

The Foundation issue

But Which one?

It's easy to confuse them: The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay supports two foundations, and both turn Rotary values into meaningful service. Our Club Foundation supports projects chosen by our club. The Rotary Foundation supports Rotary service across clubs, our district and worldwide—and its District Grant match (DDF) often returns funds to boost projects of our Club Foundation."

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation, led by President Stacy Ridenour, is our local charitable foundation. It makes grants to club-sponsored projects and qualifying local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, with occasional support for international work such as the Phnom Penh Library Project in Cambodia. Most grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000, although pass-through funding can support larger awards. A club member must sponsor each request, and a board of club members reviews applications and votes on available funding twice each year—in May and November. Recent examples include the Riverview IBE2 Last Mile Fund, Jacaranda Microforest, Crock-Pot project with Children First and more.

The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is Rotary International's charitable foundation. Donations from Rotarians support the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, and other Rotary initiatives that help finance service projects locally, district-wide, and internationally. (See pages 5 & 6) For our club, support of TRF's Annual Fund is especially important because District 6960 uses giving to help determine the funds available for District Grants. In practical terms, when the club contributes to the Annual Fund, a portion returns through the district to help fund an approved club project—such as our Riverview IBE² matching grant. TRF also supports Global Grants—larger, carefully planned international projects involving Rotary partner clubs in more than one country. These projects require substantial collaboration, long-term planning, reporting, and measurable results like our Ukraine Hospital Solar grants and past water projects. Our club's TRF chair, Suzi Atherton, encourages member giving to TRF and can help members understand their programs and grant opportunities.

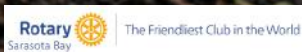
One Mission : Two Paths

A local nonprofit or a club service project needing \$1,000–\$5,000 Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation. Giving to Rotary's Annual Fund or PolioPlus The Rotary Foundation. A major international project with Rotary clubs in multiple countries The Rotary Foundation.

ALL PROJECTS SHOULD BE IN THE SEVEN AREAS OF FOCUS



**PLANT THE
PROMENADE VETERANS FOREST**
Be part of the team planting 100+ native trees to save the Bay.



Upcoming Meetings & Event

Oct 6	100 Central	Trevor Howard, elite gymnast, shares championship mindset and resilience.
Oct 20	Fogarty -ville	Broadway theatre manager and author shares behind-the-scenes stories <i>From The Back of the House</i> .
Nov 3	100 Central	Peter Rothstein, the new artistic director of the Asolo Rep/Theatre





A Private Tour of the Robert & Beverly Koski Center

MEMBERS EXPLORE ASOLO REP'S PRODUCTION HOME · MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

On Monday, September 14, members of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay traded the usual meeting room for a warehouse full of wood, wire, and wardrobe racks. Tom Walker arranged a private, guests-welcome tour of the Robert & Beverly Koski Center — Asolo Repertory Theatre's production facility on Tallevast Road, where every set, costume, and prop for the company's mainstage shows takes shape before it ever reaches the stage downtown.



"Every set, costume, and prop for Asolo Rep's mainstage shows takes shape here, on Tallevast Road, before it ever reaches the stage downtown."

— Behind the Curtain at Asolo Rep

THE VISIT

Robert & Beverly Koski Center

1009 Tallevast Road, Sarasota

Monday, Sept. 14, 2026 · 10:00 AM

Guide: Kiley Snobeck, Individual Giving Associate

Snobeck led the group through the working half of the building: rows of costume stock organized and tagged by show, the Joan Armour Mendell Scenic Studio where set pieces are framed and painted, and the Ted Weiller Rehearsal Hall. In the print and graphics room, a wide-format printer turned out proofs of the company's next round of lobby signage. Around a corner, a member of the scenic shop crew — mid-build on a two-story house facade — paused to explain how a set goes from blueprint to load-in.

From the costume stock to the scenic shop floor, the tour was a rare look at how a regional theater builds its own productions from the ground up. It closed with a group photo in the lobby, in front of the company's signature red wall — more from the visit, room by room, on the next page.

A CLOSER LOOK

Room by Room Inside the Koski Center

The Koski Center isn't open to the public – it's Asolo Rep's working backstage, tucked into a warehouse near Sarasota–Bradenton International Airport. Here's what the group saw.

Scenic Studio

JOAN ARMOUR MENDELL

Rehearsal Hall

TED WEILLER

Costume Shop

WARDROBE STOCK

Print & Graphics

SHOW SIGNAGE

Sets, Storage & Signage

Overhead racks held decades of stock furniture and dressing – the kind of eclectic inventory that lets a scenic shop reuse and repaint rather than build from scratch every time. Down one aisle, a member of the shop crew broke from cutting lumber for an upcoming show's two-story house facade to talk through how a set moves from a designer's model to the stage. In the print and graphics room, a wide-format printer ran proofs while staff traded notes on color and paper stock.



scenic shop crew talks through an in-progress set build.

A Wall of Asolo Rep History

Down a back hallway, Snobeck pointed out a running photo history of the company's Broadway transfers – productions that started on the Koski Center's own stages and rehearsal rooms before moving to New York. It's an easy detail to miss on a tour built around wood shops and costume racks, and a good reminder of the caliber of work this building quietly produces every season.



Asolo Rep's Broadway Transfers photo wall.

"It's an easy detail to miss on a tour built around wood shops and costume racks – and a good reminder of the caliber of work this building quietly produces every season."

— Behind the Curtain at Asolo Rep



The group at Asolo Rep's Koski Center after the tour. Thank you to Tom Walker for arranging the visit, and to Kiley Snobeck and the Asolo Rep staff for showing the club around.

THE VISIT

Robert & Beverly Koski Center
1009 Tallevast Road, Sarasota
Monday, September 14, 2026

OUR THANKS

Tom Walker — tour arranged
Kiley Snobeck, Individual
Giving Associate, Asolo Rep

LEARN MORE

asolorep.org
Near Sarasota–Bradenton
Int'l Airport

GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 31**Applications Due Saturday, October 31, 2026**

Apply for an RCSB Foundation Grant

FALL GRANT CYCLE DECISIONS BY MID-NOVEMBER

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation awards grants twice a year to support club-initiated service projects and community partners doing meaningful work across our area. If your committee—or a community partner—has a project in mind, now is the time to apply. The form is designed for ease of completion and review by our grant committee, so please make every effort to fill in all requested information. The grant must be sponsored by a club member.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. A completed Grant Application Form. Although the form is only one page, you may submit up to two pages of narrative document—a project budget is also highly recommended.
2. One additional support material file, such as a newsletter or flyer (optional).
3. A copy of your IRS determination letter - required for first time applicants only.

"The form is designed for ease of completion and review by our grant committee."**- RCSB Foundation Grant Guidelines****\$1,000 minimum - \$5,000 maximum grant award****DEADLINE & SUBMISSION****Submit by October 31 to ridenourstacy@gmail.com**

Decisions announced in late November

(Spring cycle: deadline May 1 decisions late May)**RECENT FOUNDATION GRANTS**

Riverview IBE² Last Mile Fund (\$5,000) • Jacaranda Microforest Irrigation (\$1,000) • Phnom Penh Library Project (\$2,000) • Ukraine Hospital Solar Power (\$5,000) • Children First Crock-Pots (\$5,000) • Tree Foundation Myakka (\$5,000)

**Questions? Contact Stacy Ridenour at
ridenourstacy@gmail.com.**

Past issues of the Bay Breeze have spotlighted Foundation-funded projects like these in more depth – from the Crock-Pot Program to the Jacaranda Microforest. Watch for more project profiles as this fall grants are announced.

"The Friendliest Club in the World"Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay • District 6960 • rotarysarasotabay@gmail.com

Our Seven Areas of Focus

HOW ROTARY SERVES ABOVE SELF—AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD

Every Rotary project, from a local food drive to an international clean-water initiative, is guided by seven areas of focus. They give our service direction and help Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay members choose where our time, funds, and expertise can make the greatest difference — in Sarasota and around the world.



Promoting Peace

We foster understanding and interaction between people of different backgrounds and cultures. We take action to support refugees and train adults and young leaders to prevent and mediate conflict to create a safer and more harmonious world for all people.



Fighting Disease

Building on our successful fight to eliminate polio, we bring together global experts, national health systems, and local leaders to improve and expand access to health care and prevent the spread of diseases like malaria so that everyone can lead healthy lives.



Providing Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

We share our expertise and partner with communities to increase access to vital water, sanitation, and hygiene services and resources — particularly in schools and healthcare facilities — so that more communities and people can grow and thrive.

Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay has been putting these areas of focus into action locally and globally since 1958 — from clean-water grants overseas to youth literacy programs right here in Sarasota.

Our Seven Areas of Focus



Improving Maternal and Child Health

By connecting mothers and children to nutrition, health care, and sanitary tools, we increase wellbeing for families and communities.



Supporting Education

We strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy at all stages of learning, through training teachers and focusing on foundational literacy skills, opening up new possibilities for the future.



Growing Local Economies

Leveraging the collective business and professional expertise of our members, we expand the potential for economic development, especially for youth and women, so that more people and communities can prosper.



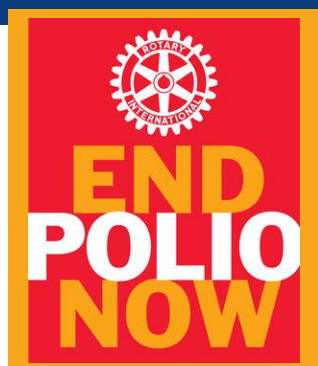
Protecting the Environment

Together with local leaders, we take action to find innovative solutions and develop sustainable service projects to strengthen our local ecosystems and our planet — creating a greener, more stable future for us all.

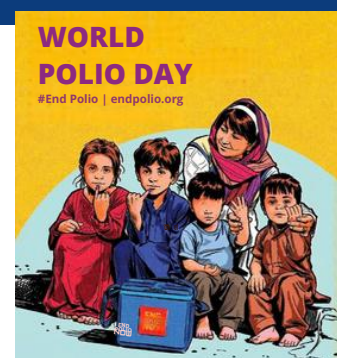
Want to get involved in any of these areas of service? Talk to a member at one of our Tuesday meetings, or reach out at rotarysarasotabay@gmail.com — there's a place for you in every one of these seven areas.

GIVE BLOOD, help your community & HELP END POLIO

WORLD POLIO DAY · COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



TO POLIOPLUS
FOR EVERY DONATION



Wednesday, October 21, 2026 • 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Roll Up Your Sleeve to End Polio

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS BLOODMOBILE · MARINA JACK'S, SARASOTA

On Wednesday, October 21, a SunCoast Blood Centers bloodmobile will be parked at Marina Jack's from 1:00 to 7:00 PM. For every blood donation received that day, the blood bank will make a \$30 donation to PolioPlus—Rotary's campaign to wipe polio off the face of the earth. One donation helps patients right here in our community and helps protect children around the world. The drive comes just days before World Polio Day on October 24. Since Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985, polio cases have dropped by more than 99.9%, and the Gates Foundation matches Rotary's polio contributions two-to-one—so every dollar raised goes even further.

"We are this close to ending polio."

—Rotary International · #EndPolio · endpolio.org

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 • 1:00 – 7:00 PM

Marina Jack's • 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota

Every blood donation = \$30 for PolioPlus

Before you donate: eat a good meal, drink plenty of water, and bring a photo ID.

Bring a friend—and help us end polio for good!

"The Friendliest Club in the World"

Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay • District 6960 • rotarysarasotabay@gmail.com