

## What is Rotary ?

Rotary was born in Chicago, Illinois on 23 February 1905. **The main objective of a Rotary club is service -- in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world.** Rotary International (RI) has developed a broad range of programs designed to help clubs carry out this vital mission. Some of these programs have been underway for many years, while others have been developed more recently to meet emerging needs. Rotary's community development programs address many of today's most critical issues - - hunger, the environment, literacy, to name a few. RI also offers programs that focus primarily on young people, including service clubs for high school students and young adults, leadership training workshops, and student exchanges. The international component of RI programs enables clubs and districts to assist Rotary efforts abroad and to share information and arrange exchanges with Rotarians in other countries. Vocational concerns figure in many club and district projects designed to promote high ethical standards in the workplace and to help young people and others.

### What is the object of Rotary?

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- ◆ The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- ◆ High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- ◆ The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- ◆ The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideals of service.

## The 4-Way Test

The 4-Way Test should be known and followed by all Rotarians." Of the things we think, say or do: 1. Is it the TRUTH? 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned? 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

### What are the ways that Rotarians may serve?

Every Rotarian has a wealth of worthwhile opportunities to serve others through his or her Rotary club. These opportunities are categorized as the four avenues of Service - Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service.

**Club Service** is the pivotal point for effective Rotary service and the key ingredient in all avenues of Service is fellowship. It encourages club members to maintain high attendance, work well together, and achieve the maximum benefit in serving others. All membership is based on the "classification principle." The classification principle ensures that each Rotary club represents a cross-section of the business and professional segments of the community. Classifications are not given to members but are bestowed upon members - they are loaned to them.

**Vocational Service** gives Rotarians the dual responsibility of representing their vocation within the club and of exemplifying the ideals of Rotary within the workplace. A commitment to Vocational Service obliges Rotarians to view their respective occupations as an opportunity to serve society. Rotary clubs also have an obligation to carry out Vocational Service projects designed to increase employment opportunities in the community, promote a fair workplace environment, and raise an awareness and appreciation of all useful occupations. In addition, the importance of upholding high ethical standards in business has always been an integral element of the Rotary creed, as spelled out in the Object of Rotary and the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions.

**Community Service**, sometimes called the heartbeat of Rotary, encompasses all the activities that Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life for all people within the club's territory. Rotary's first community service project was carried out in 1907, when the Rotary Club of Chicago donated a horse to a preacher. The man's own horse had died, and because he was too poor to buy another one, he was unable to make the rounds of his churches and parishioners. A few weeks later, the club constructed Chicago's first public lavatory. With these inaugural projects, Rotary became the world's first service-club organization. Many RI Community Service programs are designed to support club efforts in the following areas of concern: literacy; the environment through the Preserve Planet Earth program; drug and alcohol abuse prevention; concern for the aging; hunger; conflict resolution; clean water; children; families; AIDs; youth leadership training; and functional literacy. Rotary clubs are addressing the problem at the local, national and international levels.

Through **International Service**, Rotarians work to develop and maintain friendly, peaceful relations in a troubled world. Rotary's programs approach this goal in two ways -- by assisting projects of clubs and districts abroad and by facilitating contact and exchanges between individual Rotarians and clubs in different countries. World Community Service (WCS) occurs any time a club in one country assists a club in another country with a community service project. Rotary is Polio Plus - working to eradicate polio. Rotary is the Rotary Foundation which each year provides international scholarships, cultural exchanges, and humanitarian projects large and small that improve the quality of life for millions of people.

### How involved is our club in service projects?

Our club fosters the ideals of Rotary with a number of programs to include the Annual Rotary Soccer Classic whereby local high school soccer teams play at Blackbaud Stadium on Daniel Island. It provides a showcase for the soccer teams. Our members are

expected to either donate \$300 or solicit community businesses for the donation. Proceeds from this activity pays for four college scholarships (\$9000) for deserving area students and several scholarships to Trident Tech of \$1000 and officially called the Don Spoonheim Trident scholarship to honor our Charter president. We have donated money to the following organizations over the years: *Meals on Wheels, ECCO, Veterans Administration, North-South Soccer Classic, Charleston Chaplaincy Program, Junior Achievement, and the Rotary Foundation.* The Rotary Soccer Classic has been held every year since 1984. The Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club sponsors an Interact Club at Wando High School that introduces youth to the concept of community and international service. The Club sponsors a Literacy Program called Rotary Reader whereby Rotarians and others act as mentors for primarily first graders and help these young people develop their reading skills. The Club sponsors this program in elementary schools East of the Cooper. Additionally, the club distributes dictionaries to all the third grade elementary school children East of the Cooper. The club participates in the Adopt-a-Highway program by being responsible for a portion of Mathis Ferry Road. Happy Feet is a program sponsored by our club and the East Cooper Breakfast club. New shoes are provided to needy school children that have been identified by school authorities. Our club participates in the Habitat for Humanity program by working on new houses as a part of the program.

### **What are your duties as a Rotarian?**

Rotarians attend weekly club meetings. Rotarians who are absent four consecutive times without making up attendance, or who attend less than 60% of the meetings during a six-month period of the club's fiscal year (and if such absence has not been excused by the board) will have their membership automatically terminated. Dues are \$840 per year and are billed on a monthly basis (\$70). There is a one time initiation fee of \$50 for all

new members. It is a privilege and obligation to propose new members. To promote the ideal of Service, Rotarians should be active on the committee to which they have been appointed.

### **What are the privileges of a Rotarian?**

1. Fellowship with people of like ideals;
2. Unique opportunities to serve your community, improve your vocation, and promote international fellowship;
3. Broad acquaintance with leaders of other businesses and professions;
4. Participate in stimulating programs at weekly meetings;
5. The opportunity to meet other Rotarians when attending other Rotary clubs.

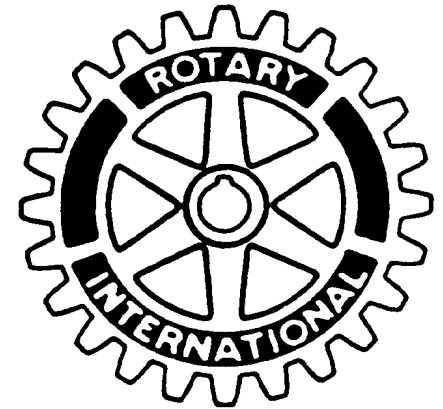
### **History of the Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club**

The Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club was sponsored by the Charleston Rotary club. In the early spring of 1977 a special committee with Jerry Nuss as chairman supervised the project. James Bagwell, Jr., the District Governor's Special assistant, was most active in getting the club organized. The club was officially chartered and received into Rotary International on June 24, 1977. In 1996 this club sponsored the East Cooper Rotary (Breakfast) Club which also meets in Mt. Pleasant. As of January 2008 we have only two of our charter members active: Billy Simmons, and Mike Thurman. Don Spoonheim was the first president and is now an Honorary Member of the club. The Club meets at The Holiday Inn on Wednesdays at 12:30 P.M.

*Revised January 28, 2008*

# **The Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant**

**Chartered  
June 24, 1977**



<http://www.rcmpsc.org>

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**