

Reporting Meeting of October 11, 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 10/4 Club Assembly
This Week: 10/11 Max Halabuda "Things of My Very Own"
Next Week: 10/18 Happy Dollar Meeting
Coming Up: 10/16 Saturday 9am Town in Bloom Cleanup
10/25 Dr Grace Jorgenson: Herself

Note: Regular Zoom Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm. Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer Zoom ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower and Dan Stec.

Find us at 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

Max Halabuda Things of My Very Own



We had the pleasure of hearing from Max Halabuda this past Monday at our club meeting. Max works at the non-profit Things of My Very Own, which is located in Schenectady, NY. This was the first time a lot of us have heard of this amazing organization that serves 11 counties in the capital region. Something tells me it was the start of a new Rotary relationship that our club will help support in years to come.

I feel this strongly about this new relationship as this organization embodies so much of our Rotary values in what they accomplish and in their mission. As written on their website, their mission is to give children the things they need to heal who have been impacted by extensive abuse and/or

neglect and for those children at risk of need for child protective services. Their goal is to keep children together with non-abusive family members and out of the foster-care system whenever possible.

The organization was founded in 2008, and has provided roughly 51,000 units of service across 11 counties in the capital region. It was founded by Rayn Boncie, herself was a victim of abuse, who saw a need for those affected.

The organization does so much for these affected children but the primary focus is to provide the children or family members taking over responsibility of the children the physical resources/items needed during that transition. These items range from beds/bedding, clothing and personal hygiene products to even school supplies.

They want to ensure they build self-esteem in the children as they recover from the traumatic experience of abuse or neglect and transition to a new home life. They also run a holiday program every year that involves the local community and businesses that purchase/donate items. The children create holiday wish tags that have 2 things wanted (toys) and 2 things needed (jacket, clothes/etc.). These wish tags are distributed in the community and anyone can complete the purchases of the items. Last year they completed around 4,000 items for the children during the holiday program.

All this amazing and heartwarming work is completed by just a small staff of 5 individuals and other volunteers. Beyond just supplying items to these children, they also work closely with CPS and DSS and conduct follow ups with the individuals and families after the initial request. They also conduct educational programs to the families and also at the local schools.

Some of the volunteer work available with the organization involves sorting the donations in their semi-large warehouse. Also fulfilling the wish tag orders in the warehouse that is set up like a storefront. This involves getting the right items and packaging them up for the families/children.

For more information on this inspiring organization you can visit their website/Facebook pages <https://thingsofmyveryown.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/thingsofmyveryown/>

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Town in Bloom cleanup is now scheduled for this Saturday October 16th. See email from Mary Anderson for more information and assignments.

We are working towards the installation of the Rotary Peace Pole at the Burnt Hills Library. You can still donate to this project as we would like to include landscaping and a bench installation at the site as well. We were awarded \$1,000 for this from the district grant and also \$750 from Stewarts.

We will be holding the Christmas/Holiday Drive Thru again this year. More information from Mike Brewster to follow for this event.

Steve Caine thanked all those that helped organize and run another successful Golf Tournament this past weekend. Estimated funds raised are just over \$3,000. And a special thanks to Hannaford for donating the food and box lunches for the event.

Reported by Jon Costolo