

The Wakefield Rotary Club Charitable Foundation

The Wakefield Rotary Club Charitable Foundation ("WRCF") is interconnected with and independent from the Rotary Club of Wakefield, Rhode Island. The two work in concert for the charitable needs of South County. The Club established the WRCF as a Rhode Island tax exempt corporation in 1997 to assist in managing funds earned in the Club's South County Hot Air Balloon Festival. In 1998 the WRCF became a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt entity.

The WRCF presently has three primary functions:

- Holding certificates of deposit as the "Rainy Day Fund" for the Club's charitable budget in the event the annual Hot Air Balloon Festival - the Club's primary fundraiser - is rained out.
- Trustee for the Club's annual college scholarships to local high school students.
- Steward of an endowment arising from some Balloon Festival proceeds and from individual donors.

The WRCF set a goal to grow this endowment to \$1 Million by 2025. An endowment of that size can generate approximately \$40,000 annually to help fund the Club's charitable budget, and it will assist the Club's long term stability and growth.

The WRCF coordinates its efforts with the Rotary International Foundation. WRCF invests its endowment with the Rotary International Foundation's "Donor Advised Fund" which professionally manages this investment for a 1.3% annual fee. WRCF also annually contributes 1.0% of its invested endowment to the International Foundation; in this way, the WRCF has donated over time many thousands of dollars to the Rotary International Foundation.

The local and international foundations offer Rotarians coordinated choices for charitable giving and every donation to either foundation is credited equally toward a Paul Harris Fellowship.



The Balloon Society

WRCF's goal is to grow the invested endowment to \$1 Million by 2025 to assist the Club's long term stability and growth. The Balloon Society recognizes every individual donor and each donation over time to the WRCF. Balloon Society Members can be both Rotarians and non Rotarians—each helps create a legacy for charitable giving to the South County community.

2025 will be the Club's 68th Anniversary. Be part of the charitable legacy. Please contribute and grow with the Club and the WRCF. Be in the flight to preserve and to enhance our Club's charitable giving heritage.

Make a personal commitment...

Join the Balloon Society



Chase Crew \$100
Crew Member \$500
Balloonist \$1,000

Each contributor can become a Balloonist for total donations over time of \$1,000.00 or more.

Deceased Wakefield Rotarian Theodore "Ted" Fish is the first Balloonist with a \$10,000.00 bequest in his will to the WRCF. The WRCF can work with you and your financial counselors for the WRCF to become part of your estate planning as well.

From: _____

Date: _____

Donation: \$ _____

Please send your contribution to :

Mr. Steve White
The Wakefield Rotary Charitable Foundation
P.O. Box 382
Wakefield, Rhode Island 02880

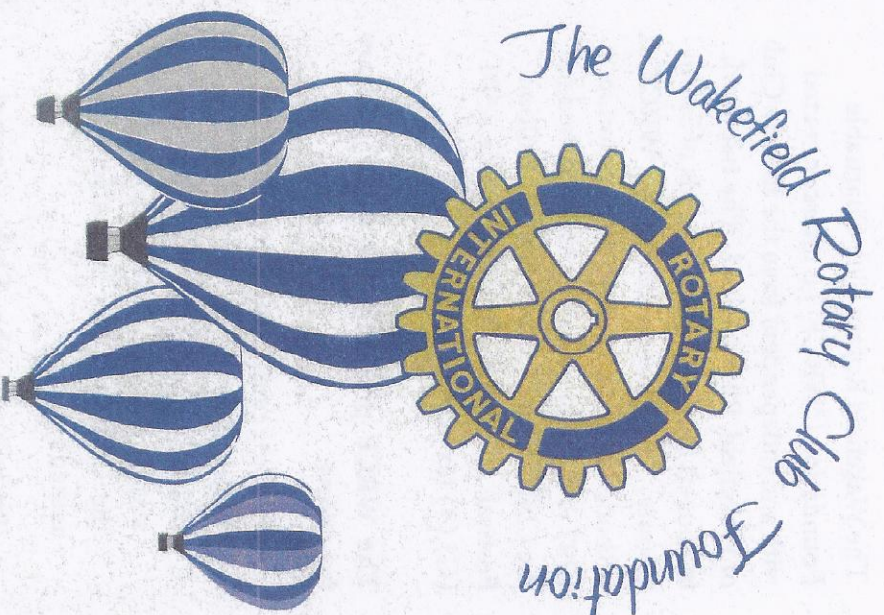
The Balloon Festival and the Balloon Society are based on Rotary's motto "*Service Above Self*."

The **South County Hot Air Balloon Festival** is a premier summer "happening" for the community every July with over 15,000 people attending annually. For a modest admission fee, the Festival is family fun and entertainment such as rock and roll music, the Balloon Glow at Dusk, fireworks, flying trapeze acts, magic shows, flying pig races, petting zoo, pony rides, fishing pond, crafts, kites, vintage cars, radio controlled planes, kids' train rides, great food, carnival and of course hot air balloon rides. Most of these events are free upon entrance into the Festival.



Balloon Glow

The Balloon Festival is the main fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Wakefield. All the admission proceeds go to charity. The Festival is over 30 years in the building and has raised over \$1 Million in those years. Most of the proceeds go annually to local charities and scholarships; and, some of those proceeds are entrusted to the WRCF for investment in a growth fund which will be a stable source of charitable giving for the future needs of the community.



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