



# Rotary Club of Evanston

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Rotary Club of Evanston Announces Recipients of Anti-Violence Grants**

*Funding for Moran Center, YWCA and YOU provided as part of "Building a More Peaceful Evanston" Initiative*

(May 21 -- Evanston, IL) The Rotary Club of Evanston has announced that it will distribute a total of \$10,000 in community grants to the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy, the YWCA Evanston/North Shore and Youth Organizations Umbrella (YOU) as a part of its recent effort to reduce violence in Evanston.

The three recipients of "Building a More Peaceful Evanston" grants will be recognized at the club's luncheon meeting Thursday, June 4, starting at 12 p.m. at the Rotary International building, 1560 Sherman Ave.

The James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy has been chosen for a \$5,000 grant, which will help fund "Voices, Ideas and Perspectives," a four-week educational program that teaches students problem-solving, communication and conflict-resolution skills through small group activities and peer collaboration.

Funding will allow the Moran Center to expand the "Voices, Ideas and Perspectives" training from Evanston Township High School, where it has been in place since 2010, to Evanston students in the fourth through eighth grades – thus reaching a younger demographic in an effort to systematically reduce self-destructive and violent behavior in the community.

Corporate support for the special \$5,000 grant was provided by First Bank & Trust of Evanston, Northwestern University, NorthShore University Health Systems and Romano Brothers & Co. Wealth Management.

The YWCA Evanston/North Shore and Youth Organizations Umbrella (YOU) were selected to receive additional grants of \$2,500 each. The YWCA and YOU will work jointly on a program called "The Allied Against Violence Project," which is aimed at ending sexual and domestic violence against youth. The program will focus on raising awareness of these issues among students at Evanston Township High School.

The Rotary Club of Evanston Charitable Fund has distributed \$20,000 in community grants over the last several years via the "Building a More Peaceful Evanston" program.

"Thanks to the generous donations of our corporate sponsors we were able to significantly increase our distribution of funding for this effort in 2015," said Rotary Club of Evanston President Paul Larson. "We are extremely grateful for the support of these organizations, who share with us a strong commitment to making Evanston a peaceful community."

The public is welcome to attend the grant distribution ceremony during the Rotary Club of Evanston luncheon on June 4, but reservations are required. To make a reservation, please contact Paul Larson at [larsonpw@gmail.com](mailto:larsonpw@gmail.com).

For more information about the 2015 Charitable Fund grants, please call 847-424-5314.

### **About the Rotary Club of Evanston**

Founded in 1920, the Rotary Club of Evanston provides service to the community via hands-on volunteer projects and fundraising to help worthy causes. It has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for not-for-profit organizations, helping Evanston cope with pressing issues ranging from HIV/AIDS and literacy to homelessness and poverty. The club also provides scholarships, supports international aid projects and maintains the Friendship Garden in Evanston's Ladd Arboretum for public use.

The club's weekly luncheon meeting is held Thursdays from 12 to 1:15 p.m. at the Rotary International building, 1560 Sherman Ave. Guests are welcome. To learn more about being a guest or becoming a member, visit [www.evanstonrotary.org](http://www.evanstonrotary.org).

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