

Summary

Rotary International is setting up a new Service Projects Center at <http://spc.rotary.org>

All local projects, district grants, and global grants should be listed in the Service Projects Center. You can search by Area of Focus, by club, and by district.

During this transition, this summary document lists the District Grants currently submitted and in the process of review and approval. We share this list so that other clubs can see the kind of projects in the works, and perhaps choose one to join, or to emulate in their own community.

The next deadline for submission of District Grants is June 30, 2025.

Global grants take longer to assemble, review, and gain approval. There is no set deadline for beginning discussion of a global grant project. It is best to begin early, discuss your idea with the community you intend to serve, do a careful “needs assessment,” and engage the help of one or more “host clubs” in the area to be served.

For more information, please contact <mailto:grants@rotary7910.org>

District Grants

North Quabbin Trails Kiosk and Performing Stage (Environment)

(RC Athol-Orange)

North Quabbin Trails Association (NQTA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, with a long-standing trail signed professional stewardship contracting services agreement for the Red Apple Farm run by the Rose family. NQTA is looking to professionalize some of the key infrastructure base of the Red Apple 8-mile trail system while taking advantage of the tourism and eco-sustainable marketing opportunities that the Rose's have created making Red Apple Farm the #1 Agro-Tourism Center in our region with tens of thousands of visitors a year.

A Performance Stage will be built at Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm set at Waterman's Crossing. Installing a 6 x 6, 2x10 performance staging and picnic area.

Reading Nooks in Schools Without Libraries (Literacy)

(RC Changemakers of Central Massachusetts)

Our grant proposal centers around a community project to bring literacy in the form book nooks to elementary schools that were stripped of their libraries due to budget cuts a few years ago. We will be partnering with Hygge House Books, a small bookseller, in Westborough, Massachusetts, who has already installed one in a school with no library in Worcester. The book nook will be a welcoming place for children to come and choose culturally relevant books to take home and keep or share as they choose. We are looking to provide sturdy furniture and comfy seating along with a couple of bookshelves for 2-3 schools along with books to fill the shelves. By providing these materials, children will be able to bring literacy into their own homes where they can share it with the others in the home. All of the books will be high quality, new or very gently used as well in

addition to being culturally relevant. It is a fact that children need books where the characters look like themselves and their families. By working with Hygge House Books we will be able to access not only their knowledge but wholesale books as well.

WCC Pollinator Habitat (Environment)

(RC Blackstone Valley)

The Blackstone Valley Rotary will design and build a pollinator habitat located at the Whitinsville Community Center (WCC) in Northbridge, MA.

Food Insecurity - Helping Residents, Students and Veterans (Disease prevention)

(RC Wellesley)

Food Insecurity among our residents, students and veterans is a growing concern. Recent studies show that 29% of American families suffer from insufficient food.

With this grant, we will work with the Village Church and MassBay Community College to provide approximately 12000 high quality meals to local residents, MassBay students and veterans..

Working with the Village Church, we will purchase food, and with members of our club and the Village Church prepare, cook and deliver the meals.

This is a highly efficient process since each meal will cost about \$3.50 to produce and is valued at 5 to 6 times that cost if purchased through a restaurant. Our goal is the \$5000 provided by our club and the District grant will result in \$25,000 to \$30,000 of value for meals delivered.

Rain Barrel Environmental Project (Environment)

(RC Framingham)

The Rotary Club of Framingham will work with the Environmental Club of Framingham High School to buy, paint and distribute rain barrels. Rain barrels connected to downspouts etc, conserve water that can be used for plants and irrigation and also limit storm runoff that can pick up pollutants from the landscape and go into rivers and streams. The rain barrels will be painted by FHS students according to environmental themes, promoting good stewardship of the environment. There will be a contest and then distributed in the city.

Lounge 250: Midtown West Concord (Economic development)

(RC Concord)

The Rotary Club of Concord proposes hosting three events at the Concord Council on Aging, starting in October 2024. We will host and serve three dinner/music event at the COA, which will include performances by local, professional musicians and catered dinner, with decorations and mocktails. The goal is to alleviate isolation in our senior community, as well as to expose everyone to live music. The health benefits of lives music cannot be underscored enough -- from reduced blood pressure to increased dopamine, music indeed soothes all of us. Approximately 50 seniors will be served at each event, which will allow them all to dress up, share a meal, socialize and hear live music. The theme will be to replicate a Manhattan "lounge" with drinks, food and music. We're bringing midtown to West Concord!

Est: full budget \$6,000. Requesting \$3,000

Westborough Farmer's Market Healthy Food Program (Economic development)

(RC Westborough)

Now in its fifth year, The Westborough Famer's Market is expanding programs to encourage healthy eating and community connection.

The market will introduce a Power of Produce (POP) Program for children under 12 and senior citizens. This program will encourage individuals to try nutritional fruits and veggies. Each child who signs up will receive \$3 weekly, and the seniors will receive \$5 weekly in POP bucks to use at the various farmers' booths.

To further promote a healthy lifestyle for our diverse community, the market will also accept SNAP. In addition, the market will work closely with the Westborough Food Pantry and Little Free Pantry to support neighbors in need. Our goal is for the Market to become a weekly family event that provides a service to all Westborough citizens while building partnership with other community service organizations.

The requested grant will cover 18 consecutive weeks of POP vouchers for seniors and children. We estimate 100 participants per week; participants come from Westborough and several surrounding towns (Northborough, Southborough, Grafton, Shrewsbury).

Moreover, the grant money will be applied to purchase items to implement the programs effectively. These items include, but are not limited to a tent and iPad for administering the POP & SNAP program.

Turkey and ham for senior centers at thanksgiving and Christmas (Economic development)

(RC Wachusetts Area)

We provide ham for Christmas and turkey for Thanksgiving to senior centers in our area to help them out with seniors who may not be able to afford.

Build-a-bed (Maternal and child health)

(RC Westford)

Partner with a local organization to build beds for use by children or adults. The price of one bed is approximately \$250. The goal would be to build 20 beds for a total cost of \$5,000.

Funds will be raised from the community, the district, and the Westford club. The project will be carried out likely in the spring of 2025 with volunteers from the Westford club and surrounding community.

Support Veterans to improve their mental stability (Maternal and child health)

(RC Montachusets Area)

Provide support and build relations with the local veterans within our community. Provide resources to local veterans to improve their quality of life.

Provide materials that will support their mental stability such as Christmas Trees and flowers for special days.

Provide service opportunities including but not limited to: loading x trees, distributing trees to local vets & delivering flowers to the veterans.

Volunteer at the local fall festival that is run at a local garden center.

Sears Field Conservation (Environment)

(RC Weston-Wayland)

We would like to continue with our with our Sears Field Pollinator project. In Sears Field we are restoring 1.4 acres of invasive infested land into a pollinator meadow and hope to continue with our plantings. The field takes an extensive amount of volunteer work and funding. This is also the one of our higher cost projects at this time.

Kairos Spring Farm (Disease prevention)

(RC Nashoba Valley)

The American Journal of Preventative Medicine reported that in 2020 depression was prevalent among nearly 1 in 10 Americans and almost 1 in 5 adolescents and young adults.

A 2021 article in the National Library of Medicine confirmed that nature exposure improved cognitive function, brain activity, blood pressure, mental health, physical activity, and sleep. "Results from experimental studies provide evidence of protective effects of exposure to natural environments on mental health outcomes and cognitive function.

In an effort to dull the pain of overwhelming emotions; grief, anger, depression, anxiety...many turn to substances. Self-medicating can take the form of non substances as well such as addictions to shopping, sex, eating, self harm and thrill seeking. None of these efforts to "feel better" have sustainable effects and lead to further challenges.

Our Club is fortunate to have a non-profit Program in Stow that services youth and veterans with Mental health challenges. We decided to partner with Kairos Spring far as our district Grant project this year.

Suitcases to Foster Dignity (Maternal and child health)

(RC Fitchburg)

Many foster children sometimes leave their homes and are not prepared. When they are placed in a foster home or move from one foster home to another, their possessions are in a large black garbage bag or a bag with an agency name, which is demoralizing. Our Rotary Clubs, Fitchburg and Fitchburg East, in conjunction with local agencies plan to provide these children suitcases to foster their dignity. Our club plans are to purchase suitcases and fill them with the necessary toiletries, pajamas/clothes, stuffed animal, etc. There are approx. 200 foster children in Fitchburg and we hope to bring a smile and dignity to as many of these children as we can.

Hope for the Hungry 2024 (Maternal and child health)

(RC Bedford, Merrimack Valley, Billerica, Chelmsford, Concord, Westford)

This multi-club (6), multi-district project (2), partnering with Meals of Hope, will package close to 40,000 meals. These dry-packaged meals will consist of beans, rice, protein, dry vegetables and vitamins and will address food insecurity (over 30% of MA residents suffer from food insecurity) in

the Middlesex County and surrounding areas. Not only will the project address immediate needs in our area food banks and the Middlesex Community College food bank, but it will raise critical awareness of this need right in our own backyard. (requesting \$6,000 DG and raising \$9,000 for \$15,000 total budget).

Nutrition 68 2024-2025 (Maternal and child health)

(RC Northborough)

Sustainability has been the goal of our N68 program since 2019. Each year our Club has worked to help address food insecurity that some school children experience between the free lunch they receive in school on Friday and the free lunch they receive in school on Monday. We fill back packs that children carry home to provide them with nutritious meals for the weekend. This year we hope to reach our goal as we work through a plan to make N68 truly a community based and supported program.

Handicap Toilets for West Brookfield Common Events (Water and Sanitation)

(RC Brookfields)

To provide the Town of West Brookfield with one ADA compliant porta potty for the Concerts on the Common series of events on the Town Common. The Town has received complaints from handicapped citizens regarding the lack of services to those that need them. Individuals with disabilities must have equal opportunities to attend and enjoy public events and spaces. This project will provide one summer of relief while the Town finds a permanent solution to the problem.

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen (Economic development)

(RC Lowell)

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen serves hot evening meals five days per week all year to the homeless and anyone else who needs a meal. They typically serve 120-190 people per day. They seek sponsors to provide food, meal preparation and to serve the meal. We would like to sponsor up to three meals including 29 October and 31 December 2024 (these are the fifth Tuesdays in the months) plus an additional date in the spring of 2025. Each meal will cost approximately \$1000. We are seeking co-sponsors from nearby Rotary Clubs. I, the sponsoring club contact, have been active with St. Paul's through my church, so I know their processes.

Global Grants

Clinic in Matugga Uganda (Maternal and Child Health)

(Rotary Club of Wachusett Area) m -- Proposed, seeking partners

Under the Ugandan Healthcare system, a need was established through community assessment that a level III facility with maternal and child healthcare services was needed in the urban center of Matugga which has a population of 23,000. An existing clinic operated by Angels of Hope (AoH) was not meeting the medical needs of the community and was not properly equipped for the desired services. The project seeks to establish a new clinic with adequate space in a building owned by AoH to increase the medical services provided to the town of Matugga and the surrounding area for a majority of residents, who cannot afford the cost of such healthcare. The new clinic will include a Birthing Center to serve the needs of pregnant women.

Our expectations are to serve over 500 patients per month.

Who would benefit: Everyone in the area. All elderly people as well as the lower-income families will be provided with free care. For those that can afford to pay will be charged a fee depending on their ability to make the clinic sustainable.

Up From Poverty – Machakos, Kenya (Economic Development)

DG Joyce Graff project – Proposed, seeking partners

The project will provide an opportunity for impoverished children to raise themselves and their families out of poverty, gain vocational and entrepreneurial skills, and become productive citizens.

It was observed that there were a large number of children living on the streets of Machakos, foraging for food because there was not enough food at home for themselves or their families. These children were not able to attend school due to lack of food, shoes and uniforms. This project works to provide the basics for these children, with food for themselves and their families. It works to get the children into school and off the streets, and provide the education and training that enables them to bring themselves and their families out of poverty, gain decent employment, live dignified lives, and contribute to their community.

Benefitting? Impoverished children and families in Machakos and the adjacent region

How many? 100 students and their families (500 people)

Demographics: youth who have not completed secondary school

Clean Drinking Water for Clay Int'l School, Kenya (Water and Sanitation)

RC Brookline – Proposed, seeking partners

This project is to provide a reliable source of clean drinking for the Clay International Secondary School, Ngomano, Kenya. The Clay School serves rural students unable to afford fees required for attendance at public high schools. The project will be in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Emali, Kenya and the Rotary Club Brookline with support from other clubs and organizations. Using an innovative technology used in other locations in Africa and North America, the proposal is to use SOURCE hydropanels that extract water vapor from the atmosphere. The warmth inside the hydropanels turns the water vapor into liquid water. Clean drinking water via hydropanels will decrease dependency on an unreliable and increasingly stressed river resource and avoid costly import of clean drinking water from distant locations. The hydropanels have applications in locations experiencing drought or inconsistent rainfall patterns that place traditional sources of water at-risk.

Piyali Vocational Training Centre (Economic Development)

(RC Worcester) – COMPLETED

The primary objectives for this global grants are as follows:

1. Provide the community members of Piyali Junction access to vocation-based training and the requisite literacy and numeracy. This training will build their capacities to maximise earning

potentials and reduce household and community poverty . Training will be offered in the following vocations:

- Organic Farming
- Unarmed Security Personnel with NSDC certification and placement that will earn them employment and livelihood.
- Tailoring

2. Establish a training centre, by upgrading the existing outdoor facility with a concrete floor and a Pavilion structure without walls and paving the pathway leading to it, on the campus of Piyali Learning Centre (PLC)* where the activities will be carried out throughout the year.

*PLC is a school providing holistic and free education to first generation girl students in a remote village in West Bengal. PLC exists to empower these individuals to lift themselves out of extreme poverty and prevent associated crimes like abuse and trafficking.