

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 08/17 Club Budget Review and Town in Bloom Update  
**This Week:** 08/24 Black Lives Matter – Paul Collins-Hackett  
**Next Week:** 08/31 Nursing Home Card Project – Rachel Bennett  
**Coming Up:** 08/27 Community BBQ Dinner (Thursday)  
08/29 Golf Tournament (Saturday)  
09/07 Labor Day – No Meeting  
09/14 Pints for Polio – Wolf Hollow Brewery

**Note:** Regular meetings are held Monday evenings on Zoom at 6:00 pm. The meeting ID and Password and the phone number are distributed the afternoon of the meeting by email.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Dan Stec  
Find us at [bhblrotary.org](http://bhblrotary.org) and on Facebook*

*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves”.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Five-Way Test** was recited together, led by Ken Crotty.

**Golf Benefit** – Steve Caine provided an update of the event to be held at Holland Meadows Golf Course: Eleven teams are registered. Paul Lewandowsky has three – one led by his son, one by his wife, and his own. There are sponsors for the tee boxes, Mulligans for sale and a Putting Contest. Participants will get a box lunch prepared by the sponsor, Hannaford.

**Community BBQ Dinner** – Gregg Schorr reported on the walk-through held this past Thursday. Work assignments are being developed. Rotarians helping should be at BH-BL High School back parking lot at 3 on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Gregg will be compiling preorders and is setting the number of dinners expected to sell, in coordination with Spartan Catering. Promotion is underway. Signs are being created. There will be a coin-drop and a deposit-bottle return in addition to the meal choices.

**Happy Dollars** were collected by Linda LeTendre

### BATMAN MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE

Paul Collins-Hackett

Mary introduced Paul as the “Little Brother” of a good friend. He grew up in Albany with no father and a blind mother who insisted that he be engaged in the Big Brothers program. Paul told about his first reaction to an older white guy but explained what a difference he made in his life. He graduated from Sienna with an English degree, expecting to be a teacher, but his first job brought him to a career of working to improve the lives of young people.

His current day job is in Youth Development for the city of Albany. Due to Covid-19, he was only able to place 250 young people in summer internships this year. Other years there have been many more of these meaningful opportunities for inner-city youth.

He was a part of creating Tru Heart, a 501(C)(3) Foundation, supporting a Jim’s Way Scholarship in recognition of Jim Snyder, a Big Brother’s program founder.

Through Tru Heart and by connecting the people with opportunities, he created positive experiences for kids: Paul talked about initiatives like community clean ups, Food Bank grocery bags including fresh produce, empty lots turned into summer gardens, engaging young artists in creating huge murals, holiday dinners for families in shelters, and The Marathon Music Program in which young people are engaged by capturing their love for music. Participants learn about career options in music beyond performance.

Finally, and not the least of what he does, he has created a Superhero’s Program. As Batman as the enticement, he engages young school students in visioning what a hero is, who are heroes they might know and how they might become superheroes.

Paul admitted to seldom sleeping through the night and that was easily seen in all of what he is doing and hopes to do to for inner city kids. He promised to send Gregg follow up information. Don’t we want to be a part of this kind of making a difference? He said it takes less work to guide a child than fix a broken adult.

*Reported by Mary Anderson*

Serve with us. The world is waiting.