

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



DISTRICT 6860



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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the 2025-2026 term ends, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for all that the Rotaract Club of Birmingham accomplished. This term was not only about achieving goals but strengthening our community, elevating our impact, and reinforcing the value of service-driven leadership.

At the start of the year, we set out with an ambitious vision: to deepen member engagement, enhance our community impact, and create intentional opportunities for leadership and professional growth. I am proud to share that, together, we brought that vision to life.

Throughout the year, we prioritized quality, consistency, and connection across our programming. Our monthly luncheons grew in both attendance and impact, creating a space for members to connect, learn, and engage more meaningfully. We also cultivated a thoughtful balance of social and service opportunities, ensuring a well-rounded member experience.

Our commitment to service remained at the heart of everything we did. We expanded our partnerships with organizations that align with our members' passions and continued to grow our signature initiatives, Ready2Read and Ready2Succeed. Through these efforts, we increased both participation and service hours, reinforcing our club's dedication to making a tangible difference in Birmingham.

In addition to service, we placed a strong emphasis on professional and leadership development. Through Curated Connections, networking events, and the continued evolution of our Leadership Development Program and Board Fellows Program, we created meaningful opportunities for members to grow both personally and professionally.

We also strengthened our external partnerships and increased the visibility of Rotaract across the community. By collaborating with local businesses, graduate programs, and community organizations, we expanded our reach, welcomed new members, and successfully supported key fundraising initiatives, including Sip N Spell and the Foundation Ball.



None of this would have been possible without the dedication and passion of our members and Board of Directors. Their commitment, creativity, and leadership were the driving forces behind this year's success. It has been an honor to serve alongside such an exceptional group of individuals who consistently show up to lead and serve with purpose.

As I reflect on this year, I am confident that the Rotaract Club of Birmingham is stronger than ever. The foundation we built, combined with the momentum we created, positions the Club for continued growth and impact in the years ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to seeing all that this organization will continue to accomplish.

With gratitude,

Alex Bowker

ABOUT OUR CLUB

OVERVIEW

223 members

149 companies

30 industries

Average age of 29



MISSION STATEMENT

Rotaract mobilizes its members to foster responsible citizenship and catalyze positive change by offering unparalleled opportunities to learn from diverse leaders, bond with committed young professionals, and serve the Birmingham community and beyond.

VISION

Developing young leaders to be actively engaged in building a better community, region, and world.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ALEX BOWKER

President

The President is responsible for the overall strategic direction and management. Their primary duties include presiding over club meetings, leading the executive team, and representing the club to external entities. Additionally, the President is instrumental in overseeing the club's operations and its alignment with the organization's mission and objectives.



MARQUIS HOLLINGSWORTH

President-Elect

The President-Elect's primary responsibilities include preparing to assume the role of President in the next term, presiding over meetings in the President's absence, assisting directors in committee organization and goal-setting, maintaining communication with external entities, leading the 3-year strategic plan process, and ensuring the club's smooth transition between leadership terms.



ELENA CASSINELLI FARRIS

Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer

The Executive Vice President (EVP)'s primary responsibilities include overseeing day-to-day operations, managing technology, website, and financial infrastructure, coordinating the Annual Report and district award applications, and advising the President and President-Elect to ensure continuity across leadership terms.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



AUTUMN MASSEY-SIMS

Vice President of Finance

The Vice President of Finance is responsible for managing the financial aspects of the club and foundation, including budgeting, record-keeping, fundraising, and compliance. They also report financial status to the board and members regularly.



CALLIE MORRISON

Vice President of Public Relations

The VP of Public Relations is responsible for managing the Club's external communications and media relations, overseeing the development of a comprehensive communications strategy, maintaining the Club's website and social media accounts, and fostering positive relationships with community sponsors and partners.



TATIANNA TURRENTINE-LONG

Vice President of Membership Development

The VP of Membership Development focuses on member engagement and development, ensuring that Club programming evolves to meet member needs and fosters a sense of community within Rotaract. They oversee programs like the Leadership Development Program, Board Fellows, and Junior Rotaractors, and assist alumni transitioning to local Rotary Clubs.



LINDSEY YERBY NEWMAN

Vice President of Membership Recruitment

The VP of Membership Recruitment manages the membership recruitment process, including application review and recruitment committees, guest check-in at meetings, and new member orientation. They proactively recruit diverse candidates and maintain communication with potential members while attending Club functions to meet potential recruits.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



OLIVIA PIERCE

Vice President of Club Service

The VP of Club Service oversees the Club's monthly and special service projects, including international opportunities, by sourcing and coordinating partnering organizations, planning projects, and maintaining the Club's Free Little Libraries. They also expand partnerships with civic organizations and city officials.



ELISABETH HALL

Vice President of Programs

The VP of Programs is tasked with selecting speakers for luncheon meetings, coordinating logistics for various programs and events, including the RedTalks, Curated Connections, and the Club's Annual Meeting. They aim to enhance members personal and professional growth through innovative learning opportunities.



MYLES TAYLOR

Vice President of Signature Service

The VP of Signature Service manages Ready2Read and Ready2Succeed by recruiting volunteers, overseeing project committees, and maintaining partnerships with education providers. They also plan our College Signing Day, where we award scholarships to graduating seniors.



VIVEK SINGH

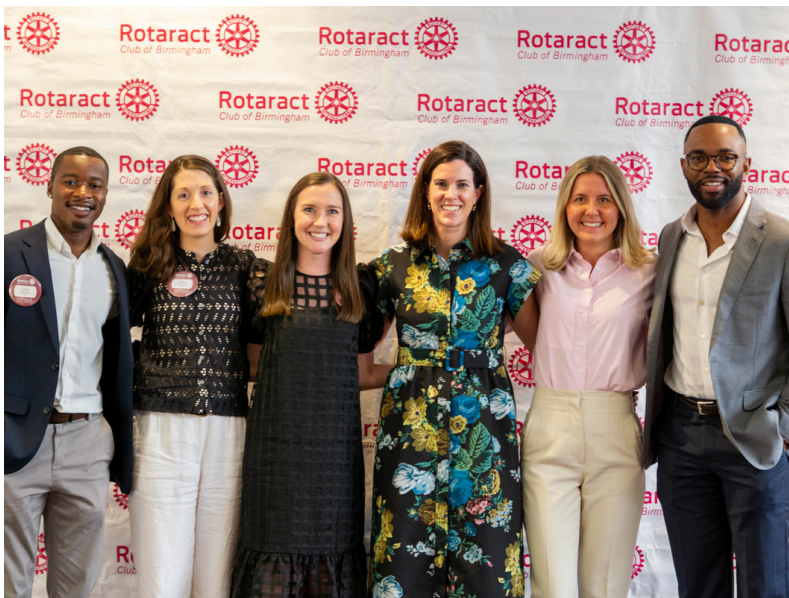
Vice President of Social

The VP of Social is responsible for planning and organizing monthly social events as well as overseeing major fundraisers like the Foundation Ball and Sip N Spell. They work on identifying engaging social programming, managing committees, and coordinating efforts with the Rotaract Club of Birmingham Foundation board.

YEAR IN REVIEW

We had a lot of firsts this year. Below are some we're proud of!

One Monthly Luncheon	Dues Transparency
Monthly Service Partners	Member of the Month & SPOKE Awards
Rotaract Service T-Shirts	Curated Connections
Ready2Read with Minor Elementary	Rotary Luncheon Attendance
Ready2Read Reading Experiences	Little Free Libraries Revamp
Offsite Luncheon: Behind the Scenes of Broadway Tour of Wicked	Purple Out Polio Luncheon
Offsite Luncheon: Rotary Trail Walking Tour	Rotaract Christmas Cards
	Hosting Rotary for a Joint Luncheon



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

LEARN: LUNCHEONS

Our monthly luncheon series continued to serve as a cornerstone of member engagement and professional development. Throughout the 2025–2026 Rotary year, **1,125 members and guests** attended our 12 monthly luncheons, **averaging 94 attendees per event**. These gatherings provided valuable opportunities for networking, leadership development, community connection, and learning from influential speakers across Birmingham. Member awards and recognitions, SPOKE Awards and Member of the Month, were a new addition to our luncheons.

Member of the Month

Each month, we proudly recognize a Member of the Month who has gone above and beyond in service, leadership, and engagement. These individuals embody the spirit of Rotaract through their dedication to our club, our members, and the Birmingham community, inspiring others to lead with purpose and make a lasting difference.

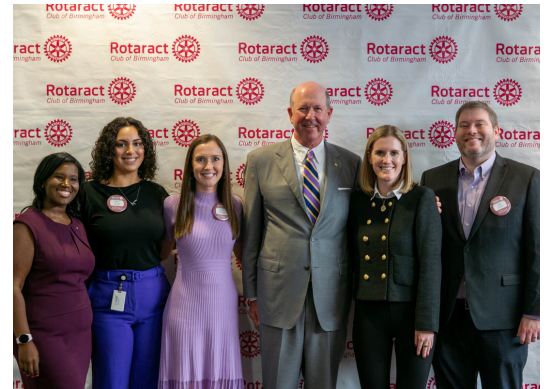
Recipients include: Archie Stewart, Bailey Real Harper, David Horton, Emma Holmes, Erika Dix, Gabe Tucker, Justin Hall, Kelly Aughtman, Madeline Blahnik, Perrin Jones, Porchia Rawls



SPOKE Awards

Each month, the Rotaract Club of Birmingham recognizes two members with the SPOKE Award—an honor celebrating those who exemplify service with heart. These members lead through outreach, build meaningful connections, and consistently make a positive impact by living out the mission and values of Rotaract in their everyday actions.

Recipients include: Alexia McCall, Ashley Adams, Ashley McCain, Austin Sledge, Bianca Smoke, Callie Morrison, Carol Robinson, Clayton Ollendieck, Denzel Okinedo, Greg Cole, Harris Snipes, Hunter Custard, Jacqueline Chandler, Julia Scarinci Elliot, Kayla Gladney, Leah Davis, Lizzet Castro, Ritchie Kruunenberg, Sam Nelms, Sammi Woronoff, Sarah Doriety, Tyler Hatcher



Purple Out Polio Luncheon

In recognition of World Polio Day, Rotaract hosted its first Purple Out Polio Luncheon to raise awareness and support Rotary International's mission to eradicate polio worldwide. Members and guests wore purple in solidarity while hearing from keynote speaker John Turner of Regions and Dr. Isabel Scarinci, a Downtown Rotarian and polio survivor, who shared her powerful personal story and the importance of Rotary's global fight against the disease.

The luncheon also featured POLIO Bingo, with \$290 in proceeds benefiting the PolioPlus initiative, and educational facts about the disease throughout the event. To celebrate the many countries that have been declared polio-free, attendees enjoyed an internationally inspired menu representing nations around the world—serving as a reminder of the global impact of Rotary's decades-long commitment to ending polio for good.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

LEARN: LUNCHEONS

Miller Girvin	President, Economic Development Partnership of Alabama
Chris McCool	Associate Justice, Alabama Supreme Court
Rob Blalock	President and CEO, Brasfield & Gorrie
John Turner	Chairman, President, and CEO, Regions Financial Corporation
Rich Bielen	President and CEO, Protective Life
Paul Finebaum	Sports Journalist and Radio Personality
Graham Boettcher	Executive Director, Birmingham Museum of Art
Dr. Bobbie Knight	President, Miles College
Mike Suco	President and CEO, Coca-Cola Bottling Company United
Tricia Wallwork	<u>CEO, Milo's Tea Company</u>
James Spann	Chief Meteorologist, ABC 33/40

"I have been a member of Rotaract since 2017 and over eight years later, the Club continues to provide unique experiences for me. This fall I was asked to moderate a fireside chat with Protective Life's CEO, Rich Bielen. My role at Protective does not usually include direct work with our leadership team, so it was great to meet Rich and hear from him on a personal and professional level during the luncheon." - Jessica Poor



A special thank-you to the Harbert Center and its staff for hosting our monthly luncheons and providing a welcoming home for our Club.

We're also grateful to the **Civic Club Foundation**, which oversees the Foundation's investment portfolio and approves capital expenses to maintain the Harbert Center's building, furniture, and equipment — ensuring it remains a premier venue for years to come. Rotaract is proud to have a seat at that table, with Elena Cassinelli Farris and Marquis Hollingsworth representing our Club's interests on the Foundation.

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

LEARN: CURATED CONNECTIONS

Immersive networking and enrichment experiences that showcase Birmingham's culture and diversity

In addition to our monthly luncheons, members have the opportunity to engage in unique, immersive experiences through our signature program, Curated Connections. Launched this year, the initiative blends networking, learning, and fun through thoughtfully crafted events that reflect Birmingham's rich diversity and vibrant culture — creating space for both personal and professional growth through exclusive access to premier venues, activities, and community leaders.

Signature experiences

- A progressive dinner across James Beard Award–winning restaurants, featuring multiple courses at some of the city's most celebrated dining destinations and conversation with renowned chefs
- A golf clinic with a former PGA professional at a member-only course
- Live iron casting at the historic Sloss Furnaces including a panel featuring leaders from our beloved city, who represent key moments in Birmingham's historical and cultural evolution
- A guided, behind-the-scenes tour of the Birmingham Museum of Art's vault and Monet to Matisse exhibit

Connection-focused gatherings

- Rotary Roundtable, bringing Rotaractors and Rotarians together in small-group settings to encourage authentic dialogue and relationship-building between emerging and established leaders
- The Annual Rotary Trail Party, a signature social event connecting members and local leaders in a relaxed setting

Through Curated Connections, Rotaract members step beyond the traditional luncheon setting to socialize, learn, and grow — strengthening both individual connections and the broader community.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

ROTARY PARTNERSHIPS

The Rotary Transitions Program focuses on building strong relationships with Birmingham-area Rotary Clubs and District representatives to create partnership opportunities and support member transitions into local Rotary Clubs. The program also promotes engagement by encouraging eligible members (age 30+) to attend the Rotary Club of Birmingham's weekly lunches, where 10 spots are reserved for participation.

- Approximately 40 unique participants attended Downtown Rotary weekly lunches (July 2025 – March 2026)
- Approximately 165 total lunch sign-ups during the same period

Rotary & Rotaract Partnership Highlights

- Rotary's Boiling N' Bragging
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace Joint Service Project
- Rotaract Support for RCB's Holiday Boarding Home Project
- Rotarians & Rotaractors Paired as Professional Partners
- Rotaract & Rotary Board Fellowship
- Rotaract Leadership at RCB Board Meetings
- RCB Hosted Rotaract Roundtable Dinner
- Rotary & Rotaract Mahjong Social
- Rotary Trail Walking Tour Offsite Luncheon
- Rotary Joint Luncheon with Rotaract + Kiwanis (US Steel Speaker)
- Rotary Joint Luncheon with Rotaract (SWAC Speaker)
- Rotaract Joint Luncheon with Rotary (BMA Speaker)
- Rotary Trail Service in March
- Rotary Trail 10th Anniversary Celebration in April

Rotary Club Partnerships (8):

Shades Valley, Sunset, Sunrise, Downtown, Homewood, Vestavia Hills Sunrise, Trussville Daybreak, and Hoover

District 6860 Awards: Earned **first place** in Club Service, Community Service, Youth Service, and Best Use of Social Media, recognizing the club's outstanding achievements during the 2025-2026 Rotary year.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

JUNIOR ROTARACTORS

The Junior Rotaractors program brings Club-member children into the fold through social events planned with them in mind. The 2025–2026 program hosted two fall events and two spring events, giving the next generation a firsthand look at community and connection.

2025–2026 highlights:

- Artsy Studio Play Day — a private class where kids explored painting, block building, and other art mediums
- Fire Station Fun Day at Mountain Brook Fire Station — a tour, fire truck exploration, and conversation with local firefighters, followed by park time
- Jr. Rotaractors at KidStrong — a private class building character, strength, communication, and confidence
- Keepsake Box Building at Home Depot — hands-on opportunity for little ones to build and decorate their very own keepsake boxes

Across all events, more than 65 parents and children attended.

Service

runs in the family



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

SOCIALIZE

In Rotaract, we believe that strong relationships fuel greater impact. Our social events are never just gatherings—they're thoughtfully curated experiences designed to bring our members closer together, from elegant black-tie galas to first-access happy hours at Birmingham's newest hotspots. Every event is intentional, creating space for authentic connection, collaboration, and community.

Our membership is a vibrant mix of Birmingham natives and newcomers alike. Through bespoke social programming, we help members plant roots, expand their networks, and feel truly at home—both professionally and civically. Beyond happy hours, our calendar features unique pop-up socials and family-friendly, alcohol-free alternatives, ensuring there's something for everyone across our diverse community.

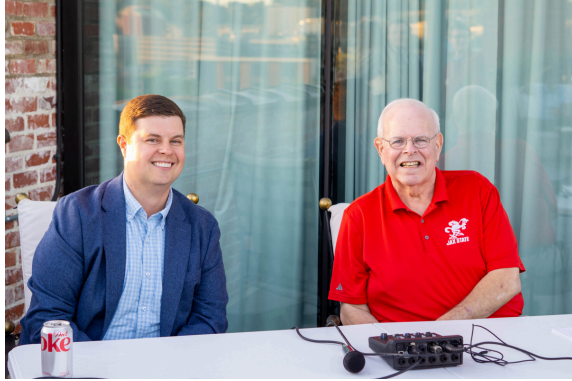
2025–2026 Social Calendar

- Movies on the Mountain at Vulcan Park
- Pop-Up Social at House Eleven
- Paint in the Garden at The Shoppe
- Bygones Bar Happy Hour
- Sunday Funday Pop-Up Brunch at Luna Latin Cuisine
- Glass Blowing Class with Glass & Grain
- Ampersand Cocktails & Desserts Happy Hour
- Boardsgiving — members bring their own food boards at John Hand Club
- Tacky Sweater Party at Neon Moon
- Christmas Cocktail at Pogo Speakeasy
- The Pilates Dwelling Class
- Pink Lantern Happy Hour
- Hero Donuts Coffee Social
- Palentines Viewing of The Wiz at Red Mountain Theatre
- Grounds Coffee Social
- Hibachi Rooftop Night at Kinetic Communications
- Magnolia Point Happy Hour
- Otey's Trivia Night
- Rotaract x YP Volleyball Mixer at Sidebar
- Progressive Bar Crawl at Salud Taqueria, Moonshine at Elyton Hotel, and Adiões



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

SIP N' SPELL



Now in its second year, Sip N' Spell has quickly become one of Rotaract's most beloved traditions. Born in 2024 from a proposal presented to our Board of Directors through our Leadership Development Program, this lively adult spelling bee brings together energetic emcees, spirited competition, and a crowd ready to cheer — all for a great cause.

This year's event was nothing short of spectacular. With 17 competitors, 71 attendees, and the incomparable Eli Gold and Roger Hoover commanding the mic, the evening was filled with laughter, friendly rivalry, and unforgettable moments. Competitors vied for the ultimate prize of — \$250, a trophy, and year-long bragging rights — while our community showed up in a big way. This year's winners were Myles Taylor, Ben Foster, and Jarrod Stisher.

The results spoke for themselves: we raised **\$12,654**, surpassing our \$12,500 goal and proving that when Rotaract brings people together, great things happen.

All proceeds directly fund our two signature service projects:

- Ready2Succeed — a mentorship program preparing Parker High School students for life beyond the classroom through career workshops, life skills training, and one-on-one mentorship.
- Ready2Read — an early literacy initiative bringing story times, book donations, and interactive learning to second and third graders at i3 Academy and Minor Elementary.

Sip N' Spell is more than a fundraiser. It's a celebration of community, purpose, and the impact we can make together.

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

FOUNDATION BALL

This year, we didn't just meet our goal — we shattered it.
The Foundation Ball raised \$46,000 in sponsorships,
surpassing our \$30,000 target by 53%.

On March 7, 2026, we brought "Casino Royale" to life at The Florentine in downtown Birmingham — a black-tie night of casino games played for fun with play money rather than real stakes, presented by Alabama Power and Bham Now. Guests packed the game tables and dance floor in support of our Signature Service projects, Ready2Read and Ready2Succeed.

VIP ticket holders enjoyed:

- Access to the VIP lounge and bar
- Two raffle tickets each
- Playing chips for VIP blackjack, poker, and roulette tables
- Two small-batch cocktails

Raffle winners took home prizes from 13 themed baskets donated by local businesses — from a diamond earring set from Avani Rupa and a \$500 Diamonds Direct gift certificate, to a Nick Saban autographed hat, a Sloss Furnace live bowl pour for two, and a Birmingham Zoo membership.

This year's record-breaking results are a testament to our community's generosity and our members' hard work — and they set the bar even higher for what's ahead.

Please see a full list of our generous sponsors on our "Partnerships" page.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

CLUB SERVICE

As the largest Rotaract chapter globally, we continue to embody "Service Above Self" through strategic partnerships with nonprofits serving all 99 Birmingham neighborhoods. Focused on education, housing, food access, environmental stewardship, and family support, the Club provides diverse, hands-on service opportunities that directly impact the community.

This term, we prioritized member-driven engagement by aligning service partnerships with organizations where members already serve in leadership roles. Events were scheduled outside standard work hours to maximize accessibility. The enhanced Monthly Service Partner (MSP) program deepened impact through events, leadership engagement, and in-kind donations.

- **657 service hours** completed
- **19 service events** hosted
- **302 participants engaged** (members, guests, prospective members)
- **\$20,000+** invested in community initiatives

Community Service Partners:

- Better Basics: **1,232 K-3 books stickered** and **146 hand written letters distributed** to students
- YWCA: **48 backpacks packed** for children in the Family Resource Program
- Ronald McDonald House: Played BINGO with families and packed **600 laundry kits**
- Greater Birmingham Humane Society: **Walked 30+ dogs** and **socialized 3 cat colonies**
- Firehouse: Cooked and served dinner for **75 residents**
- Jones Valley Teaching Farm: Weeded, laid cardboard, and spread mulch to help prep 16 gardening beds for growing season
- Freshwater Land Trust: Added **8 directional stencils** to Hugh Kaul Trail
- Junior League of Birmingham: Partnered to build **52 beds** for Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Central Alabama
- Sims Garden: Reorganized 3 sections of pumpkin patches and pruned/staked 5 tomato plants
- Glenwood: Stickered **1,450 bags of pecans**
- First Light: Served **breakfast to 50 women and children** residents
- Small Magic: Wrote **60 notes**, packed over **480 books and educational toys** for the Birmingham Talks and Phonics Power programs, assembled 10 book drive donation bins, and generated ~25 ideas for book drive donation sites
- Exceptional Foundation: Brought over **40 members to cheer on the basketball players**
- Girls Inc: Organized three closets of supplies and sorted library books
- Rotary Club of Birmingham: Helped spread **500 bags of mulch** to refresh the Rotary Trail
- Railroad Park: Collected more than **15 bags of microtrash** across all 19 acres of the park
- HICA: Painted 500 square foot office space + reorganized office furniture
- Red Cross: Donated **41 pints of blood** at the Pints for a Purpose Blood Drive
- Prescott House: Packed **75 night night bags** and made **164 handwritten notes** of encouragement.

"First Light holds a special place in my heart, and serving on the Young Partners Board for the past three years has been deeply meaningful to me. Being able to share my 'why' at the luncheon and then serve alongside Rotaract allowed me to connect my personal passion to real, hands-on impact. Those moments reminded me that meaningful change happens when we show up consistently, work together, and truly invest in the mission." - Ashley Adams



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES



Rotaract maintains 8 Little Free Libraries across Birmingham, and this year our board members and chairs transformed each one through a redesign competition inspired by children's books, then the entire Club voted on their favorite.

Beyond the redesigns, we collected **1,832 books**, which were stickered, sorted, and distributed throughout the year.

Our members worked to keep every library stocked, helping encourage literacy, spark curiosity, and inspire a love of reading in Birmingham.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

SIGNATURE SERVICE

Ready2Read

Building early literacy and a love of reading among elementary students

2025–2026 impact

- **32** Rotaract members served as volunteer readers
- **200+ students reached** between Minor Elementary and i3 Academy
- **1,242 books distributed**, helping students build home libraries of their own



Highlights

- Monthly interactive reading sessions paired with guided comprehension discussions
- Hands-on enrichment activities tied to each book — including a *Where the Wild Things Are* craft and parade that brought the story to life
- A festive holiday book delivery, with members wrapping titles by hand and volunteers dressed as Santa and his elves delivering them to students

Ready2Succeed

Mentorship and college and career readiness for high school students, in partnership with Parker High School

2025–2026 impact

- 16 Rotaract mentors
- 30 students mentored throughout the year

Highlights

- Twice-monthly mentoring sessions focused on real-world readiness
- A new member-led development curriculum, with monthly themes covering resume building, civic engagement, and financial literacy
- Guest speakers drawn from club membership, sharing professional expertise and personal insight with students

Signature events

- College Signing Day, celebrating seniors as they commit to their next chapter — college, military service, or technical training
- **\$15,000 in Ready2Succeed scholarships** awarded to graduating seniors



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rotaract Club of Birmingham invests in members' growth through four key avenues: the Leadership Development Program, the Board Fellows Program, RedTalks, and our Club Chair positions. Together, these programs give members hands-on leadership experience, mentorship, and personal growth opportunities at every stage of their Rotaract journey.

Leadership Development Program (LDP)

LDP is our Club's most competitive development program, built to give members a personalized, value-driven path to grow their leadership skills and explore new interests. Applications open each July, and the program runs the full board calendar year across three pillars: a Speaker Series, the Professional Partners Program, and a collaborative Class Project.

Through the Professional Partners Program, LDP members are matched with Rotarians who share similar goals or career interests for monthly check-ins — coffee, lunch, a shared Rotary event — over an eight-month span kicked off each January. The Class Project challenges the cohort to tackle a Club improvement area together, presenting recommendations to incoming and current Board members by year's end. Speakers this year included Rachel Fry (DISC Profile Workshop), a non-profit panel with Mashonda and Yamini, The Welch Group (financial literacy), Keith Cromwell (executive presence and public speaking), Sanjay Singh (an Industry Spotlight dinner on diversity in leadership), and Gianetta Jones (leading teams, paired with a Coca-Cola tour).

2025–2026 Class Project: Each year, the President-Elect introduces the cohort's challenge. This year's result is "Level Up," a new program launching in the 2026–2027 Board Term to guide members from onboarding through senior leadership.

2025–2026 by the numbers:

- 24 applicants, 12 selected (5 men, 7 women)
- 12 Professional Partner pairings
- 5 Speaker Series sessions
- 9 total meetings, including the Spring Project Presentation

2025-2026 LDP Cohort: Ashley McCain, Aubrie Strange, Austin Sledge, Bianca Smoke, Bryant Long, Clayton Ollendieck, Faith Baumann, Karli Matalaka, Porchia Rawls, Raven Johnson, Tyler Hatcher, Wil Cushman



Board Fellows Program

Launched in 2019, Board Fellows places Rotaract members as non-voting, ex-officio members on the boards of local nonprofit organizations — deepening civic engagement while connecting members to Birmingham's nonprofit community. Fellows commit to attending board meetings, getting involved beyond the boardroom (volunteering, fundraising events, junior boards), and competing in a grant-writing exercise on behalf of their partner nonprofit, with finalists presenting to the club and the Foundation Board. This year's winners **each received \$5,000 in grant funding:** Jevon Tatum for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama's Family Life Clothes Closet, and Anna Lena Kanter for United Way of Central Alabama's Norwood Elementary School Revitalization.

Partnered with 12 Birmingham nonprofits: Prosper Birmingham · Friends of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens · Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama · United Way of Central Alabama · Redemptive Cycles · Jones Valley Teaching Farm · Greater Birmingham Arts Education Alliance · YMCA Greater Birmingham · Hand in Paw · Habitat for Humanity · Red Mountain Theatre · Coosa Riverkeeper

2026 Board Fellows Cohort - 12 Board Fellows (3 men, 9 women) selected from 19 applicants: Alexia McCall, Anna Lena Kanter, Ashley Adams, Bre'Anda Conwell, Carol Robinson, Dewayne Jones, Erika Dix, Jevon Tatum, Kayla Harris, Mitchell Baldwin, Sarah Doriety, Sophanie Ocean

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RedTalks

Modeled after TEDx, RedTalks gives members a platform to develop and share a personal story through a structured public-speaking development program. Selected applicants attend a series of workshops led by storytelling and communication experts before taking the stage at a culminating presentation night in front of fellow members, family, and friends.

2025–2026 Workshop Facilitators:

- Javacia Harris Bowser — Writer, Author, and Founder of See Jane Write
- Kate McCombs — Assistant Professor, Samford University Brock School of Business
- Keith Cromwell — Executive Director, Red Mountain Theatre

2025-2026 RedTalks Cohort: Harris Snipes, Kenneth Reese, Lizzet Castro, and Mitchell Baldwin



Club Chairs

Beyond the **11-member Board of Directors**, this year the Club offered **28 Chair positions** designed to build leadership skills by giving members ownership of specific initiatives under a Board member's portfolio. The Board distributes a formal application for these roles each year and selects Chairs through a rigorous process matched to each position's skillset and goals.

Chair positions span every area of the Club, including:

- President-Elect: Two Strategic Planning Chairs
- EVP/COO: Technology Chair
- VP of Finance: Controller, Grant Fundraising Chair
- VP of Public Relations: Newsletter Chair, Digital Content Creator
- VP of Programs: Red Talks Chair, Curated Connections Chair, four Luncheon Administrators
- VP of Social: Monthly Social Chair, Signature Events Chair
- VP of Club Service: Two Service Ambassadors, Little Free Libraries Chair
- VP of Signature Service: Ready2Read Chair, Ready2Succeed Chair, Signature Service Events Chair
- VP of Membership Development: Rotary Transition Chair, Leadership Development Program Co-Chairs, Board Fellows Program Chair
- VP of Membership Recruitment: Recruitment Chair, Partnership Chair, New Member Chair

2025-2026 Chairs: Alexia McCall, Amanda Carmichael, Archie Stewart, Ashley Adams, Ashley McCain, Austin Sledge, Bailey Real Harper, David Horton, Denzel Okinedo, Emma Holmes, Kelly Aughtman, Kristen Cottingham, Lauren Hyde, Leah Burton, Leah Davis, Madeline Blahnik, Makenna Berry, Mary Cate Sims, Ritchie Kruunenberg, Salma Raouf, Sammi Woronoff, Sam Nelms, Tara Ingram, Thomas Skelton, Trey Sullivan, Zoya Dhanji

FINANCIAL REPORT

THE FOUNDATION

The Rotaract Foundation fundraises in partnership with the Club Board through events like Sip N Spell and Foundation Ball, plus sponsorships and grants. The Foundation manages an investment account that puts funds to work supporting our Signature Service, Club, Rotary International, and Community initiatives.

\$23K

In grant fundraising received

\$110K

Awarded to service projects, club initiatives, and Rotary International

2025 - 2026 Foundation Board

Christianna Rudder, Chair

Alex Bowker, Club President

Thomas Yerby, Immediate Past Club President

Autumn Massey-Sims, Club VP of Finance

Nick White, Director at Large

Clay McDowell, Director at Large

Leah Davis, Director at Large

Non-Voting Members

Marquis Hollingsworth, President-Elect

Myles Taylor, VP of Signature Service

Revenue

Foundation Ball Sponsorships	\$46,000.00
Sip N Spell Sponsorships	\$12,500.00
Grants	\$23,000.00
Foundation Ball Tickets	\$25,500.64
Sip N Spell Tickets	\$2,020.00
Foundation Ball Additional Revenue	\$1,927.03
Sip N Spell Additional Revenue	\$501.79
Member Endowments	\$5,625.00
Total Revenue	\$117,074.46

Expenses

Ready2Read	\$14,150.00
Read2Succeed	\$20,928.78
Club Service	\$20,258.80
Discretionary Funds (Member Initiatives, Board Fellows, and Rotary)	\$29,000.00
Donations (Convention + Boiling N' Bragging)	\$3,400.00
Foundation Ball Expenses	\$43,022.22
Sip N Spell Expenses	\$2,516.00
General and Administrative	\$14,778.39
Total Expenses	\$148,054.19

FINANCIAL REPORT

CLUB FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This year, we took an important step toward greater transparency by clearly sharing with members how their dues are used. We also introduced a new quarterly payment option, with many members choosing this flexible approach. By meeting members where they are and showing how their dollars directly support both their experience and our impact in the community, we’re building a stronger, more connected Rotaract.

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$78,811	Programs	\$57,543
Luncheon Guests	\$503	Social	\$14,428
Percentage Nights	\$1,135	Service	\$336
Event Sponsorships	\$5,500	Membership Development	\$4,366
Application Fee Revenue	\$1,049	Communications	\$450
Total Revenue		Recruitment	\$1,098
		Charitable Contributions	\$275
		Technology	\$708
		General and Administrative (taxes, RI dues, Po Box, etc.)	\$5,433
		Conventions	\$1,924
		Incoming Board	\$1,103
		Total Expenses	
		\$87,665	



CLASS SOCIALS/GIVE BACK NIGHTS

This year, we partnered with local businesses, including Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams, Michael’s Restaurant, Taco Mama, Big Spoon Creamery, and Otey’s Crestline, to launch a series of Give Back Nights — social evenings where a portion of each night's proceeds, between 10–20%, was donated directly back to the club. These events doubled as class socials, giving members a reason to reconnect with their classmates, catch up with the broader membership, and welcome potential new members into the fold.

The result? **\$1,134.51** raised through a simple but powerful idea: get people together, support local businesses, and let the community take care of the rest. With more events on the horizon, this initiative is only just getting started.



PARTNERSHIPS

To our Partners,

We're profoundly grateful to the sponsors of our Foundation Ball, Socials, and Sip N Spell events, and to our Community Service Partners who make our year of service possible. Your support reflects a shared belief in the civic responsibility of organizations to invest in their communities and in the next generation of leaders.

Through your partnership, our members gain real opportunities to serve, lead, and grow — bridging professional development with community responsibility. Together, we're building a culture where service and leadership go hand in hand.

Thank you for helping us strengthen Birmingham today while investing in the leaders who will carry that work forward.

Community Service Partners

- Better Basics
- YWCA Central Alabama
- Little Free Libraries
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Children's of Alabama
- Greater Birmingham Humane Society
- Jones Valley Teaching Farm
- Freshwater Land Trust
- Birmingham Promise
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Junior League of Birmingham
- HICA
- Glenwood
- First Light Shelter
- Exceptional Foundation
- Girls Inc.
- Railroad Park
- Rotary Trail
- Prescott House
- Red Cross of Alabama
- Small Magic
- Firehouse
- Sims Garden



Event Sponsors

Foundation Ball Sponsors

- Alabama Power
- Balch
- Baldwin Properties
- BBA
- Bham Now
- Brasfield & Gorrie
- Burr & Forman
- Coca-Cola UNITED
- Dunn French Foundation
- First Horizon Bank
- Fortif Law Partners
- Gresham Smith
- IronVest
- KMS
- Landscape Workshop
- Protective
- Pylon Building
- Raymond James
- Reach Experience
- Robins & Morton
- Savant
- Shades Valley Rotary
- Southern Power
- SPC IAT
- SSOE
- Stone X

Social Event Sponsors

- Alfa
- Cahaba Wealth Management
- Keller Williams Hospitality Network Group
- Striver Ford

Sip N Spell Sponsors

- CS Equities
- Dosie
- Oakworth Capital
- Protective
- West Alabama Bank

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Christianna Rudder

Rotaract Club of Birmingham Foundation, Chair

"Serving as Chair of the Rotaract Foundation this year—my third and final year in the role—has been incredibly meaningful. The Foundation has allowed us to mobilize funds within our community for causes our members genuinely care about, turning passion into tangible impact. It has also strengthened our partnership with the club by aligning service and fundraising efforts, creating a more unified and purposeful experience. I'm especially proud to help leave behind a sustainable structure that empowers future members to continue supporting the organizations and initiatives that matter most to them."



Archie Stewart

Curated Connections Chair

"Rotaract has completely transformed how I approach relationship building, service, and community. This year alone, The Club has stretched my leadership abilities through being the chair of the newest initiative, Curated Connections, which allowed me to increase my network within the Club as well as with our Rotarians and pushed my creativity to be able to provide one of kind experiences for our members!"



Harris Snipes

Member

"Since joining last October, Rotaract has opened my eyes to the literacy challenges in Birmingham, and allowed me to serve in many different areas where we struggle as a city. It has also given me the opportunity to connect with a wide range of young professionals with diverse backgrounds, ideas, and ways of approaching problems, most of whom I would never have met otherwise. Overall, for young people in Birmingham looking to actually serve the community, I believe it is the best organization to get involved with."



Austin Sledge

Ready2Read Chair

"Serving as Ready2Read Chair has been a meaningful extension of my work in youth education and workforce development. It's allowed me to support early literacy in a hands-on way and deepen my impact in the Birmingham community. Most importantly, it's given me the chance to help inspire and uplift the future leaders of Birmingham!"

ANNUAL MEMBER AWARDS

Charles A. Collat, Sr. Distinguished Leadership Award

Alex Bowker

This award recognizes and honors a member who demonstrates an exceptional degree of leadership ability. This award is the Club's highest honor.

Paul Harris Fellows

Callie Morrison, Denzel Okinedo, Leah Davis, Marquis Hollingsworth

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges members of the Club who exemplify Rotary's motto of service above self, and who have dedicated time to improving our Club and community.

Rotary District 6860 Service Award

Maggie Elliott

Maggie was selected to receive a Rotary District Service Award in recognition of her efforts on behalf of The Rotary Foundation and their service to both the Rotaract Club of Birmingham and the greater Birmingham community. This honor comes directly from our District leadership and reflects a meaningful commitment to service above self.

Mahon-Peinhardt Director's Awards

Christianna Rudder, Maggie Elliott, Sammi Woronoff

Named in honor of Rotaract Birmingham's founders, Mike Mahon and John Peinhardt, this award recognizes individuals who are not board members and who consistently go above and beyond in their membership, engagement, and commitment to our club. This year, we are proud to recognize three outstanding members. Each of these individuals has invested countless hours, energy, and passion into making Rotaract better for our members and our community.

Rotaract Distinguished Service Award

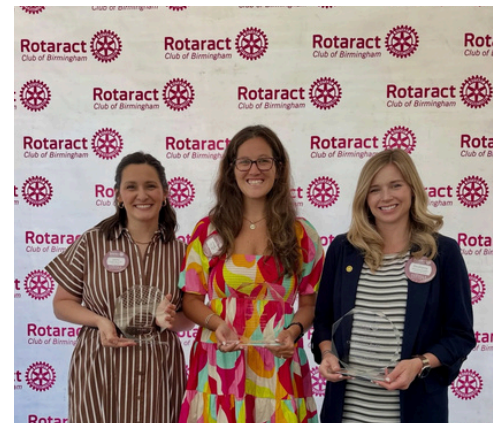
Olivia Pierce

This award recognizes a member who has demonstrated an exceptional degree of commitment to service throughout the year. Whether through hands-on volunteerism, leadership, or a consistent commitment to serving others, this recipient embodies the heart of Rotaract's mission. Olivia's leadership, dedication, and passion for serving our community have left a lasting impact on our club and our nonprofit partners throughout the year.

Outstanding New Member Award

Bianca Smoke

Introduced in 2020, this award recognizes a member who joined the club within the last twelve months and has already distinguished themselves through exceptional engagement, leadership, and commitment to Rotary's Four-Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? This award is presented to a new member who is already viewed as a leader among their peers and someone from whom we expect great things in the years ahead.



MEMBERS

Alec Hersh	Casey Hinton	Holly Lowe	Lauren Hyde	Rachel Paulk
Aleisha Dunning	Christen Massey	Hunter Custard	Leah Burton	RaeMah Henderson
Alex Bowker	Christian Thompson	Ian Burt	Leah Davis	Raven Johnson
Alex Howard (McCain)	Christianna Rudder	Jack (John) Callahan	Lee Mallette	Reid Pickens
Alex Patrick	Clarence Duncan	Jacqueline Chandler	Leecora Rodgers	Rick Lewis
Alexia McCall	Clay McDowell	Jake Bruno	Lillian Brand	Ritchie Kruunenburg
Alfred Mercer	Clayton Ollendieck	Jake Gurkin	Lindsey Newman	Roderick Jordan
Allison Cole	Cooper Carter	James Carmichael	Liz Mooney	Rosemary Turner
Allison Swagler	Courtney Faulkner	James Kemp	Lizzet Castro	Salma Raouf
Alyssa Thomas	Daniel Church	James Thornton	Logan Thrasher	Sam Brinkley
Amanda Carmichael	Danielle Tipton	James Miller Williams	Lorena Idris	Sam Guerrero
Amber Todd	Darrell Forte	Jarrold Stisher	Lucas Lopez	Sam Harris
Anber Johnson	David Horton	Jaylon Williams	Lydia McDowell	Sam Nelms
Anna Lena Kanter	David Martorana	JD Tyler	Macy Walters	Samantha Warner
Archie Stewart	Denzel Okinedo	Jehme Pruitt	Madeline Blahnik	Sammi Woronoff
Ashley Adams	Dera Carr	Jeremiah Spillers	Makenna Berry	Samuel Pugh III
Ashley Buchanan	Dewayne Jones	Jessica Poor	Malcolm Jefferson	Sarah (Gronberg) Doriety
Ashley McCain	Dhruma Patel	Jevon Tatum	Manning Russell	Shannon Anderson
Aubrie Strange	Dionte Rudolph	Jhana Plump	Marcus Williams	Shekinah Lee
Audrey Hodges (Ferguson)	Drew Dickson	John Price	Maggie Elliott	Sophie O'cean
Austin Sledge	Eleanor Burke	Jonathan Prosch	Marly Green	Summer Rhea
Autumn Massey-Sims	Elena Cassinelli Farris	Julia Potts	Marquis Hollingsworth	Suzanna Slawson
Bailey Real Harper	Elisabeth Hall	Julia Scarinci Elliot	Mary Cate (Saville) Sims	Sydney Evans
Bella Tylicki	Elizabeth Winslett	Justin McCleskey	Mary Margaret Freeland	Sydney Terry
Ben Barrow	Emily Duren	Kaitlyn Nelson	Matthew McGough	Taft Elliott
Bennett McGehee	Emma Holmes	Kaitlyn Puzitiello	Matthew Taylor	Tara Ingram
Bianca Smoke	Erika Dix	Karli Matalaka	McKenzie Cox	Tatianna Turrentine-Long
Bonnie DeCarlo	Ethan Creel	Kate McGehee	Meghan Claburn	Taylor Brown
Brad Jennings	Faith Baumann	Kathrine Bromberg	Melissa Moody	Taylor Davis
Brandon Cummings	Forrest Johnson	Katlyn Caldwell	Meredith Hutcheson	Thomas Skelton
Brantley Taylor	Frank Johnson Baxley	Kayla Gladney	Meredith Sudol (Moore)	Thomas Yerby
Brass Bralley	Gabe Tucker	Kayla Harris	Mitchell Baldwin	Trey Sullivan
Bre Sturdivant	Gabrielle deBruler	Keith Stephens	MKayl Lewis	Tripp Moss
Bre'Anda Conwell	Garrick Moultrie	Kelly Aughtman	Morgan Smoke	Tyler Hatcher
Brooks Berueffy	George Keller	Kendall Smoke	Mya Jolly	Victoria Hilt
Bryant Long	Grace Mann	Kenji Baker	Myles Taylor	Vivek Singh
Caitlyn Borek	Grayson Wiles	Kenneth Reese	Nick White	Whit Joseph
Caleb Mills	Greg Cole	Kianna Muse	Olivia Barnes	Wil Cushman
Callie Cochran	Hagen Livingston	Kiera Horton	Olivia Fons	William Miller
Callie Morrison	Haleigh Davis	Kristen Cottingham	Olivia Hayes	William Wade
Carlos Hernandez	Haley Hogue	Kristina Johnson	Olivia Pierce	Zach Sims
Carol Robinson	Hannah Keiffer	Kyra Perkins	Payton Cato	Zachary Venos
Caroline Mungenast	Harris Snipes	Lane Braxton	Perrin Jones	Zoya Dhanji
Carson Sneckenberger	Hayes Ludwig	Laura Luker	Porchia Rawls	
Carter Sidor	Helen Hinds	Laura Newbold	Rachel Johnson	

LOOKING AHEAD

Built on months of member feedback through Pulse Check Surveys and Listening Labs, our **2026–2029 Strategic Plan** centers on one clear insight: relationships drive everything we do. Refreshed every three years, the plan reflects the current voice of our membership and sets a shared direction for the Club's future.

Five Strategic Goals

1. Development Across the Lifecycle: Continuous growth opportunities at every stage of membership, not just onboarding
2. Intentional Connection: Designed experiences that build lasting social, professional, and civic relationships
3. Transparent Leadership: Clear, accessible pathways into leadership roles with shared ownership
4. Sustainable Systems: Centralized communication and documentation for smooth year-to-year continuity
5. Financial Stewardship: Transparent, proactive management of dues, fundraising, and sponsorships

This plan belongs to every Board and every member who carries it forward, term after term — guiding us through 2029, when our membership will once again shape what comes next.





THANK YOU



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