



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Can Tax Credit Stem Hospital Closures?



Kathleen Smith

Kathleen Smith, Regional Development Officer with the WellStar Foundation, is hopeful that the newly-enacted Georgia Rural Hospital Organization Expense Tax Credit Program will help prevent further closures of hospitals located in Georgia's rural communities and areas. Research shows that 25 states have seen at least one rural hospital close since 2010. Most of those closures have occurred in the South. Georgia is ranked third on the list with 7 closures. Texas with 13 closures and Tennessee with 8 are first and second on that list. In all, 81 rural hospitals have closed since 2010, and another 672 are in dire and immediate danger of closing. Smith says that Georgia's Tax Credit Program, signed into law last May and launched in June, is targeting 49 Georgia hospitals and looks very much like the tax credit program for not-for-profit private schools. Each hospital could receive as much as \$4 million from the program to assist in meeting expenses and shortfalls. WellStar's only hospital among those

49 is Sylvan Grove located in neighboring Jackson. Smith asked all in the audience to consider the impact that closure of Sylvan Grove would have. First, those employed by the hospital would lose their jobs causing an economic impact in the community. Also, emergency treatment would become critically important because it is no longer 'local'. There will be delays in treatment and medical attention. And, hospitals in surrounding communities will receive the load of patients who were previously served by the closed hospital. Sylvan Grove serves over 15,000 patients each year. Patient satisfaction scores are always very high. Their 25-bed rehabilitative care facility serves 7 surrounding counties, including Spalding. Smith explained that the closure of Sylvan Grove would have drastic impacts here in Griffin with the WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital. Smith further explained that Sylvan Grove is a 55-year-old structure (oldest in the WellStar system) which needs upgrades and expansion, especially in the outpatient services. They depend upon philanthropy. Funds generated by the Rural Hospital Tax Credit Program can be used to defray administrative costs and in renovations and new construction. For more information on the program, please visit Georgia's Department of Revenue (dor.georgia.gov) or the Georgia Department of Community Health (dch.georgia.gov).

....By Wayne Gardner

Club Calendar

AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MONTH IN ROTARY

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| August 31 | Mathew Hauer
Demographer, UGA Carl
Vincent Institute of
Government
What Our Community
Numbers Tell Us |
| September 7 | Dr. Steve Wrigley
Chancellor
University System of
Georgia

Board Meeting @ 5:45 PM |
| September 14 | Brad Bohannon
Georgia Lottery
Corporation |

Our Rotary Family

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| August 18 | Bill Hardee |
| September 2 | Tony Powell |
| 7 | Jerry Walker |
| 10 | Howard Wallace |
| 10 | Wade Miller |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| August 31 | Thom & Linda Sandwich |
| September 3 | Brian & Tracee Upson |
| 7 | Otis & Ellen Blake |
| 9 | Frank & Carolyn Harris |

ROTARIANS BATTLE DISEASE AND IMPROVE HEALTHCARE



No doubt, not all Americans have access to or can afford basic healthcare, and another 400 million people in the world suffer in the same circumstances. Disease results in misery, pain, and poverty, and that is why Rotary is committed to treating and preventing disease. We are at the brink of eradicating polio; yet, we lead other efforts to combat malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, and diabetes.

THE GRIFFITARIAN

CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER NETS \$304 MILLION

Rotary International announced the Foundation's year-long centennial resulted in Rotary Clubs raising \$304 million in support of the Foundation. The Foundation continues to be the leading humanitarian foundation in the world and has spent almost \$4 billion since its creation in 1917 to help people live better. Rotary's top project has been, and continues to be, the eradication of polio. Our polio immunization program was initiated in 1985. Since then, the incidence of polio has dropped by 99.9%. Over 2.5 billion children in 122 countries have been immunized through these efforts and our contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN, GA
PO Box 473, Griffin, GA 30224
Club Number 4129

OFFICERS

President	- Tom Gardner
Vice-President	- Janice Wallace
President-Elect	- Randy Peters
Treasurer	- Art Hammond
Secretary	- Yvonne Langford
Sergeant-at-Arms	- George Granade
Club Chaplain	- Wade Miller
Bulletin Editor	- Wayne Gardner
Photographer	- William Wilson

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Membership	- Charles Woodroof
Public Relations	- Brett Bell
Club Administration	- John White
Rotary Foundation	- Alan Dodson
Vocational Service	- Corey Letson
Community Service	- David Galloway
International Service	- Bill Hardee
New Generations	- Katy Arrowood

DISTRICT 6900 AND ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

ED OUTLAW

Assistant District Governor

ALEC SMYTHE

District 6900 Governor

IAN H.S. RISELEY

Rotary International President

JOIN GRIFFIN ROTARY ONLINE

griffinrotary.org

FOLLOW ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN



Introductions



Tamara Ison, President of WellStar Spalding Regional and Sylvan Grove, introduced our speaker and program.

Singing



Dick Brooks led our singing of "You're a Grand Old Flag". He also led the following standing ovation. Thank you, Dick.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." ...*Mahatma Gandhi*

"To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, or perfect. You just have to care." ...*Mandy Hale*

MEETING MAKEUP INFORMATION

Monday - 12 Noon	Henry County	PJs Sidewalk Café, McDonough
Monday - 12:15 PM	Fayetteville	IHOP, Fayetteville
Monday - 6:30 PM	Coweta-Fayette	Senoia Coffee Company, Senoia
Tuesday - 12 Noon	Barnesville	Lamar Co. College & Career Academy
Tuesday - 12 Noon	Jackson/Butts Co.	Daughtry Park, Jackson
Tuesday - 12:15 PM	Thomaston/Upson Co	Thomaston-Upson Senior Center
Wednesday - 7:30 AM	Griffin Daybreak	J. Henry's Restaurant, Griffin
Wednesday - 12:15 PM	Clayton County	Holiday Inn, Jonesboro
Thursday - 7:15 AM	Fayette Daybreak	Windham ,Peachtree City
Friday - 12 Noon	Newnan	Newnan Country Club, Newnan

Rotary eClub One- One Makeup per Quarter

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



YEARS OF DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

GRIFFIN ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE