



The Rotary Club of Peoria entered the millennium knowing that the next fifteen years would bring many important milestones:

#### 2000

- An Endowment Fund was created at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, which would allow Club members to contribute charitable funds either for local use, to the Endowment; or to the Rotary International Foundation for international use. The Endowment Fund grew to \$100,000 by 2013.
- The Club voted to eat lightly on the fourth Friday of each month so that others would not go hungry. By selecting and paying for a less costly soup and salad buffet once a month, the Club was able to reserve the savings and use the money to grant support to various local programs that serve the hungry.
- The Club adopted the Christmas in April project, which provided the labor and materials to help homeowners repair and improve their dwellings. Rotary International featured this project and our hard-working Rotarians in a video highlighting Rotary community service.
- In keeping with our Club's focus on literacy, \$1000 was contributed to the Peoria Public Library system to support reading and access programs in the libraries.
- Along with all the other area Rotary Clubs, Frank Devlyn, President of Rotary International, was welcomed to Peoria with a gala banquet.
- The Club entered the electronic age with our first web page and online database.

#### 2001

- Teams of Rotarians met with second graders at Tyng School to give these children some individualized attention with their reading education. Nearly fifty Rotarians participated and the program continued at Garfield and then at Trewyn through the 2014-15 school year. This program was awarded an Exemplary Partnership Award from the State of Illinois Department of Education.

#### 2002

- The City of Peoria issued a proclamation honoring the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Rotary Club of Peoria.
- The Association of Fundraising Professionals honored the Rotary Club of Peoria with the Outstanding Philanthropic Organization award.

#### 2003

- The Club voted to begin a new project, the Wheelchair Basketball Banquet. This involved serving dinner to close to 16 wheelchair basketball teams and their families that come to Peoria during the Illinois High School Association Basketball Tournament in March of each year. This banquet gave the various teams from all around the state the opportunity to get together in a completely accessible facility where they can socialize comfortably and meet new friends. More than 30 Club members participate in this event, which continues.
- The Club approved a joint project with the Peoria North and Peoria Sunrise clubs to fund the construction of a restroom pavilion at Detweiller park, greatly needed for the many soccer games played in that area that draws people from all over the State. More than \$25,000 was raised and contributed by the Rotary Club of Peoria. Groundbreaking was held in June 2005 with the dedication in June 2006. This project honored the 100 anniversary of the founding of the Rotary movement.

## 2004

- The Rotary Club of Peoria proposed to the other area clubs that a joint Veteran's Day meeting be held each November to honor our area veterans. A committee of members from each of the participating clubs plans the program and secures an inspiring speaker. This tradition continues.

## 2006

- Mr. Albert Blumenthal was the recipient of a Rotary Scholarship when he was younger and living in Peoria. This scholarship enabled him to attend and graduate from Bradley University. In appreciation for this long-ago assistance, Mr. Blumenthal donated \$10,000 to the Rotary Club of Peoria to be used to grant two \$5000 scholarships to two deserving students selected by members of the Rotary Club of Peoria. Mr. Blumenthal has continued this generous support, contributing to date \$100,000.

## 2008

- The Rotary International Foundation recognized Rotary Club of Peoria members Bill Hardin and Don Hartshorn as Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation as their cumulative contributions totaled \$10,000 each.

## 2010

- Continuing to seek new ways to honor our servicemen and women, the Club adopted two projects: Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, which provides these individuals with gloves, hats, scarves, etc. in the fall; and Tee it Up for the Troops, a golf outing that benefits wounded warriors.

## 2011

- The Club moved its meeting place to the First Methodist Church downtown after the Pere Marquette Hotel closed for renovation. The new facility proved to be both comfortable and practical and continues to be the meeting place for the "downtown" Rotary Club.

## 2013

- Having been founded in 1913, 2013 was the centenary year for the Rotary Club of Peoria. In June a celebratory banquet was held with a program that outlined the 100 years of the club's history and contributions to the community.
- In honor of the centennial, the club voted to fund a major community project and chose to fund the Rotary Adventure Grove as part of the redevelopment of Glen Oak Park. More than \$100,000 was contributed by Club members. Groundbreaking was held in April of 2013 with the dedication of Adventure Grove in the Fall of 2014.

## 2014

- Also in 2014, our Club as well as many other Rotary Clubs in Illinois contributed funds and labor to assist with the tornado recovery in Washington, Illinois.
- 2014 uncovered some major problems with financial and membership records. A dedicated leadership team took over the reins of administration and brought the Club back to membership record integrity and financial transparency, prepared to enter the 2015 program year both financially and administratively healthy. The strength and energy of the Club as well as the Club's relationship with Rotary International are stronger than ever.