

# ROTARY CLUB of SARASOTA



CHARTERED APRIL 12, 1926

CLUB NUMBER 4339

DISTRICT 6960

ZONE 34

PRESIDENT – JEFF MEYER

Classification: Vice President, Investments

March 25, 2020

SMILE, the weekly club newsletter

ROTARYCLUBOFSARASOTA.COM

## SOCIAL SEPARATION (SS) EDITION #1

The SS Edition will continue to be posted and broadcasted weekly. Please email Jim Henry ([jrhjr@jimhenrybooks.com](mailto:jrhjr@jimhenrybooks.com)) with announcements and information about ongoing projects and programs. If you know of any member, or anyone else, in need, let President Jeff know.

### Coming Attractions



Social Events Chair Judy is banking social ideas. As far as we know at this time, the Year End Awards and Installation Banquet has not been cancelled.

### GIVING CHALLENGE

NOON APRIL 28 to  
NOON APRIL 29

Be The One

Earn Points as you support the Club's Projects & Programs while making it easier on those who record your pledge manually, including Bonnie and Jim Henry.

Simply go to <https://www.rotaryclubofsarasota.com/rcs-foundation/>

& select **ANNUAL FUND.**

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR  
BOB GAGLIO

March Program Coordinator  
Bob Gaglio

April Program Coordinator  
Francine DiFilippo-Kent

### FROM PRESIDENT JEFF

Dear Rotary Club of Sarasota Members,

I hope all of you and your loved ones are staying healthy and safe during these unprecedented times.

As *People of Action*, Rotarians are eager and ready to step in and help wherever needed. This Club and its members are no different and I am getting a large number of inquiries about what we are going to do to help. With that said, it is my feeling that patience is the prudent thing right now. First, I don't feel it is in anyone's best interest to put themselves or anyone else in harm's way at this point, so to rush out is not the prudent thing to do. Second, I believe a large number of opportunities will present themselves and those will likely be the places where our efforts will be of greatest value. Finally, as I stated before, we must take care of our own Rotarian's as well. I have had a number of members reach out to me offering to help our members in any way they can, so thank you for offering that support. I encourage each of you, in the absence of our meetings and in-person interaction, to individually reach out to fellow members to say hi and socialize as needed.

We will all get through this and come out stronger on the other end. We will learn from this and we will all be better as a result.

If anyone has any questions or needs anything, please reach out to me directly by phone at 847 917-8731 or email at [jmever@upstreamip.com](mailto:jmever@upstreamip.com).

Stay safe everyone, and let's all do our part to end this virus as soon as possible.  
Yours in Rotary, Jeff



UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ALL OFFICIAL  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN  
CANCELLED, INCLUDING DISTRICT  
ASSEMBLIES, CONFERENCES,  
INSTITUTES, AND THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.



# LEST WE FORGET SCHOOL BASED FOOD PANTRIES

WE LIVE NOW, AND MUST CONTINUALLY LOOK TO THE FUTURE, BUT WE SHOULD ON OCCASION REMIND OURSELVES OF WHAT THE ROTARIANS IN OUR CLUB HAVE DONE.

## SCHOOL PANTRY



A little over five years ago, several club members suggested that the club partner with All Faiths Food Bank (AFFB) in helping start School-Based Food Pantries (SBFP). While there was a bit of wonderful history about Rotarians working with AFFB (*backpacks, Eagle Academy at Alta Vista, etc.*) school year SBFPs did not exist. After planning and negotiation, the Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation (RCSF) committed up to **\$60,000** over the next five years to help fund SBFPs. The first pantries were at Alta Vista Elementary, staffed by club members, and Tuttle Elementary, staffed by Rotarians from the brand new Longboat Key Club. It didn't take long for club members to organize and staff a pantry at Emma E. Booker Elementary.

Over the years, as a result of these pioneering efforts in these schools, Rotarians have distributed **467,841** pounds of food and served **13,661** clients and **25,607** students—almost **150** clients and **284** children per session, not even counting the Summer Pantries. But probably more important is that the pantries have helped reduce student absenteeism which in turn helps improve grade level reading.

Because of the successes of the original pantries, Rotarians have helped start other SBFPs, and now they exist in all of Sarasota County's Title I elementary schools, at least two high schools, and at the Boys and Girls club, staffed by Rotarians from Sarasota Sunrise.

Our club is no longer obligated to fund SBFPs, but as we look for new ways to utilize our ingenuity and resources, let's not forget what **Nick Rossi** and his large number of **Pantry Servers** and **Rotary Club of Sarasota Foundation Donors** have accomplished.



## AN INTERESTING TURN OF EVENTS

They first came as gentle suggestions from friends, family, and acquaintances. Then some phone calls asking if we needed anything, often from people Jean or I usually help in some way. Gradually the gentle suggestions became repetitive lyrics, like some of the modern songs. Within the last few days, the gentle suggestions, and musical chorus lost their politeness and musical rhythm, particularly from our children, Rotarians, and some friends asked things like, *"Why are either of you leaving your house?"*, *"You should only leave you house in case of emergency. I can do some shopping for you."* Then it dawned on us why the tones changed when one of our children sarcastically asked, *"How old are you?"* Good thing they didn't ask, *"How old do you think you are?"* because my body would have severely objected to my brain's response.



It has been difficult to accept, particularly for me, that family and friends worry about us. We are the ones that normally do the worrying. On the other hand, I suspect we should respect others by recognizing that at our bodily age we are particularly susceptible to this virus against which the pneumococcal vaccine is probably not effective. We are more susceptible to becoming a burden. So we have decided to self-quarantine. At breakfast this morning, overlooking our pool, we also came to the conclusion that quarantining ourselves, except for necessities, for a week or two ain't gonna be so bad!

Jim Henry