COGS

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ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT

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Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee
Rhonda Chafin - CEO



Rhonda Chafin is chief executive officer of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, bringing 33 years of nonprofit management experience as its CEO and more than a decade in retail grocery and private-label marketing.

A Virginia Intermont College graduate, Chafin completed leadership programs through chambers of commerce in Bristol, Kingsport, Johnson City, Unicoi County, and Johnson County. Her work has supported capital-building initiatives and efforts to improve regional food security.

She serves on Sullivan County's FEMA Local Allocation Board, regional chamber councils, and East Tennessee State University's Community Engagement Committee.

Chafin previously chaired Feeding America's Central Region Association of Food Banks and National Network of Food Banks. She contributed to national product sourcing and sharing efforts and currently serves on the National Council's Food Sourcing Advisory Committee.

Second Harvest distributes food through more than 500 distribution points, including partner agencies, across eight Northeast Tennessee counties. Direct-service programs include Food for Kids backpacks; Community Kitchen summer and afterschool meals; mobile food banks and pantries; senior groceries and home delivery; and a mobile veterans pantry.

Chafin received Feeding America's 2026 John van Hengel Fellowship Award, food banking's highest honor, recognizing lifetime dedication to fighting hunger through community engagement, innovation, collaboration, and capacity building. Her honors also include the 2026 Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Elizabethton-Carter County Rotary, the 2019 Tri-Cities Dietetics Iris Award, and the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Distinguished Leadership Award. Second Harvest's recognition includes Food Lion's 2019 "Food King" FEEDY Award, Feeding America's 2012 Hunger's Hope Award for advocacy, CenturyLink's 2011 regional nonprofit award, and the 2010 Bristol Mayor's Award of Distinction.

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October 28, 2026 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 65.8%

Co-President Aundrea Salyer presided over the club's noon meeting. Jerry Lukach led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Aundrea then led members and guests in the Four-Way Test and recognized Co-President Sharon Moore and the elected officials in attendance.

The turnout for "So You Want to Run for Elected Office?" was phenomenal. Members, guests and prospective Rotarians filled the room for a nonpartisan look at what it really takes to run for office and serve. Robin Cleary, Senior Director of the Downtown Kingsport Association, moderated. Mayor Paul Montgomery, former Mayor Jeanette Blazier and former Alderman Ken Maness made up the panel, and all of them delivered 100 percent. We hope Robin will come back for a visit soon.

We missed former Mayor Dennis Phillips, who couldn't join the panel because he is ill. The club wishes him a speedy recovery.

The panelists each brought something different. Mayor Montgomery's advice to anyone thinking about running was simple: join the Kingsport Rotary Club. Jeanette Blazier talked about how much going door to door meant to her campaign, because that's how she really got to know her constituents. Ken Maness brought a checklist of questions to ask yourself before you decide to run. Some of it fits bigger races more than local ones, but here is the whole list.



So You Want to Run for Office — Ken Maness's Checklist

- Why do you want to run?
- Is running for you and your ego, or to truly serve your community?
- Who really wants you to run?
- What is the biggest obstacle?
- Do you mind asking for money?
- Do you mind asking for votes?
- What is the worst thing opposition research will find out about you?
- How do you handle criticism?
- Who do you listen to?
- Who is helping: political, fundraising?
- Messenger: who are you?
- Message: why run, and what will you do?
- Money: how much, and yours versus donors'?

Things you may need:

- Professional fundraising
- Professional political advice
- Polling
- Message and image advice
- Ad production
- Media placement advice
- Opposition research
- And most of all, an honest broker and advisor

Coming up: the Fall Day of Caring at Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground in Warriors' Path State Park is Saturday, November 14, and the Friends-giving Luncheon is Wednesday, November 18, at MeadowView. Details and RSVPs are on the club calendar at kingsportrotaryclub.org/calendar.

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We are delighted to announce that Vanessa Bennett, IOM, TNCCE Chief Operations Officer at the Kingsport Chamber, has returned to active status within our Rotary family. Aundrea Salyer will serve as her sponsor.

Vanessa Bennett serves as Chief Operations Officer of the Kingsport Chamber, where she helps lead organizational strategy, operations and community partnerships. She also directs the Chamber's Leadership Programs and Education and Workforce Development initiatives, connecting people of all ages with opportunities to learn, lead and grow. Through programs such as Leadership Kingsport, PEAK Young Professionals and youth leadership initiatives, she works to develop future leaders while strengthening the region's talent pipeline and workforce.

Vanessa is also the founder of Project Hope, a program dedicated to supporting students and families in local schools, and oversees Healthy Kingsport, an initiative focused on improving community health and wellness.

Her leadership extends beyond Kingsport through service on numerous local, state and national boards. She currently serves as Board Chair of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kingsport, is a past chair of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives and serves on the U.S. Chamber's Board of Regents for Institute for Organization Management. She is also a Leadership Tennessee alumna and has received numerous honors recognizing her commitment to leadership, education and community service.

Above all, Vanessa is passionate about developing people, serving her community and making a lasting difference. Her greatest joy is her family, including her two daughters, Makayla and Makenzy, and her grandson, Kyler.

Welcome Vanessa!



Rotary Members Participate in the Trunk or Treat Event at Kennedy School



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Rotary Club of Kingsport

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Club Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser

Rotary Club of Kingsport

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2026

One of the club's fundraising campaigns over the last few years has been the sale of Poinsettia Plants at Christmas. This year we would again like your support for this major fundraising campaign with a target of exceeding the previous year's sales. The more we raise, the more we can put back into our community projects. We will offer Fraser Fir Wreaths to supplement our fundraising campaign.

This year there will be 4 alternatives of pot/basket size with the usual choice of red, white or marbled flowers (except for the 1 plant pot which will only be available in red or white). We will also offer 3 sizes of Fraser Fir wreaths.

The following is the cost of the various options available for plants and wreaths.

	Donation	Color Options
1 Plant Pot	$10	Red or White
2 Plant Pot	$15	Red, White or Marbled
3 Plant Pot	$18	Red, White or Marbled
4 Plant Basket	$20	Red, White or Marbled
**Add $1.25 to price of poinsettia for a bow.*		
12" Fraser Fir Wreath	$17	
16" Fraser Fir Wreath	$22	
20" Fraser Fir Wreath	$30	
**Add $3.00 to price of wreath for a bow.*		

Please contact John Fleming with any questions. An electronic version of the form has been sent out by email and return using the email kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com is preferred if possible. Members are being asked to pick up plants and wreaths at the greenhouse. **Curbside pickup is available.** If a member is unable to pick up their order, see John Fleming to arrange another delivery alternative. Keeping the plants and wreaths at the greenhouse allows us to offer a higher quality product.

Key Dates

Friday, November 20, 2026.	-	All orders must be submitted as we must confirm our requirements with our supplier, late orders need to be in by Saturday November 28, 2026
Monday November 30 – Saturday December 5, 2026	-	Plants & Wreaths available for delivery and pick up at FJ Torbett Greenhouse located at 6181 Hwy 11E Piney Flats Phone 423-538-8492 (Curbside pickup available.)

THE TARGET IS FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE KINGSPORT ROTARY CLUB TO SELL A MINIMUM OF $180 WORTH OF PLANTS AND WREATHS. BUT LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ALL EXCEED THIS FIGURE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT A SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN.

Friends of Warrior's Path State Park Workday

Fall-Day of Service/Caring

Organized by Friends of Warriors' Path State Park



When: Saturday Novomber 14/ Rain Date Sat. Nov. 21
8:15am-2pm (or as long as you can stay)
Where: Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground
(Located at Warriors' Path State Park)
Breakfast, Lunch, Refreshments & Supplies provided for volunteers

Remember to do!
1. Wear work gloves
2. Wear old clothes in layers.
3. If you have a leaf rake, or heavy-duty rake and/ or wheelbarrow-please bring-make sure it is labeled.

RSVP to Friends of Warriors
For questions, contact Mary Steadman @ 423-956-4330

kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com

We're planning a Sullivan County-wide Rotary Friends-giving where we can all come together for some good food, great conversation, and a chance to connect.



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Rotary Club of Kingsport

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

A new dawn for affordable healthcare in Rajshahi

By Md. Hemayatul Islam Arif, past president of the Rotary Club of Rajshahi Central, Bangladesh



I've always believed that the most meaningful Rotary projects are those that directly address a community's most pressing needs. Recently, I had the privilege of witnessing one such initiative come to life right here in Rajshahi.

Our journey with the Hosne Ara Memorial Diagnostic & Consultation Center began with a simple question: what does our community truly need?

A community's cry for help

Over several months, our club conducted a comprehensive health assessment. We went door-to-door in the slums and low-income areas of Dingadoba and Rajpara. We spoke with local leaders, school teachers, and families. What we found was a pattern of heartbreaking choices.

People were delaying or completely avoiding medical care. A basic doctor's consultation was affordable, but the cost of essential diagnostic tests, a blood test, an electrocardiogram, an ultrasound, and other procedures were a luxury they simply couldn't afford. I met a father who had been ignoring abdominal pain for months because the cost of an ultrasonography was more than his weekly earnings. He is not alone.

We saw the hard evidence, too. Data from local health offices confirmed patients were arriving at hospitals with advanced, treatable diseases. The community was suffering from a crisis of diagnostic poverty.

Turning a vision into a healthcare hub

Our club made a bold commitment. We joined forces with the Hosne Ara Memorial Trust and signed a formal memorandum of understanding with "Manabseba Abhijan" to strengthen our community outreach and launch our club's signature project. On 24 July, we officially opened a 1,800-square-foot facility, located on the ground floor of Mir Ayub Ali Biddyaniketan in Rajpara, a testament to what we can achieve when we collaborate.

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The model is simple but impactful:

- **Affordable consultation:** Every patient receives a specialist consultation for just 100 Taka (about US$1).
- **Subsidized diagnostics:** For low-income families or residents in slum areas, we offer a mandatory 50% discount on all blood tests, electrocardiograms, and ultrasonography.

Our core commitment is the policy that financial constraints will not be a barrier to essential medical care. Our goal is to bridge the gap between premium healthcare services and our economically marginalized communities.

The impact and what's next

The center is more than just a building; it's a hub of hope. By offering early detection services, we are preventing diseases from progressing and saving families from catastrophic health costs. We are proud to have established this project under the leadership and finance of Dr. Syed Shah Alam, a Rotary member, with guidance from our club director Dr. Md. Jalal Uddin Sardar, president of the diagnostic and consultation center, and our club president, Hsibul Hasan Nannoo.

We are optimistic that our facility will serve as a model for affordable healthcare in Bangladesh, a legacy of our club's dedication to service. It is also an example of seeing a need and answering it with a sustainable, community-owned solution.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 No Meeting This Week	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Harry Turner - Evolution of the Heart Center	12	13	14 Warrior's Path Day of Caring
15	16	17	18 Friend-Giving Special Luncheon Event	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 No Meeting This Week	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30	1	2 Jeff Fleming - Kingsport	2	3	4

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov 08 - Vanessia Bennett
Nov 14 - Leslie Lynch
Nov 14 - John Fleming
Nov 15 - Lindsey Franks
Nov 24 - Linda Coffey
Nov 30 - Judy Fischer
Nov 30 - Linda Figliolino

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 01 - Luther Cain - 38 Years
Nov 01 - Al Crymble - 40 Years
Nov 01 - Terry Cunningham - 31 Years
Nov 01 - Kathleen Frazier - 36 Years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Nov - 06 - Paul Montgomery - 50 Years

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 14 - Fall Day of Caring at Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground
November 18 - Friends-giving Luncheon - Meadowview 12:00-1:00 PM

kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com

HOW TO FIND US

Rotary Club of Kingsport

District 7570 | Area 13 | Club 5739

Meets Every Wednesday at Noon
at
The MeadowView Conference Center
1901 MeadowView Pkwy Kingsport, TN

facebook.com/RotaryClubofKingsport/

@RotaryClubofKingsport

KingsportRotaryClub@gmail.com

KingsportRotaryClub.org

CLUB OFFICERS:

CO-PRESIDENTS:

Sharon Moore | 901-230-3919

Aundrea Salyer | 423-863-6914

VICE PRESIDENT:

TREASURER:

John Fleming | 423-579-0059

SECRETARY:

Kaylee Feathers | 423-967-4667

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Kathleen McLaughlin | 423-429-8421

CLUB DIRECTORS:

Kitty Frazier | 423-534-1745

Linda Coffee | 423-956-9775

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Leslie Lynch | 520-425-2259

INTERNATIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICERS

RI PRESIDENT:

Francesco Arezzo

DISTRICT 7570 GOVERNOR

Charlotte Whitted

AREA 13 GOVERNOR:

Joseph (Foe) Ley

DISTRICT SECRETARY:

Andrea Milliron

DISTRICT TREASURER:

Peter K. Howard

DISTRICT FOUNDATION CHAIR:

Paula K. Alston

Rotary THE FOUR-WAY TEST

1 | Is it the TRUTH?

2 | Is it FAIR to all concerned?

3 | Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

4 | Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

LOCAL CLUBS FOR MAKE-UPS

MONDAY

Noon | Tri-Cities—Northeast State Community College, Pierce Admin Bldg., Room P309, Blountville, TN

6:00 PM | Johnson City Evening—Howard Hunt's Edward Jones Office, 4018 Roan St., Johnson City, TN

TUESDAY

7:15 AM | Scott County—Scott Co. Park & Golf Course Clubhouse, 247 Fore Drive, Gate City, VA

7:30 AM | Bristol Morning VA-TN—The Summit Co-Work Space (Expedition Meeting Room) 1227 Volunteer Pkwy., Bristol, TN

Noon | Bristol VA-TN—Bristol Train Station ,101 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bristol, VA

Noon | Johnson City—Johnson City Country Club 1901 E Unaka Ave., Johnson City, TN

Noon | Greeneville—Tusculum University, Niswonger Commons Pioneer Café, 60 Shiloh Road, Greeneville, TN

WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM | Greeneville-Morning—Laughlin Memorial Hospital Cafeteria Conference Room, Greeneville, TN

7:30 AM | Kingsport-Sunrise—Food City Press Room, Suite 300, 200 Clinchfield St., Kingsport, TN

Noon | Unicoi County—Town Hall, 211 N. Main St., Erwin, TN

Noon | Elizabethton—First Christian Church of Elizabethton, Fellowship Hall, 513 Hattie Ave., Elizabethton, TN

THURSDAY

7:15 AM | Johnson City Morning—Food City Community Room, 920 N. State of Franklin Rd., Johnson City, TN

Noon | Kingsport-Downtown—Food City Crown Center, 1205 N. Eastman Road, Kingsport, TN

AVAILABLE 24/7—

www.RotaryeClubOne.org