

History of Rotary

The Rotary Club of Roseville has proudly served the Roseville Community since 1938.



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.

The first Rotary club was started in 1905 by business leaders in Chicago, Ill. By 1910, clubs were sprouting up nationwide, as well as across our northern border. Today, more than 1.21 million Rotarians belong to more than 34,500 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Members of a Rotary club are part of a diverse group of professional leaders working to address various community and international service needs and to promote peace and understanding throughout the world. Rotarians are business and professional leaders who take an active role in their communities while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives.

“A Rotary club contains a diverse group of professional leaders from the community that the club serves.”

Locally, members of the Rotary Club of Roseville are involved in a number of service projects designed to benefit the community as a whole. Some of the better known projects and events include the Annual Garbolino Seafood Dinner and the Miles of Smiles program.

Miles of Smiles provide free dental screening for students in second and fifth grades – key years in oral development, since those are traditionally the years that first and second molars come in.

The Rotary Club of Roseville also sponsors Interact Clubs – the high school version of Rotary – at Oakmont, Adelante and Woodcreek High Schools in Roseville.

Other programs and services provided by the Rotary Club of Roseville include sponsoring and hosting foreign exchange students throughout the year, honoring local teachers and educators for outstanding service, providing scholarships to area high school seniors and promoting quality athletic programs for young women through an annual basketball tournament at Oakmont High School.

Local Rotary clubs also help Rotary International conduct its PolioPlus program to immunize all the children of the world against polio. Started in 1985, the PolioPlus program has provided inoculations to thousands worldwide. Because of Rotary International’s efforts in this area, by 1994 the Western Hemisphere was declared polio-free, while in 2000 and 2002, respectively, the Western Pacific and Europe were declared polio-free. Most recently, in 2014, India was declared polio-free.

History of the Garbolino Seafood Dinner



Anyone who has spent any amount of time in Roseville knows the name Garbolino is synonymous with service to the community.

Gayle Garbolino-Mojica currently serves as the Placer County superintendent of schools. Her mother, Gina Garbolino, is past mayor and council member of Roseville, and her father, Placer County Superior Court Judge James Garbolino, is retired.

But the tradition of service to the community by the Garbolino family can be traced back to Fred Garbolino.

Fred, James' father, was the Civil Defense Director for Placer County during World War II before being named Volunteer Fire Chief in Roseville. But his dedication to friends, family and community didn't stop with those positions. As a Rotarian, Fred Garbolino knew what it meant to serve others; he also knew how to have fun at the same time.

That's why, in 1971, he created a seafood dinner. Originally just a social event for members of the Rotary Club of Roseville, the annual seafood dinner featured tasty selections from many of Fred's friends throughout Northern California. The bread came from Lodi, the wine came from the Napa region, and the recipe for the seafood chowder came from his family. Fred's mother, Domenica, worked as a cook at the Mizpah Hotel in Nevada – where Fred was born in 1906 – while his father Ed was a miner.

As the years went by, the dinner grew from its social beginnings. As the community's needs changed and members of the Rotary Club of Roseville became determined to help whenever and wherever they could, the annual seafood dinner was changed to a fundraising event.

Though Fred Garbolino passed away in 1993, the dinner has continued every year. In 1997, the Rotary Club of Roseville dubbed the highly anticipated event the Garbolino Seafood Dinner in Fred's honor.