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Press Release

Local Rotary Clubs Sponsor 3 Projects; Dental Health, High School, Food Bank

The Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation will sponsor three local initiatives: a mobile dental van delivering dental care to students in Alachua County schools, a much needed facelift to Newberry High School's entrance, and new refrigerated units for the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank.

Gainesville, FL, December 6, 2019: The Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation (RCGF) voted on August 7, 2019 to sponsor two major Rotary lead projects using proceeds from its 2020 Wild Game Feast to fund these projects. A second vote on September 22, 2019 added a third project for Bread of the Mighty Food Bank.

The first project, lead by the Rotary Club of Gainesville, is Saving Smiles. This mobile dental outreach program will be provided through an innovative partnership with Rotary Club of Gainesville, University of Florida College of Dentistry and Santa Fe College's Dental Programs. This service will provide dental services to vulnerable children within the school system and to adults in assisted living facilities in Alachua County who normally face significant barriers to care. Micaela Gibbs, Clinical Associate Professor and Interim Chair at the University of Florida said, "dental caries is the most chronic childhood disease. If Alachua County were a state it would be the second worst state in the country in percent of untreated caries...this innovative program will take dental care to where children should be - the schools. By using portable equipment and a van we can set up a dental clinic anywhere, a classroom or gymnasium, and perform procedures that will start to turn the tide of dental disease for the children of Alachua County." This portable dental clinic concept is expected to serve over 400 students in the first year of operation.

The second project, lead by the Gainesville Sunrise Rotary Club is a much needed facelift to the entrance of Newberry High School. In conjunction with the Interact Club of Newberry High School it is intended to create a more inviting public entrance by replacing pavement with landscaping and decorative concrete. Gainesville Sunrise Rotary Club President, Rory Causseaux, said of the project, "Alachua County Schools have received funding through additional sales tax and millage rate to update desperately needed infrastructure within every school in the district, however much of that will be invisible to the public, we felt this was an opportunity to do something visible to the school population and the community. We began the project on a smaller scale this past summer, and am grateful to the Rotary Club of Gainesville Foundation for making it possible for us to finish the job off right". Newberry High School has almost 700 students, with a very active and engaged Interact Club.

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The third project is one for the local charity, Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. As food insecurity grows in our community, so does the need for safe and proper food storage. Maintaining very old, used showroom coolers had become impossible. This grant will allow the purchase of 6 new Dairy and Deli coolers, allowing donations of meat, vegetables, and other refrigerated food items to be maintained for quality and adhere to health codes. Bread of the Mighty Food Bank serves Alachua County and the surrounding counties through partner agencies. The President and CEO of the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, Marcia Conwell said, "Replacing these well used refrigerators will ensure precious food is not wasted and that all food is safe for consumption when received by those who need it most. The state of our coolers has been a constant worry, and with this grant, the worry has been removed, thank you."

2020 Wild Game Feastmaster, Greg Young said, "to have three projects as recipients of our Wild Game Feast proceeds could be considered overwhelming, but we are excited. The partnerships we have established will result in the 2020 Wild Game Feast being the best yet. The good we are doing through these projects will have far reaching results, beyond our imagination and will make all the work worthwhile. Rotarians make a difference".

For more information on this and other projects funded by The Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation, contact Rotarian Wesley Eubank, info@rotarygainesville.org.

ABOUT THE ROTARY CLUBS OF GAINESVILLE FOUNDATION

The Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation (a registered 501(c)(3) charity) comprises of representatives from the four Rotary Clubs in Gainesville, Florida; the Rotary Club of Gainesville, the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville, the Rotary Club of Greater Gainesville, and the Rotary Club of Gainesville Sunrise. The Foundation formed in 1987 to manage the funds generated through the annual funding raising events held at Hatchet Creek (11908 NE State Road 26, Gainesville, FL 32641-2732) as well as the funds generated through the Foundation Fryers catering organization. The first Rotary Project funded by the monies raised was the L.H Rogers Scholarship House, located at 2120 SW 16th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601 and has to date raised over \$2.4 million for local Rotary projects, charities, and student scholarships.