



From Our District Governor

## It's time to Soar Like the Eagle

By André Marria  
We are moving into the home stretch of our Flight! You have done an amazing job of collaboration, building new friendships, and relationships! I am so proud of all we have accomplished! Let's Finish Strong!

To encourage you along the way, let's examine a few lessons we can learn from the Eagle.

*The Eagle is mighty and majestic; so are we!!*

*Eagles fly alone or with their Kind.* We too are looking for likeminded individuals as leaders.

Jennifer Jones, PIP, has said: "We are on a journey in Rotary seeking leaders who have different talents, abilities, and values, and when we allow them the opportunity to work together, we work in a more inclusive and welcoming community for people." [more]

### LEADERBOARD

Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
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- I
- II
- III
- IV

### Key Dates

Thursday, July 9th, 2026	<b>North Atlanta Professional Alliance Governor Visit</b>
Tuesday, July 14th, 2026	<b>Paulding County Governor Visit</b>
Tuesday, July 28th, 2026	<b>Jackson-Butts County Governor Visit</b>
Thursday, July 30th, 2026	<b>North Cobb County Governor Visit</b>



District Conference  
2024

## **Jekyll Island: Don't Miss Out on All You Can Explore**

By Stephanie Windham

There's a lot to do in your free time on Jekyll Island - especially after brunch on Saturday, March 23 when there is a break built into the District Conference schedule until 4:30 pm. If you're looking for something to fill those hours, this article is for you!

Read on to learn about the possibilities ... from golf or tennis ... to bike rentals, local history, sea turtles and even a tour of MAP International, a long-term Rotary District 6900 partner in Brunswick, Georgia. Who knows: you might want to extend your stay after District Conference.

And if you haven't signed up for District Conference yet, what better time than now. To register, head to [rotary6900.org](https://rotary6900.org) today! [more]

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THE ROTARY SATELLITE CLUB OF STONE MOUNTAIN PASSPORT

&

THE ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE - SUNSHINE DIVISION

PRESENT



# THE FREEDOM SERIES

4-PART SPEAKER SERIES FOCUSING ON OUR MILITARY VETERANS VIA ZOOM

FEATURING LEGENDARY TUSKEGEE AIRMAN

LT. COL. HARRY T. STEWART



**FEBRUARY 2, 2024 2PM - 3PM EST**

WE ARE HONORED TO WELCOME TUSKEGEE AIRMAN FROM THE FAMED "RED TAILS" FIGHTER GROUP, AIR FORCE VETERAN LT. COL. HARRY T. STEWART JR., AS OUR FEATURED FREEDOM SERIES SPEAKER. ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AIR CORPS TO QUALIFY AS A PILOT., LT. COL. STEWART EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS HAVING COMPLETED 43 MISSIONS DURING WORLD WAR II AND IS ONE OF ONLY FOUR TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TO HAVE EARNED THREE AERIAL VICTORIES IN A SINGLE DAY OF COMBAT. JOIN US TO HEAR THIS INCREDIBLE HERO SHARE HIS EXPERIENCES.



DUE TO HIGH DEMAND, WE REQUEST ATTENDEES PREREGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. THIS EVENT IS PRESENTED AT NO COST DUE TO THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE PASSPORT CLUB AND RLI SUNSHINE DIVISION.

REGISTER BY CLICKING THE LINK BELOW. PROVIDE YOUR NAME & EMAIL ADDRESS, AND A ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT 24 HOURS BEFORE THIS HISTORIC MOMENT VIA EMAIL.

## The Freedom Series This Friday, February 2 at 2:00 PM via Zoom

By Gillian Leggett

I want to invite you to some very special Zoom meetings that I know are going to be very exciting! The Rotary Satellite Club of Stone Mountain Passport with the RLI Sunshine Division started sponsoring a series of 4 presentations called the "Freedom Series" which began on November 6, 2023. At that meeting, we heard from WWII Pearl Harbor Veteran, Herb Elfring. The event was well attended, and Herb shared his memories of what it was like to be near the action when Pearl Harbor was bombed. We received fantastic feedback from attendees.

The second speaker is scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2024 (via Zoom from 2 pm to 3 pm EST and you won't want to miss hearing him speak! We are honored to have Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart - Legendary Tuskegee Airman! Please do everything you can to attend and support this event. This event is a collaboration between a D6900 Satellite/Passport club and RLI Sunshine Division to bring history making leaders to our District sharing their stories.

Because of the high demand for this series, you are asked to preregister by following this [link](#). When you have registered, you will receive an email with a Zoom link before the event this Friday. We look forward to seeing you there. [more]



Amanda Howell of Rome High School speaks at the 2022 Founders Celebration.

Laws  
of  
Life



THE GEORGIA  
ROTARY CLUBS  
LAWS OF LIFE  
ESSAY CONTEST

Laws of Life

## Laws of Life Helps Teachers Build Relationships

By Linda Hatten

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has become a key lesson for English Language Arts classes, fostering meaningful connections and understanding among students and their teachers at many participating high schools. Amanda Howell of Rome High School shared her initial perception of the essay contest, admitting that she initially viewed it as just another assignment for grading. However, upon reading the first essays, she was amazed by the depth and uniqueness they brought.

*"Our relationships with our students have become so much richer and our ability to connect with those 180 students has been made so much better"* Howell states. Reflecting and writing the essay has led to life-changing perspectives, from student stories of resilience in overcoming challenges in foster care to discovering purpose through simple moments with family. [more]

## MEMBERSHIP ACTION PLAN

# ONBOARDING:

## *Your Ticket to **ENGAGED** Members*

- Unlock potential
- Increase impact
- Enhance participation

**REGISTER NOW!**



**MAP WEBINAR**  
FEBRUARY 12, 2024  
6PM EST

### Engaging Your Members

By Mandy Timmons

Please make plans to join the Zone 33 & 34 Membership teams (including some special guests from District 6900) for a webinar on February 12 at 6 pm EST to learn more about how to ENGAGE your new members - unlock your potential - increase impact and enhance participation! Let's all work together to find out how to develop ROTARIANS (and not just members)!!!

Use this link to register for the webinar

- <https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77666881&NoCaptcha> [more]

## HONOR ROLL SOCIETY

Honoring the Influential  
Teachers in Our Lives



2023-24 Most Nominated Teacher

*Patissia Childs*  
Greenville High School

# Congratulations!

## 2023-24 Nominated Teachers

- Patissia Childs - Greenville High School, Greenville, GA
- Shirley Bickford (ret) - Central High School, Carroll County, GA
- Dr. Linda Frye - Hart County High School, Hartwell, GA
- May Belle Reichenbach (ret) - Eastern High School, Louisville, KY
- Michael McIntyre - Osborne Middle School, Hoschton, GA
- Kim Kapella - Holcomb Bridge Middle School, Roswell, GA
- Dr. Asha Kapelina-Thomas - Atlanta Classical Academy, Atlanta, GA
- Jennifer Howell - Heritage High School, Conyers, GA
- Shannon Turner - Rockdale County High School, Conyers, GA
- Chris Terry - Nunaka Valley Elementary School, Anchorage, AK
- Shannon Juhan - Marist School, Atlanta, GA
- Tad Chitwood - Eastern High School, Louisville, KY
- Mrs. Maggie (ret) - Sophia School, Kota, Rajasthan, India
- Liz Rue - Eastern High School, Louisville, KY



Laws of Life

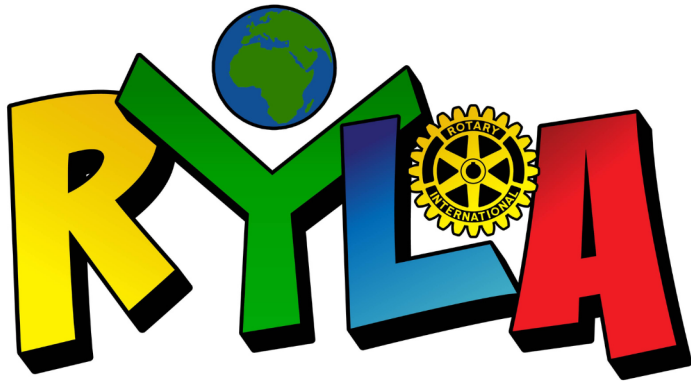
## Congratulations to Georgia Laws of Life Honor Roll Nominees

By Carol Gray Walker

It is our pleasure to announce that Patissia Childs of Greenville High School has received the most nominations for the first year of the Georgia Laws of Life Honor Roll Society. In all, 14 teachers were nominated to the society.

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the contest, GLL looked to honor the teachers who have shaped young minds and fostered a passion for learning. The Honor Roll Society was established to allow individuals to express appreciation for the influential educators in their lives. Georgia Rotary Clubs along with friends of the contest were invited to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$25 or more to GLL to nominate a deserving teacher. The Honor Roll Society closed its donations and nominations on January 12. [more]

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***June 8-12, 2024***

GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

***[www.RYLA6900.com](http://www.RYLA6900.com)***

RYLA Update

### **It's Time to Think About RYLA 2024**

By Jaclyn Donovan

It's a new year and that means it's time to start thinking about RYLA!! Not that we ever really stop thinking about RYLA... If you've never heard of RYLA, here's a quick introduction:

- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program that targets young adults, ages 15-18, to further develop character and leadership skills and learn about Rotary. RYLA in District 6900 is a 5-day summer camp experience.
- RYLA 2024 will be held June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. Cost per student is \$475, and this covers all necessary expenses related to attending RYLA. For any students riding our charter buses from the Atlanta area, there is an additional \$50/per student cost.

[more]

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GRSP News

## **GRSP Honors Teri White as First Frank Bentley, Sr. Fellow, Selects 24-25 Class**

By Kathyryne Fields  
At the mid-January GRSP Trustees Winter Business Meeting in Savannah, the GRSP Foundation inducted the first Frank Bentley Sr. Fellow to Teri Hurst White. Teri is a member of the Rotary Club of Thomasville and a GRSP Foundation Director. Cumulative contributions of \$25,000 or more earn the Frank Bentley, Sr. Fellow designation, honoring this past GRSP Endowment Chairman. Bentley guided the Endowment Fund in the 1990s to successful campaigns that established financial stability for GRSP. He was a member of the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs**. Trustees also selected students for scholarships for the Class of 2024-25. [more]

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Rotary Means Business

## **Join Us for Rotary Means Business on February 22**

By Carter Stout

Rotary Means Business will meet Thursday, February 22 from 6-8 PM at Ironhill Brewery - Perimeter. The Rotary Club of Roswell ... [more]

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## **RLI: A Wealth of Information ... Sign Up Now**

By Stephanie Windham  
The RLI Sunshine Division would like to thank the Rotary Club of Thomasville (and especially PE Marta Turner) for their hospitality and assistance in making RLI a success on January 13, 2024. We had a great group of Rotarians - participants and Discussion Leaders - and are looking forward to hosting additional onsite ... [more]



## **District Conference 2024 Coming to Jekyll? Where to Stay ...**

By Stephanie Windham  
Several hotels have room blocks reserved for us through February 21, 2024. BUT OUR BLOCKS ARE SELLING OUT QUICKLY!!! There are still rooms available, though, so make your reservations now to take advantage of these group rates. When making your reservation, please be sure and reference Rotary District 6900 2024. We still have room blocks available with the Courtyard by Marriott and The Residence Inn, which have a free island-wide shuttle; Hampton Inn & Suites; Seafarer Inn & Suites; Holiday Inn Resort; Villas by the Sea, and the Beachview Club Hotel. Our room blocks at The Westin and Home2Suites are sold out, but you can ask to be placed on the waiting list in case of cancellations. Read on for specific hotel information ... [more]



Our Rotary Foundation  
**Challenge Accepted, DG Andre!**

By Mandy Timmons  
At the beginning of the new Rotary year, the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** was given what seemed to be an unattainable goal for Foundation Giving for this year. Due to our record-setting year in 2022-2023 of \$97,000, our goal for this year was set at \$100,000 to be eligible for any district citations for the year. President Amy and Foundation Chair Will knew this would be one of the biggest challenges for the year and would need 100% participation from our club and our community to reach this goal. As with most things in Peachtree City, though, we did not shy away and simply put our heads together to come up with some creative ways to reach the new goal. We are proud to say that we have reached 110%+ of our goal for the year (over \$110,000 in Foundation giving) already by January 1 through these efforts and the commitment of our entire membership and the extended community! [more]

EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR



Our Rotary  
Foundation at  
Work

## North Fulton Provides Elementary School Art Kits to Help Students Express Emotion

By Lisa Gelber  
Rotary Club of  
North  
Fulton partnered  
with a local non-  
profit,  
ArtsAlpharetta, to  
create nearly 500  
Take Out Art Kits  
for elementary  
students in North  
Fulton. Did you  
know that art  
helps children  
express their  
emotions? This is  
critical with  
younger children  
who may not have  
adequate  
vocabulary to work  
out their feelings.  
This project is  
funded by a  
competitive grant  
awarded by Rotary  
District 6900 and  
has positively  
impacted the  
mental health of  
hundreds of  
elementary  
students in need.  
[more]

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## Celebrating Shared Success in Brazil

By Bob Koncerak

Alpharetta Rotary is proud to announce the 'grand opening' celebration on Saturday, April 13th of the APADPEL Down Syndrome Training and Education Center in Pelotas, R.S. Brazil.

14 Rotary clubs and 3 Interact clubs spanning three districts and two countries have partnered with universities, companies, local governments and the state of Rio Grande do Sul to construct a 6,600 sq. ft. facility to house occupational therapy and education for APADPEL -The Association of Parents of People with Down Syndrome of Pelotas. Training and education will be underwritten through a \$70,000 Global Grant approved by Rotary International in 2022. [more]



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## **Vinings Cumberland Supports LaAmistad**

By Brenda Borden  
**Vinings  
Cumberland  
Rotary** celebrated the holidays in a special way at their annual party this year! Members brought over 60 new unwrapped presents to be given to LaAmistad in addition to a \$1000 gift to such a worthwhile organization. LaAmistad is a non-profit founded in 2001 with the mission of preparing Latino students and families for success through academic and life enrichment program. Vinings Cumberland Rotarians also tutor and teach ESL in their center.  
[more]

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Club News  
**Roswell  
Police and  
Fire Chiefs  
Share State  
of  
Departments**

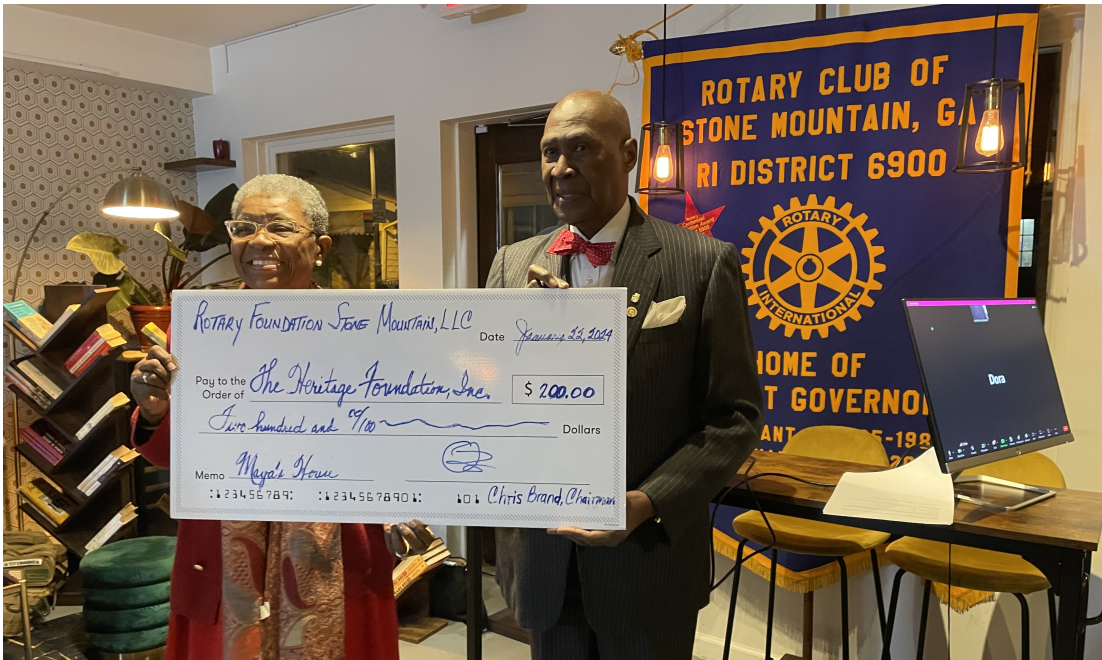
By Becky Nelson  
Roswell  
Rotary started 2024  
with hosting the  
Roswell Police Chief  
Jim Conroy and  
Roswell Fire Chief Joe  
Pennino in their  
annual State of the  
Departments update.  
Their collaboration,  
competition, and  
support of each other  
is enviable while we  
citizens continue to  
feel safe in our  
community. They are  
great examples of  
leadership for  
Roswell, Georgia.  
[more]



Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Marietta and North Cobb Team Up with Community Grant That Says Aloha to Aging

By Nancy Prochaska  
 The Rotary Club of Marietta and the Rotary Club of North Cobb have teamed up, and partnered with "Aloha to Aging, Inc." to provide educational and program resources to our area of 13 counties! District 6900 offered a Special District Grant to address mental health needs of our aging population. "Aloha to Aging, Inc." established in 2009, provides music and art therapy, day respite, caregiver support, and educational programming for those facing dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and general aging issues. The District Grant money is being used to purchase supplies and equipment so that "Aloha to Aging, Inc." can continue this important work. Click [AlohaToAging](http://AlohaToAging) and scroll down to Day in the Life for more information and the full schedule of programming. [more]



Club News

## DG Uplifts Stone Mountain Club with Her Song and Her Story

By Darlene Daly  
Accompanied by her husband, Evangelist Walter Marria, District Governor André Marria graced the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** (RCSM) as the distinguished guest during her Official Club visit on January 23. The event featured insightful presentations on RCSM by club leadership (see attachment), followed by a warm reception at The Vibrary, attended by Assistant Governor Villard (Ardy) Bastien, RCSM members, the Satellite Club, and honored guests. The following day, DG André embarked on illuminating tours of Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse and Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), with deep thanks expressed to both organizations for their gracious hospitality. RCSM members, the Satellite Club, and honored guests. The following day, DG André embarked on illuminating tours of Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse and Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), with deep thanks expressed to both organizations for their gracious hospitality. [more]



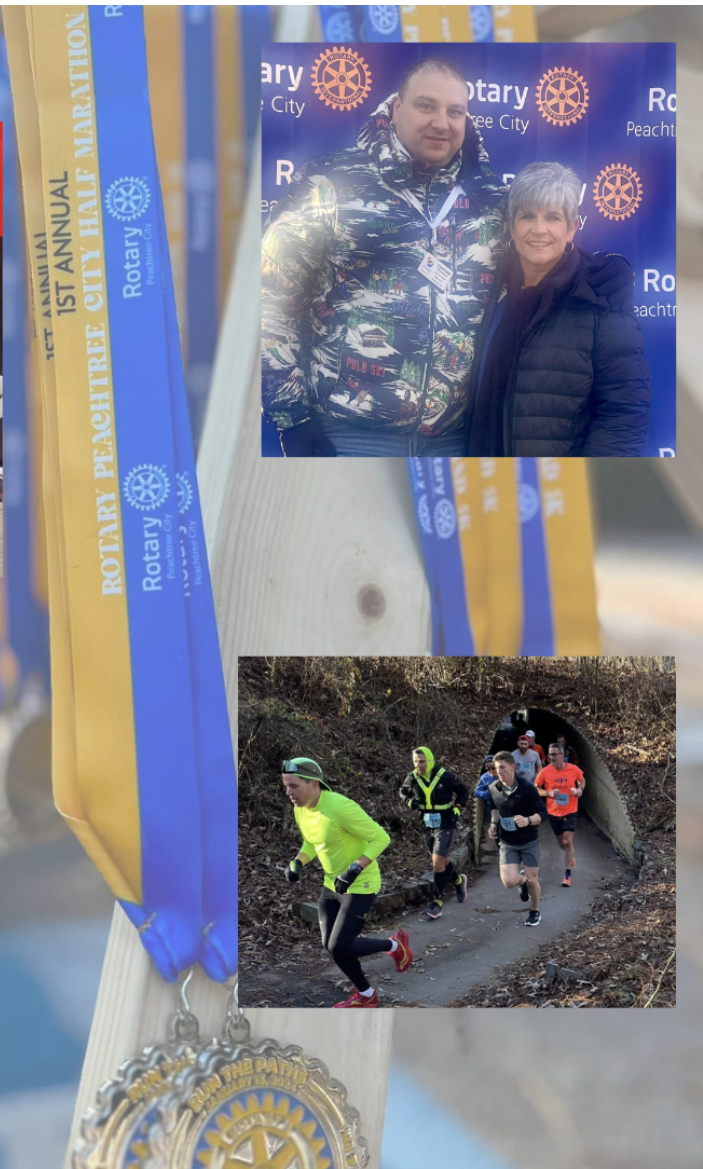
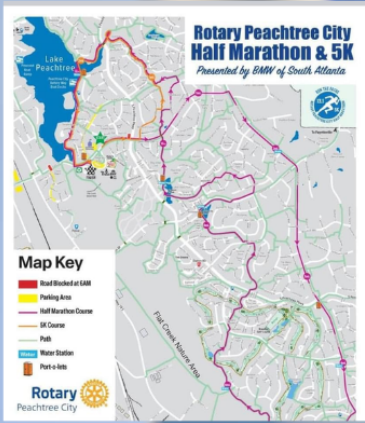
Club News  
**Roswell  
Brings  
Presents  
to Local  
Community**

By Becky Nelson  
**Roswell Rotary** is proud of all we accomplished in December! Man, have we been busy: We partnered with the Friends of Bulloch Hall to bring Christkindlmarket to Roswell from Nov 24-Dec 24. Strolling the authentic German Village on the historic Bulloch Home campus has brought what we hope will be a new annual tradition to our ... [more]

Club News

## Peachtree City Hosts Only Winter Half Marathon on Atlanta's South Side

By Holly Davanzo  
The only half marathon on the south side of Atlanta during the winter months led to an amazing event hosted by the Rotary Club of Peachtree City! The frigid temperatures for an 8:00 start time didn't stop 600+ runners from showing up for our first (of many to come) half marathons in PTC! With the history of the club hosting the Grand Prix Series for the last 18 years, it was an easier than expected transition into a Half Marathon. "Run the Paths" was the theme as 90%+ of the course was across the golf cart paths of Peachtree City. With support from over 100 local (non-Rotarian) volunteers and ALL of the club members, it was a very successful event - raising funds for our charity partners and bringing our community together in a big way!  
[more]





Club News

## **Griffin Daybreak Speaker Underscores Rotary's Focus on Mental Health**

By Debby Daniel-Bryant  
Johntavious Jones, owner of CEED Community Enrichment, presented a program on mental health to Griffin Daybreak Rotary recently. He highlighted definitions of mental health as well as some common problems and treatments. Addressing mental health is a special focus for Rotary International President Gordon McInally this year. [more]



Club News  
**Douglas  
County  
High  
School  
Interact  
Club  
Serves  
Community**

By Nell Boggs  
Rotary Club of  
Douglas  
County believes in  
investing in young  
people. Part of this  
commitment is  
demonstrated  
through the  
sponsorship of  
several Interact  
Clubs in local  
middle and high  
schools and the  
funding of two or  
three students to  
attend RYLA each  
summer.  
This year  
the Interact Club at  
Douglas County  
High  
School collaborated  
with Keep  
Douglasville  
Beautiful in a  
Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day of Service  
project at their  
school. Volunteers  
mulched and  
pruned more than  
60 trees planted  
along Campbellton  
Road on the school  
campus. [more]

# Human Trafficking is happening every day in the US. **#WEARBLUEDAY**



**Rotary**  
Peachtree City



## Club News **Peachtree City Wears Blue**

By Holly Davanzo  
#WearBlueDay was established by the US Dept of Homeland Security and is a way to help raise awareness of the Human Trafficking crisis in the US and around the world. As we have learned over the years through the End HT Now platform, human trafficking happens everywhere - rural areas, cities ... [more]