this increased need, our goal for 2021 was a very ambitious 150,000 meals. Because of the generosity of our Club members and the community, we raised 155,706 meals for the hungry in our community.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The VITA 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 serve as Intake and Exit Specialists, Tax Preparers, or Quality Reviewers. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant adverse impact on the program, requiring all returns be done virtually. A smaller number of volunteers were engaged due to licensing costs of software use. Nevertheless, volunteers completed 535 tax returns, securing clients over \$1.3 million of refunds and avoiding preparation fees of over \$149,000.

Helping Youth Develop

Rotaract Club

The Club's Rotaract Committee supports and mentors members of the University of Michigan Rotaract Club in its mission to create community by working together to provide local, national, and international service. In this challenging year of the pandemic, our Rotaractors did a fabulous job of pivoting to regular virtual zoom meetings. They scheduled and listened to many engaging speakers, played lots of games, supported each other through difficult times, and got to know each other in new and different ways. Small groups also did several local service activities, always being mindful of socially distant protocol. The Mentor Program was a huge success with 21 matches, and the students created an informative and helpful Mentor Program Handbook. Since Rotaractors were unable to go to Honduras to work with the Honduras Child Alliance (HCA) as planned, they maintained an ongoing connection with the organization and supported several of its programs virtually. Examples of their contributions included creating a volunteer handbook and developing ideas that HCA interns could use for delivering online curricula to children. Our Rotaract Committee is thrilled to be working with these dedicated UM students and believes they do a magnificent job of demonstrating Service Above Self even after they graduate. We are proud to have our Rotaractors become the future leaders of Rotary wherever they may roam.

Interact Clubs

RCAA also sponsors two Interact Clubs at Ann Arbor Pioneer and Huron High Schools. Both clubs continued to meet regularly via Zoom. Despite the pandemic, Interactors stayed very active and the Pioneer Club was able to conduct a volunteer activity most every month. Additionally, the students heard talks from our Club's Rosemarie Rowney and Collyer Smith, who spoke about mental health issues, particularly for young people, and Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio.

On a bittersweet note, Pioneer faculty advisor Jen Kunec retired. She had served with the Pioneer Interact since it formed in 2005 and did a tremendous job keeping the students connected and active in this pandemic year. We thank Jen for her support of and guidance to the Pioneer Interactors over these past 16 years.

"Let Rotaractors decide what kind of Rotary experience works best for them. These young people are bright, energetic, and they get things done."

–Holger Knaack,
RI President 2020-21

"The mentorships did very well this year. The number of Rotarian-Rotaractor mentorships was as high as they ever have been. A common response from Rotarian mentors is that they are so inspired with these youth, who give them optimism for our future (hard to do these days)."
– Rotarian Don Duquette

Helping Youth Achieve

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

The STRIVE scholarship program completed its 23rd year in 2021. The program utilized the historical design of Rotarian volunteers offering to mentor high school seniors at Ann Arbor's Pathways to Success Academic Campus for potential scholarships to Washtenaw Community College (WCC) funded by RCAA. Monthly group meetings and invited speakers were utilized to provide support to Pathways seniors invited into the program by the Pathways guidance counselor. The 2020-2021 STRIVE program was conducted virtually through Zoom meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which challenged our engagement with students.

Based upon the GPA criteria and other named scholarship guidelines, the RCAA offered scholarships ranging from \$1200 to \$3000 (to be awarded upon enrollment at WCC) to 11 graduating seniors from Pathways, for a total amount across the qualifying recipients of \$19,520. The scholarships were announced during the Pathways graduation ceremonies on June 1, 2021 with nice recognition of RCAA.

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 5 scholarships for \$1,250 per semester and one \$500 per semester scholarship. All scholarships have options 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, as well as at Clague Middle School and Skyline High School in Ann Arbor. Four tutors helped preschoolers at Beatty Early Learning Center in Ypsilanti, where each class had 10-12 children. We look forward to returning in full force in the fall of 2021.

Working with Global Partners

International Humanitarian Projects Committee (IHPC)

During 2020-21, the IHPC received a budget allocation of \$17,500 that included proceeds raised from the Golf and Tennis Outing Reenvisioned fundraiser. Individual contributions accounted for an additional \$1,500, and funding that was set aside for a canceled project in Jamaica was returned to the budget.

Major initiatives included the approval of a Global Grant in Ghana for the construction of a borehole in a remote part of the country. IHPC received District Grants for three projects: one designed to recruit women for fistula repair in Ghana, another for continued support for the Haiti Nursing Foundation to



Haiti Nursing Foundation students

purchase equipment for remote teaching during the pandemic, and one for a revised proposal from the UM Rotaract to also enable remote teaching in Honduras. We partnered with the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North on a Rotary Club of Pune Metro project in India to support the creation of additional oxygenated beds owing to the high number of COVID cases. Also supported was the second phase of a Copperbelt Malaria Initiative that subsequently became Rotary International's first Program of Scale. Despite a global pandemic, the RCAA was still able to make a difference around the world!



Borehole in Ghana

Grant	RCAA
Ghana Kporkuve Borehole Water Project	\$5,000
Ghana Recruitment of Women Needing Fistula Repair	\$4,000
Haiti Nursing Foundation Equipment for FSIL	\$3,000
Honduras UM Rotaract International Service	\$2,000
India COVID Relief	\$3,000
India Water and Sanitation	\$5,000
Vietnam Libraries for Elementary School	\$1,575
Zambia Copperbelt Malaria Elimination	\$2,000
Total	\$25,575

Caring for Our Members

Membership Update

New members who have a history of service and leadership are invited to join the Club. In 2020-21, we welcomed 14 new members, 2 transfers, and 3 reinstatements. As of June 30, 2021, we had 244 active members, 5 honorary members, and 7 inactive emeritus members.

Distinguished Service Award (DSA) Recipients

In 2020-21 the Distinguished Service Award, our Club's highest honor, was presented to the following members.

Barbara Eichmuller. A Rotarian since 1996. Barbara served as Secretary of the Club for 5 years. She excelled at Service Above Self through Rotary Cares, the Social Committee, and a general commitment to any job that needed to be done. A multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Barbara is a member of the Sustainers Society.

Todd Kephart. Joined Rotary in 2008. Todd was recognized for his exceptional commitment to Rotary Fights Hunger food drive always finding ways to increase cash donations and the number of meals provided. He has demonstrated leadership and support for many other community organizations. Todd is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Sustainers Society.

David Keren. A member since 2006. Dave served Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Value of Education (STRIVE) as Chair, mentor, and organizer. He also worked with RYLA and the Social Committee. Dave is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Sustainers Society.

Susan Smith. A member since 2002. Susan led the Social Committee with her trademark hat and welcomed new members to make participation organized and fun. In addition to her generous support of many community organizations, Susan is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a member of the Sustainers Society and Legacy Circle.



**Barbara
Eichmuller**



Todd Kephart



David Keren



Susan Smith

In memoriam

We lost the following members who contributed of their time, talent, and treasure to the RCAA and our community. They are greatly missed.

Rob Boenke

April 21, 2021

Harv Grotrian

September 7, 2020

Len Stenger

March 14, 2020

Vic Rosenberg

April 11, 2021

Being Good Financial Stewards

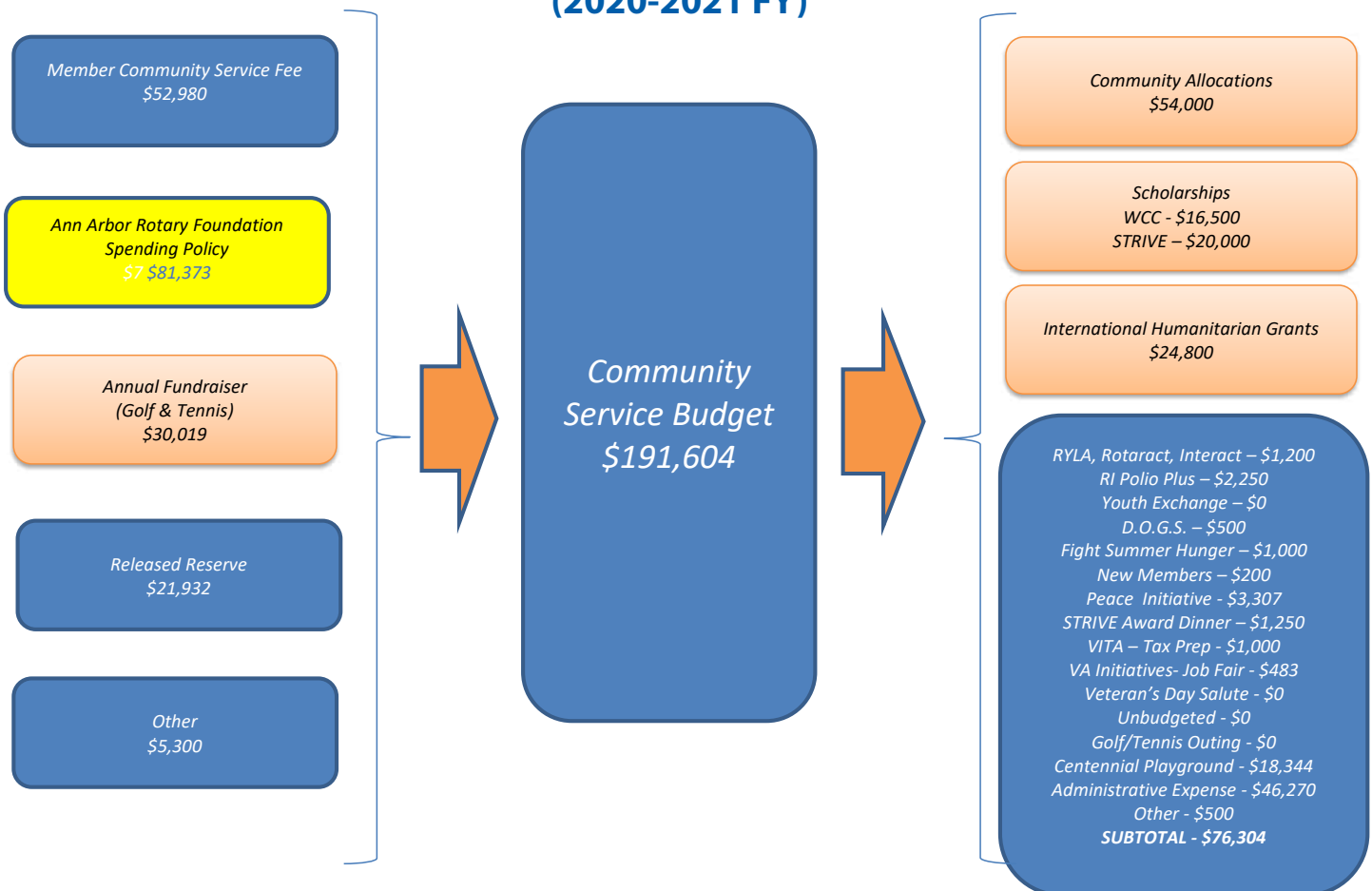


Agnes Reading, Ann Schriber, President Joanne, and Elaine Besh enjoying the Midsummer Italian dinner

Golf and Tennis Outing (GTO) Reenvisioned

Due to the pandemic, our annual fundraiser, the Golf and Tennis Outing, was canceled and reenvisioned. We were able to create a successful endeavor to raise funds for our good works through two events. On August 17, 2020, Rotarians attended a virtual Midsummer Italian Dinner and heard a talk about Italian wines by Paesano Restaurant owner Michael Roddy with Chaad Thomas. We then held an online auction to raise further funds to Help Kids Succeed. These events raised \$30,000 for this year's Club projects, demonstrating, yet again, that the Rotarians of our Club are poised to do their part no matter the circumstances.

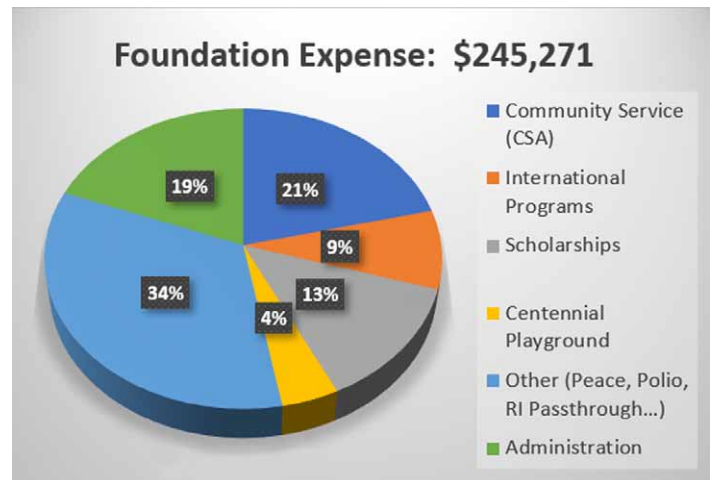
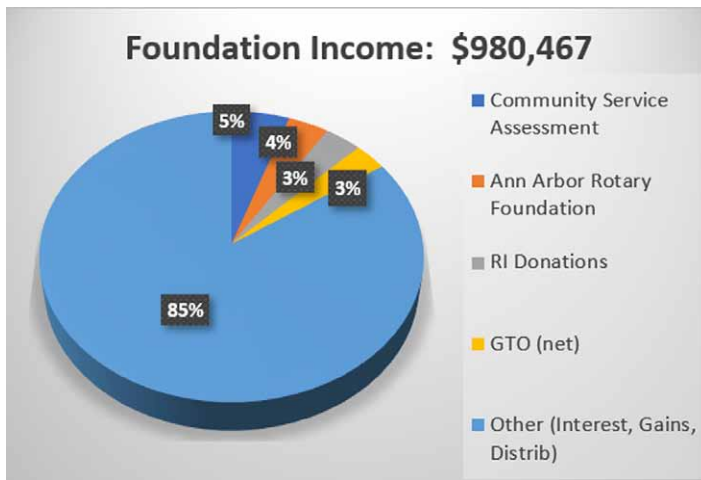
Rotary Club of Ann Arbor Community Service Fund Flow (2020-2021 FY)



Being Good Financial Stewards

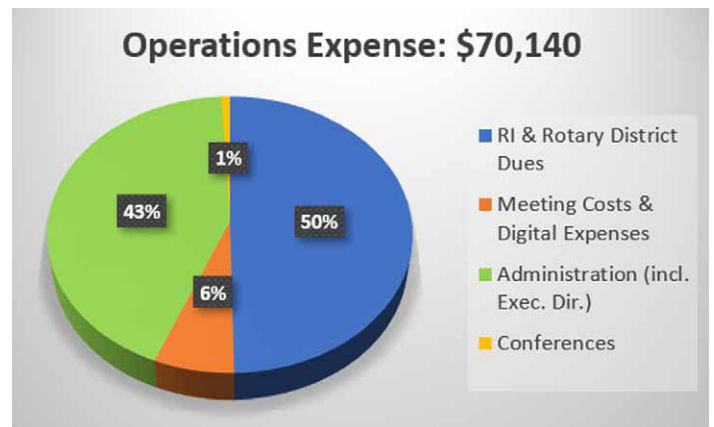
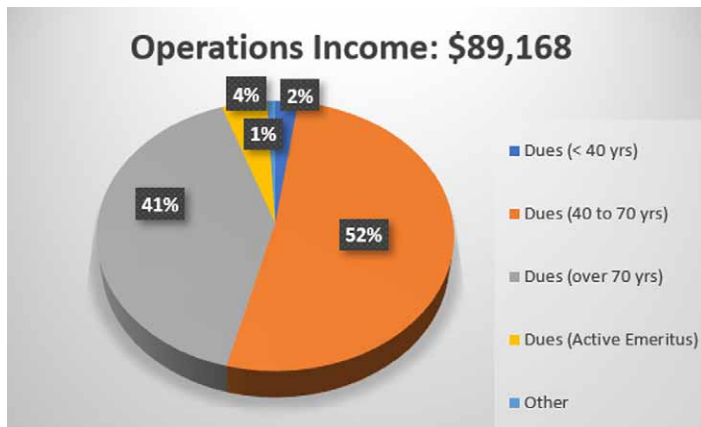
Foundation/Endowment

Our Club's permanent endowment was established in the 1980s to provide a sustainable and consistent source to fund our Club's local and global grants, projects, and scholarships. This year, the annual distribution from the Foundation portfolio, averaging a 6% annual increase over the past 15 years, rose from \$77,913 in FY 2020 to \$81,373. In FY 2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), gifts to the RCAA Foundation totaled \$36,500. The principal balance in the endowment on June 30, 2021 was \$2,985,237.97.



Operations

In spite of a continued decline in revenue due to the loss of members, our Club Operations were balanced for FY 2021. Similar to last year, our loss in income due to our membership decline was offset by not meeting in person at the Michigan Union, thereby saving on expenses.



Celebrations!

*Barbara Eichmuller
with holiday gift
bags for senior
members*



*Past
President
Karen Kerry
hosted
President
Joanne's
start to the
year*



The Zoom Queen



Our Executive Director Lori Walters



Saturday in the park

Rotary
Club of Ann Arbor



P.O. Box 131217
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-1217

Join us!

Contact Lori Walters, Executive Director
executivedirector@a2rotary.org
or (586) 764-7692