Introduction – The Benefits of Joining Rotary

Rotary is organized at club, district and international levels to carry out its program of service around the globe. Rotarians are members of their clubs and the clubs are members of the global association known as Rotary International (RI) headquartered in Evanston, Illinois. Rotary International is the world’s oldest service club organization that was started in 1905 in Chicago by four businessmen and is the oldest service club in the world comprising roughly 33,000 clubs in more than 165 countries, with 1.2 million members. These members form a global network of business and professional leaders who volunteer their time and talents to serve their communities and the world. **Columbus Rotary** is a diverse group of business and professional leaders providing humanitarian service and encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations. Chartered in 1912 as the 38th Rotary International club, Columbus Rotary now has over 350 members who are committed to effecting positive and enduring change in the lives of others.

As a Rotarian, you will enjoy the following rich traditions that are the basis for this group’s formation.

| Service | Rotary is a service club that lets you make a difference as part of the world’s largest family of givers. You will have many opportunities to assist a wide variety of local, national and international humanitarian causes that will touch the lives of people you will never meet. |
| Fellowship/Relationships | These are two of the principal reasons why Rotary began. The ability to network with a cross section of leaders of other businesses and professions who help each other, and collectively help others, while promoting lasting friendships. |
| Other benefits of Rotary | **Prestige**
Rotary members are prominent individuals. They are leaders of the many businesses and professions that influence policy and help guide our communities.

**Continuing Education**
Your professional and personal knowledge will be enriched by expert speakers at weekly luncheons. These speakers address a wide range of issues in our communities, nation, and world.

**Development of Ethics**
Through the Four-Way Test, Rotarians promote high ethical standards that produce priceless dividends.

**Personal Growth**
Your personal development and people skills will grow when you get involved with other community leaders and like ideas. |

**Leadership and Public Speaking Skills**
Countless opportunities are available for you to lead, speak, motivate and learn from others when you get involved in Club committees, projects, and meetings.

**Cultural Awareness**
Rotary International comprises more than 1.2 million Rotarians in almost all countries in the world. Your membership in Columbus Rotary provides a unique opportunity to expand your global vision, contacts, and enrich lives globally. Fellow Rotarians are always welcomed visitors at any Rotary Club meeting, anywhere, in any country.
Object of Columbus Rotary

Service Above Self is Rotary’s foremost guiding principle and is channeled through the Four Avenues of Service, which form the foundation of the Columbus Rotary club activities as follows:

Community Service

Community Service is the opportunity Rotary clubs have to implement club projects and activities that improve life in the local community. Acts of Community Service include civic, educational, and philanthropic enterprises on behalf of youth, health, recreation, and any other identified need. Some of Columbus Rotary projects include:

Adopt-A-School

Represents adopting an inner city elementary school and providing a wide array of resources including tutors, books, teacher recognition, field trips and student meals.

Interact Club

A Rotary club for high school students, Interact promotes the ideal of service and fosters leadership skills. Columbus Rotary currently sponsors Interact at Fort Hayes High School.

Rotaract

Rotaract is Rotary’s College equivalent. We sponsor clubs at Columbus State, Ohio State and Fortis College. We also sponsor a Young Professional Club. These autonomous groups are taking steps to becoming great Rotarians. They host their own activities and events as well as conduct service projects.

High School SAS Fair

Since 2003, Columbus Rotary has partnered with Columbus City Schools and HandsOn Central Ohio to celebrate our youth and their accomplishments for their school and community. Our club annually awards scholarships to students who have demonstrated the most significant volunteer service during their high school careers. The wide range of projects, from recycling and cleanup efforts to health and education programs were all about “giving back” to our local communities.

Scholarships

The Columbus Rotary Foundation endows and awards numerous scholarships annually to youth of all races, religions and social circumstances.

Colerain Elementary

Since 1919 one of the most rewarding activities of Columbus Rotary has been its work with and for crippled children at the state and local level. Today, our Club’s commitment remains high. One of the highlights of the year for Club members and the children alike is the annual crippled children’s Christmas party underwritten entirely by Columbus Rotary.
Rotarians at work improving outdoor areas at the HFF and YWCA Family Center.

**Homeless Family Foundation**

HFF provides shelter and support services for homeless families and an extensive tutoring and enrichment program for homeless and at-risk school age children. In 2010, HFF served 217 households comprised of 420 children and 287 adults. To put this in perspective, 89% of the children were under the age of 12. HFF served 170 new households and were able to have 85% of the households successfully move to permanent housing.

**Kids N Kamp**

Kids 'n Kamp is an independent non-profit organization devoted to the social, educational and emotional needs of children with through activities and programs to every family member, the patient child, and parents and siblings alike.

Since 2008 Columbus Rotary has supported Kids 'n Kamp (KNK) in a variety of ways including providing volunteer and financial support for the KNK Annual Holiday Party, donating holiday gifts for families in financial need that are facing uncertainty, and providing volunteers for the annual Kids 'n Kamp festivities held at Recreation Unlimited over Labor Day.

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**International Service**

Rotarians advance international understanding, good will, and peace through international service. Rotarians do this through personal contact in their own community, by attending Rotary meetings in other countries and through international humanitarian projects such as Group Study Exchange, Rafiki AIDS orphanage, Operation Smile, Polio Plus, ShelterBox, Wheel Chairs to developing countries, Youth Exchange and clean water service projects in Guatemala, India and Africa.

**Polio Plus** is Rotary's flagship program. By the time polio is eradicated, Rotary Club members will have contributed $850 million and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries. Rotary is a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, along with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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**Vocational Service**

An obligation of all Rotarians is to share with others the ideal of service in all the personal relationships in their business or profession. Opportunities in Vocational Service include:

**Junior Achievement**

Junior Achievement of Central Ohio was established in 1950 through the leadership of Columbus Rotary. It now involves a unique and fun learning environment called Exchange City, where students go into business for themselves.

**Enterprise Academy**

This program helps high school seniors understand and appreciate business and the free enterprise system. Upon completion, seniors earn one college credit and are eligible to apply for a Columbus Rotary Enterprise Scholarship.
How we serve – The Four Avenues of Rotary Service (continued)

**Club Service**

Those things that Rotarians do to help make their Rotary Club successful include the following:

- Developing acquaintances and participating in fellowship activities.
- Nominating and assisting in the welcoming of new members.
- Paying dues and attending meetings.
- Serving on committees and as a director or an officer.
- Taking part in programs.

- Representing the Club in district wide, regional and international activities.

**FUNDED PROJECTS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COLUMBUS IN 2011/2012**

**Community Service Avenue**

- Adopt-a-School
- Community Service
- Colerain Elementary
- CPS Support with HandsOn
- Easter Seals—Graduation
- Homeless Family Foundation
- High School/Middle School SAS Fair
- Kids N Kamp
- Map-It
- Interact
- Rotaract
  - OSU
  - Chamberlain College of Nursing
  - Young Professional

**International Service Avenue**

- Group Study Exchange
- Operation Smile
- Rafiki Orphanage
- Special Needs School -Peru (OSU)
- Shelterbox
- Youth Exchange
- Polio Plus

**Vocational Service Avenue**

- Enterprise Academy
- Vocational Service - Bridge the Gap
- Junior Achievement

**Club Service Avenue**

- Rotarian of the Year
- SAS Awards for Non-Rotarians
- 4 Exemplary Service Awards
- Membership Development
- Woods & Water
- Leadership Development
- 3 PHFs for President
## You Receive No Diploma

Members of the Rotary Club of Columbus not only receive the friendship and fellowship of their other club members, they become part of an instantly-recognizable and respected worldwide humanitarian organization of 1.2 million men and women. Rotary members, who identify themselves by wearing a Rotary pin, will frequently encounter introductions and discover friendships in other parts of this nation and the world when they would otherwise be among strangers.

## Eligibility

If you wish to join Columbus Rotary, you must be an adult of good character and good business or professional reputation that meets the following criteria:

- Currently serving as a proprietor, partner, corporate officer or manager of any worthy and recognized business or profession;

- Hold an important position in any worthy and recognized business or profession or any branch or agency thereof and have executive capacity with discretionary authority; or

- In the absence of the above, must be officially retired from one of the aforementioned occupations.

## Membership Process

A prospective member must be nominated for membership by an active member in good standing of the Rotary Club of Columbus and successfully go through an approval process that can often take several weeks. However, individuals who are interested in membership are welcome to attend a few meetings as guests to become acquainted with our club and members. If you don’t know a current member, contact the club office at (614) 221-3127 for more information.

When a member submits a candidate’s name to the Club Executive Director, the Executive Director presents the candidate’s name to the Membership Development Committee for approval. Following approval, the nominee will be invited to join Rotary. When a candidate submits an acceptance letter and grants permission to have his or her name published in our club’s newsletter, the candidate’s name, proposed classification and business/professional affiliation is reviewed and considered by the general membership. Within ten (10) days of publication, any member may file a written objection to the proposed member, stating reasons for the objection. If no such objections are filed, the proposed member shall be considered duly elected.

Once the nominee for membership has paid his or her admission fee, dues, advance lunch fees and other assessments, he or she will be formally installed as a member. Membership shall continue during the existence of the club as long as participation and attendance requirements are met and dues, lunch fees and other assessments are paid promptly.

## Financial Investment

Dues are $380 annually, payable twice a year at $190. Active members must also pre-pay their luncheon expense at $13 per week or ‘coffee only’ at $6 per week. Both are billed semi-annually. A one-time initiation fee of $300 applies to individuals who are not already members of a Rotary Club.

You will also be asked to make an annual tax-deductible personal contribution to the Columbus Rotary Foundation, which funds all of our service projects.