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### The James Miller III Scholarship



Jim Miller

Rotarian Jim Miller joined the Legacy Society in 2012 with the donation of two insurance policies to the RCM Community Trust. The eventual proceeds of the insurance policies will fund an endowed scholarship in honor of his son, James Miller, III, who passed away that year.

Now Jim and his wife, Victoria, have enhanced their gift with a commitment to make an annual

donation of \$2,500 to the scholarship program. This means that we will award the first James Miller III scholarship in 2017. Jim and Victoria will enjoy seeing the scholarship awarded this year and for years to come.

This generous gift to the Scholarship Fund is in keeping with Jim's deep dedication to education. He was a major driver in the development of the Scholarship Program, beginning with the ad hoc committee that met in 2008, which matured into the standing Scholarship Committee a year later. The goal of the committee is to award scholarships to MPS graduates who have potential, but aren't necessarily at the top of their classes. These need-based scholarships, which include mentoring from Rotarians, help students who may otherwise not have the funds or guidance necessary to continue with their education.

With the recent addition of 4 new award recipients, the RCM Scholarship Program will have 22 scholars enrolled in higher education this fall. The program is supported by the proceeds of the RCM Scholarship Golf Classic.

Jim is a mentor for scholar Brandon Holmes, a student at UW-Oshkosh. According to Jim,

*"the best way to build Milwaukee is to educate people."*

Jim is living this credo through his extensive work with the Scholarship committee and through his generous contributions. 🌀

### 2020 Projects Narrowed Down to Five

In keeping with our legacy of initiating enduring projects in our community, RCM put out a call to Rotarians to recommend what our next big project should be. We received nine proposals and the 2020 Project Selection committee has narrowed them down to five in their first round of selections. The five proposals below will make a formal presentation to the club in mid to late March. Read more about the proposals below.

#### Rotary Grows Program

In partnership with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and Milwaukee Public Schools, this proposal will create a "Rotary Grows Program" to teach MPS students to grow fresh, healthy food year-round utilizing an environmentally sustainable easy to use indoor growing system.

#### Milwaukee Public Library Learning Commons

Milwaukee Public Library proposes to design and deliver services to support job seekers and entrepreneurs at the Central Library.

#### Supporting Communities through Greening Our Schools

RCM would partner with the nonprofit Reflo and the Green School Consortium of Milwaukee to support the development of important eco-literacy curriculum connections. This project would provide funding for three schools for three years to implement eco-literacy curriculum.

#### Milwaukee Community Equestrian Center

An accomplished group of civic, law enforcement, community development and human service leaders have completed plans for a 30,000 square foot Milwaukee Community Equestrian Center that will house 24 horses. RCM's contribution will help create the center and capacity-building funds for the first three years of therapy operations.

#### Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

The MSO proposes to find a new home while preserving an architectural gem, the historic Grand Theater. 🌀

## RCM Scholarship Brunch

On January 7th, RCM scholars gathered with their parents and mentors at the Pfister Hotel for brunch to share lessons and experiences from the last semester. Our 22 scholars are starting their spring semester at 12 colleges. To get involved with the RCM Scholarship program, contact RCM Scholarship co-chairs Eric Isbister or Jon Dehlinger. 🌐



*RCM scholars gathered in a student session led by Rotarian Margaret Crawford.*



*RCM scholars Aaliyah Rodgers, Armonie Dotson and Marquise Mays (Top).*



*RCM scholar Shawn Turner shared his experience and lessons as a student at Marquette University.*

## Recruiting Emerging Leaders to RCM

*By Matt Hunter and Beth Heller, Co-chairs of the RCM Recruitment and Admissions Committee*

Last August RCM held its first “*Connecting with Rotary: Young Professionals Series*” to engage with emerging leaders in our community. The Recruitment and Admissions committee recently reflected on the series and recognized two kinds of energy in the room during the events in August.

One energy was positive, interested and engaging. Connecting with our future leaders felt rewarding and exciting. At the same time, there was recognition that many of these young professionals who attended the August programs would not be considered eligible for club membership.

In response to the *Connecting with Rotary: Young Professionals Series*, the Recruitment and Admissions Committee with the Board of Directors’ approval developed an “Emerging Leaders” recruitment strategy designed to bring young professional members into the club.

RCM aims to recruit 6-8 Rotarians per year over the next three years via the Emerging Leaders strategy. To be considered for this membership, emerging leaders must meet the following requirements.

1. Proposed by at least two current RCM members.
2. Demonstrated interest in Rotary’s mission.
3. Civic engagement: at least three years of community engagement/volunteerism at a minimum of two different organizations; ideally one of these is at a non-profit board or advisory committee level.
4. Professional Leadership Potential: at least three years of professional experience in their current field.

For more information, please contact the Rotary office. 🌐

## 2017 Scholarship Golf Classic

Take advantage of the early bird registration rates for our eighth annual Scholarship Golf Classic raising money for the Rotary Scholarship Fund.

**The event and dinner will be on Monday, June 19th at the Wisconsin Club Country Club.** Enjoy one of the finest championship golf courses and lush surroundings. The 6,700 yard par 72 course is a golfer's dream.

Early bird registration rates are \$1,100 for a foursome, \$275 for an individual golfer and \$60 for a dinner guest through May 5th. After May 5th, rates increase to \$1,200 for a foursome, \$300 for an individual golfer and dinner guests remain at \$60.

More information is available on our website or contact the Rotary office at [info@milwaukee Rotary.com](mailto:info@milwaukee Rotary.com).



*Teams gathered together at our 2016 Scholarship Golf Classic.*

## Most Improved Reader Awards at Brown Street Academy

The RCM Reading Initiative at Brown Street Academy (BSA) was started in the Fall of 2012. This semester nearly 80 volunteers tutored challenged children and devoted nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer time.

On December 9th students who earned the Most Improved Readers in each classroom were honored at an awards ceremony. Each of the students – a boy and girl from K5 to 5th grade – received a brand new bicycle! The students have worked hard this semester and Rotarians and UWM students have been dedicated to helping BSA students learn to read proficiently.



*Most Improved Reader recipients smile with their new bikes and certificates.*



*Rotarian Barbara Velez gathered with students to celebrate their accomplishments.*

**Want to become a volunteer at Brown Street Academy?**

Contact the Rotary office!

## Spring Home Hosted Dinners

The Member Engagement Committee invites you to join them in their next Home Hosted Dinners held on **Friday, April 21st**.



your guest will get assigned to one party to attend.

We had our first set of Home Hosted Dinners in April 2016 and then again in September 2016, totalling over 100 Rotarians that participated! Contact the Rotary office to register for our next set on Friday, April 21st. ☺

The purpose of RCM's Home Hosted Dinners is for members and their guests to be able to get to know each other in an informal setting outside of Tuesday luncheons. We will have several Rotarians who are opening up their homes to groups of Rotarians. You and

## Board Approves New Members

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed two new members.

**Tim Hunter**  
**Wolf Star Technologies**  
Engineering Consultant  
*Proposer: Ed Krishok*

**Dawn Rolison**  
**HGA Architects and Engineers**  
Architecture  
*Proposer: Bill Sheahan*

## SPEAKER *schedule*

**FEBRUARY 7th** - Rotarian **David Haynes**, Editorial Page Editor of the Journal Sentinel, will interview **Katherine Cramer**, author of *The Politics of Resentment* which shows that rural resentment—no less than partisanship, race, or class—plays a major role in dividing America against itself. Published in early 2016, Dr. Cramer explores an often overlooked reality: rural political consciousness and the resentment of the “liberal elite.” Rural voters are distrustful that politicians will respect the distinct values of their communities and allocate a fair share of resources. One result is that the very people who stand to benefit from strong government services not only vote against the candidates who support those services but are vehemently against the very idea of big government. Although the book is a study of Wisconsin politics, this played out nationally in the 2016 presidential election.

**FEBRUARY 14th** - Past President **John Ridley, M.D.** will share with the club facts on American History - What's New is Old (understanding where we are by looking back).

**FEBRUARY 21st** - **Charlie Sykes**, long time host of WTMJ Radio 620's Midday talk show, stepped down from his post at the end of the year. He is now a contributor to MSNBC and was

recently named one of the hosts of "Indivisible," a show on WNYC, public radio's flag ship station in New York City. Sykes is the author of eight books including *A Nation of Victims*, *Dumbing Down Our Kids*, *ProfScam*, *The Hollow Men*, *The End of Privacy*, *50 Rules Kids Won't Learn In School*, *A Nation of Moochers*, and *Fail U*. He is editor-in-chief of RightWisconsin.com and also edits WI Interest, a magazine published by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute. He is a former reporter for *The Milwaukee Journal* and former editor of *Milwaukee Magazine*. He is currently working a book titled, "*How the Right Lost It's mind*," which will be published later this year by St. Martin's Press.

**FEBRUARY 28th** - As a co-founder of Gener8tor, a Milwaukee startup accelerator program, **Joe Kirgues** has helped dozens of new businesses refine their strategies, raise capital and connect with customers. Through his leadership in Wisconsin's entrepreneurial community, Gener8tor has become a nationally recognized program. Kirgues' personal involvement and advice to help startups succeed expresses his passion for growing businesses, as does his ability to educate investors and angel groups to consider supporting new startups in a new way.



## **William Brash**

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Judge Brash currently serves as an Appellate Court Judge for the District I Court of Appeals in the State of Wisconsin. Prior to assuming this position, Bill served as a Circuit Court Judge for Milwaukee County from 2001 to 2015. He also served as a Municipal Judge from 1985-1997, and as a Reserve Municipal Judge for Milwaukee County from 1997-2001. Before becoming a circuit court judge, Bill worked in private practice and the business sector from 1978 to 2001, and served as a trustee for the Village of Fox Point from 1998 to 2001.



## **Michelle Havas**

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Michelle Havas is an Assistant District Attorney who is running unopposed for Circuit Court Judge in Milwaukee County. She has spent 28 years in the local legal community in various roles, working her way from legal secretary to Judge. Michelle is married and has two daughters, ages 10 and 12. She has lived in Milwaukee County for all of her life and recognizes all of the unique and wonderful things about this county so she is thrilled to continue her public service to enhance those positives as well as working to address the issues that exist.



## **Anne Summers**

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Anne Summers serves as Executive Director of Brico Fund, responsible for strategic direction, development and management of initiatives and grant-making. An Illinois native, Anne holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Cardinal Stritch University. She serves on the national boards of the Funders Committee for Civic Participation and League of Conservation Voters. Anne helped found its Wisconsin affiliate, Wisconsin Voices. Locally, she serves on the board of Harbor District Inc, co-hosts the Collaborative Fund to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and previously served on the board of the Wisconsin Philanthropy Network. Anne lives in Glendale with her husband, Gary.



## **Scott Wales**

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Scott Wales, an attorney who is running for Circuit Court Judge, has 29 years of litigation experience. He earned his B.A. in History and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983, and obtained his J.D. in 1987 from the University of Miami Law School. Since 1992, he has taught as an adjunct instructor at MATC in the Paralegal Department. In 2009 he was elected by the residents Fox Point to serve as their Municipal Judge. He has since been reelected to two additional terms. Scott and his wife Michelle have two teenage daughters and reside in the Village of Fox Point.

## Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust:

### *RCM Support of the Milwaukee Fisher House*

*By George Solveson, Past Chair of the Military Service Support Committee*

In August 2016, a brand new Dodge Grand Caravan, valued at about \$25,000, was donated to the Milwaukee VA Fisher House. Fisher House is a national program that provides military families housing so they can be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury. (It's like a Ronald McDonald House for Veterans)

The vehicle was provided through the generous support and work of community partners, including:

Rotary Club of Milwaukee Community Trust  
Herb Kohl Philanthropies  
Ewald Automotive Group  
Emil Ewald Family Foundation, Inc.  
Milwaukee Armed Services Committee  
Milwaukee North Shore Rotary Club



*August 26, 2016: Curtis S. Peck, Executive Director, Fisher House Wisconsin (on right) handing the keys to Daniel S. Zomchek, Ph.D., Medical Center Director/CEO (on left).*

The beautiful, new Milwaukee VA Fisher House which opened in April 2016 accommodates 16 families. It is located at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center (Milwaukee VA Medical Center). From receiving its first guests on April 25, 2016 to the end of December, 2016, 460 families were served at the Fisher House.

The needs for a Fisher House are significant. Veterans from 26 states travel to the Milwaukee VA Medical Center for treatment at the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Treatment Center. Overall, approximately 50,000 veterans receive treatment at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center.

Families who stay at the Fisher House must live more than fifty miles from Milwaukee and show a financial need in order to qualify for accommodations. In many cases, the primary wage earner in the family is the veteran who is hospitalized, resulting in significant financial burdens being placed on families. Families often have to choose between being near their loved one being treated at the hospital and remaining at home to provide some financial and emotional stability for the family. To reduce some of the financial burden, accommodations at the Fisher House are provided at no cost to qualifying families because having family members near the hospitalized veteran is good medicine and contributes to their recovery.



*Milwaukee VA Fisher House.*

This van will meet the transportation needs of the families staying at the Fisher House. For example, they sometimes need rides to and from train and bus terminals, the airport, to stores to purchase personal necessities, and to concerts and sporting events to use donated tickets.

The Military Services Support Committee (MSSC) worked diligently to secure cooperation from various auto dealers and funding from various sources. With the help of community partners, the Military Service Community successfully led the efforts to gift a van to the Fisher House. 🌟

