**Wilsonville Rotary Story**

**INTERNATIONAL CITIES OF PEACE**

ROTARY APPLICATION

The Rotary Club of Wilsonville, Oregon, founded in 1975, has been serving our growing community for five decades. We are engaged in many ongoing and one-time service projects that meet the needs in Wilsonville and the international community. We also have a lot of fun, build long-lasting friendships, and provide personal growth and leadership opportunities for our members. At our regular Thursday noon meetings, we enjoy close fellowship and stay informed on topics that are relevant to our community. We learn from guest speakers and members who are business experts, civic leaders and entrepreneurs. We offer opportunities for our members and community members interested in making a difference to get involved. When we get together, our members learn about the issues facing our community and other communities all over the world. We partner with local, national and global experts to exchange ideas about potential solutions. Then, we create action plans to respond and carry out service projects.

Our club is a proud part of the Wilsonville community and of Rotary International. Rotary is a global network of more than 1.2 million members who believe that great things happen when dedicated minds come together. We are community and business leaders representing different professions, experiences, and perspectives, but with a shared desire to connect with others to address the challenges affecting our community and communities around the world. We communicate internally and externally through our various directorates and committees utilizing our web site [www.wilsonvillerotary.com](http://www.wilsonvillerotary.com), a weekly emailed newsletter, and in-person/ZOOM meetings

The Things We Do

Through A Child’s Eyes (TACE)

TACE is an acronym for “Through A Child’s Eyes.” Since 2001it has been a partnership between the Wilsonville Rotary Foundation and the state’s only women’s prison, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. Studies show children of incarcerated parents often have social and academic challenges and have up to six times the risk of their peers for juvenile delinquency, depression, drug abuse, and eventual incarceration. The TACE program facilitates bonding opportunities for inmate mothers and their children, with a goal of encouraging more positive relationships between them, both while the women are at Coffee Creek and after they are back with their children.

Each year a two-day summer event is held inside the prison yard. It is an opportunity for inmate mothers to practice their bonding and parenting skills. Inmates must earn the right to participate by taking parenting classes and exhibit good behavior. This event is the only event of its complexity in the United States staged inside prison fences. Between children, moms, volunteers and staff, about 800 people attend. Moms and kids take part in interactive games, crafts, reading, and other positive activities. They enjoy a BBQ meal together and discuss what is happening in their children’s lives. Best of all, there’s lots of time for hugs and kisses. For four hours, no one sees the fences or concertina wire, they only see each other.

The results of the 2024 Summer Event have been amazing. Here are comments from two Adults in Custody who have participated in the TACE program:

“It was the closest I’ve come to feeling human and being able to set aside the guilt I feel on a dailybasis.” ... Adult in Custody, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

“Before arriving at CCCF, my life had become unmanageable and my behavior out of control. I am not proud of my past, but I am taking personal charge of cleaning up my life while incarcerated. The TACE event provided me the opportunity to realize how important my recovery is to me, but also to my children.” … Adult in Custody, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

The TACE program has almost 200 volunteers from 31 different communities. Some are Rotarians, some from religious affiliations, some from service-oriented businesses such as Fred Meyer, and dozens more who want to help with this unique program. All show unconditional love and serve as non-judgmental role models. The program is bolstered by tremendous support from the staff and the inmates at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility.

Funds to support TACE come from grants from OrePac Building Products Inc., Stimson Lumber Company, and the OCF Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation.

Since 2012, Rotarians have promoted a TACE-like program at five men’s prisons in Oregon. To help each of them with their fundraising, TACE has purchased popcorn and snow cone machines, with supplies, to help each raise money for their family bonding events. The Hermiston Rotary has become the sponsor for the Umatilla facility and two Portland Rotary clubs sponsor the Portland facility.

Also funded under the TACE program is the support provided to those adults-in-custody who are graduating from CCCF’s life-changing cosmetology program. The school graduates receive state certification and licensing and are prepared for a job upon release. The RCO Wilsonville provides these soon-to-be-released graduates with a cosmetology tool kit valued up to $800 to kick-start their new life and working career.

We also contribute books to the libraries at the CCCF and the men’s AIC facility in Salem.

# We are Good Eggs!

# Wilsonville Rotary’s signature “**Good Eggs Omelet and Pancake Breakfasts”** are one of the club’s most prized and honored traditions of service, bringing breakfast to the people! The menu includes delicious, custom-made omelet or scramble with a choice of ingredients — cheese, ham, green peppers, fresh mushrooms and onions, plus our special-recipe hotcakes! Top it off with juice and coffee, and it’s a complete meal.

Our breakfasts are usually held to raise money for a good cause. We’ve worked with Boones Ferry Primary School, Boeckman Creek Primary School, Lowrie Primary School, Meridian Creek Middle School, Wood Middle School, Wilsonville High School Grad Night and Wilsonville Youth Sports. We’ve also participated in special fundraisers, such as international disaster relief (our Live Eggs benefit with live music, fall 2017), or local fire aid (Autumn Park Apartments in the 1990s; Help for hurricane Katrina 2005; Help for Healing for Villebois fire victims, 2019). Once a year, we cook for a Veteran’s Day appreciation event in the Charbonneau District of Wilsonville, and in the spring, we cook breakfast for volunteers at the City of Wilsonville’s WERK Day cleanup.

The club is always looking for new partners with whom to hold a breakfast for a worthwhile cause. We provide labor, eggs, most ingredients, and coaching to help you market your event, maximize fund raising, and make it a success. You provide the cause and the audience. It’s a win-win arrangement.

# Youth Services

Youth Exchange Program

For the last ten years the Wilsonville Rotary Club has participated in the Rotary International youth exchange program, recognized by the Department of State as the premier youth exchange curriculum in the country. Coordinating with Wilsonville High School and local host families, we have exchanged over 40 young people from Spain, France, Switzerland, Slovakia, Italy, Russia, South Korea, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia. The club provides for most administrative expenses, such as predeparture training, stipends and school expenditures, while the host families provide room/board and transportation costs. The program covers both long term (school year) and short term (4- week summer) exchanges. Most host families stay closely in touch with their host student for a lifetime. Creating Peace one student at a time, we help the inbound students to:

#### **BE FIRST** – a year of growth means jumping in with both feet. Be a person of action!! Make things happen. Just “DO IT!”

#### **BE CURIOUS** – Be a person who seeks to understand. Ask question. Explore. Take Risks… Eat insects!

#### **BE ON PURPOSE** – Be certain of your outcome and move steadily toward it. Set goals. Make plans. Remember WHY you wanted to be a foreign exchange student.

#### **BE GRATEFUL** – Be a positive thinker and focus on things you can be thankful for. Don’t compare yourself to other exchange students. You get what you get. Be appreciative of the unique opportunity you have been given. Always say Thank You.

#### **BE OF SERVICE** – Build bridges. Be generous and look for ways to do something meaningful. Offer help. Ask if you can help. Make just a small difference in the lives of those around you.

#### **BE HERE NOW** – Look for the here and NOW. Live in the moment and in your host family. Seize the Day!

(copied from R.I. literature)

College Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Wilsonville, through its nonprofit Wilsonville Rotary Foundation, has annually awarded college scholarships to three graduates of Wilsonville High School. The scholarships, $2,500 each, are funded with proceeds from the Rotary-produced [Heart of Gold Celebration and First Citizen Awards Banquet](http://www.wilsonvilleheart.com), held annually each spring. The student may use the scholarship at any accredited institute of higher learning of the recipient’s choosing. The awards are based on need, community service and, thirdly, academic achievement. The recipients are outstanding graduates and truly deserving. They will grow into being givers to society. It is an honor to be able to help support their college dreams, and it is only possible because of the hard work of Rotarians and the generous support of Wilsonville residents and businesses. Over the years the Wilsonville Rotary Club has provided well over $100,000 in scholarships.

Interact Clubs

Rotary in Wilsonville & Riverside high schoolsThe Rotary Club of Wilsonville sponsors Interact clubs in two local high schools. Interact creates opportunities for our young students “to build leadership skills, connect with others, and have fun, all while serving their communities and learning about the world. They plan and carry out various projects every year that helps their school or community. Interact membership in the two schools is over 70 students whose projects include the planting of peace poles, involvement in the UN Girl UP program, Human Trafficking awareness, Adopt a Road project, volunteering at the annual veteran’s day breakfast, Heart of Gold Dinner, and Community Sunshine Division food boxes. The students conduct bake sales as fund raisers. Teacher advisers and members of our club serve as mentors, listeners, facilitators, and advocates for youth empowerment.

Wilsonville High School 4-way Test essay contest

The Wilsonville Rotary club recently enacted a four-way test contest for freshman Students at Wilsonville high school. Monetary awards will be provided to the top three students who write the most compelling and sincere essay. They have the opportunity to present their essays at the annual Rotary Heart of Gold banquet. The Interact students assisted the Rotary Club in this project through distributing flyers and providing the process rules to the contestants through the 9th grade English teachers.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Wilsonville Rotary annually sponsors a $1000 scholarship for one young adult to participate in the Rotary RYLA event. District 5100 has led one of the premier RYLA programs in the country. Our district’s program differs from others due to awarding these scholarships to 19–32-year-olds, as opposed to high school aged youth. The program takes place over a whole week at the beautiful Menucha Retreat Center in Corbett, Oregon. It is a week of intensive leadership training that has helped accelerate the careers for many of our participants.

Boys Scouts of America

The Rotary Club of Wilsonville sponsors one Scout troop and two Cub Scout packs in Wilsonville. The scouts assist Rotary in our annual concert series where we collect donations for ending polio.

Chess for Children

Our chess program for the three Wilsonville primary schools was curtailed due to the covid pandemic. In partnership with the school district there are plans to re-initiate the program in the near future.

Community Service

Literacy

Wilsonville Library Foundation & Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library

The Wilsonville Public Library Foundation partners with the community to enroll children and raise the necessary funds to cover the cost of books and postage. The foundation is proud to serve Wilsonville. But thanks to the support of the Rotary Club of Wilsonville and the Wilsonville Rotary Foundation, our impact now stretches even further. We’ve expanded our reach to include the children of Adults in Custody (AIC) at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF). No matter where these children live — Madras, Klamath Falls, Central Point, or Tigard — they’re part of our Imagination Library family. Enrolling the children of AICs is bittersweet, sweet because we’re delivering the joy of reading to these young minds, but bitter because these little ones are separated from their mothers.

Book Donations

As a thank you to those who provide the weekly presentations at our Rotary luncheons, a book is donated to the Wilsonville library children's section with the presenter's name and date stamped on the inside cover. The club also supports the book libraries at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville as well as the men’s facility in Salem.

Rotary Rose Garden

In 2005 the RCO Wilsonville created the Rotary Club First Citizen Rose Garden in the Town Center Park. The garden is offered to the Wilsonville community as an expression of our club's annual heart of gold celebration. The roses represent and honor individuals or couples who have been recognized for their charitable contributions to making Wilsonville a better place to live. The roses symbolize the beauty of Rotary’s motto of “Service Above Self” and are planted here as lasting tributes to our honored first citizens. Each recipient has demonstrated a true heart of gold through their generous community service.

Included with the 70 rose plants is a Peace Pole and several thick half-walls with placards showing all the past First Citizens, as well as the Rotary four-way test.

Concerts in the Park

(“End Polio Now” Donations)

Our club sponsors four 3-hour summer concert series on the green in the Wilsonville Town Center Park. Attended by 300-400 people, this wonderful family event allows our community to have fun, elders and youngsters dancing to rock & roll, kids playing in the water features, and all enjoying the vendors selling ice cream and other goodies. Rotary maintains a tent where our presence in the community is highlighted and kids can play chess, make things, and enjoy free drinks. Several local business folks set up covered kiosks offering freebies relating to their interests. At concert half time the Boys Scout volunteers circulate through the crowd carrying red “End Polio Now” buckets, filling them with cash donations in support of the cause. Since 2007 Rotary has raised $108,782 for End Polio Now, and this amount has been matched 2 for 1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. That’s impact

Here’s a sample of the 2024 concert venue

* 7/18 — Johnny Limbo & the Lugnuts
* 7/25 — Rockit Radio
* 8/1 — Curtis Salgado
* 8/8 — Hit Machine
* Openers at 5:30 p.m., headliners at 6:30 p.m.

Heart of Gold Banquet/First Citizen Awards

The Heart of Gold Gala & Auction held annually each spring is a special evening celebrating Wilsonville’s incredible community spirit. The fund-raising auction is conducted by an experienced auctioneer. Attended by Rotarians from the club and the district as well as Wilsonville city council members, this event honors the four First Citizen finalists selected by a Rotary/City committee. The evening culminates with recognizing the recipient of this prestigious First Citizen award, acknowledging an individual or couple who has gone above and beyond to make the community a better place. The evening features inspiring stories, exciting auction items, high end raffles, and a celebration of service, all while supporting the impactful work of the Rotary Club of Wilsonville.

West Linn/Wilsonville School District - Family Empowerment Center (FEC)

This partnership provides necessities to school children in need: meals, clothing and school supplies. School teachers and counselors refer children to the FEC for assistance. Our Rotary club procures the much-needed items to stock the FEC shelves so that the FEC response to each child's needs is timely and effective. Rotarians and Interactors volunteer in dispersing school supplies, such as a fully packed backpack.

Boys and Girls Aid, Cypress Chapter

This project partnership funds, procures and assembles sport bags and their contents for 30 young people being served in the foster homes in the Portland metro area including Wilsonville. As Christmas “presents” these bags are filled with sweatshirts, socks, water bottles, Christmas cookies and more. These sports bags also serve as a type of small piece of luggage as the young people often have little other than plastic bags where's the transport their belongings from the department of Human Services to Boys and Girls aid facilities or to foster homes.

North Willamette Valley Habitat for Humanity (NWV HfH)

Wilsonville Rotary is planning to partner with the Habitat for Humanity organization by providing labor and financial assistance. fHHfThrough this project, members of Wilsonville Rotary and the Wilsonville High School Interact Club will have an opportunity to volunteer their time and construction skills during the construction of a house in a nearby city. The NWV HfH will publicize both the contribution of funds and the volunteer labor before and during construction of this home.

International Service

Wilsonville Rotary partners with and travels with three other local clubs to bring much needed service to a small rural community in La Plata Colombia; those clubs are Newberg (Oregon) Early Bird, Sherwood (Oregon), and La Plata Colombia. These services include clean water systems, sanitation systems, firefighting supplies, medical diagnostic equipment (Ultrasound machine), park rejuvenation, and others.

Our past international support has included clean water and solar energy projects in the Third World. Several years ago, we partnered with the Rotary Club of Kakamega, Kenya and provided for 300 locally manufactured desks for six rural Kenyan schools.

Peace Building

The Rotary Action Group for Peace motto is “Peace Through Service” The organization has designated the RCO Wilsonville as a certified Peace Builder Club. This designation is renewed on an annual basis and serves as the foundation for our Peace Committee activities. We attempt to “maximize the peacebuilding impact of every club project in all the areas of Rotary focus, and to link peacebuilding efforts with other organizations and individuals. Working together to build sustainable peace.” (quote with edits from ragfp.org)