



## TERRY STARR FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - DIVINE DIGNITY

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2023-2024

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2023-2025

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[www.uarotary.org](http://www.uarotary.org)

[www.district6690.org](http://www.district6690.org)

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



Our program today featured **Terry Starr**, Founder and Executive Director of Divine Dignity. We also met **Elizabeth Adams** from the Divine Dignity staff and **Elaine Pierce**, a board member.

Terry thanked UA Rotary for supporting the organization and for hands-on help in the assembly and delivery of personal hygiene bags to distribution centers in the area.

Divine Dignity was founded in November, 2022 when Terry became aware of the need for personal hygiene products in the array of services offered to people and families who are struggling. Food, shelter and rent are priorities but personal care products are often not part of the aid equation. Divine Dignity seeks to address that shortfall.

Hygiene products tend to be expensive and are essential to support self-esteem, good health and a sense of well-being. In its first year of operation Divine Dignity had helped about 600 families through the distribution of 300 hygiene bags per month. Overall, about 5,000 products are distributed per month.

It takes over 50 volunteers to operate Divine Dignity – including folks who assemble the bags to those who shop for products to be distributed and perform myriad other administrative duties. Acquiring products involves finding sources which offer discounted pricing or finding organizations willing to collect donated products.

Divine Dignity, in cooperation with local churches and community centers, operates Hygiene Centers and Hygiene Closets.

Hygiene Centers are currently located in five Columbus Community Centers (Barack, Dodge, Douglas, Far East and Scioto Southland). Hygiene Centers are small marketplaces where community members can select six hygiene products once a month.

Hygiene Closets feature pre-assembled bags filled with six hygiene products which are provided once a month to community members. There are two types of bags – personal care or cleaning supplies. UA Rotarians recently assembled 500 bags in support of the effort. There are currently eleven Hygiene Closets in the Columbus area.

There is currently a long waiting list of organizations wanting to host a Hygiene Closet. Expansion of the program depends on increased support from partners willing to donate financially or to serve as hygiene product collection sites. Signage and collection bins are available from Divine Dignity.

Another component of the program is the “Digniteens” program. Described as teens helping teens, the program engages young people to give hygiene products to other teens along with a message of hope.

Terry shared a video featuring program background, highlights and testimonials.

[VIEW](#) Divine Dignity video

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings



## GREETERS

### November 21

Steve Schoeny  
Jessica Grisez

### November 28

Rick Barth  
Andy Geistfeld

### December 5

Scott Emch  
Ben Lupton

## REGISTRATION DESK

### November 21

John Cleland

### November 28

Don Leach  
Brian Bainbridge

### December 5

J.D., Dickerson  
Jim Nicklaus

## CALENDAR

### November 21 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Trent Smith – Franklinton  
Board of Trade Director  
Host: Brian Bainbridge

### November 28 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Bob Ness “Legacy of an  
Entrepreneur”  
Host: Jessica Grisez

### December 5 - Scioto CC/Zoom

Dr. Robert Hunt, Superintendent  
– Upper Arlington City Schools

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

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## OUR NEXT MEETING

# NOVEMBER 21ST

Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



## THE MEETING



President **Andy Livingston** opened the meeting and asked **Don Leach** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Don did so after expressing relief that we got past the previous week's meeting and its focus on the mechanics of club financing. He did, however, thank **Andy** and **John Adams** for sharing the details in the interest of clarity.

Andy reminded us of the Christmas party on Tuesday, December 12. No club lunch meeting on that date. He also recognized **John Trapp**, Membership Chair, for his efforts on behalf of the club. UA Rotary was recognized for getting the most new members in District 6690 and John himself was recognized for personally bringing six new members to the club – the most by anyone in the District.

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**Jack Cotter** reminded us about the upcoming Rotary Roundtable on Tuesday, November 21. **Rick Barth** will lead a discussion about the 60th anniversary of the JFK assassination. The Roundtable begins at 11:00 AM. Rick is an independent researcher who first gained interest in the JFK assassination in 2013 while assisting in the writing of his father's memoir about life as a Vietnam war helicopter pilot. An avid reader and former Texas resident, Rick has over 3,000 hours of research into the assassination, has visited the grassy knoll and Texas School Book Depository many times, and has met and interviewed several key witnesses and notable authors.



**Tom Davis** announced our annual Salvation Army bell ringing program from December 4-9 at the Kroger store on Chambers Road. Sign up sheets were on the table.

**Chip Knoop** reported that the recent Senior Service Saturday was very successful. We had 30 Interact members accompanied by 15 Rotarians helping out with fall lawn cleanup. He thanked **Ned Clark**, **Alan Yarleets** and **Barri Jones** for their efforts to marshal the volunteers.

Chip also noted the short-notice Bed Brigade need for help on Saturday, November 18 to deliver and assemble beds for two families. Meet at 9:30 AM, done before noon. Contact Chip if you can help.

**Doug Goddard** thanked the club and participating Rotarians for all the support for the West Broad Street Elementary winter coat distribution.

**John Trapp** will be reaching out in the coming weeks to follow up on new member contacts which were discussed earlier this year.



## DIVINE DIGNITY

Upper Arlington Rotarians volunteered for Divine Dignity on November 8th performing bag assembly session at their warehouse off of Roberts Road.





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**SENIOR SERVICE SATURDAY**

Upper Arlington Rotary Club, UAHS Interact, and Jones Middle School Interact members helped with yard clean up for Upper Arlington senior citizens this weekend. Everyone was treated to donuts from Buckeye Donuts!



Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



**SORTING OUT WHERE TO CONTRIBUTE**

Where do your contributions go? There are three main organizations where we as Upper Arlington Rotarians direct our Rotary giving. Sometimes it can be confusing, so here is something to hopefully help keep things straight.

ORGANIZATION	DONATION DESIGNATIONS	ADDRESS	MEMBER CONTACT	EMAIL
Upper Arlington Rotary Club	Club dues	P.O. Box 12013 Columbus, OH 43212	Peggy Concilla	concillapl@gmail.com
Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation	Annual \$250 and some other club funding requests	1704 Sundridge Dr. Columbus, OH 43221	Andy Livingston	andy.w.livingston@gmail.com
Rotary International Foundation	\$125 Club, Paul Harris and Polio Plus	244 Daniel Burnham Sq. Columbus, OH 43215	Debbie Johnson	debbiejohnson33@gmail.com