2023 - 2024
Annual Report

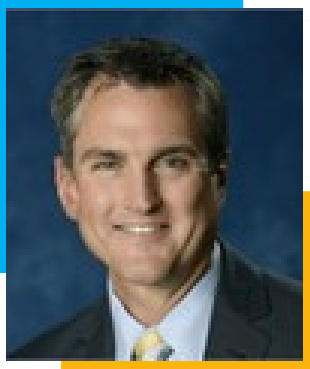
Rotary
Club of Ann Arbor

a2rotary.org

CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

From the President

Dear Fellow Rotarians,



The theme for our Rotary year, from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, was “Back to Basics.” Following a year where our club had yet to fully recover from the pandemic, we were determined to re-establish the strong traditions that make our club so special. Though we had Zoom meetings once a month and in-person attendance was still on the mend, I had a clear vision: to bring our club back to its pre-pandemic vibrancy—holding weekly in-person meetings and proudly displaying our Rotary banners, along with the Four-Way Test banner, in the Anderson Room.

This issue of our Annual Report highlights the club’s activities and accomplishments of the year, some of which include:

- Membership growth and engagement
- Environmental Action Group (EAG) initiatives
- Our most successful Golf & Pickleball Outing (GPO) to date
- Collyer Smith – our very own District Governor!
- International Humanitarian Projects Committee (IHPC)
- Formation of the History & Archives Committee

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Board of Directors, committee chairs, and members. As the saying goes, “It takes a village,” and our Rotary village is truly extraordinary.

It has been an incredible honor to lead this club, and I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for making this year a wonderful success.

Yours In Rotary Service,

Mark N. Foster
President, 2023-24

Leadership

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor Offices and Board of Directors

Officers

President	Mark Foster
President-Elect	Joyce Hunter
Past President	Mark Ouimet
Secretary	Kathy Waugh
Treasurer	Bill McPherson

Directors

Community Service	Rob Schiff
Club Outreach	David Keren
Public Image	Jennifer Fike
Youth Development	Barbara Niess-May
Club Service	Linda Kentes
Executive Administrator	Shari Faulhaber (until 1/2024) Cat Meyer (from 1/2024

Chartered October 1, 1916

Club 2972

District 6380

Zone 28

Membership

New Members 2023-2024

On June 30, 2024 our club finished the month with 214 Active members (including 19 Emeritus members), one honorary member, and 16 Inactive members. We welcomed 22 New Members, 2 Reinstatements, and 1 Transfer.

We are recognized as one of the largest clubs in the world and ranked at #67.

Alexis Antracoli

Meghan Armstrong

Dave Auer

Walker Barnes

Benjamin Bolen

Ella Dunajsky

Valentine Ezeani

Melissa Foster

Alex Gossage

Larry Gray

Alex Hammerslough

Michelle Julet

Ralph Katz

Ginny Leone

Emily Olsen

Jennifer Richard

Tucker Rossmaessler

Jordan Setayesh

Amber Siglin

Greta Spivey

Edith Too

Matthew VanBesien

Doug Ziesemer

Membership

Honoring our Emeritus Members

Our Emeritus Members have been the backbone of our club for so many years. Emeritus membership status is available to our most senior club members based on the following criteria:

Eighty years of age, Twenty years of Rotary service and an active participant in one or more programs of RCAA

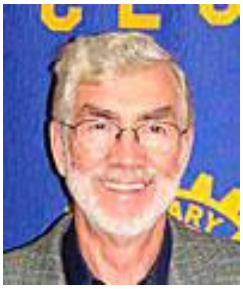
It was a privilege to grant the following Rotarians with Emeritus status during the 2023-2024 year.

Bob Holmes

Member since 1997

Terry Linden

Member since 1992



Frode Maaseidvaag

Member since 2003

Susan Smith

Member since 2002

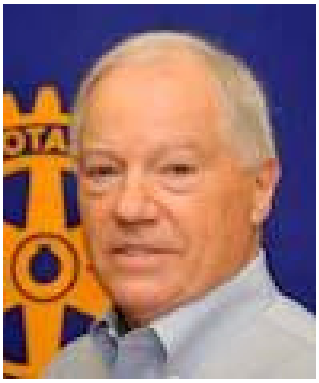
Dallas Dort

Member since 2004

Membership

Distinguished Service Award (DSA) Recipients

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor accorded by the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. Awardees need not be Rotarians, but each is chosen based on their demonstration of Rotary ideals. Several individuals are selected each year. For Rotarians, the honor is accompanied by a Paul Harris Fellowship.



Don Deatrick

Joanne Pierson

Omari Rush

Tom Strode

Membership

In Rotary year 2023 - 2024 we lost the following members who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to the RCAA and our community.

They are fondly remembered and greatly missed.

IN MEMORIAM

Chuck Blackmer
1943-2024

Linda Carter
1952-2024

Jim Miller
1939-2024

Tom Strode
1950-2024

Providing for Local Needs

Community Allocations Grants

Marsha Chamberlin
Community Allocations Committee

Amy Freundl
Community Allocations Committee

The Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation allocates funds to the Community Allocations Committee which in turn awards financial support to community organizations who "Help Kids Succeed." The Foundation has several sources of funding with the club's annual Golf and Pickleball Outing providing a significant level of support.

Working with the nonprofit community by funding projects they develop, we expand the reach and the impact of Rotary. The grant process is a well-organized process. Request For Proposals are sent out in January. Once the proposals are submitted, each one is reviewed and scored on five criteria by at least five committee members. The reviewers' scores are averaged for a final score. Those scores are then ranked and awards are determined.

Providing for Local Needs

Total Grants distributed in 2024 = $61,000

In April of 2024 we awarded $61,000 to thirteen organizations. The organization and purposes of those grants were as follows:

Local Organization	Grant Amount	Grant Description
Ballet Chelsea	$5,000	Adaptive Dance Program for disabled young adults
Ele's Place	$5,000	Family Program supplies
Food Gatherers	$5,000	Summer Food Service Programs
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan	$5,000	Financial assistance for scouts and troops
Girls Group	$5,000	In-school programs for 6th grade students
Girls on the Run	$5,000	Star Powered Sites Initiative
Peace Neighborhood Center	$5,000	Leadership Development Camp (6-week summer program)
Pioneer Theatre Guild Booster Club	$3,000	Funding of PTG participation scholarships
SOS Community Services	$5,000	Educational development through SOS Parents as Teachers (PAT)
Staying in Closer Touch	$5,000	Office Supplies and Mailing Costs
Student Advocacy Center	$3,000	Student Rights Help Line
Washtenaw Area Council for Children	$5,000	Body Safety Training
Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra	$5,000	Sequential, pre-orchestra instrumental technique and musicianship classes

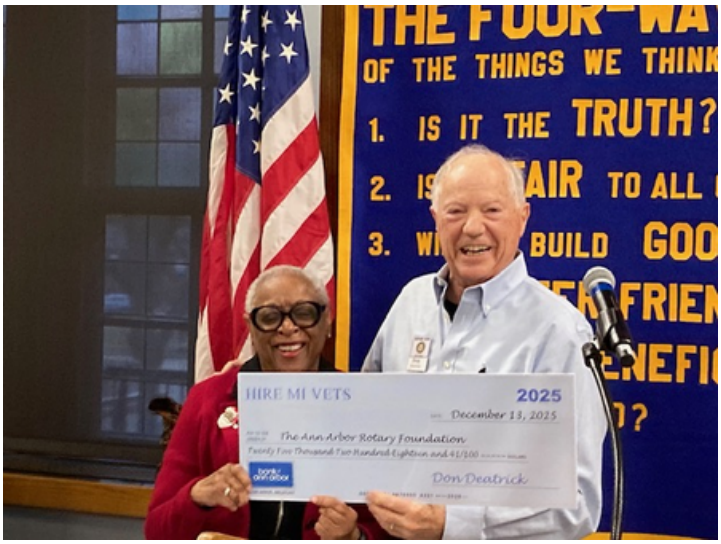
Providing for Local Needs

Veteran's Initiative

During December, the Veteran's Initiative Committee collected personal hygiene kit materials from RCAA members to donate to VA Ann Arbor veterans. On a cool December 19th, twenty twenty-four, RCAA members assembled 194 personal hygiene kits at the Oak Valley branch of the Ann Arbor District Library. The kits were then delivered to the VA Hospital where they were distributed to inpatients, outpatients, Fisher House residents, and veterans currently experiencing homelessness. Included in the kits were nine personal hygiene items for dental health, greeting cards and puzzle books.

Hire MI Vet

Hire MI Vet was established as a local non-profit to help veterans find employment. It was conceived by, among others, our very own Don Deatrick. Due to a low unemployment rate in the veterans population, and with 3 other organizations also assisting veterans gain employment, the Hire MI Vet was closed in 2024. A check for $25,000 was donated to the Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation.



Providing for Local Needs

Rotary Fights Child Hunger

We had another successful Rotary Fights Child Hunger Food Drive in support of our local food bank, Food Gatherers, to refill their coffers ahead of summer break. When schools are closed for the summer, families lose access to a critical source of food received through the National School Breakfast and School Lunch programs. Food Gatherers is the largest sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in Washtenaw County, which provides free summer meals for children and teens at sites located throughout the community. 2024's drive raised $32,000 along with 6,000 lbs of food donations, which equates to 89,000 meals.

Send Hunger Packing

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, one hundred and eighty-three hearty volunteers met in the cafeteria at Pioneer High School for our Send Hunger Packing food packaging event. Participants came from many groups including:

– Members from the three Ann Arbor Rotary Clubs
– UM Rotaract members
– Interact members from all three Ann Arbor public high schools
– Reinhart Realtors
– Our community at large
– Friends and family from all of the above!

Working under the direction of Mike Burwell from Kids Coalition Against Hunger, the group worked hard in a fun environment to pack ingredients for 30,000 meals in just over 90 minutes. A total of $10,500 was raised with support coming from three Ann Arbor Rotary Clubs, a Rotary District 6380 grant as well as generous donations from our club members and the community. At $0.35 per meal, this support went directly to provide the ingredients. The food packed will be going directly to those in need locally, around the country, and around the world.

Providing for Local Needs

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

Bob Mull
Chair

Once again this year, our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Committee (VITA) was hard at work offering free tax preparation services through the United Way of Southeastern Michigan (UWSEMI). This service was available free of charge to anyone living in Washtenaw County who earned less than $64,000 in 2023. Led by Rotary VITA Committee chair Bob Mull, the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor provides leadership, financial resources, and volunteers for the effort. This was our seventh year providing these vital services.

Bob was recognized by the United Way of Southeastern Michigan's Tocqueville Society for the amazing work he has done with VITA since establishing the program over 10 years ago.

Spirit of Tocqueville Society Awardee, Bob Mull
Toasts and Touchdowns at the Jack Roth Stadium Club, Fall 2024

Protecting Our Environment

Environmental Action Committee

In its second year, EAG continued with actions in keeping with its founding goals of education, participation, and information sharing. This was the common theme and essential component across all activities undertaken by the committee. Education entailed a series of fun quizzes, https://bit.ly/RCAA_EAG, presented at the meetings and collection of batteries, plastic bags, and printer cartridges during the month of February. Members participated in activities planned by the city and other organizations, i.e., tree distribution, tree planting, and Bryant swap day. Committee members participated in Ann Arbor's third Trash Talk Tour sponsored by ZeroWaste.org and proposed the CEO of Recycle Ann Arbor, Bryan Ukena, as a speaker.

Three members of the committee were selected for the A2Zero Ambassadors program; two participated. Rotary presence was noted at the program conducted over twenty weeks. The committee also used some of its allocated funds to sponsor the Michigan Climate Teach-in. The EAG webpage was updated routinely and was a source of information and inspiration. GenEarth, an environmental group for girls, used the page as a resource for its environmental work.

Articles in the Rotarian were a bi-weekly feature, dispensing information and links to resources. EAG also had a display table at the District Conference, strategically located across the aisle from the Guatemala Solar Project sponsored by the International Humanitarian Projects Committee. A QR code on the posters prompted the now District Governor, Sharna Hatcher, to propose the quiz format to expand educational outreach in District 6380.

Sponsors of the Climate Teach-in

Protecting Our Environment

Adopt-A-Highway

On September 30, 2023 a group of 12 Rotarians gathered on a very foggy morning to collect trash along the I-94 freeway as part of the Michigan Adopt-A-Highway fall cleanup.

The Rotary Club sponsors the section of I-94 between State Street and Platt Road and twice a year we gather to clear up the debris that collects along the sides of the road. The fog lifted into a beautiful morning and the Road Waste Warriors went to work collecting 37 bags of trash between State St. and Platt Road. The morning completed with a box lunch at the Kensington Hotel on State Street and a bushel of delicious apples from Leo Shedden's orchard. Special thanks to visiting Rotarian Mike Danielson from California helping to keep our Michigan freeways clear.

The Rotary Road Waste Warriors were back at it on Saturday, April 20, 2024. They collected 64 bags of trash which were set by the side of the road for the MDOT crews to pick up the next day.

Among the usual trash and broken car parts, the crew also found some notable items such as a five-dollar bill, a Barbara Streisand CD, a hub cap from an old Nash car, and some clothing and bed sheets!

The event wrapped up with a delicious box lunch provided by the Relish restaurant at the Kensington Hotel.

Developing Our Youth

Interact Clubs

Ed Wier
Interact

Our sponsored Interact Clubs at Huron High School and Pioneer High School continue to grow and evolve after the pandemic altered so many of their usual events and activities.

The 2023-24 school year marked the beginning of this new post-pandemic era as our sponsored Interact Clubs ramped up the community service projects and activities that are so much a part of their culture.

Pioneer Interact

Pioneer Interact had a busy and successful year continuing to put "service above self" in our community! 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.Pioneer Interact also held a school-wide bake sale fundraiser event. The Pioneer Interact Club is a key supporter of the annual food drive organized by the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor and Food Gatherers.

Linda Carter
Interact

The Interact Club promotes food and monetary donations at the school as well as helping to monitor the food collection bins located throughout Pioneer High School. This year we also mourned the loss of the Pioneer Interact Rotary liaison Linda Carter. Linda was beloved throughout Ann Arbor Public Schools after her long tenure as a music educator. After Linda's retirement, she continued to use her gifts for connection and engagement by working directly with the Pioneer High School Interact Club. Linda will be greatly missed but we celebrate her vast contributions to the young people of our community over many decades.

Huron Interact

Huron Interact has been more challenged in finding its footing after the pandemic period.
Club activities were limited in our challenge to identify a new faculty advisor after the retirement of long-time faculty advisor Lauren Warren. We are pleased to announce that Huron staff member Charlie Centivany has agreed to take on the role of faculty advisor.

Student leadership is in place, we are recruiting new student members and organizing club events and activities once again.

Developing Our Youth

RYLA / Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

RYLA returned to Camp Copneconic / Fenton, Mi in 2024. RYLA was cancelled for several years during the pandemic period and we were excited to re-start the annual event in 2024.
RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a student leadership conference sponsored by Rotary District 6380 that helps students develop leadership and organizational skills, connect with Interact students throughout Rotary District 6380, and to learn about Rotary and our many projects and initiatives – both local and international. The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor sponsored 2 students - 1 from Huron High School and 1 from Pioneer High School. Both attendees are now serving as Interact Club Presidents at their respective school Interact Clubs.

Rotaract

The University of Michigan Rotaract Club had a very good year. 26 students joined as dues paying members, and a good number of others participated regularly in Club activities.

We hosted Nora Pasche, 2023-2024 Rotaract President, and Simran Singh, 2023-2024 Rotaract Vice-President, as our guests at the dinner following the Golf & Pickle Ball Outing in September. They made connections with many Roratarians there and built on that foundation throughout the program year.

Highlights of the fall semester were active participation in our highway cleanup project on September 30 and the Send Hunger Packing event at Pioneer High School on October 28. The Rotaractors also spent several Saturday mornings packing produce for Food Gatherers at its warehouse.

Highlights of the spring semester were volunteering at Maize and Blue Cupboard, the University's effort to alleviate food insecurity on campus, and the spring break service trip. 7 Rotaractors joined with the Honduras Child Alliance in El Pouvenir, Honduras, on that trip to further literacy in rural populations

There was much to celebrate when the Rotaract Committee hosted its annual Senior Sendoff at the home of Joanne Pierson on Sunday afternoon, April 14th. The Rotaract Committee congratulated Nora Pasche, Simran Singh, Lian Do, and Chloe Valentino at Senior Sendoff and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Developing Our Youth

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

David Keren
STRIVE

The STRIVE program includes collaboration with leadership from Pathways officials: Shaenu Micou (Dean), Kela Robinson (Counselor), and from Washtenaw Community College (WCC): Grace Fama, Stephen Bloomfield (Manager of Recruitment and Outreach at WCC), Stefany Perez (Recruitment Specialist). Sadly, Linda Carter passed late that fall. Her impressive history with Ann Arbor Public Schools, love of music, and vigorous encouragement to the students was an important part of our program. It was a great loss to us.

Since COVID, attendance has been more spotty than we had hoped. However, over the course of the school year we had acceptable attendance of six students. The sessions would begin with a 20-minute discussion of an area relevant to the students. Dean Micou used his own story to encourage the students. Ademola Osofisan discussed how to deal with finances. Sara Maddock provided information on interviews and applications. Stefany Perez answered their questions about courses available at WCC. In spring, we had a half day field trip to WCC where Stephen Bloomfield and Grace Fama discussed courses and scholarships. A former STRIVE scholarship recipient, Nathaniel Graulich who is currently pursuing his doctorate in Anthropology at the University of Michigan gave a workshop to this year's students on his use of the scholarship for his education. He also presented the program to the Rotary Club in our May Scholarship award ceremony.

Six students participated in the program during the year. Unfortunately, only two of them maintained the required 2.0 average. One of those two, Gabriel Kinniebrew-Stone was interested in construction. He worked on a building site during the year and Ademola Osofisan provided his mentoring. Gabriel was presented with the Lester Award ($2400) and Tyler Delano was presented with the Meyers Award ($3000) at our Rotary STRIVE program lunch in May.

During the year we had a request from two former STRIVE Scholarship recipients to renew the scholarships they were not able to use. This was presented to the Rotary Board who agreed to restore their funds.

Recently, we received this response from one of those students, Quinyce Hinton
"My last year at WCC went very well! I learned some great art techniques, which I am still using today. Thanks to the STRIVE scholarship, I was able to buy all the art supplies that were required for my classes. I would love to come back to Pathways and speak about my experiences if that will help, Great hearing from you, Sincerely Quinyce Hinton"

Developing Our Youth

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.

Veterans receive special consideration. The Rotary Club awards up to eight scholarships each year, covering up to $1,250 of tuition each semester (Fall and Winter only). Scholarships will be renewable for one additional year if the recipient earns a minimum 3.0 GPA, is pursuing classes toward the completion of one of the college’s programs and successfully completes 2/3 of the classes on his or her schedule.

Washtenaw Community College

AARC Endowed Scholarship with WCC

In 1997 the Club established the Ann Arbor Rotary Club (AARC) Endowed Scholarship with the WCC Foundation. The funds current value approximates $66,359. Students awarded a scholarship from this Fund are selected by the WCC staff based on financial need, are preferably from the Ann Arbor school district and must reside in Washtenaw County. Applicants must be in vocational education and not be transfer students. The scholarship budget this year is $4,741. The number of students awarded may fluctuate based on their enrollment status. If awarded to Full-Time (FT) students, four students will receive the scholarship. If awarded to Part-Time (PT) students, the scholarship can accommodate 8-9 students.

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor Scholarship Fund Held by AAACF

In June 2022, the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor Board voted to establish this scholarship Fund which is a part of the AAACF Community Scholarship Program. It is one of 20+ funds that pool together to support scholarships awarded to young people who meet the following criteria:

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

Pell eligible (currently or has in the past qualified for the free or reduced lunch program), youth of color, OR first generation in their family to graduate with a 4-year degree; Resident of Washtenaw County; Will be or are a high school graduate within the past 24 months; Enrolling in college for the first time; Minimum 2/0 GPA. Students are awarded with up to $20,000 in scholarship funds over up to 5 years, a College Success Coach, and access to an Emergency Aid & Financial Assistance Fund. At any one time the cohort size of the scholarship awardees is between 7 and 9 students.

Developing Our Youth

Rotary Readers and Tutors

Rotary Readers and Tutors whose purpose is to foster love and reading of books at a young age, operated again at a reduced level due to the continued effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. Rotarians did continue to tutor students at Burns Park and Pattengill Elementary Schools in Ann Arbor. While several Rotarians would like to return to Beatty Early Learning Center in Ypsilanti to help preschoolers there, Beatty has not yet restarted their tutoring program since the COVID 19 shut down.

Jim Egerdal
Readers & Tutors

Program

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor has many facets and levels of engagement with the community on a regional, national, and international level, and our speaker program supports these initiatives.

Dallas Dort
Chair

Speaker Highlights

Through our weekly speaker presentations, we engage our members and guests in an information, interactive experience that shares information on a wide variety of topics. Several highlights from 2023-2024 speaker series includes the following distinguished guests.

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Jeff Makarewicz, Toyota Motor North America
Topic: Toyota's Research and Development Center - it's Capabilities and Future Plans

Jeff told us that production is recovering from the pandemic and that 30% of the vehicles produced by Toyota are electrified. The R&D effort in Ann Arbor and Saline is not a new effort in the area for Toyota – it has had an R&D presence in Ann Arbor for 50 years.

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

John Pasquale, Director of the Michigan Marching Band
Topic: A Glimpse Behind the Scenes

John discussed how band members are chosen, how much they have to do to be successful, the rehearsals and logistics behind putting together each on-field performance, and more.

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Tracy Bennett, New York Times
Topic: What's a Wordle?

Who knew the editor behind the popular word game lived right here in Ann Arbor? In January 2021 there were about 300,000 people playing, but in January 2022 when the NYT acquired Wordle...that increased and now there are millions of players!

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Rich Sheridan, Founder & CEO, Menlo Innovations
Topic: How Menlo is changing Companies for the Better

The longtime RCAA member discussed his strategy for how to bring joy into the workplace. Menlo is a custom software design and development team and its mission is to "end human suffering in the world as it relates to technology." They do this by bringing JOY to those they serve through their work and our culture.

Leadership & Active Volunteers

Leadership

Nominations - Mark Ouimet
Internal Financial Procedures - Mark Ouimet
Foundation Development - Norman Herbert
Distinguished Service Awards - Mark Ouimet
The Rotary Foundation (position open)

Executive Administrator

Shari Faulhaber (July 2023 - January 2024)
Cat Meyer (January 2024 - June 2024)

Club Development

John Sepp, Director
Membership & Social - Barbara Eichmuller
Rotary After Hours (bowling) - Fanfan Zheng
Rotary Cares - Barbara Eichmuller
Historical & Archives - Downs Herald & Tom Millard

Club Outreach

David Keren, Director
Peace/Anti-Racism - Norma Sarkar
International Humanitarian Projects (IHPC) - Wendy Zeilen

Club Service

Linda Kentes, Director
Program - Dallas Dort
Setup - Linda Kentes
Music - Ingrid Sheldon
Inspirational Welcome - Mary Steffek Blaske

Community Service

Rob Shiff, Director
Adopt-a-Highway - Ed Johnson & Leo Shedden
Community Allocations - Marsha Chamberlin & Amy Freundl
Golf and Tennis Outing - Roy Moore
Rotary Fights Child Hunger - Todd Kephart
Send Hunger Packing - (position open)
Veteran's Initiative - Don Deatrick
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) - Bob Mull
Environmental Action Group (EAG) - Nishta Bhatia

Public Image

Jennifer Fike, Director
Newsletter/Reporting – Michael Field, Jennifer Fike, Urgur Cetin
Reporting - Mary Steffek Blaske, Pattie Katcher, Jennifer Fike, Agnes Reading, Kate VanHorn
Website - Jennifer Fike, Dan Romanchik, Michael Field
Public Relations - Jennifer Fike
Social Media - Sara Maddock & Jennfer Fike
Photography - Fred Beutler & Mary Steffek Blaske

Youth Development

Barbara Niess- May, Director
Rotaract - Dennis Powers
Interact (Huron High) - Ed Wier
Interact (Pioneer High) - Linda Carter& Ginny Leone
Rotary Readers and Tutors - Jim Egerdal
Service Above Self Scholarships - Don Deatrick
STRIVE - David Keren (interim)
Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) - Marlena Studer

The Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation

President - Mark Foster
Vice President - Joyce Hunter
Secretary - Claire Foley
Treasurer - Bill McPherson
Trustees - Dave Shotwell, David Keosaian, Todd Kephart, Bob Mull & Brian Schrag

Peace Committee

Robert S. Northrup Humanitarian Awards

In 2017, the Board of Directors created the Northrup Award with generous donations from Past President Ashish Sarkar and Rotarian Jody Tull deSalis. In 2018, the first award was presented to Robert S. Northrup, MD for his global humanitarian efforts. The recipient of this award must demonstrate personal, long term sustainable contributions to Humanitarian efforts in local, national, or global arenas.

Norma Sarkar
Chair

2023 Northrup Award Recipient

Dr. Robert S. Gillman,
Assistant Clinical Professor of Plastic Surgery,
Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI

On May 8, 2024, the ARC and Peace Committee presented the Robert S. Northrup Humanitarian Award to Dr. Robert H. Gilman, Assistant Clinical Professor of Plastic Surgery, Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI.

In 1998, Dr. Gilman, having expressed an interest in doing mission work, was asked to join a medical mission to Cartagena, Colombia. The following year he returned as the mission leader and has continued as team leader. Last month, the team completed its 24th mission and conducted 60 surgeries. Those 24 missions have resulted in over 1,300 children receiving life changing treatments. Dr. Gilman's Team cares for a wide variety of congenital, traumatic and disease related pediatric deformities. The most common problem they treat is cleft lip and palate, a problem that often requires multiple operations over many years. That their mission returns to the same place year after year allows Bob and his Team to follow these patients through their whole course of treatment. They also provide surgical correction of hand deformities and burn deformities. (These facial deformities if untreated often lead to lifetime ostracization of the individual so treatment is truly life transforming.)

Recipients pictured from left to right: Dr. Nelson Edwards (2023), Dr. Henry Maicki (2021), Dr. Irene Butter (2019), Dr. Robert Gilman (2024), and Dr. Manesh Mehta (2022)

Additional recipients not pictured: Dr. Robert S Northrup (2018), John Drake (2020)

Working With Global Partners

International Humanitarian Projects Committee (IHPC)

The Ann Arbor Rotary Club's International Humanitarian Project Committee has had a landmark year, completing impactful projects worldwide in alignment with Rotary's mission of global service and sustainability. Over the 2023-24 Rotary year, the committee facilitated projects in health, education, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship, collectively improving the lives of thousands.

The following list of projects comprises our club's 2023-2024 contributions provided by our allocation, GPO, and private donations to the club.

Global Grants:

HONDURAS: **Clinic Santa Maria Upgrade** **$2,100**

Our Club provided support for a Wilmington Rotary Club Global Grant formed in partnership with the Tegucigalpa Rotary Club in Honduras. The Global Grant was for a total of $44,280 and allowed the Santa Maria Clinic and Laboratory to purchase critically needed equipment and to expand its laboratory facilities to increase the range of critical testing and timely diagnoses. The project has been successfully implemented and the final report approved by Rotary International.

District Grants:

GHANA **Deaf & Blind Computer Cluster Project** **$7,100**

Acquisition of 20 Desk Top Computers to Establishing Computer Cluster Lab for the Cape Coast School for the Deaf and Blind

UGANDA **Tsiyon Family Hospital Equipment** **$3,690**

Working in collaboration with The Rotary Club of Kampala Munyonyo, our Club provided funding to help equip a new medical/dental facility that is part of the Tsiyon Family Hospital that opened in February 2023. Specifically, we helped to equip the surgical room with lighting, instruments, a surgical trolley and operating room sinks.

Working With Global Partners

International Humanitarian Projects Committee (IHPC)

District Grants (continued):

SIERRA LEONE **Tasso Education Outreach** **$6,390**

Our Club worked collaboratively with the Ypsilanti Rotary Club to champion this project with an outgrowth of a visit to the island by two Rotarians, Mary Avrakotos and Cheryl Farmer in July 2023. This visit brought to their attention the critical need for education support and the existence of an NGO from England that was in a position to facilitate the support. The grant covered the one-year cost of distance learning classes for 10 student teachers, with the Gladi Gladi Trust agreeing to continue sponsorship for students who passed the first-year exams. It also supports the purchase of 18 laptops; and assisted in the cost of school toilet facilities.

CAMEROON **School Infrastructure** **$7,200**

Provided support for School Infrastructure time to build 300 chairs, 60 tables, and 20 blackboards, enough to fully equip all 20 preschool centers in remote villages in the forest of Eastern Cameroon. In addition, the project will build one latrine each for the two largest preschool centers, and provide school supplies to each preschool center. Additionally, Rotaract organized a school supplies drive in fall 2023 to collect learning tools, posters, and manipulative for classrooms.

HAITI **Malnutrition** **$6,000**

Provided support for Middle Ground's Community Health Advocate & Sustainability Programs. The Community Advocate Program is designed to build on this foundation by training parents of children who graduate from these programs in more intense malnutrition screening methods, and health based information dissemination. The Agriculture & Livestock Program makes available plants and livestock to caregivers whose children have graduated from the program and whose participation and follow up in their children's care has proven to us that they are committed to their health and well-being.

Working With Global Partners

International Humanitarian Projects Committee (IHPC)

District Grants (continued):

HONDURAS (Rotaract) **Classroom Construction** **$3,100**
Support was provided to Rotaract for February/March trip to Honduras to collaborate with Honduras Child Alliance (HCA) on light construction projects to build classrooms. The special focus was on making books and technology accessible for students, particularly work on bookshelves and a reading area attached to one of the HCA classrooms.

Club Grants:

IVORY COAST **District 9101 Malaria Walk/March** **$1,500**
Working with Malaria Partners International provided support for District 9101's Malaria Walk in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in conjunction with their annual conference. The goal was to raise awareness of ways to fight this disease through a Malaria Prevention Campaign.

GUATEMALA **Forest Walks for Women** **$2,400**
The goal of this project is to inspire the women who use Tu'ik Ruch Lew's Improved CookStove to cherish the forests surrounding Santiago Atitlan. On a guided walk in the Rey Tepepul Forest Reserve (a 2,000-hectare municipal reserve of Santiago Atitlan), the women will experience the serenity and majesty of an old-growth forest, combined with an explanation of the interconnectedness of all life and the vital contributions made by trees.

NEPAL **Ceramic Water Filters** **$5,000**
This project was started by Ceramic Water Filter Solutions with a small filter making factory in Kathmandu in 2015 after a devastating earthquake in Kathmandu valley. The natural progression and a number of years later the need of ceramic water filters in other regions of Nepal was so great it was necessary to start a second filter-making facility in Biratnagar, Nepal that can service the poor and displaced refugees of this south eastern region of Nepal. This project continues to train local workers to make quality filters and to develop a facility that can start to create quality filters to keep up with the needs of this region and be sustainable for the long term.

These accomplishments demonstrate the dedication of Rotary members and partners to transforming lives across the globe. The Ann Arbor Rotary Club remains steadfast in its mission to foster sustainable change, one community at a time.

GPO Fundraiser September 2024

On September 11, 2023 the Club hosted its 20th annual fundraising event with its first ever Golf and Pickleball Outing. This year the Club and its donors returned to Barton Hills Country Club. The day's events included a golf tournament, a pickleball clinic and round robin tournament, a reception and silent auction followed by a banquet dinner.

Nearly a hundred golfers and twenty pickleball players participated in the day events. Another 150 club and community members joined in for the reception and evening dinner.

The Master of Ceremonies for the dinner was former Club President Mark Ouimet. The keynote speaker for the dinner was University of Michigan Hall of Fame Coach Carol Hutchins. Coach Hutchins discussed recent changes in college sports including conference realignment, player transfer portal, and name-image-likeness (NIL) compensation.

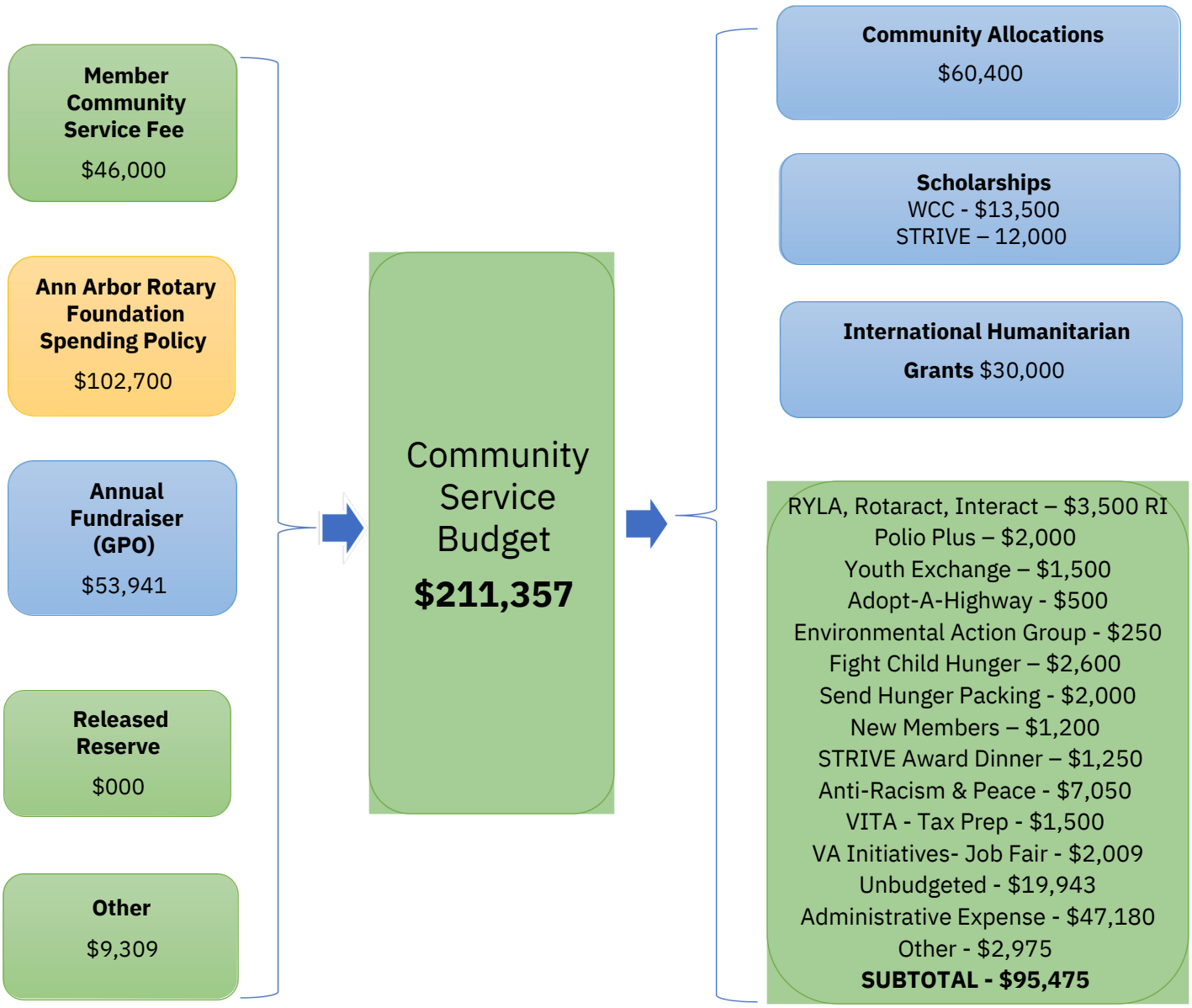
The event raised nearly $80,000 (gross). This was our best ever result, even exceeding the 100th anniversary gala in 2016. What sets this fundraising event apart from most other charities is that rather than fund club operations, all net proceeds go to the club's service and outreach initiatives.

We extend our special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor: Dick and Norma Sarns, and to our Premier Sponsor: Retirement Income solutions for their unwavering support.

The Planning Committee was led by Roy More and comprised of fellow club members Bob Buckler, Joe Diederich, Norman Herbert, Charlie Koopmann, Agnes Reading, Greg Stejskal, Kate Van Horn, Lori Walters and Kathy Waugh. The Planning Committee was supported by over 40 of the Club members who served various volunteer roles.

Being Good Financial Stewards

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor
Community Service Fund Flow
(2023-2024 FY)

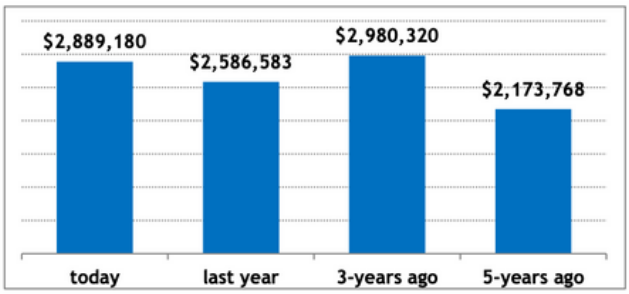


Being Good Financial Stewards

Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation

- The Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation is completely separate from The Rotary International Foundation. The monies from the Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation make a signifant contribution to the local community and beyond.

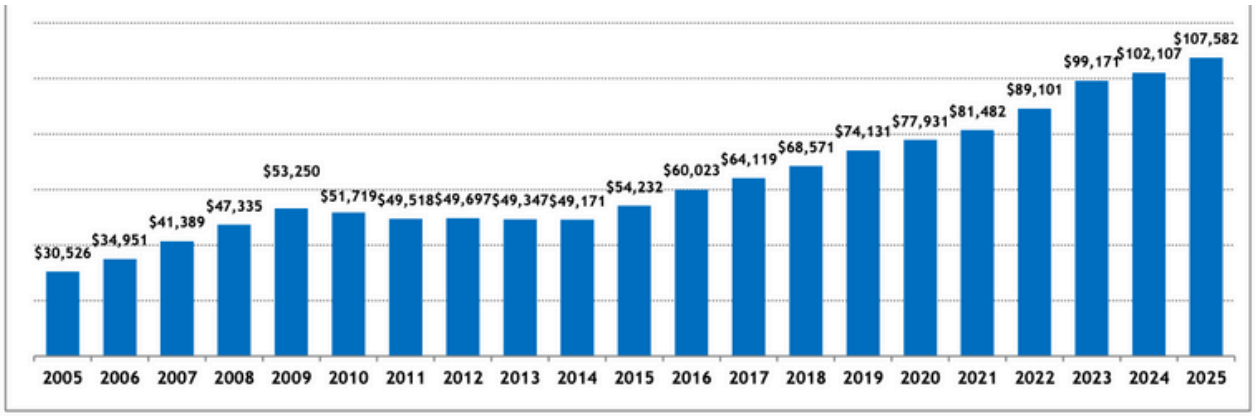
- Our Foundation's total permanent assets as of June 28, 2024 are shown on the chart.

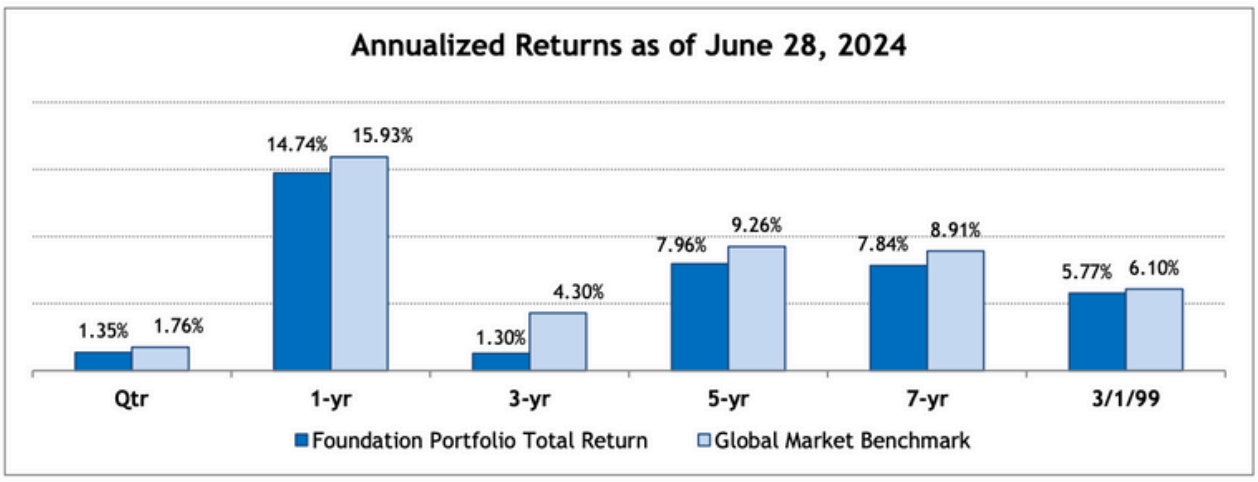


- The Fund has an investment Policy that requires it to invest in publicy traded, broadly diversified mutal funds so as to obtain a total rate of return in excess of an established benchmark. This benchmark utilizes market indices that are weighted according to the Fund's target asset allocation, approximately 85% stocks and 15% bonds.

- The Foundation has a Spending Policy that requires it to distribute 4.25% of the assets each year, based on an average market value for the preceding 20 quarters.

- As a result of contributions to the Foundation, as well as good investment results, the distribution amount to the "community" is shown below:

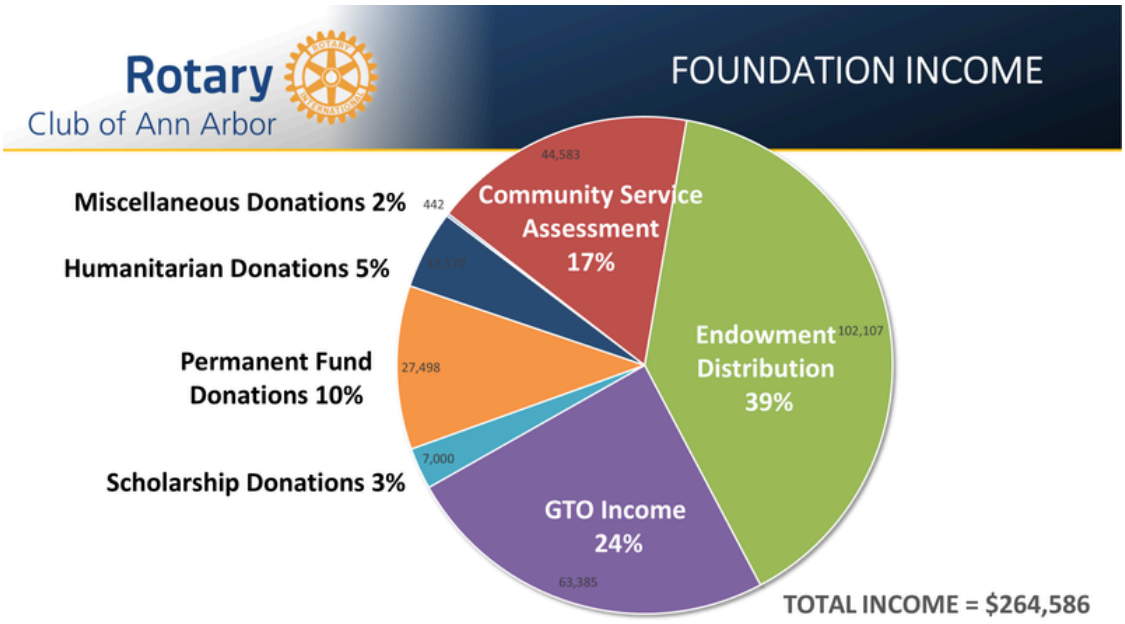


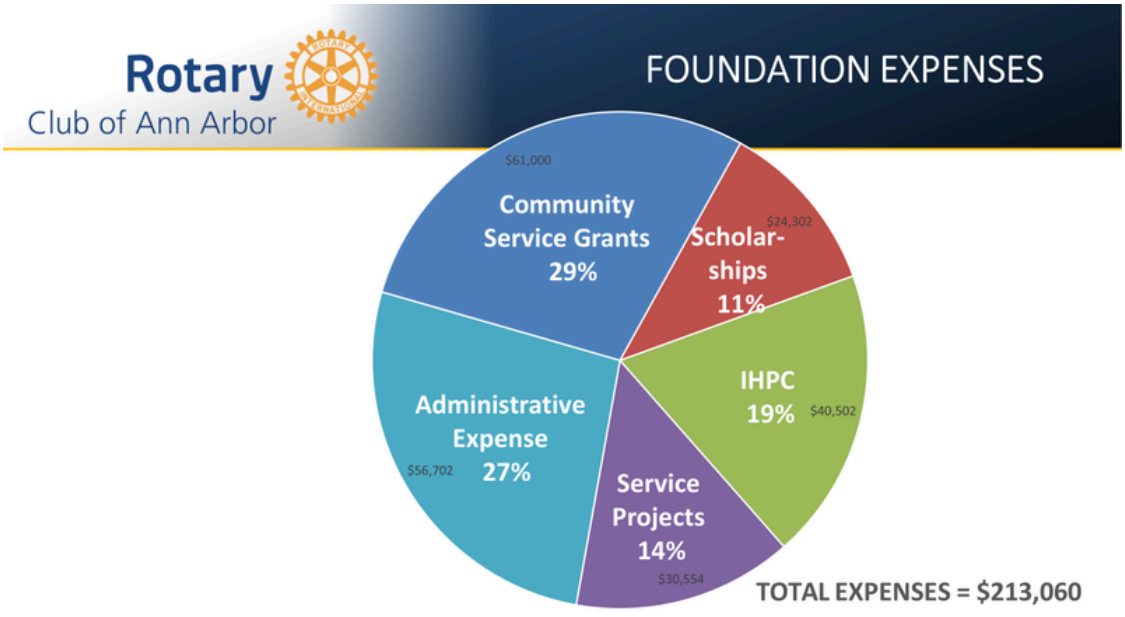


Being Good Financial Stewards

Foundation/Endowment

The Ann Arbor Rotary Foundation was established in the 1980s as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It provides 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 4.6% annual increase over the past 15 years, rose from $99,171 to $102,107. In FY 2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024), gifts to the RCAA Foundation totaled $26,767. The principal balance in the endowment on June 30, 2024 was $2,889,180.

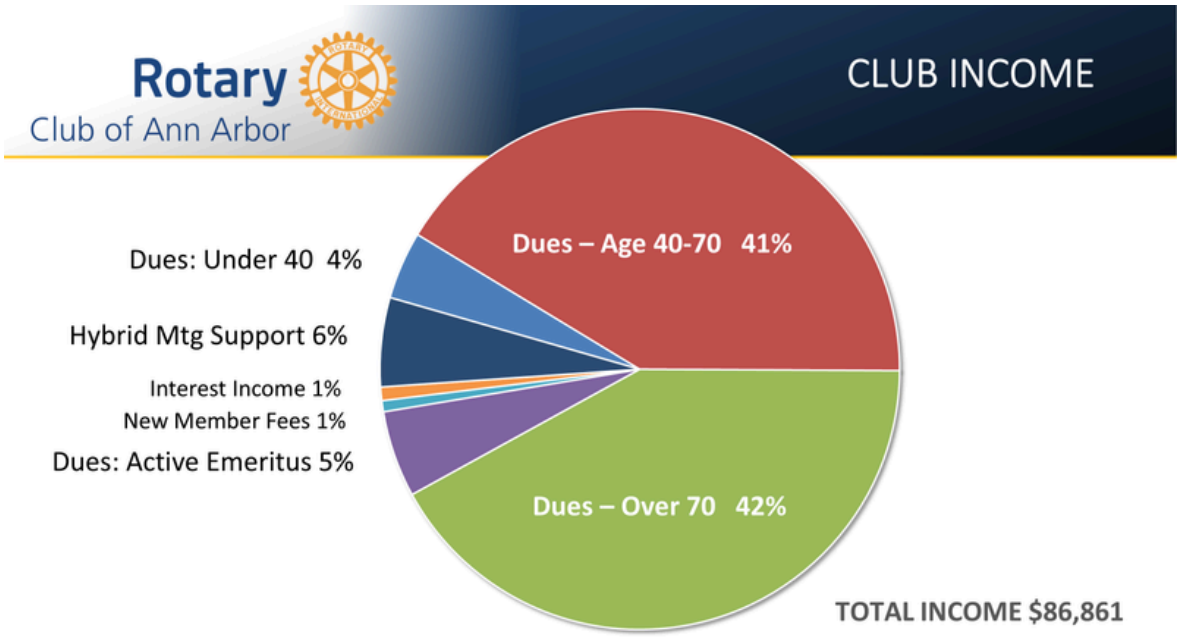


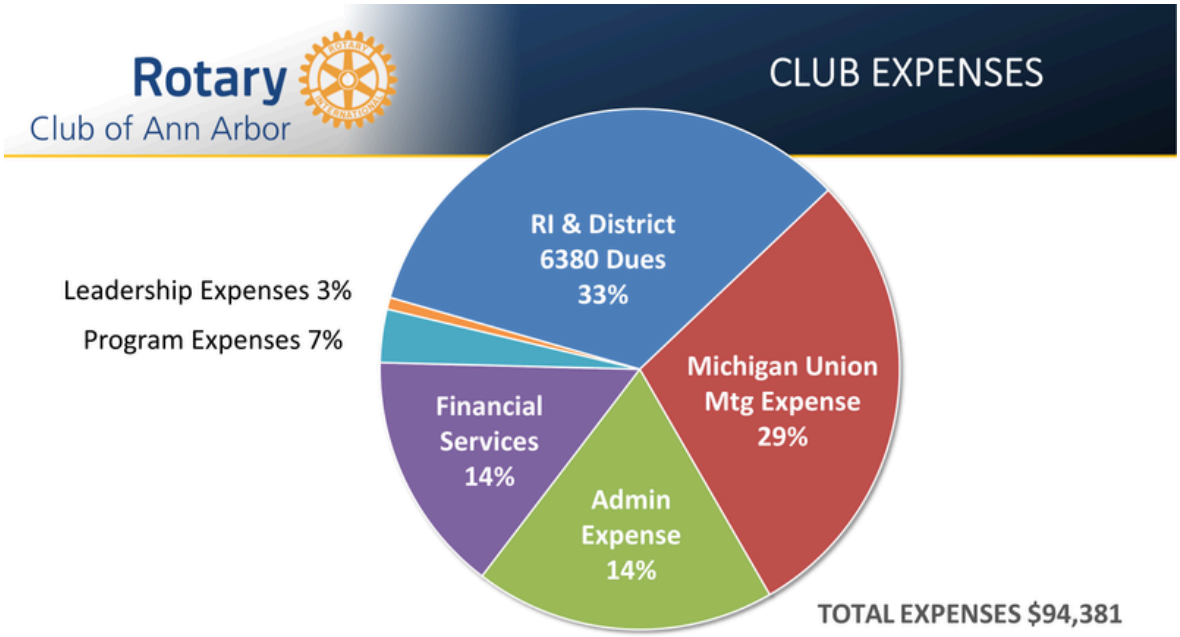


Being Good Financial Stewards

Operations

The Club membership has leveled off for the past few years after a significant decline due to member attrition starting in 2018 and was exacerbated in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. The added expense of providing hybrid meetings (in-person as well as via Zoom) was partially offset by member donations. Inflation also played a role as both Rotary International as well as our District increased their dues, which in turn forced the Club to have to increase our annual membership dues by an average of $45.93 per person. Our Club Operations Revenue & Support ($86,861) was exceeded by expenses ($94,381) for FY 2024 by $7,520. The Club's operating reserve stands at $37,249 as of June 30, 2024.

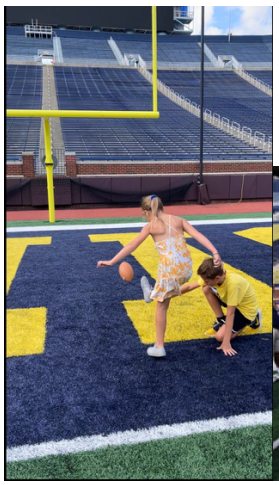




Our Own District Governor!

COLLYER SMITH

For the first time since 1991, the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor was proud to have our very own Collyer Smith serve as our District Governor!



Meet the Governor Event July 13th at the Big House

District Conference May 17-19 at the Union

Establishment of History & Archieves Committee

Beginning in 1916 the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor has faithfully kept records of Club activities detailing information regarding officers, board minutes, policies, finances, strategic plans, members, certificates and commendations awarded, committee activities, community involvement, and various events pertinent to the Club. Those records have proven invaluable illuminating the original intent of Club founders, the Club's rich and esteemed history, and successive years upholding the ideals of Rotary within the community and abroad.

Dr. Theron S. Langford
Founder of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor

The University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library has archived above listed records so that Club members, community members and interested researchers can access documentation of the Club.

The last 15 years has proven difficult to maintain thorough Club records due to moving meeting locations twice, the retirement of its first Club Administrator, the subsequent hiring of two new administrators, the suspension of weekly luncheons and meeting only on ZOOM due to a pandemic, maintain a website, compose and distribute the weekly Harpoon newsletter, and maintain past and present membership records.

Sensing the urgency to capture and preserve the last 15 years of invaluable Club history, in the fall of 2023 Club President Mark Foster invited an ad hoc group of members to re-establish the Club's practice of collecting and preserving records for posterity. Because of President Foster's leadership, and facts listed above, a proposal to establish a RCAA History and Archives Committee (HAC) was submitted to the board and approved with a member of the Board of Directors acting as the committee's liaison with the board. Bestowing upon the board designee the power to require all Club records be submitted to the committee annually within six months of the close of the Club's year for submission to the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library archives.

An archivist from the University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library was assigned to help guide the RCAA HAC through the laborious task of cataloging 15 years of accumulated Club records for submission to the library.

It is the hope that the current method of digitally recording all matters pertaining to RCAA activities will help expedite the collection and preservation of Club history in perpetuity.

This Close!

Picture from December 2012

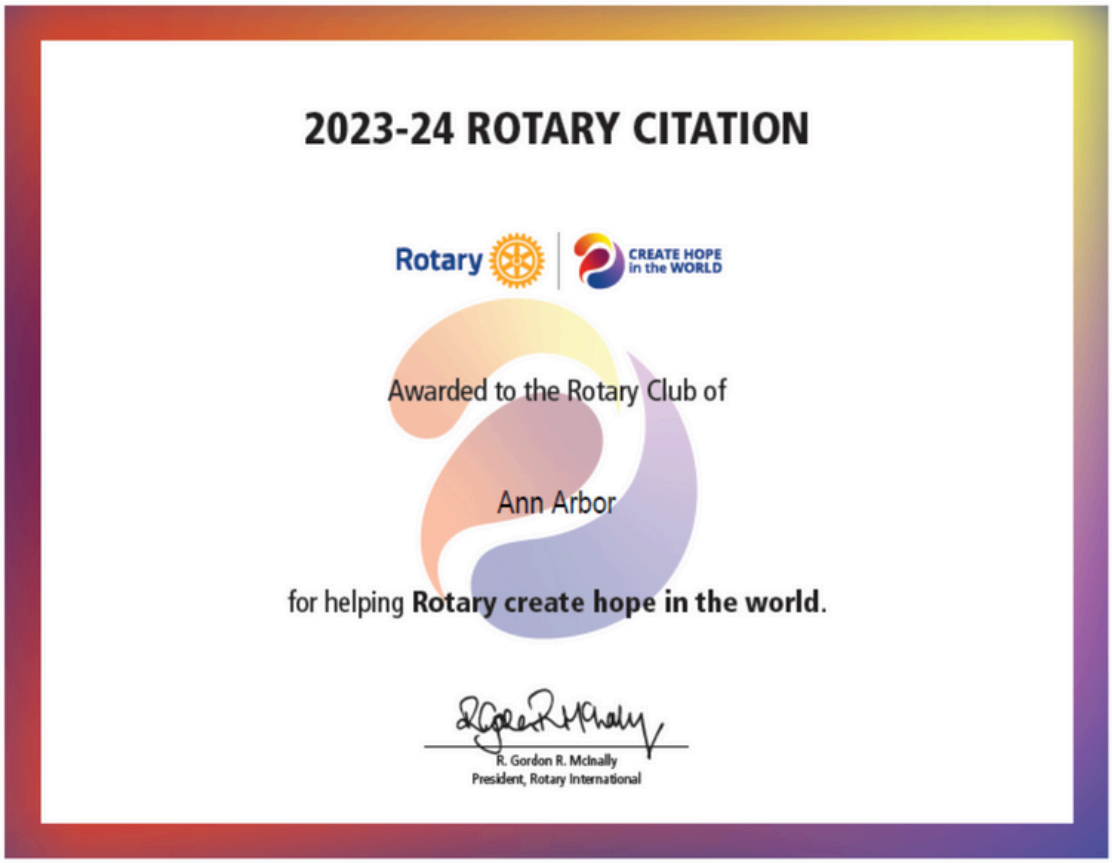
The photo above was taken in December 2012. It was in recognition of The Rotary Foundation's pronouncement that we were "This Close" to conquering polio. While exceptional progress had been made at that time, it was acknowledged that complete eradication would still take many years and billions of dollars. We recreated this same photo in April 2024. It is shown on the cover of this report.

“Safe, Effective and Potent”

With these words on April 12, 1955, Dr. Thomas Francis Jr., director of the Poliomyelitis Vaccine Evaluation Center at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, announced to the world that the Salk polio vaccine was up to 90% effective in preventing paralytic polio.

Dr. Francis made the announcement to a crowd of scientists and reporters at the University of Michigan's Rackham Auditorium, concluding his two-year national field trials of the poliomyelitis vaccine developed by his former student, Jonas Salk. Francis was chair of the School of Public Health Department of Epidemiology where Salk did postgraduate training.

Rotary Citation



To: 2023-24 club presidents
Cc: 2023-24 club secretaries

Dear 2023-24 Club President,

Congratulations! Your club has earned the Rotary Citation, the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve, for 2023-24. This past year, your club demonstrated a commitment to achieve its goals, which ultimately helps strengthen Rotary and shape our future.

I encourage you to display it proudly to celebrate your club's achievement.

Once again, congratulations on a successful year as club president!

Sincerely,
Gordon R. McInally
2023-24 RI President

Join us!

a2rotary.org

Contact: administrator@a2rotary.org
(734) 808-1615

Find us on social media!

Facebook @RotaryClubofAnnArbor
Instagram @a2rotary

Rotary Club of Ann Arbor

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

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 or current President so your edit may be included.