

The Rotary Club of West Haven

Founded in 1931



Community

Nothing is more important to the Rotary Club of West Haven than the city in which we live, work, and play. We help to strengthen our community by donating our time and money. Activities include:

- Annual Rotary Blind Veterans Luncheon
- Rotary preschool book donation and reading program
- Microscopes for public schools
- Special Olympics Harvest Classic
- Turkey Trot Road Race
- Food drives for WHEAT
- Toys for Tots
- 9/11 Ceremony
- Computers for nonprofit agencies and schools
- Donations to individuals and organizations in need

Some of the capital projects we have helped fund include:

- Playground equipment for the West Haven Community House
- 9/11 Monument at the Savin Rock Conference Center
- The Ward Heitmann House Museum restoration
- Flagpole at City Hall
- Painter Park Playground
- Washington School Greenhouse
- Kidney Dialysis machine for St. Raphael's
- Vans for West Haven seniors

Vocational

The Rotary Club of West Haven is proud of its efforts to help our city's children and youth succeed. We have earned the Outstanding Vocational Service Award from District 7980 for several consecutive years. Some of our award-winning vocational projects include:

- Dictionary Project
- Student of the Month
- Scholar Athlete Luncheon
- Career Shadowing Day
- Student Scholarships
- New Generation Conference
- Four Way Test Speech Contest
- Adult Education Award and Scholarship
- Reading Program for Children
- Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)



The Four-Way Test

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?

International

The Rotary Club of West Haven helps promote a better world by supporting the following activities and entities:

- Rotary International Foundation
- PolioPlus (Rotary initiative to eradicate polio worldwide)
- Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarships (for college students and academics)
- Rotary Youth Exchange (for high school students)
- Rotary Group Study Exchange (for adult professionals 25-40)
- Bailey School International Humanitarian Need Contest



About Rotary

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.4 million Rotarians belong to more than 46,000 Rotary clubs located in 200 countries.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

The main objective of Rotary is service—in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is *Service Above Self*.

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A Brief History....

The concept for a West Haven Rotary Club was created at an organizational meeting held on October 29, 1930. The gentlemen responsible for bringing this outstanding club into existence were:

Donald A. Adams, Past President of Rotary International; Vernon Hodges, Past District Governor; and Fred Dawless, Past President of the New Haven Rotary Club. The newly elected officials consisted of Walter Hodgkinson, President; Henry F. Hobro, Vice President, Edgar C. Stiles, Secretary; Frank D. Ailing, Treasurer; and Fred F. Wolfe, Sergeant at Arms.

In late December 1930, Edgar Stiles sent an invitation to the clubs of District 30 which read "There are Charter Nights and Charter Nights, but for West Haven, the baby club, there is just one, and that comes on Wednesday evening, January 21, 1931." Mr. Stiles noted that tickets for the banquet would be \$2.50 each, an appropriate price at the time. Twenty-two men became the club's charter members, their sons are still part of the club today.

In 1956, 25 years later, the West Haven Rotary Club celebrated its Silver Anniversary at the St. Elmo Club in New Haven, with a total of 64 members. A quarter century later in 1981, the club celebrated its Golden Anniversary at the Quinnipiac Club in New Haven. At this event some membership practices were developed and since updated to reflect the club's current diversity.

Today, our club represents more than 50 members of professionals and community leaders. We assemble products and sell them. We provide services to individuals and businesses. We represent a wide variety of occupations and services for a small club.

Some of us are young, some of us are older, and a few rank among the growing body of senior citizens. All of this forms a fine mixture of youth, maturity, energy, and wisdom. We are a jolly club, but our serious side glows with pride when we give of ourselves to help service the West Haven Community.

The Rotary Club of West Haven



Join Us on Wednesday Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

App's Restaurant
230 Captain Thomas Blvd
West Haven

Or

Wednesday Lunch at 12:15 pm

Lorenzo's Restaurant 39 Elm St West Haven

Visit our Website at: www.westhavenrotary.org

MAILING ADDRESS

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