



# The Rotary Club of Gainesville

The Rotary Club of Gainesville, founded in 1923, has more than 200 members and is a part of Rotary International – an organization of nearly 34,000 service clubs worldwide dedicated to humanitarian efforts. The club demonstrates the Rotary motto of “service above self” and this year’s Rotary International theme of “Reach within to embrace humanity” through its work in the local community, the nation, and to the global community.

## LOCAL SERVICE

### *Ramp projects help home bound citizens*

- Club members volunteer their time and club funds to build ramps for area residents with limited mobility and financial resources.
- The Rotary Club of Gainesville has built 40 ramps, 13 of those completed in 2011.
- Residents who were once considered home bound were able to leave their homes without assistance after the ramps were installed.

### *Education and Literacy Support*

Because education is so important to our community’s well-being, the Rotary Club of Gainesville is committed to supporting area schools and students in various ways, including:

- Recognizing area fifth-graders who have distinguished themselves at their schools. Students are treated to a limousine ride from their schools to attend a club meeting with their parents and teachers.
- Donating books to area elementary schools in honor of the club’s guest speakers.
- Helping area teenagers learn the importance of service to their communities through support of high school Interact Clubs and their service projects, like the 2011 effort to raise funds for Shelter Boxes for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

## NATIONAL SERVICE

### *A simple solution - shaving cream - saves soldiers’ lives*

In response to a need identified by Rotarian Tony Herdener whose son is a Marine and was serving in the dangerous area of Sangin, Afghanistan, the Rotary Club of Gainesville spearheaded a community campaign, Operation Shaving Cream, to collect and ship more than 10,000 cans of shaving cream to U.S. Marines serving in Afghanistan, where the soldiers use the foam to mark sites of roadside bombs or improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Though they had tried several things to mark possible bomb locations, such as spray paint, nothing seemed to work as well as shaving cream, which marks the dangerous spot for troops moving through but dissipates before enemy forces can see it. Previously, the IEDs had been responsible for many injuries and deaths, but Operation Shaving Cream is attributed with saving countless limbs and lives. The community response was so great that the shipments of shaving cream were able to be distributed to other units in need of supplies as well. Herdener’s son’s battalion of more than 1,000 Marines returned to the United States in fall 2011, and though many of his company of 200 Marines had suffered some injuries during their service, 100 percent of Marines in his company survived their tour of duty and returned to the United States.



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

### *Polio Eradication*

Polio-Plus, a campaign designed to eradicate polio in the world, has been a major emphasis of Rotary International for decades. Gainesville Rotarian Bill St. Clair is this year’s Rotary District Governor and is helping promote Rotary’s continued work toward eradicating polio worldwide.

- Since its launch in 1985, reported cases have dropped from 350,000 to less than 2,000 cases a year.
- Today, only four countries in the world are still fighting polio, Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- The Gainesville Rotary Club donated more than \$6,000 toward Polio Plus this past year.



### *Georgia Rotary Study Program*

The Rotary Club of Gainesville participates in the Georgia Rotary Study Program (GRSP), which allows international students to travel to Georgia and stay with a host family while pursuing their education at an American university.

- The 2011-12 GRSP student sponsored by the Rotary Club of Gainesville is Becky Love from Balerno in Edinburgh, Scotland. Love, 18, is a freshman theatre student at Brenau University and has performed at the International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh.
- Gainesville Rotarian Lee Highsmith and her family are Love’s hosts.
- This year, Georgia has 55 GRSP students from 20 countries attending 28 colleges.



## JOIN US

Rotary President Martha Nesbitt and the Rotary Club of Gainesville invite you to visit a meeting soon.

### **Club meetings**

Mondays - Lunch, noon; Meeting, 12:30  
Banquet Hall at First Baptist Church on Green Street

# Reach Within to Embrace Humanity