

ROTARY CONNECTION

FALL 2021

MEMBER PROFILES



DAWN B. CRIM, PH.D. – Member since 2007

Dawn is President of the Madison Rotary Foundation. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Evers to be Wisconsin's Secretary of

the Department of Safety and Professional Services. Prior to that she served as Assistant State Superintendent for Student and School Success at the Department of Public Instruction. Dawn is also a member of the Edgewood College Board of Trustees. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia.



LESTER PINES – Member since 2001

Lester is a partner at Pines Bach and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a renowned attorney with extensive

experience litigating civil and criminal cases in federal and state trial courts, and before the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. Lester is among the most written about and frequently quoted Wisconsin attorneys on a host of legal issues. He is a graduate of UW–Madison.



ANNE NEUJAHR MORRISON – Member since 2018

Anne is a principal at New Year Investments, a real estate development firm focusing on urban infill

projects including multi-family housing and commercial properties. She is a board member and shareholder of Urban Land Interests, a family-owned property management firm. Anne is a member of the executive committee of Downtown Madison Inc. and Madison Development Corporation. She is a graduate of Carleton College.



WHERE LEADERS EMERGE

By ELLEN FOLEY — Member since 2017

In the past few years, the Rotary Club of Madison distilled the spirit and value of our club with a crisp action-oriented branding statement: CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

It carries powerful messages for current members and shares with prospects the uplifting breadth of the club's pursuits.

Let's talk about CONNECT.

One only needs to walk into our weekly luncheon meetings at the Park Hotel with the buzz of engaging conversation to know that we are a friendly and inviting group. We sing, we eat, we meet in committees and fellowship groups, or in one-on-one get-togethers, where we find solutions for challenges at the club and in our personal and professional lives.

Many Rotarians value friendships that started at the weekly lunch table and span decades. We can't imagine a life without that weekly burst of compassion and belonging that we offer to each other.

Those relationships flood into our professional lives. We like doing business with people we know and trust. Rotary easily creates an informal marketplace for our skills and styles that fellow members remember when they have a business need.

We connect with the mantra of "Service Above Self." We focus on local needs, college student scholarships and contribute to international humanitarian interests – such as the award-winning campaign to eradicate polio – led by the network of Rotary Clubs throughout the world. They visit us and we visit them to build global camaraderie and life-changing action for those in need.

Are you a community leader who is interested in taking part in transformational change in your community, making an impact around the world, and expanding your personal and professional network? If so, the Rotary Club of Madison is eager to hear from you.

SCHOLARS ENJOY TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCES

By JANET PIRAINO — Member since 2012

Have you ever helped a young man reach his dream? Or encouraged a young woman to break through a glass ceiling? The Rotary Club of Madison Scholarship Program provides four-year scholarship support for high school seniors to attend the college or university of their choice. If students wish, we pair them with a Rotarian mentor.

Madison Rotary Foundation awards 100 scholarships totaling \$372,000 per year!

In total, we have helped nearly 1,000 scholars fulfill their dreams since the program began in 1974. Applicants must show financial need, gain acceptance to an institution of higher learning, demonstrate a commitment to the community, and display leadership. Most are first in their family to attend college. Nearly all say the scholarship changed their life.

Daniel Obi immigrated to the U.S. alone in 2014 to escape violence in Nigeria. At first, he found it difficult to fit in at East High School

and understand his lessons in a foreign language. He dreamed of pursuing a medical degree but couldn't afford college tuition. With a Rotary scholarship, Daniel graduated Magna cum laude with a BS degree in Biomedical Science from UW-Oshkosh. He is now pursuing a Physician's Assistant degree.

"I am humbled and grateful, Daniel said. "I was able to complete my degree because of the Rotary Club. I still get chills from thinking about it."

Daniel's Rotary mentor, Neil Fauerbach, said, "Being Daniel's mentor was learning about the dramatic challenges he faced traveling from his country, living life without parents, and his deep friendships with high school



classmates. Rarely did we have lunch when he did not bring one of them along."

The Rotary Scholarship Program offers life-changing opportunities for deserving scholars. And it offers Rotarians the chance to use their rich life experience to build the next generation of leaders.

ROTARIANS INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY'S WELL-BEING

By JESSIKA KASTEN — Member since 2019

The Rotary Club of Madison's Community Grants initiative has been making a major impact by supporting local nonprofits since 1937. In 2021, the Rotary Club distributed over \$213,000 to 46 organizations in our local community. Individual Rotarians make contributions to the Madison Rotary Foundation with the goal of supporting programs that align with Rotary's mission, enhance the Madison community and embrace access, fairness, inclusivity and diversity.

Porchlight, Inc., a local non-profit working to reduce homelessness, has been awarded grants the past several years to help fund

their eviction prevention program. Known as DIGS, this program assists individuals and families who have been served an eviction notice and need financial support to maintain their housing.

"Stable housing is foundational – without it you can't properly parent, hold down a job or live a healthy life," said Porchlight Executive Director Karla Thennes. "We're so grateful to the Madison Rotary for their support, and we want to ensure Rotary members know their dollars go directly toward changing the lives of people right here in Madison who are struggling." The

program has had some amazing results: six months after receiving financial assistance, 85% of the residents are still housed and at 12 months later, that number is still at 75%. This year, the Community Grants initiative provided Porchlight more than \$9,000, which will directly assist 40 families in our community who need support. "Stable housing also helps build the self-worth, dignity and self-confidence of residents," said Thennes. "We're so fortunate to partner with organizations like the Rotary Club who are dedicated to building people up and supporting families facing challenges."

CLUB INFORMATION

The Rotary Club of Madison was chartered in 1913 and we are proud of our 100+ years of service to Madison and beyond. We are one of the 10 largest of over 35,000 Rotary clubs in the world with 420 members.



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

- **Connect** with other leaders to expand your network
- **Grow** personally and professionally
- **Serve** and help shape our community, our world and our future

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS.

Through Rotary you will meet people from all backgrounds. Rotary has 1.2 million members worldwide. Not only will you make valuable connections, but you will be introduced to new interests and ideas you may not otherwise experience. We offer informative programs at our weekly luncheon meetings on various local, national and international topics.

CREATE CHANGE.

We participate in many hands-on service opportunities. You can help shape our community and our future. We focus on three key areas: Basic Needs, Education and Civic Engagement. With Rotary, you'll be able to make a difference in the areas closest to your heart.

MAKE AN IMPACT.

It's people like you who make up the heart of this city—people who promote change and take steps to make it happen. You'll evolve both personally and professionally by connecting with people from every sector.

In Rotary, our purpose is simple: join together to accomplish greatness—greatness for ourselves, our community and our world.



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE GIRL AT A TIME

By LINDA BALDWIN — Member since 1992

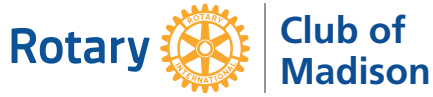
The Rotary Club of Madison, in cooperation with UW–Madison, undertook *Change Herstory: A project to change lives of young women in Africa*. The project offered menstrual education and products for girls in Ghana. The club's first Rotary Global grant, *Change Herstory*, took project leader, Mary Crave, to Ghana to set up the program with *Days for Girls*, an international organization that makes and distributes kits and education materials for girls. *Days for Girls* produced kits containing soap, reusable pads, panties and information wrapped up in Ghanaian fabric backpacks which were distributed during education sessions in schools.

More than twenty Rotarians traveled to Ghana on three separate occasions to accompany the trainers as they traveled to schools. The *Days for Girls* production site was visited along with some time for sightseeing and sampling of traditional foods. We also visited the homes of our guides, plus we shopped in the fabulous markets of Ghana.

Celeste Mergens, CEO of Days for Girls International, observed, "One day, as our group was departing, some boys lingered about. A girl who had attended the class and received a kit was walking past the boys. 'Mwalandila katundu, (you received a package),' one of the boys called out. The girl was not embarrassed. Instead, she replied, 'Nalandira kumene, (yes I have received). I will proudly carry it without shame because I have learnt today menstruation is not something to be ashamed of. I will embrace it and be proud because I am wonderfully made.'

She walked away, a victory smile on her face. This made us proud knowing we made a huge impact on the life of a girl who could be so brave."

Over 18,000 girls as well as their brothers and families benefitted from the program. More girls staying in school, getting an education and being able to support themselves and their families...leading to a rise in GDP for the country, a decrease in child brides, trafficking, abuse and child poverty.



2 South Carroll Street, Ste. 255
Madison, WI 53703

JOIN US FOR LUNCH

Our club meets each Wednesday at the Park Hotel on the Capitol Square from noon until 1:05 pm to enjoy lunch, connect with fellow members, and hear from engaging guest speakers.

Recent luncheon speakers include:

- Satya Rhodes Conway, Mayor of the City of Madison
- Jason Fields, Chief Executive Officer, Madison Region Economic Partnership
- Eleanor Burgess, playwright and screenwriter from New York City and author of "The Niceties"
- Mark Johnson, Head Coach, UW–Madison Women's Hockey Team and winner of six NCAA championships

Contact the Rotary Club of Madison office to reserve your spot! 608-255-9164

CONNECT FOR GOOD

The Rotary Club of Madison empowers you to Connect, Grow and Serve.

We exist to help our members form new, positive and diverse relationships, grow personally and professionally while working to make our community and world better places to live for all.

Learn through our weekly speakers on timely topics. Volunteer to help with community service projects. Meet other leaders from a broad cross section of our community. Enrich yourself culturally and socially, personally and professionally.

For more information and to join, visit rotarymadison.org

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Rotary Club of Madison commits to be diverse, equitable and inclusive. We will achieve this through recruitment, education, member engagement and community service.