

Rotary 
District 6900

Camilla Rotary Club #4117
Club Category: II



CAN YOU DARE TO BE BETTER BY SERVING
HUMANITY?
2016-2017

Joy Mobley, President

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FOUNDATION

100 % PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

The 53 active members of the Camilla Rotary club attained Paul Harris Fellow Standing. Fewer than one-percent of Rotary Clubs worldwide earn the 100% PHF Designation. Camilla Rotary is proud to have accomplished this important goal





DISTRICT GRANT

MAGIC SCHOOL BUS

This year's District Scholarship recipient went to the "Magic School Bus" at Mitchell County High School. We selected this project because it benefits so many high School Students in Camilla and Mitchell County. It is like a book-mobile but tricked out with the latest technology, and it's brainchild of the former Mitchell Co. High School principal (Robert Adams). The bus features 24 laptops, a Promethean board, an overhead projector, lightning-fast internet access and the promise of something often hard to find in a low income school district --- the chance to get ahead!!





GLOBAL GRANT

KILIFIKIDS

This year the Camilla Rotary Club was given the opportunity to participate in a Global Grant. Our club along with several other small Rotary clubs donated \$1,000 and helped the Vinings Rotary Club sponsor "Kilifikids" project. The grant provides hundreds of health workers with cell phones and solar panels to cover a population of 50,000 and directly identify and track 20,000 women and kids. The goal is to decrease maternal mortality rates and increase immunization rate for kids under 5 to transform entire populations.





PUBLIC RELATIONS

CAMILLA PRO TENNIS INVITATIONAL

Camilla Rotary continues a long history of its Corporate Sponsorship of the Pro-Tennis Invitational. The 42nd Annual Event will be held April 28-30 2017. The event has raised over one million dollars for charity over its history. The primary beneficiary of its proceeds goes toward the Jim Butler, Jr. Mitchell-Baker Service Center (named for the Past President, the late Jim Butler Jr.) A special tennis clinic held for clients of the ARC is certainly a highlight of their year. Our support of this event helps to ensure that the clients of the Service Center ARC continue to receive quality services they and their families deserve. The event benefits the Mitchell County Food Bank and the Mitchell County Boys and Girls Club.



Southwest Georgia Pro-am Draws ALTA Members and Pros

More Than \$1.35 Million Raised to Support Community of 5,500

By Lindsay Penticuff

Since its inception 41 years ago, the Mitchell County Pro Tennis Invitational in southwest Georgia, which annually attracts several ALTA members and local pros, has helped raise more than \$1.35 million to support the community's disabled residents, children's after-school clubs and many more charitable programs.

Eddie Williamson, Camilla resident and a former No. 1 player at Auburn University, created the pro-am with the help of his wife, Nan, in 1976. Originally, the couple footed the bill for the event, along with local banks that donated \$50 each; and only seven pros were invited to compete the first few years.

"In 1976 in our little town, people started playing tennis," Williamson recalls. "It just started booming everywhere in the nation because everyone was interested in getting fit and getting healthy. Someone asked me if I would start a little tournament, so I invited the local pros from Valdosta, Thomasville and Tallahassee [Florida]."

Within just a few years of starting the pro-am — which now includes professional tennis players competing in singles matches, tennis clinics, socials with upward of 300 people in attendance and amazing home-cooked Southern food

— Williamson says residents just started walking up and handing him checks to help operate the pro-am. The first check he received was from a local elder who gave him \$500. "That just blew me away," Williamson says. Today, they have more than 20-plus corporate sponsors.

Over the next four decades, the pro-am continued to grow, and the community now welcomes 24 pros each April. The list of pros has also become more pres-

igigious. Former participant Roy Barth played in the pro-am for 25 straight years — he's one of three who has played for nearly three decades in the event. Barth played on the pro tour for several years and has run the Roy Barth Tennis Center at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort in South Carolina for 40 years. Other longtime participants include Armistead Neely, an Atlanta pro who has won 11 pro titles and appeared in three Grand Slams; and Geoff Moore, who is originally from Brisbane, Australia, and has won the Atlanta Senior

Invitational Tournament Singles Championship three times in his designated age group. He is also currently the USTA National 60's Clay Men's Doubles champion. "It's fun to go back and play with your peers and compete again for three or four days," says Barth, who has not played in the pro-am for about five years due to surgery but hopes to return in coming years. "You realize [by] participating in this that you're getting to be a part of something that truly gives back to the community. Some of the best matches I've ever played are in Camilla."

Seeing the support year after year for the pro-am, Barth says that it shows him how much of a difference one person can make in a community. "Eddie Williamson single-handedly created this event because he

loves tennis. It's incredible what he's done and what the community has done. It really puts things into perspective, what can be done to help a community and what tennis people can do," Barth says.

RECruITING ATLANTA PROS
Over the years, Williamson says he hasn't had much trouble rounding up pros to participate in the event. "I'm very pleased that we've been so successful. And to be



Tennis pro Nanelly de Martini assists Virgil Purvis from the service center

Several clients from the Mitchell Baker Service Center participate in a clinic with pros each year.

down here in the early years, but by having them mingle with the clients at the service center, for example, has been very beneficial and they have just been great."

Bollinger, who relocated from Missouri to Camilla in 1994, became involved in the pro-am 21 years ago. "It is one of the finest community events that I've ever been around," he says. "I can't tell you how much fun people have playing with the pros; and Eddie is very particular about his pros. They aren't just nice players, they are nice people, and that's really, really important to us."

honest with you, most people want to come," he says. "Most people are calling me and trying to see how they can get an invitation. I'm pretty fortunate there, and the main reason is because they have such a good time."

Today, with the help of several Camilla friends and residents, the small town welcomes 20 male and four female professionals each year. They each compete in a doubles tournament, starting with a draft Thursday night, while also helping put on clinics for local women, children and clients from the Mitchell-Baker Service Center, a local physical therapy clinic that serves individuals with disabilities.

Dick Dieckman and Dan Bollinger, longtime residents and friends of Williamson, help coordinate the clinic schedules and pro recruitment. Dieckman has worked with Williamson and the benefit for nearly 35 years. "I don't think the players really had a concept of what we were trying to do

"For a community of this size, approximately 5,500 people, to raise more than \$1 million is just unheard of," Bollinger adds. "It's amazing!"

The pro-am team is also supported by Carol Shiver, Courtney Rubendall, Deborah Sanders and Laura Beth Tucker, who help with the event and socials. Williamson says their hard work has contributed greatly to the success of the tournament.

This year's list of pro participants included many ALTA members and Atlanta area pros, including Neely, Peter Lloyd, Agata Cioroch, Horace Reid, Evan Fowler, Kip Layman, John Hanna, Ewa Radzikowska, Nanelly de Martini, Arturo Nieto, Jen Sinclair, Stephen Enoch, Matt Cozad and Mauricio Roveri.

Layman, the director of tennis at Standard Club in Johns Creek, has played in the pro-am the last six years, alongside his co-worker and the head professional at the

club, Lloyd, who told him about the event.

"The pro-am is unparalleled because of the incredible hospitality from the locals, level of tennis from the professionals and the amount of money raised for the local Boys & Girls Club of Mitchell County and other various charities," says Layman, adding that he is often asked why he would travel more than three hours south for a pro-am. "It is an amazing weekend with pros from around the Atlanta and Florida area that have an impeccable reputation in tennis. The locals and their Southern hospitality cannot be beat. More importantly, it is for a great cause."

Lloyd, who's played in the pro-am the last 19 years, says he's developed great friendships in Camilla over the years and he looks forward to it each year. "I am honored to be asked back each year. I devote this time because it really means a lot to the families and community of Camilla," he adds. "They welcome us with warm hospitality and most of the same tennis professionals return year after year. The tennis professionals are great friends and great competitors on the court!"

When asked what it means to him to see so many ALTA members and metro Atlanta pros participating in the pro-am, Lloyd says there are very few cities in the U.S. that has such a talented group of tennis professionals in one place, referring to Atlanta. "This is a great chance for us to be tennis ambassadors to a smaller town in south Georgia and to come together in Camilla to raise awareness and resources for those in need," he says. "It is a unique experience filled with good friends, great tennis and warm hospitality. I'm already looking forward to next year!"

Roveri, an account executive at SAP and part-time tennis pro at Laurel Springs subdivision in Swannock, has played in the pro-am the last 11 years. Like Lloyd and Layman, he returns year after year for the opportunity to give back to the community and to play competitive tennis while raising money for local charities. "We consider ourselves as being part of a very select group of players, and we have developed friendships that will last forever," he says.

His favorite part about attending is hard to pinpoint, but he enjoys hanging out with his friends, enjoying fantastic food and the accommodations provided by Williamson and his support, playing

FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNITION

The Camilla Rotary club wanted to meet the D.G. challenge of recognizing and thanking the 1st Responders. We took the opportunity to recognize the Camilla fire department when D.G. Raymond came for a visit. Several of the fire fighters and Chief Jamie Sullivan were present to represent the group. The Rotary Board along with Bill Erwin, former club president attorney, presented the department with a proclamation that expressed the pride and gratitude we have for the department.



Camilla First Responders honored by Camilla Rotary

By Carl Stokes
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The Camilla Fire Department was recognized and honored by the Camilla Rotary Club on Thursday, November 17 during their regular meeting at the Camilla Depot. Several of the fire fighters and Chief Jamie Sullivan were present to represent all of the First Responders working in Camilla and Mitchell County.

Club President, Joy Mobley, said, "We thank you for all that you do for our community and for the service you provide to keep us safe."

Former Club President and Program Chair Bill Erwin read a resolution adopted by the Camilla Rotary Council. That resolution stated:

"Whereas the Fire Department of the City of Camilla performs a valuable service to our community; and,

Whereas the Camilla Fire Department safeguards our homes and businesses and the lives of our citizens; and,

Whereas the firemen who serve in the Camilla Fire Department do so selflessly, at

times risk injury and their very lives; now,

Therefore the Camilla Rotary expresses its pride and gratitude to the Camilla Fire Department and its firemen."

Jamie Sullivan, Chief of the Camilla Fire Department came forward to receive the Proclamation on behalf of all the firefighters. Chief Sullivan addressed the Rotarians, stating,

"I like to take the time on behalf of the Camilla Fire Department to thank you for this. Being in public safety is not always a safe job. It is nice to know that the community does support us. We are always working. The guys will be working during the holidays. Somebody will be working a shift, 24/7. It is nice to know that our community does stand behind us. Here in Camilla, we do receive that feeling of home pride. We sure do appreciate that. Thank you for recognizing us today."

District Governor Raymond Ray was also present to recognize the Fire Department and other First Responders. District Governor Ray presented a special coin that is called the



Bill Erwin, District Governor Raymond Ray, Club President Joy Mobley and Chief Jamie Sullivan recognized by Camilla Rotary.

District Governor Reserve Coin. As District Governor, he explained, they reserve this specific coin for those who

excel, achieve, exceed more than others.

"What it comes down to; this coin is for those who serve

others in an extraordinary way, serving others rather than self," said Governor Ray. "I would like to present this coin to this

fire department to thank you for all that you do for this community."

FACEBOOK – PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The club posts the weekly meetings on Facebook including pictures and regularly posts public service announcements such as World Polio Day and other important topics.



WORLD POLIO DAY

On October 24, Rotary International observed World Polio Day. The Camilla Rotary club recognized this day by providing a program by Eddie Williamson, a polio survivor, to its members. The club also posted regularly on Facebook during the week prior to the event.

Camilla Rotary Observes World Polio Day

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By Carl Stokes
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Eddie Williamson

At one time, the American populace was terrified to gather together in large numbers for any social occasion. Parents were terrified to allow their children to congregate in parks, swimming holes, churches, and even at school. This overwhelming fear sounds like something from the dark ages. In reality, the epidemic, which spread throughout Europe in the 1880's, existed quietly for millennia. This little known disease of today crippled or killed over half a million people each year worldwide, at its peak in the 1940's and 1950's. Its dreaded name is Poliomyelitis, also known as Infantile Paralysis or Polio. Striking its crippling effect upon children without discrimination, polio spread a fear that is unequalled in today's society.

Rotary Member Eddie Williamson shared with the other Rotarians his own experiences fighting this dreaded disease during his childhood. He contracted the disease when he was just eleven years old.

"Most people just get the chicken pox or the flu," said Williamson. "I tend to go a little further. I have gone from Polio when I was eleven in 1955 to Leukemia. I don't know what that is saying, maybe

God is giving me a hint," said Williamson. "My father had just returned from serving in Korea when we moved to Montgomery, Alabama. My father happened to be at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, when the Polio epidemic hit the south. My mother was there with my younger sister and me. I came down with Polio and we went to the big hospital in our area, which was St. Jude Hospital. It was packed in 1955. The Polio vaccine was not discovered until 1953 and did not become public until 1955. I got the shot shortly after coming down with Polio.

"It was a terrible situation for my mother. When you are eleven years old, the only thing you are worried about is getting back out on the playground. I was paralyzed from the waist down. They gave me a spinal tap. I stayed in the hospital for three weeks.

"The other person in my room at the hospital was in an iron lung," said Williamson. "The whole hospital, up and down the corridor, according to my mother, was iron lungs. Probably many of you are not familiar with iron lungs. They helped keep people alive.

"I pulled up information of the internet about polio. In the 1950's, three times more people were dying of cancer than

Polio. It is a disease that attacks the nerve system and deteriorates the muscle system. It attacked primarily children

"For some reason, I guess it is like bone marrow with Leukemia. God decided to let me live and be halfway normal. I stayed for three weeks in the hospital and then went home.

"I know people were petrified. People would come around our house and parents would tell their children to stay away. They still don't know how it was passed from person to person. Fortunately, I did not have any permanent paralysis. I was very fortunate," said Williamson.

Rotary Club International has been a long-standing supporter in the fight against Poliomyelitis. That fight has come close to an end, but there are still two countries (Afghanistan and Pakistan) that continue to have new cases of polio.

Rotary International observed World Polio Day on October 24. This year saw the largest and fastest vaccine rollout in history, as 155 countries and territories switched from the trivalent oral polio vaccine to the bivalent oral polio vaccine. The bivalent oral polio vaccine protects against the only two strains still in circulation and reduces the likelihood of vaccine-derived cases.

“ROTARY HAS HEART” BREAKFAST FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Valentine's Day this year Camilla Rotary took the opportunity (and challenge) to show “Rotary Has Heart”. Thanks to Rotarian Leslie Primo and Carl Shiver (employed with Golden Peanut) and one of their staff we served breakfast to many of the 1st responders. Valentine's morning we brought breakfast to the 911 center. We invited the ambulance service, the Sheriff's Dept., the Police Dept., the Volunteer Fire Dept. and the Camilla Fire Dept. Joy Mobley (club president) pleasure of helping serve this great group of people. We set up at 5:45 am and served about 100-125 1st responders. For those that couldn't attend Joy took food to the Sheriff's office, Fire Dept., and Police Dept. Everyone was so appreciative; we were glad for the opportunity to show our appreciation.



CANCER TIES EVENT TO BENEFIT A LOCAL TEACHER

More than 15 Rotary members participated in fundraising event to raise money for local cancer patient, Carole Powell. Carole was a teacher at a local school. She lost her life to cancer last year. Pictured below are a few of our Rotarians. They showed "Service Above Self" by attending and contributing money for this special event! Ms. Carole was very loved in our community!



TOUCH A TRUCK GNAT DAYS

Every Year the Camilla Chamber of Commerce hosts a Gnat Days Festival. This year the Camilla Rotary Club plans to sponsor "Touch a Truck". This will provide fun for children and offer the Club an opportunity to share about Rotary. We will wear our Rotary shirts, provide water (with Rotary labels on them), and have literature available to share with the community what Rotary does locally and internationally. Not only is the event supported by Camilla but by people all over Southwest Georgia.



VIVA LA ROTARY

The Camilla and Pelham Rotary clubs join together to present the 6th Annual Viva La Rotary Casino Night event in support of local charities. The 2017 event will support the Mitchell County Food Bank. The event is a Family of Rotary function with includes all members, spouses and guests as well as many community members. Viva La Rotary is one of the community's most elegant and enjoyed events - black tie optional! Members and their guests enjoy high style fun as they attend a cocktail buffet, jewelry fashion show, participate in high value raffle items and silent auction. Vegas style gaming comes complete with professional tables and dealers. Event sponsors, many of whom are Rotarians, enjoy publicity before and during the event - especially our highest level sponsors whose face adorns the funny money.

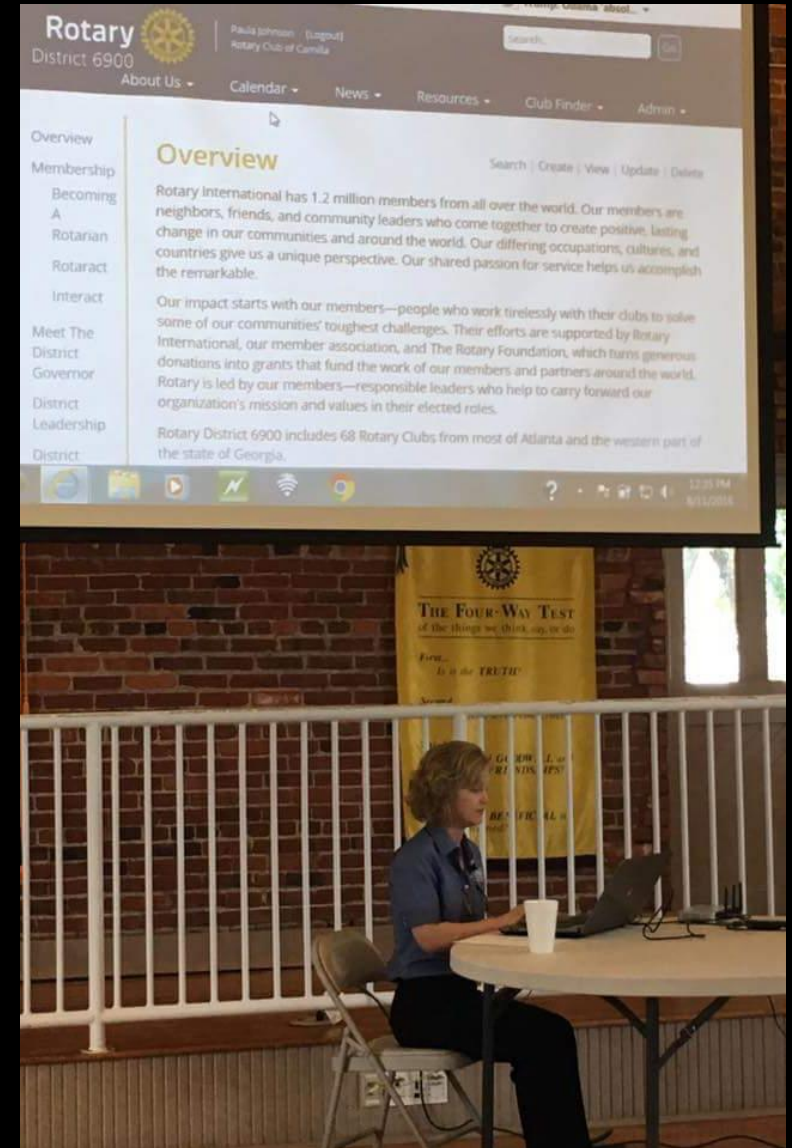
This has been a great event to showcase Rotary and to help local non-profits. The Mitchell County Food Bank will be the recipient this year. They serve a vast number of families in Pelham and Camilla and many other Mitchell County residents.

Last year, a check was presented to the Boys and Girls club for \$4,114. (funds were outstanding at the date of the picture)



UPDATING TECHNOLOGY WITH THE NEW DISTRICT 6900 WEBSITE

The Club began utilizing the District 6900 website powered by TeamForte. The Camilla website created a fresh new look with the website capabilities. The website greatly improved the clubs ability to keep up with member data and attendance. The club plans to continue to personalize the website.





COMMUNITY SERVICE

BOCCE BALL

An annual Special Olympics Bocce Ball Tournament is held in Camilla, GA. It is hosted by the Mitchell County Service Center for athletes in Camilla, Albany, and Cairo, over 125 athletes, coaches, and supporters from across the region attended the 12th Camilla Bocce Invitational.

The Camilla Rotary Club has been the primary sponsor of the event for each of the twelve years it's been held. Club members provided lunch for the athletes as well as assisted with all aspects of the event. The First Baptist Church of Camilla provided water for the athletes. Westwood Schools provided the facilities for the event. The students from Westwood's National Honor Society served as officials.

This is one of the best service projects for the Camilla Rotary Club and it is a great event for athletes, the students that help, as well as for the community in Camilla.





Bocce ball officials and volunteers from Westwood

Special Olympics Bocce Invitational a success



Westwood student Jay Patel high flying an athlete after a good roll!



Akeem Tellis from Mitchell Baker Service Center



This is a group of Mitchell-Baker Service Center (MBSB) staff members and athletes



Brian Boone celebrates a great roll



Darrell Stech from Mitchell Baker Service Center takes a roll



Court 1 officials are ready to go

BOCCE BALL

By Sonja Stroyls
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It is that time of year again, when athletes from around the area come together to show off their bocce skills. The excitement of the competition was heard from Westwood's parking lot, as friends, fans and competitors made their way to the bocce field.

Over 125 athletes, coaches and supporters from across the region attended the 12th Camilla Bocce Invitational on September 17 at Westwood. Special Olympics athletes from around the area including Albany, Camilla and Cairo began competing at 10 a.m. with the event coming to a close around lunch.

Bocce ball is a sport where players attempt to get their balls closest to a smaller ball which is called a pallino. A bocce game can be between two players, or two teams of two or four. The teams whose bocce balls are closest to the pallino after everyone has thrown is awarded points.

The competition was fierce and all athletes in attendance went home with a trophy and a free t-shirt sporting the phrase "That's how we roll!"

Coordinator of the event, said that the day could not have gone any better. "We had so much community support and we appreciate all of the help that made this event possible," Mrs. Hogan says. She would like to thank the following clubs and individuals for their help: The Camilla Rotary Club, First Baptist Church of Camilla, and students from Westwood. Through the years, the Camilla Rotary Club has provided a free lunch to all in attendance. They continued with the tradition this year, as well as helped set up and clean up that day. They not only took care of the cost of the meal, but they served the meal as well.

Mrs. Hogan says that "they provide lunch every year for the event and we cannot thank them enough for all that they do." A special thanks goes out to the First Baptist Church who comes each year and hands out water to all athletes and all in attendance as well.

Hogan wishes to thank Westwood Schools for once again allowing the event to be staged at their facility. Westwood's National Honor Society students have served as officials for the Invitational for the past 12 years. "We must thank all of the students from Westwood School for their help. The students from Westwood officiated again this year & they were invaluable. They came out in big numbers and gave up their Saturday to ensure the success of this event and we cannot thank them enough. They add such energy to the invitational in addition to several students also excelling in several sports. A special thanks goes out to the athletes to for being their spars time!" Mrs. Hogan said.

The following students from Westwood's National Honor Society served as officials: Ashley Carden, NHS President, Elizabeth Glass, Bocce Ball Committee Chair, Mattie Rogers, Campbell Waters, Reid Ford, Vana Santiago, Levie Walsh, Bella Underwood, Mark Glass, Kathryn Santos, Liz McDaniel, Jay Patel, Lucy Simmons, Gambill, Dalas, Sydney Lamberth, Morgan McGalliard, Nicolas Johnson, Doug Curles, Fletcher Sheffield, Connor Carr, Johnson Gainsou, Tip Cooper, Marleigh Good, Mit Patel, Cole Smith, Maegan Moye, Darrab Butler, Erin Smith, Lori Bentley, Camilla Greene, Karsyn West, Hunter Scarbrough, Leah Hilliard, Gracie Buard, Cameron Godwin, Max Waters, Ivey Davis, John Davis, Cortland Rogers, Raley Davis, Connor Smith, Akshay Patel, Ray Holton, Emma Milner, David Glass, Jason Pham, Micah Toon, Caleb Griner, Macy Rivenbark, Amanda Hoxey, Austin Smith, Grace Pollock, Leslie Taylor, Emily Williams, Harry Kate Dallas, Isabella Bonney, Abbey Sawyer, Wylene Wiggins, Cassidy Trebony, Aly Godwin, Kaitlyn Jones, McKenzie Coleman, Ford Godwin, Brent Johnson, Caitlin Santiago, Abby Foster, Levi Warren, Kate Godwin.

According to Davis, anyone from the school can volunteer so there were others besides members of the NHS. National Honor Society Advisor Vicki Davis shares her thoughts on how this experience affects her students. "A verse I often share with students is, 'We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.' When students serve others, they come to realize that each person is a masterpiece. Respecting fellow human beings and giving yourself in service creates a life of meaning and worth. When students start working with the Special Olympics, I see them transform into the kind of person who loves others and sees the value of each person. From those serving on courts as officials to those who run the bingo tables and the dance floor, each student uses their unique strengths to spread joy. Special Olympics bocce ball is one of my favorite days of the year for this reason. I appreciate Staff Hogan and Ginna Waters, the Camilla Rotary, the First Baptist Church, and the Mitchell County ARC and all of those who serve and give to make this event possible. It is heart-warming and we've gone on to see students choose to go into careers serving those with special needs and who continue to volunteer in the Special Olympics throughout their lives. A life of Christ-centered service starts when you're young and this is one of those events that does that," Davis said.

Mitchell-Baker Service Center Director Ginna Waters and Mrs. Hogan would like to thank the following sponsors, because without them this great event would not be possible each year: Camilla Rotary Club, P & C Bank, Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc., Strippling, Inc., Leroy R. Hall, Land Surveyor, Murray & Deanie Campbell, Bank of Camilla, Riverview Plantation, Inc., H & H Pest Services, Willis-Jamerson-Braswell Funeral Home, Family Bank, Mitchell EMC, Quality Home Rentals, Lawrence Automotive, Jimbo and Patricia Lawrence, DMD, Parker-Bramlett Funeral Home, Inc., Providence Family Medical Center, Imagine That Solutions, The Sea Credit Union, NRA Farms, Randy and Becki Gay, Larry Grogan & Associates, Inc., Physical Therapy & Balance Centers, Deary Queen of Camilla and Westwood School. "A big thank you to Imagine That Solutions for the great t-shirts. It was a wonderful day for everyone in attendance. The staff and athletes at the Mitchell Baker Service Center want to thank everyone for their continued support of this event. Without our community, it would not be possible," Ginna Waters said.

WESTWOOD SCHOOLS BLOOD DRIVE



Rotary members participated in a blood drive sponsored by Westwood Schools. The members participating were David Sullivan, Dean Daniels and Andy Palmer.



CANNED FOOD DRIVE

During the month of November, the club collected and donated canned foods for the Mitchell County Food Bank. Approximately 75 canned food items were donated. Many people in Southwest Ga live at or below the poverty level. The Food Bank of Mitchell County is located in Pelham. It provides hundreds of people from all over Mitchell County with food to help them to sustain life. We were honored to be a part of such a worthwhile project.



C.A.R.T FUND

This is the 2nd year the Camilla Rotary Club has participated in the C.A.R.T (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) fund. Last Rotary year, we donated \$1,000 and this year we will meet that goal again. This was our past DG's passion and we have kept that passion alive through our giving. We learned at the District Conference last year how many people and families are affected by this dreadful disease. The seated audience was asked to stand if they had not in some way been affected by Alzheimer's and no one stood up. It reinforced our desire to keep this as a service project for our club. Each week members donate coins in the blue buckets and at the end of the Rotary year the money is sent to C.A.R.T.



HELPING THE LOUISIANA FLOOD VICTIMS

Between August 9 and 16, 2016, record rainfall in southern Louisiana dropped the equivalent of 7.1 trillion gallons of water. 100,000 homes were flooded, survivors left homeless and 13 people killed.

The Camilla Rotary club joined the District by sending funds to support the Louisiana Flood Victims. \$1,000 was sent to Friends of Disabled Adults and Children to administer the funds.



HELPING MITCHELL COUNTY STORM VICTIMS

The most intense and longest lived tornado of the 2017 tornado outbreak was a massive, rain-wrapped wedge tornado that began in southern [Dougherty County, Georgia](#) during the late afternoon hours of January 22, 2017. 20 people in all lost their lives during the outbreak across the southeast. Neighboring Mitchell County experienced numerous damaged homes and property. We were asked to send help to the Albany area by our D.G. Instead we felt it was important to help those here in our County. In 2000, there were devastating tornados that hit Mitchell Co. Through Rotary, donations poured in to the Camilla Club to be used for Mitchell Co. residents. Thanks to the Rotarians that distributed this money it was used to do so much good in our community. The fund still had money almost \$3,000. We decided to donate \$500 to 6 families that lost everything this January. So, Thank you to Rotarians all over! Your money has been well spent!





VOCATIONAL SERVICE

SCHOLARSHIPS

**Frank S. Twitty Sr. Rotary Scholarship
Recipients:
Brooks Pinson, Dru Ford, and Vanessa
Santillan Rodriguez**

**Laws of Life Scholarship Recipients:
Taylor Brinkley and Julia Harris**





YOUTH SERVICES

RYLA

The Camilla Rotary Club sponsored 3 youth to attend a RYLA camp at Georgia Southwestern University in June 2016. The youth learned about leadership, teamwork and learned a great deal about themselves. The Camilla Rotary Club knows the importance and benefit of RYLA. Every year the club sponsors students. Most of the time the students go "against their will" but they always come back very thankful that they went. Our club believes it is an investment in our future to have students attend RYLA. We will continue with the program and are very thankful to have the opportunity.





MEMBERSHIP

BI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

- The Camilla Club over the past few years has begun hosting a “Membership Drive”. During fall and spring we specifically plan a lunch meeting to invite several potential Rotarians. We dress our tables up a little extra that day. Also, we have a program to specifically highlight something important that Rotary does in either local communities or globally. Also, we call on two or three Rotarians to share a special “Rotary Moment”. One very touching meeting, a Rotarian shared that when his mom passed she donated money to specifically help in eradicating Polio. He took the opportunity to go to India and help disperse polio vaccinations that year. He shared how touched he was and how amazing Rotary Globally makes such a huge contribution to the world! Also, he said how thankful he was that his mom had made the contribution and that he helped “eradicate polio”. It was a very touching “moment”, not many dry eyes in the room!



FAMILY OF ROTARY

FAMILY OF ROTARY EVENT AT JAMES LEE ADAMS COOK HOUSE

In September our fellow Rotarian James Lee Adams and his wife Sue (honorary Rotarian) shared their "Cook House" with us. It's a huge screened building with comfortable furniture all around, rocking chairs, picnic style tables, full kitchen and indoor plumbing. Frank Dixon so graciously prepares a wonderful meal of pulled pork and all the trimmings. His sweet daughter Shealy made us her delectable pound cake! This year we included the spouses or significant other to attend. It was great fun and fellowship! James Lee's cook house is out in the country with beautiful scenery all around. Also, the cookhouse is full of all kinds of antique furniture, farm equipment, photographs and much more. It was a really enjoyable gathering and a chance to just fellowship and enjoy one another.



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL



Thursday, December 1, 2016

Cocktails 6:00 p.m. • Dinner 7:00 p.m.

The Camilla Depot

SANTA VISIT

Santa stopped by the club in December to visit with Rotarian kids and grand kids. The kids came for lunch with their families, sang songs and had a chance to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas!



REMEMBERING A DEAR FRIEND AND FELLOW ROTARIAN FOSTER GOOLSBY

Our club was so honored to have known Foster Goolsby! Foster came to Camilla from Fitzgerald, GA. His granddaughter lives in Camilla and she moved him to Camilla so that she could help take care of him. He lived at a Retirement Village in Camilla. He was a pilot in WW II. His story is amazing!! One of our programs was Foster sharing his stories of WWII. We all instantly fell in love with Mr. Foster. Our club unanimously voted to induct him as an Honorary Rotarian. The honor was all ours!! When Mr. Goolsby passed, we sent a donation to the Rotary Foundation in his memory. He was such a special man and we were blessed to have known him.





ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING

On June 23rd, 2016 the club celebrated the end of the Rotary year. The evening included a social hour, meal provided by a local catering service, a presentation of the C.A.R.T fund check, awards and pinning of the new president.





GRSP

GRSP STUDENT

Our Rotary student Caroline Warr came and visited our Camilla Club. Caroline came from Australia and she was such a pleasure to have as our guest! She is a very intelligent, personable young lady. Her presentation about her home, family, and future plans was quite impressive. What a wonderful program we as Rotarians have the opportunity to experience.

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Camilla Rotarians take a trip Down Under in visit with GRSP student

By Carl Stokes
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The members and guests of the Camilla Rotary club were afforded an opportunity to take a moment and look through the lens of a young college student embarking on an adventure of living and studying in Georgia. The Rotarians were introduced to their GRSP student for this year, Caroline Warr of Australia. Warr provided a glimpse into her life as they met on Thursday, October 6, at Mitchell EMC. While the Camilla Rotary club has been host to a variety of guests with some very interesting topics, this meeting was unique because they were able to hear details about Warr's life in the outback of Australia.

Since 1946, Rotarians have pursued the ideal of international relations and world peace through the exchange of students from around the world. Since its inception, Georgia Rotarians have welcomed over 2,700 young men and women from over 78 countries into their homes. These students have participated in educational opportunities at Georgia institutions of higher education with the goal of bringing courage to those living in despair and a greater understanding of people around the world. Both the guest student and the host family have been richly blessed with a wealth of knowledge of other cultures and the lifestyle of distant countries.

Caroline Warr is currently a student at Curtin University in Perth, Australia, studying Physiotherapy. While at Valdosta State University during her year in the United States, she will be studying Athletic Training, Psychology, Anatomy, and Spanish.

As she introduced herself to the Rotarians, she mentioned things that she noticed as differences between being a student in the US versus Australia. "Some of the bigger differences," said Warr, "is that your attendance is a part of your grade. This certainly does not apply back home. In fact, we have our lectures recorded, so you don't have to turn up for lectures if you don't want to.

"I find that lecturers here are very friendly and laid back, which is really nice.

Our lecturers by comparison are a lot more stern and have a very professional demeanor.

"I have also really enjoyed having the rec center really close to me at VSU. Hopefully I can keep off the fifteen pounds that I am apparently going to be putting on during the next year.

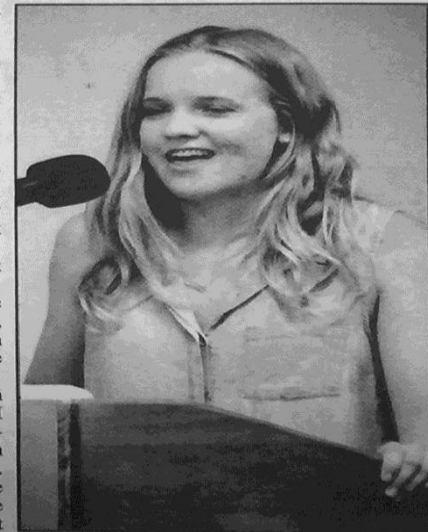
"I have also been lucky to join a flag football team. Unfortunately, our game got cancelled last night. I have seen a few games. They seem to have been taken very seriously. We will see how that goes when I participate in the coming weeks.

"I have also found that lecturers are dressed really differently here. On my first day in my psychology lecture, the lecturer turned up in Converse shoes. You would never ever see that in Australia. I found that to be funny. They also say 'Okay' a lot. I am not sure if you use that a lot in your general conversation, but it is something different.

"Your sororities and fraternities are just like in the movies we have seen back home."

Warr is a small town girl who grew up on her family farm in Yuna. It is a one street town, with one primary school, two swimming pools, three tennis courts, no traffic lights, eight unoccupied houses, one occupied house, with a population of three people. Yuna is a part of the farming district, so many of the people live about fifteen miles from the town center.

"My goal with traveling is to find where I fit in the world," said Warr, "which at the age of twenty-one, is something that many people take a lifetime to do. I have met so many incredible individuals and have learned from their experiences, their ways of life, and traditions. I hope to continue to do so every day in America. Finally, I travel because it allows me to step out of my comfort zone. By no means do I want to get to a point in my life in which I say, 'I should have travelled there or I should have experienced that.' I hope I continue to have the energy and drive to adventure and see what the world has to offer me for the rest of my life."



Caroline Warr



FUNDRAISING

SHOTGUN RAFFLE

The Camilla club sponsored a shotgun raffle this year. Rotarian Danny Palmer graciously took charge of the project. Living in a rural “hunting” community makes this sort of project easy and Rotary was able to raise money that we turned around and put back in to our community. We have a local gun shop that helped us purchase 3 shotguns. The evening of our Christmas party we awarded the winners through a drawing. The club raised over \$5,000 to use in helping others such as donating to the Louisiana flood victims and the Mitchell County tornado victims.





TRAINING

RLI TRAINING

In January, Joy Mobley (Club President) and Joe Thomas (PE) had the opportunity to attend RLI training in Americus. Both Rotarians had the opportunity to enjoy meeting other Rotarians and to learn more about Rotary. Both members came home very impressed and thankful to be a part of such an amazing organization.

