Annual Events

Rotarian Idol

Service Above Self Scholarships
Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory recognizes the value of a good education. Since 2005, thirty students have received SAS scholarships, totaling over $200,000.

Wilmer Jenkins Teacher of the Year Award
The Wilmer Jenkins Teacher of the Year Award for the Hickory Public Schools is given annually in memory of Wilmer M. Jenkins, who served as superintendent of Hickory Public Schools from July 1, 1958 – June 30, 1967 and was a member and past President of the Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory.

Rotary}

Projects and Service

Rotarian Idol
A total of 20 contestants are chosen to compete for $5,000 in total prize money. First Place wins $2,500, Second Place $1,500, Third Place $500; and $500 is awarded to the Audience Favorite. The event is in its sixth year and has raised over $360,000 for local educational initiatives including Wilmer Jenkins Teacher of the Year awards, Service Above Self college scholarships and support of Dolly Parton Library Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program which is administered by the Catawba County Partnership for Children. Children enrolled in Imagination Library are mailed a free, age-appropriate book each month until they turn 5 years old.

Paul Whitener Art Show
Over the past 67 years, thousands have enjoyed viewing student artworks exhibited in the Hickory Museum of Art’s annual Paul Whitener Student Art Show. This event provides an opportunity for local elementary school students from Hickory and Catawba County schools to exhibit in the Museum. The art show is sponsored by the Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory which Hickory Museum of Art founder, Paul Whitener, was a long-time member.

• Blood Drive
• CART – Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust
• Interact Club Sponsor
• Polio Plus
• Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing
• Stop Hunger Now

What is Rotary?
Rotary is a global network of community volunteers. Rotary club members are business, professional, and community leaders in your locality who meet regularly to plan and implement community service activities and network with other professionals. For those interested, members can also choose to become involved in international humanitarian service efforts. More than 1.2 million men and women in over 200 countries and geographical areas belong to over 33,000 Rotary clubs.

Rotary builds international understanding through scholarships, exchange programs, and humanitarian grants. Throughout the world, Rotary clubs participate in a broad range of educational, intercultural, and humanitarian activities designed to improve the lives of others.

Benefits of Membership
Belonging to a Rotary club provides members with an opportunity to make a contribution to their own communities and to communities around the world.

Members may join Rotary for many reasons, including community involvement, personal development, professional networking, and camaraderie with fellow members. But perhaps the most important benefit is the satisfaction gained from making a real difference in the world.
PolioPlus, Rotary’s most ambitious program to date, focuses on global immunization efforts and has played a leadership role with the World Health Organization, CDC, and UNICEF in bringing the world to the brink of polio eradication. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed US$355 million to Rotary to support PolioPlus activities.