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### Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin Celebrates 35 years of Service

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is celebrating 35 years of service to our community. Rotary has had strong ties with Feeding America since its inception.

Before Feeding America's grand opening in 1982, Dr. Milton J. Huber, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, suggested to Rotarians Prince Davis and Art Riemer that the Rotary Club of Milwaukee should adopt a food bank project to give excess food to people facing hunger. For the next two years, they worked hard to gain support of more than 100 fellow Rotarians, to gather research and to secure funding. Then in 1982, the Rotary Club of Milwaukee proudly established the community food bank known as Second Harvest, now Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

To continue our strong ties, three of Feeding America's executive leaders has been a member of Rotary - Gwen McLean, Bonnie Bellehumeur and Charles McLimans.

In addition, 11 of the 16 past chairs of the Feeding America Board were also Rotarians: Price Davis, Bernard Peck, Russell Boehm, Wesley Scott, Ed Heinecke, Richard Schmidt, Roger Dirksen, Daniel Switzer, Edward Heiser, Jr., John C. Walker and Jim Milner.



Group of Rotarians gathered for a picture while volunteering at Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

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### 2018 Rotary Person of the Year

*By Jeff Fleming, RPY Committee Chair*

The Rotary Club of Milwaukee has no higher honor than the Rotary Person of the Year Award. Annually, our club honors an accomplished local individual who has distinguished herself or himself with professional accomplishments. Unlike other awards that recognize civic and philanthropic achievements, the Rotary Person of the Year honors leaders who build, employ, and have an economic impact in our region.

Last year we celebrated Bob Hillis, the founder and CEO of Direct Supply, a national leader in supplying and supporting senior living facilities. Over the past three decades, Bob grew this Milwaukee-based company from an idea into a business that employs more than one-thousand people.



*Jeff Fleming, Bob Hillis, Past President Nancy Sennett.*

We now ask you, who should be our 2018 Rotary Person of the Year?

A committee of your fellow Rotarians is responsible for determining the award recipient. It's a straight forward process in which the nominees' attributes are scrutinized and compared. The impressive list is narrowed, and one award winner is selected.

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## SCHOLAR CORNER - Dah Dah Poe



Dah Dah Poe

Since 2015 I have been blessed to be a Rotary Scholar. The RCM Scholarship Program is crucial to my education. Not only does it provide financial support but the help of my mentors is invaluable.

My goal is to become a Physician Assistant (PA) and there are many requirements that I need to fulfill before I apply to PA schools. Luckily, I've received tremendous help from my mentors Jim Maslowski and Kurt Janavitz. They have opened doors for me to get real-world experience from practicing Physician Assistants. With their support, I have shadowed and completed

informational interviews with several physical assistants that work in the hospital setting.

This upcoming December during my winter break, I will participate in a volunteer internship with Partners in Thailand for four weeks. I will provide basic healthcare in the Karen community at the Lay Tong Khu Clinic. Rotary's scholarship funding has allowed me to participate in this unique international volunteer opportunity in Thailand.

Overall, without Rotary's support and my mentors, I wouldn't be able to chase my dreams of becoming a Physician Assistant. 🌟

## 2018 Rotary Person of the Year *continued from page one*

It is important to note, the most important step in the process is not in the hands of the committee. The secret to a successful Rotary Person of the Year selection is the nomination submissions from RCM members. Those nominations insure that top quality candidates are considered by the committee, and the brief text submitted by the nominator presents information committee members will include in their review. So, please consider nominating an individual you think would be a good candidate.

The purpose of this award highlights the Second Objective of Rotary:

- to foster high ethical standards in business and the professions
- to recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations
- to dignify each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

As such, past Rotary Person of the Year Award recipients include individuals who:

- through their profession have made the community a better place to live and work.
- and have shown outstanding leadership in the advancement of ideas, products or services.

The Rotary Person of the Year Committee requests that nominators follow these guidelines:

- Describe why you think the individual you're nominating meets our criteria and should receive the award.
- Nominations should be one page or less in length and must be submitted electronically as a Word document.
- Submit a one page attachment if necessary to highlight or note any special attributes beyond what you have written in your nomination.
- Send your nomination and attachment to: [rpy@milwaukeeerotary.com](mailto:rpy@milwaukeeerotary.com).

Our 2018 recipient will be announced in the late spring. We will present the award at a June Rotary meeting.

**The deadline for submitting nominations will be Monday, January 15th.** 🌟

## Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin Celebrates 35 years of Service *continued from page one*

The Feeding America warehouses in Milwaukee and the Fox Valley distribute more than 21.2 million pounds of food a year 125 mobile pantries, meal programs and other nonprofit agencies that serve 400,000 people in eastern Wisconsin.

Rotary is pleased to continue its partnership with Feeding America by making an annual donation to them from the RCM Community Trust. In addition, we host two Done-in-a-Day volunteer events to help repackage food for those in need in our community.

Our next volunteer opportunity at Feeding America will be on Saturday, November 11th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Contact the Rotary office to sign up! 🌻



*Members sorting food.*

### **SPEAKER** *schedule*

**NOVEMBER 7th - Jon Wile** is vice president of content for American City Business Journals, which operates 43 business newspapers and websites across the United States, including the award-winning Milwaukee Business Journal. Wile oversaw a nine-month investigation by all of ACBJ's newsrooms to document the systematic expansion of Amazon.com, from Class A office spaces in the nation's largest cities to former cornfields and barren industrial spaces long abandoned by industries of old. The company's growth, while massive in scope, has hinged on negotiations with local officials, deals with local real estate developers and tax breaks blessed by local municipalities in excess of \$1.2 billion. Join us to learn more about his findings.

**NOVEMBER 14th** - An expert on East Asian regional security issues, **Philip Yun** is the Executive Director of Ploughshares Fund, a public foundation working to reduce nuclear threats and eliminate nuclear weapons. Mr. Yun was a presidential appointee at the US Department of State (1994-2001), serving as Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. He served as senior advisor to two US Coordinators for North Korea Policy and was part of the US delegation that traveled to North Korea with Secretary of State Madeline Albright in 2000. He will address growing concerns about and threats from North Korea, including the North's nuclear and missile capability, their strategic motivations, and what the implications might be for South Korea, Japan and China.

**NOVEMBER 21st** - More than 150 years ago, the Milwaukee Soldiers Home, a National Historic Landmark, was established as a place for Civil War soldiers to recuperate and transition back into society. Though many of the Soldiers Home buildings remain in use, some of the most important and historic – including the iconic Old Main – are unoccupied and rapidly deteriorating. However, thanks to a new redevelopment project, that is about to change. Join us as **David Uihlein**, of Uihlein/Wilson Architects, shares the vision for returning six historic buildings to their original purpose: the service veterans. Because every hero deserves a home.

**NOVEMBER 28th** - Assistant District Attorney **Laura Crivello** and Special Agent **Bodo Gajevic** will discuss the function and mission of the North Central HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) and the roles they play within this program. ADA Crivello and Agent Gajevic will present a “visual journey” revealing information relative to the powerful addiction of heroin and the abuse and destruction that is presently occurring in Milwaukee County. They will also discuss the current drug trends, operational changes for law enforcement, and gang violence focusing on how drug trafficking organizations instill fear and use violence as a way to not only gain power but to also regulate heroin sales.

## Board Approves New Members

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

**Mark Kosobucki**  
**Holton Brothers Inc**  
Construction  
*Proposer: Darren Miller*

**Brenda Skelton**  
**Siebert Lutheran Foundation**  
Charitable Foundation  
*Proposer: JoAnne Anton*

**Kimberly Walker**  
**Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee**  
Human Services  
*Proposer: Mary McCormick*

## Rotary's Work in La Laguna *continued from page six*

A WASH education program at the two schools will address sanitation not only specific to the use and maintenance of new toilets and handwashing stations, but also regarding their changed lives at homes that now have running water. The curriculum will support proper operation and maintenance of the home taps, and also include water conservation. The WASH education will also focus its attention on proper hygiene and how the availability of water and its use can help prevent disease.

This Global Grant will continue a successful collaboration with the Guatemalan NGO la Asociación de Comités Comunitarios Medio Ambiental de la Región Ixil (ACCMARI), the municipality of Nebaj, communities in the Ixil Triangle of Guatemala, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), and Masters of Sustainable Peacebuilding (MSP) staff and students, in addition to the Rotary Club of Milwaukee (RCM) and the Huehuetenango Rotary Club (GHH). 🌐



*Everyone in the community pitched in as they were able.*

# WELCOME *new members*



**Virginia Finn**  
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President of Athlone Consulting LLC, Ginny has two decades of business and tax exempt organization experience, working with family foundations, local organizations (e.g., MSO and YWCA), and national health initiatives. Following law practice at Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, Ginny served as a Development Director at UWM and for 10 years was Executive Director of ABCD: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis. A past Board member of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, she currently serves on Ascension Wisconsin's Institutional Review Board. Ginny is a graduate of Coe College, Purdue University, UW Law School and Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program.



**Ben Hannemann**  
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Ben Hannemann is manager of marketing and communications for The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation and Bradley Impact Fund. Ben has spent his career partnering with senior leadership to build brands, strengthen relationships, and drive desired results through integrated marketing communications. Previously, Ben was Director of Mission Advancement for Partners Advancing Values in Education, after spending 12 years in progressive leadership roles at Versant, a Milwaukee-based marketing firm. Ben serves on multiple boards and committees for Lutheran K-12 schools and non-profits that serve Milwaukee's urban community. He received his BA from UW-Madison in 1999. Ben and his wife Rebecca live on Milwaukee's north side with their three children, Henry (7), Elsa (5) and Lucie (1).



**Maggy Oplinger**  
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Maggy was raised in Milwaukee and after 15 years of detours through Montreal, Vienna, and tiny European towns she returned home. She worked on the sales and innovation teams at Johnson Controls before she joined the Milwaukee Symphony staff. As a former opera singer, she's delighted to pair music with design thinking. Maggy holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music from McGill University, as well as a graduate degree in Administration from Molson School of Business. She's a certified usability expert and worked as a French-English translator. Maggy's four children (five and under) are bilingual bookworms and curious, creative people! Maggy enjoys learning secret family recipes, discovering local hotspots, and supporting the arts and learning in all forms.



**Jim Villa**  
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Jim Villa is the CEO of the Wisconsin Chapter of NAIOP, the commercial real estate development association. His experience includes advising elected leaders and political candidates at the local, state, and national levels, working with businesses to develop plans to achieve their full potential, and growing strong organizations focused on building communities through economic development and job creation. Jim is a resident of Milwaukee County and a Marquette University and Marquette University High School alum. He serves as the Vice Chair of the Wisconsin State Fair Park Board and Co-Chair of the American Lung Association – Wisconsin 2018 Oxygen Ball.

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

### *Rotary's Work in La Laguna*

The primary focus of our club's recent trips to the Guatemalan Highlands was in Nebaj area in the Ixil Triangle. For the last third of the 20th century, the area was ravaged by a bitter civil war, and many of its residents are sustenance farmers, plowing with oxen and planting with sticks in villages accessible only by mountainous, rutted, dirt roads – many of which the Milwaukeeans traversed.

The travelers were careful to listen to the needs expressed by Guatemalans rather than make offers of help without consultation. La Laguna, a village in Nebaj, asked for help in addressing two critical issues: they want a reliable water system that is under their community's control, and they want access to education for sanitation and health.

This Global Grant will build a gravity fed potable water distribution system in the village of La Laguna. This grant will also construct handwashing stations and toilets at the community's two schools and offer water and sanitation hygiene (WASH) education.

The potable water component of the project will include a conveyance pipeline, chlorinator, distribution pipelines, and a tap with a valve box and flow reducer to most of the 550 La Laguna homes. The WASH construction component will install an 8-tap Handwashing Station and 5-cabin toilet with septic tank at La Laguna School, and upgrade the handwashing station and toilets and install a concrete floor in the classrooms at Jalechi School.



*Rotary members during the most recent trip to Guatemala.*

Our club members decided to take this on and, under the capable leadership of Jerry Stepaniak, put together a Global Grant proposal which combines money from local clubs with district funds and dollars from Rotary International. The total value of the grant is just over \$50,000. \$20,000 came from the International Project Fund of the RCM Community and direct donations from our members. The balance was contributed by Rotary International and our district.



*Construction is well under way! The men, women and children of the community pitch in alongside the hired labor to dig trenches and lay pipe.*

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