



Rotary 
Club of Ann Arbor

2024-2025 Annual Report



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Message from the President

Service Above Self

This Rotary year, inspired by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick and her theme “The Magic of Rotary,” our club has continued to demonstrate how ordinary people can create extraordinary change. The “magic” isn’t found in illusions or special effects—it is found in the hearts, hands, and service of every Rotarian who chooses to make a difference.

Through our dedication to Service Above Self, we have strengthened our community, inspired new leaders, and brought hope to those in need. Each project, from supporting youth development and advancing education, to expanding our global partnerships, reflects the spirit of compassion and collaboration that defines Rotary.

This year, we welcomed new members, celebrated milestones, and deepened our impact through innovative service initiatives and renewed fellowship. Together, we have transformed challenges into opportunities—proving once again that when we act with purpose, we can change lives both locally and globally.

As we look ahead, let us continue to build on this momentum, sharing the Magic of Rotary with others and reminding the world that our shared commitment to Service Above Self truly makes Rotary extraordinary.

With gratitude and Rotary pride,



Joyce M. Hunter

Joyce M. Hunter
President, 2024–2025
Rotary Club of Ann Arbor

Rotary Impact Highlights 2024–2025

Youth Impact

- **Pioneer Interact** student activities included volunteering at the Ann Arbor Marathon, participating in the Send Hunger Packing event with the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor, and a Holiday gift wrapping event sponsored by a local non-profit agency.
- **Huron Interact** participated in a variety of volunteer activities including the Ann Arbor Marathon, the Rotary Send Hunger Packing Event, and the Rotary Food Drive.
- **RYLA / Rotary Youth Leadership Awards:** The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor sponsored 4 students to RYLA this year. We sponsored students from Pioneer High School, Greenhills High School, and Washtenaw Technical High School.
- **Readers and Tutors** continued math tutoring at Burns Park and Pattengill elementary schools.
- **Rotaract:** The three main goals for this program year were: to identify and promote joint Rotarian-Rotaractor projects, to build cohesion and camaraderie within the Rotaract Club through “team building” activities, and to rethink whether a spring break service trip could be domestic rather than international. These goals align with our Rotary Club’s mission of promoting service above self.
- **Rotary Youth Exchange:** We hosted one exchange student from Japan. Tamaki Miura. Tamaki had a successful year. Hosted by Sara and Todd Maddock.



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



Joyce Hunter and exchange student Tamaki Miura from Japan

Community Service

- **Adopt-A-Highway** program collected 65 bags of trash, helping beautify our local environment.
- **Rotary Fights Children's Hunger** raised \$48,000 and collected 3,700 lbs. of food donations, providing the equivalent of 100,062 meals for those in need in our community.
- **Send Hunger Packing** packed a record 50,000 meals and raised a total \$17,500.

Scholarships/Grants

- **STRIVE Scholarships:** 3 recipients, totaling \$7,000.
- **Service Above Self Scholarships:** 6 recipients, totaling \$13,500.
- **The Community Allocations Committee,** supported by the Rotary Foundation through funds from the Annual Golf and Pickleball Outing, allocated \$64,500 to local organizations that "Help Kids Succeed."



Tom Millard, Millie Danielson, and Ken Fischer at the Annual Golf and Pickleball Outing

Global Reach

- **Washtenaw VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)** program prepared 1,159 tax returns, an increase of 54%, generating \$2 million in federal and state tax refunds—a 26% increase over the previous year.
- These efforts support financial stability for families, echoing Rotary's global mission to reduce poverty and promote economic empowerment.
- **IHPC International Humanitarian Projects Committee:** Across the 2024-25 Rotary year, IHPC funded \$24,400 through Club grant funds, with matching District funds of \$7,500, for international humanitarian projects spanning health, education, community infrastructure, and women's empowerment.

Rotary in Action

- The **Environmental Action Group** partnered with the Michigan Union to help reduce the carbon footprint of our weekly lunch meetings.
- **Rotary Fights Children's Hunger, Send Hunger Packing, Adopt-A-Highway,** and **VITA** programs together demonstrate Rotary's ongoing commitment to "Service Above Self" and community impact across multiple fronts.
- Welcomed 25 new members during the 2024–2025 Rotary year, strengthening youth mentorship and leadership connections.

2024–2025 New & First Initiatives

Showcasing The Magic of Rotary

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick – Keynote Speaker

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor had the distinct honor of welcoming Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick as the keynote speaker for our 2024–2025 Membership Roundup. Her inspiring address encouraged members to “create hope in the world” and reminded us that the Magic of Rotary is found in the power of service, connection, and collective action. This visit marked a historic moment—our first time hosting a sitting Rotary International President for a local membership event.

Inaugural Book Club by the Anti-Racism Committee (ARC)

This year, the Anti-Racism Committee launched its first-ever Rotary Book Club, creating a new space for reflection, dialogue, and shared learning. The club’s mission is to deepen understanding, promote inclusivity, and foster meaningful conversations around equity and community building. The inaugural selections invited members to explore diverse voices and perspectives that align with Rotary’s core values of respect, service, and global citizenship.

A Year of Firsts, A Legacy of Impact

Each of these “firsts” embodies Rotary’s enduring spirit of innovation and inclusion. Through leadership, learning, and listening, we continue to make a difference—locally and globally—by living out The Magic of Rotary.

Rotaract: Engaged Community Collective

The Rotaract: Engaged Community Collective is a new initiative on mental health awareness and wellness. This collaboration bridges generations of Rotarians and Rotaractors, offering workshops, resources, and open discussions designed to support emotional resilience, reduce stigma, and strengthen the wellbeing of our greater community.



Rotary International President, Stephanie Urchick

Member Spotlight

Honoring the Heart of Our Club

Todd Kephart

Chair, Rotary Fights Hunger

Years of Service: 15

Provided leadership for 15 years and, with his wife Margaret Kephart, contributed a \$15,000 matching grant to expand the program's reach.

Ed Wier

Chair, Interact/RYLA High School Leadership Program

Years of Service: 17

Guided high school students in leadership development, inspiring the next generation of service-minded youth.

Dave Keren

Chair, High School STRIVE Student Group

Years of Service: 12

Mentored and encouraged students through the STRIVE program, fostering academic and personal growth.

Mary Steffek Blaske

Chair, Inspiration Committee

Years of Service: 10

Brought enthusiasm and positivity to weekly meetings, uplifting members and exemplifying the Magic of Rotary.

Together, these dedicated members exemplify The Magic of Rotary through their leadership, compassion, and enduring commitment to service.

Membership

As of June 30, 2025, there were 203 members (including 20 Active Emeritus Members), plus one Honorary Member and 13 Inactive Emeritus members. We had 25 new members in 2024-2025:

1. Bonita Singal
2. Gertrude Waigumbulizi
3. Bob Harrington
4. Soo K. Eaker
5. Mary Sutton (reinstatement)
6. Fernando Leon
7. Roger Fraser (reinstatement)
8. Christopher Lemon
9. Shannon Polk
10. Brandy Merritt
11. Max Wisgerhof
12. Jake Phillips
13. Elliott Greenberg
14. Karen Pancost
15. James York
16. Susan N. Smith
17. Kelly Doonan-Reed
18. Kim Eagle
19. Mary Neff
20. Andre C. Anderson
21. Kristin Giant
22. Ramon Harris
23. Carolyn Lepard
24. Bryn Mickle (reinstatement)
25. Linda Wallis

Bicentennial Park Collaboration

Creating a Place Where the Magic of Rotary Comes to Life

In 2024–2025, the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor proudly joined the City of Ann Arbor in an exciting collaboration to help develop the new Bicentennial Park—a vibrant destination that will serve families and visitors for generations to come. Inspired by The Magic of Rotary, our partnership reflects the belief that when community organizations unite in service, extraordinary possibilities emerge.

The new park, slated to open in 2026, will feature a family-friendly splash pad and inclusive play spaces designed to spark joy, connection, and community pride. Rotary will be recognized among the park’s sponsors with signage honoring our role in bringing this project to life. This initiative exemplifies how Rotary transforms shared vision into lasting impact—creating places where children can laugh, families can gather, and our commitment to “Service Above Self” becomes a living, joyful part of Ann Arbor’s future.



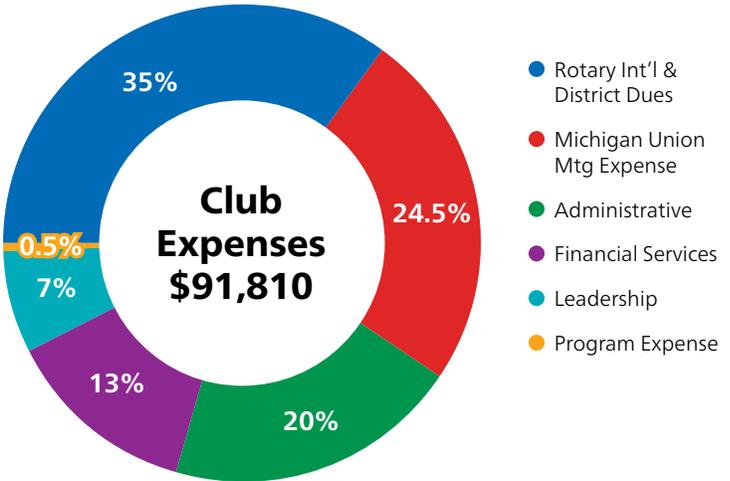
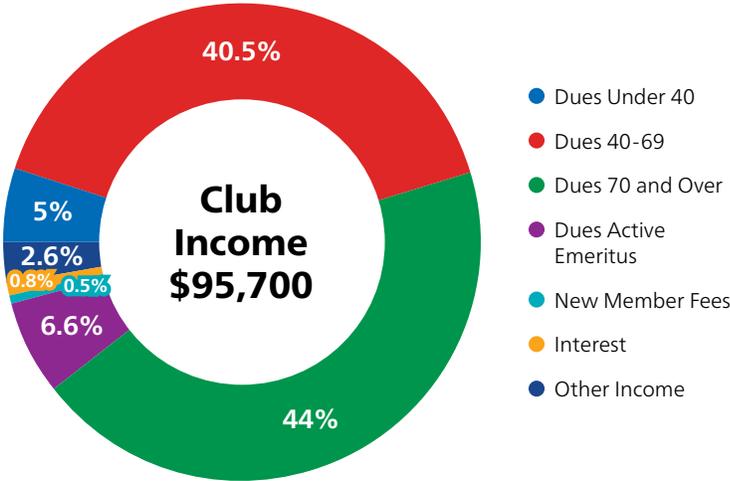
Joyce Hunter and Ann Arbor City Administrator, Milton Dohoney, Jr.



Susan Froelich, Don Deatrick, Joyce Hunter, and John White at the Bicentennial Park kickoff

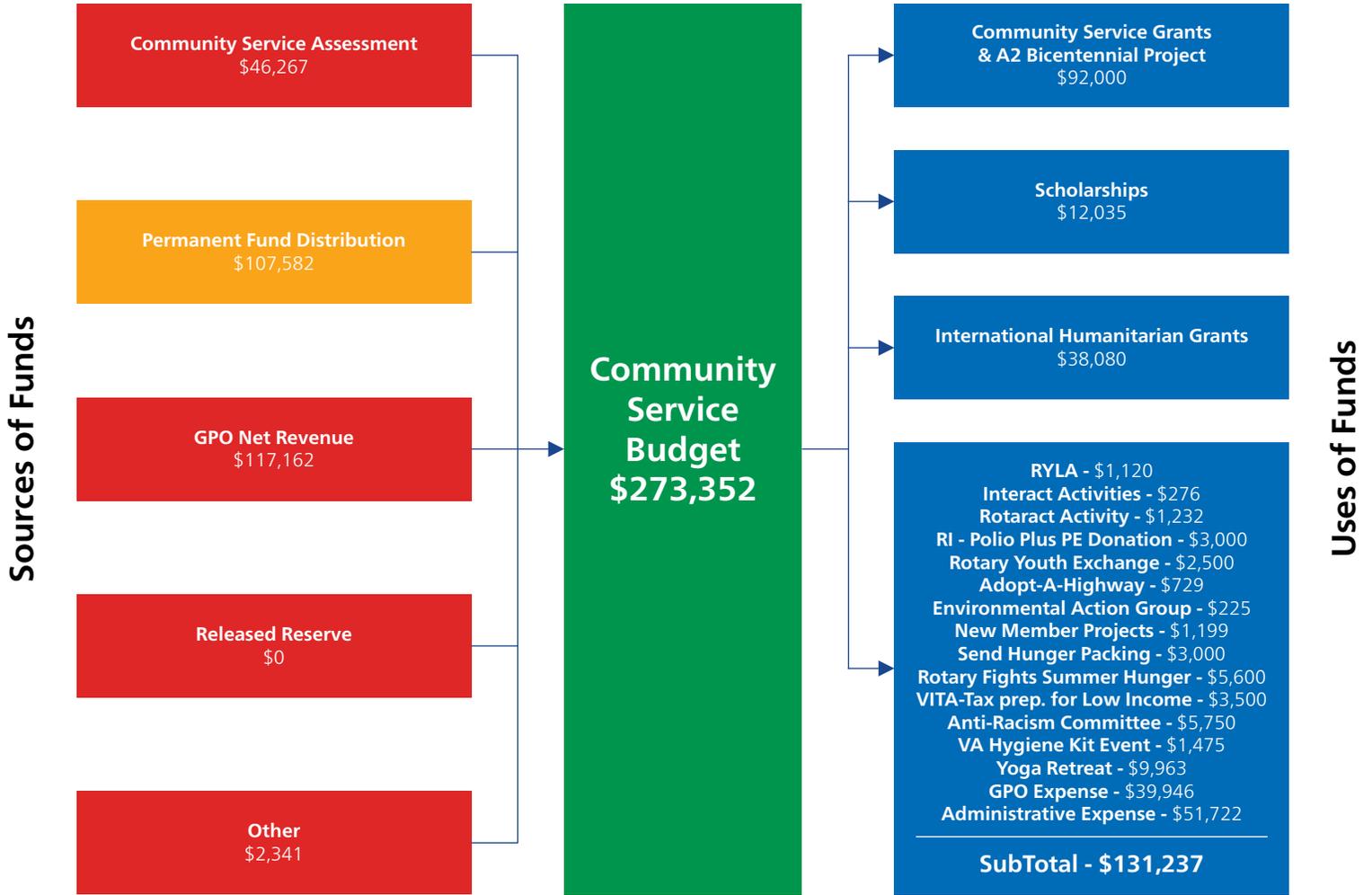
Financial Snapshot

Club membership remains stable at about 200 members. This stability allows us to better plan and budget for the year. For this fiscal year, we finished the year with \$3,892 net operating income based on preliminary year end financials. This net income over budget was largely due to a decision not to attend the International Conference in Singapore and an increase in the member dues. This increase reduced the impact of the \$7,520 loss in net income from the previous year. The Club Operating Reserve at the end of FY24-25 was \$33,621.95.

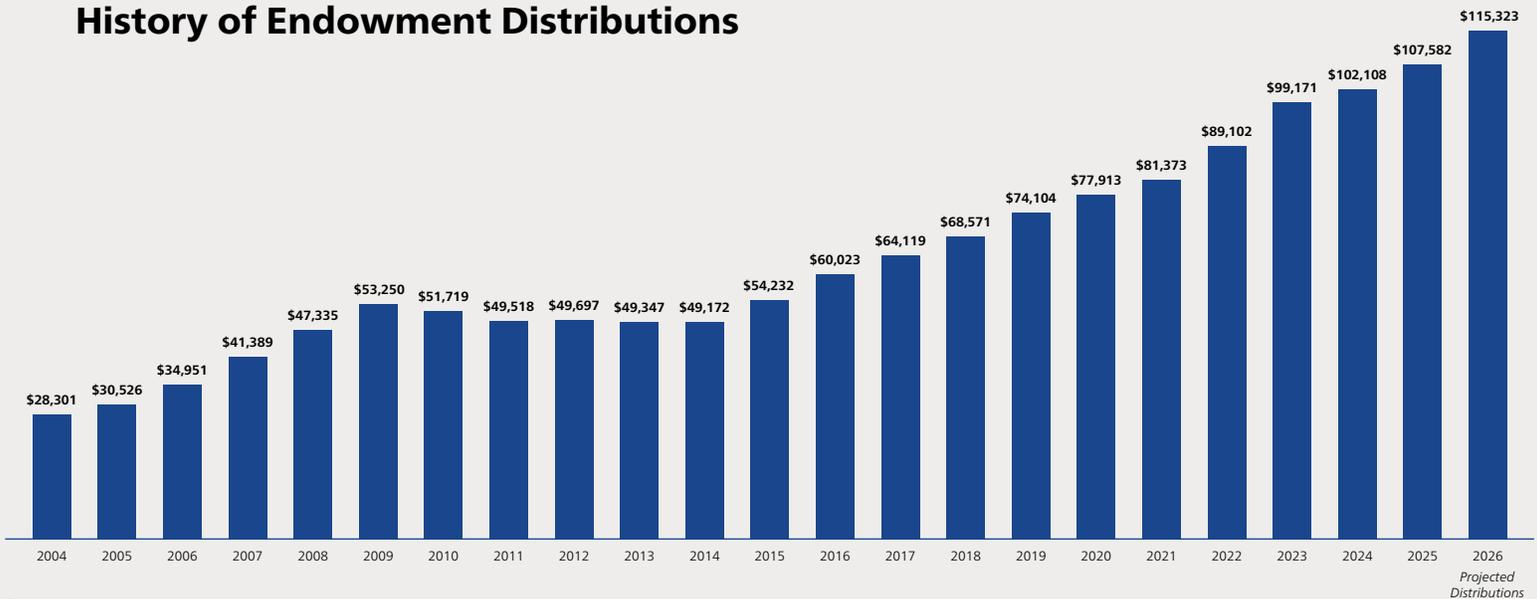


Financial Snapshot

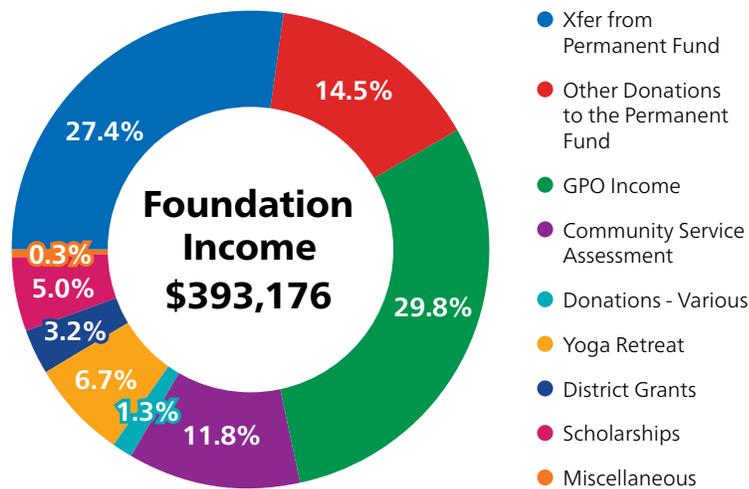
Community Service Funds Flow



History of Endowment Distributions



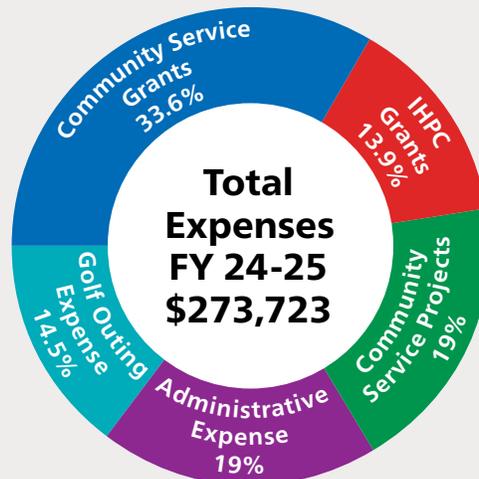
Our 501(c)(3), the Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation benefitted from the strong growth in the markets and donations from members. A portion of the endowment is distributed annually to supplement the Community Service Assessment, earnings from the Golf and Pickleball Outing, the Yoga Retreat, Scholarship donations, and other contributions. Last year \$107,582 was distributed from the Foundation Endowment according to a long standing formula that protects the principal and smooths the movements of the markets. Over the past 20 years the endowment has added \$1,335,353 to our community services budgeting. The principal balance of the Foundation endowment at the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, was \$3,396,580.44. This was an increase of \$507,401 reflecting a large donation by a member, the strength of the financial markets, and the insightful guidance of the Foundation trustees.



Community Service Grant Recipients

Community Service Grants

- 826michigan
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Children’s Literacy Center
- Community Action Network
- FedUp Ministries
- Growing Hope
- Judson Center
- Maker Works Community Workshops
- Peace Neighborhood Center
- Riverside Arts Center
- Women of Tomorrow
- Ypsilanti District Library
- Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra



Scholarships

- Service Above Self
- Strive

IHPC Grants

- Honduras – Buen Samaritan Health Clinic
- Uganda – Tsiyon Family Hospital
- Kenya – Nairobi Surgical & Health Camp
- Niger – Solar Panels Au Niger (SPAN)
- Guatemala – Water Filters
- Colombia – Platos Sin Fronteras (Plates without Borders)

The Magic in Motion: A Year in Photos



Hire MI Vet

Hire MI Vet was established as a local non-profit to help veterans find employment. It was conceived in 2015 by, among others, our very own Don Deatruck. Due to a low unemployment rate, 2024, in the veteran population, and with 3 nationwide veteran organizations also assisting veterans gain employment, Hire MI Vet was closed December 2024. A check for \$25,218.41 was given to the Ann Arbor Rotary Club.



Adopt-a-Highway

September 22, 2024, a group of 14 Rotarians gathered to collect trash along the I-94 freeway as part of the Michigan Adopt-A-Highway fall cleanup. They were joined by 3 Rotaractors and 1 civic-minded guest from Ann Arbor, who all collected 56 bags of trash that day.



The Environmental Action Group (EAG)

Now in its fourth year, the Environmental Action Group (EAG) continues to be a very active and productive committee. The group has developed and executed several programs and initiatives to educate the membership and further protect the environment.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

This past tax season, the Washtenaw VITA site had 60 volunteers, filed 1,159 tax returns, an increase of 54 %, and generated \$ 2 million of federal and state tax refunds, an increase of 26 %. Three "Outstanding Volunteer Awards" were handed out at the end of year volunteer event for all Detroit area volunteers. Club member Robert Mull was one of the recipients.

Service Above Self Scholarships

"Service Above Self" scholarships were awarded to six students for a total of \$13,500. These are students attending Washtenaw Community College (WCC) who demonstrate the Rotary trait "Service Above Self" and are current or past graduates of any Ann Arbor high school. Five students received scholarships of \$2,500 and one student received a scholarship of \$1,000.

Community Allocations

The Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation allocates funds to the Community Allocations Committee (CAC), which in turn awards financial support to community organizations who “Help Kids Succeed.” The Foundation has several sources of funding but the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor’s Annual Golf and Pickleball Outing provides the most significant level of support. Over fifty Rotary Club of Ann Arbor (RCAA) volunteers helped organize and host the Club’s 21st annual fundraising Golf and Pickleball Outing. The event raised over \$80,000. What sets this fundraising event apart from most other charities is that rather than fund club operations, all net proceeds go to the Club’s community service and outreach initiatives.



Women of Tomorrow RCAA Grant Funded Program



Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra Strings



FedUp Ministries Mini Chef Camp



Children’s Literacy Network Read With Kids Program



Maker Works Young Maker excited about hammer in Household Tools class



Growing Hope RCAA Grant Funded Program

The Magic in Motion: A Year in Photos

Celebrating Service, Friendship, and Impact — 2024–2025



Rotary Fights Child Hunger

We had a successful 21st annual Rotary Fights Child Hunger Food Drive in support of our local food bank, Food Gatherers, to refill their coffers ahead of summer break. With help from a \$15,000 matching grant from Todd and Margaret Kephart, 2025's drive raised \$48,000, which along with 3,700 lbs of food donations, equates to 100,062 meals for the hungry in our community.



Send Hunger Packing

Working under the direction of Mike Burwell from Kids Coalition Against Hunger, the group worked hard in a fun environment to pack a record 50,000 meals in 2 hours! A total of \$17,500 was raised with support coming from the 3 Ann Arbor Rotary Clubs, a Rotary District 6380 grant as well as generous donations from our club members and the community. At \$.35 per meal, this support went directly to provide the ingredients and the food packed will be going directly to those in need around the country and around the world, including support for victims of Hurricane Helene.

Program

The Program Committee provided entertaining and informative speakers every Wednesday that contributed positively to attendance. Four of the speakers were:

1. Dr. Matthew Van Besien
2. Dr. Kim Eagle
3. Mr. Michael Boyton
4. Ms. Dorrie Dils

Our weekly program also included Inspirational Remarks and Music. Thirty-three different club members gave inspirational welcomes over the 2024-2025 year, and Music was lead by 12 different Rotary members during the course of 46 weekly meetings.



The Magic Makers: Our Donors and Sponsors

This year's *Magic of Rotary* came alive through the generosity of our donors and sponsors. Their commitment to Service Above Self transformed ideas into impact — funding scholarships, strengthening community partnerships, and supporting programs that touched lives both locally and globally.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who believed in the vision of Rotary and helped bring the 'magic' to life through their contributions of time, talent, and treasure.

Together, we continue to prove that when caring hearts unite in service, the results are nothing short of magical.



Service Above Self

THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say, or do:

- 1** Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2** Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3** Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4** Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



a2rotary.org

Contact:

administrator@a2rotary.org
(734) 808-1615

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

 @RotaryClubofAnnArbor

 @a2rotary

Join Our Weekly Meetings on Wednesdays 12:00-1:30 pm In Person and on Zoom:

In-Person Location:

Michigan Union, Anderson Room
530 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Zoom:

Meeting ID: 824 5101 9219

Password: RCAA

Option to join by phone: (646) 558-8656

Every effort has been made to ensure that all information in this report is accurate and complete. If you find something that needs to be corrected or added, please contact the RCAA Administrator so your edit may be included.