

NEIGHBORHOOD

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EXTRA

South Rotary Club celebrates changing Rotary year



(From left) Suni Kasibhatla is introduced as the 2024-25 Lincoln South Rotary Club president by outgoing president for 2023-24 Mary Gilbride.

NICKI KLEIN
for the Neighborhood Extra

Reflecting on the 2023-24 Rotary Year, outgoing president Mary Gilbride shared highlights of the year, the 40-year anniversary for Lincoln South Rotary Club. She presented information and shared stories about the impact that the club has in our local community and around the world.

Early in the Rotary Year, a \$2,000 grant was provided to the Villa Marie Home & School for Exceptional Children. This grant supported the I Care Suitcase Program, which includes a suitcase packed with essentials.

No Footprint Too Small, an organization that supports grieving families suffering the loss of a child, was presented with a \$3,375 grant to support care packages.

The club granted \$1,500 to Our Biswas, a program that provides nano-financing in India. Through the program, which provides a loan for essentials, recipients find hope, they become confident, they gain dignity and their self-esteem is elevated.

For the second year, a \$5,000 scholarship was presented to a student at Bryan College of Health Sciences. The scholarship program is designed to support industries lacking in qualified employees.

Lincoln South Rotary Club participated in the Dictionary Project. All third grade students in Lincoln received a special dictionary designed for use by elementary students.

Additional service projects included gifts donated by club members to the Center for People

Christmas gift program, delivering Meals on Wheels through Tabitha, and regular trail cleanup.

During the Salute to Business, the Rotary Clubs of Lincoln honored Allo. The annual event honors a local business that is growing employment and furthers the Rotary motto of "Service Before Self."

Lincoln South Rotary Club was active at the District Conference. Club members honored Elton Edmund of Mentoring Plus with a Golden Wheel Award and Dr. Lawrence Chatters of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Fellow.

The club was recognized with a certificate of appreciation for financially supporting the End Polio Now campaign and a banner for placing first in per capita giving to The Rotary Foundation. Lincoln South Rotary Club also earned The Rotary Citation from Rotary International, which recognizes the hard work clubs do throughout the year.

Taking the podium, Suni Kasibhatla thanked the club for last year's work. She shared that she joined Rotary to provide service and have a positive impact locally and globally. She has a goal for the club to continue with a variety of service projects.

Rotary International includes 1.2 million members in over 35,000 clubs around the world. Together, Rotarians see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves. To learn about Lincoln South Rotary Club, visit www.lincolnsouthrotary.org.