

# Dayton Rotary approaches 100-year milestone: What is Rotary?

DAYTON - The Rotary Club of Dayton continues to exemplify what it means to be a service-oriented organization by actively supporting the Dayton community through hands-on initiatives, fundraising efforts, and meaningful partnerships. Club members are often asked, "What is Rotary and what do members do?" According to the Rotary International website, "Paul Harris was a Chicago attorney who founded the Rotary Club of Chicago on February 23, 1905. The

members 'rotated' their weekly meetings so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and build lasting friendships." This is how the name "Rotary" was originated. Rotary members believe they have a shared responsibility to address a variety of global and local issues. With over 45,000 clubs worldwide, Rotary is dedicated to promoting peace, combating disease, providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, improving maternal and

child health, supporting education, fostering local economic growth, and protecting the environment.

As the Dayton Rotary Club approaches its 100-year milestone, members remain focused on both honoring their legacy and expanding their impact. From supporting local schools to assisting families in need, the Rotary Club of Dayton has built a reputation for stepping up where it matters most.

One of the club's recent highlights includes its annual Gumbo Fundraiser,

which brought the community together while raising critical funds to support local programs. Proceeds from events like this directly benefit scholarships for graduating Dayton High School seniors, youth leadership programs, and community outreach efforts throughout the area.

In addition to fundraising, the club has been actively involved in service projects such as distributing heaters to families during colder months, en-

suring that vulnerable residents have access to basic necessities. These efforts reflect Rotary's core mission of "Service Above Self."

The club also places a strong emphasis on youth development. Through programs like Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) and partnerships with local schools, the Rotary Club of Dayton is helping shape the next generation of leaders by promoting integrity, service, and civic responsibility.

Beyond direct service, the organization is committed to increasing community awareness of its work. The club regularly shares updates through local newspapers and social media, ensuring residents stay informed about opportunities to get involved and the impact being made right here in Dayton.

Looking ahead, the Rotary Club of Dayton is preparing for its upcoming 100-Year Celebration, a milestone event that will recognize decades of service while bringing together community members, leaders, and supporters. The celebration will highlight the club's history, honor key contributors, and set the stage for continued growth.

With dedicated leadership and an engaged membership, the Rotary Club of Dayton continues to be a vital part of the community, demonstrating that when individuals unite around a common purpose, meaningful progress is achieved. In addition, longstanding friendships are built through service projects and weekly meetings over the years.

For those interested in learning more or getting involved, the Rotary Club of Dayton warmly welcomes guests to attend weekly meetings and observe the impactful work Rotary is doing. The club meets on Thursdays at the Dayton Community Center for a noon lunch gathering. All interested individuals are invited to join us.

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DAYTON ROTARY WORKING ON 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
Current and former Rotarians and longtime friends assist in the upcoming 100th Anniversary. (L-R): Bridget Sjolander, Tami Pierce, Charolette Mercer and Margie Poole.

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