



## KIM EMCH

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - FESTA

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2024-2025

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

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

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



Dave McCurdy introduced today's speaker, **Kim Emch**, Founder and Executive Director, FESTA.

In 2007 Kim was surprised to learn about the presence of over 2,100 children in Hilliard who were living in poverty. This motivated her and a small group of volunteers to begin what is now known as FESTA. She noted that issues of poverty were beginning to emerge in first ring suburbs as they migrate from the urban center.

The pillars of the FESTA organization are Food, Education, Service, Training and Advocacy – thus the name FESTA. The organization provides what Kim refers to as three generation family ESL (English as a Second Language). The goal is to provide an environment where entire families can gather together and simultaneously learn English, receive tutoring and homework help and food support. This approach – helping adults with language skills and children with language and academic development – ultimately yields a family with the hope and the skills they need to move from “surviving to thriving”.

There is a severe shortage of ESL resources in the Columbus area. Only 4% of people in need of such services can find them. With the anticipated 50% growth in the migrant population in this area the need for ESL programming will only become more urgent.

FESTA currently provides services at two locations – The Upper Arlington Lutheran Church at Mill Run and the Bethel International United Methodist Church on Bethel Road. When the Bethel Road site was opened there was an immediate 67% increase in participation. FESTA is the only ESL program which is designed to address the entire family. Sixty percent of the participants are women. Over 1,200 people are being served and there are 453 people on the waiting list.

One important benefit of FESTA programming is the expansion of the number of people who are language-qualified to become employed. A pilot program which specifically addresses the issue of employee development is FESTA Business ESL which teaches people at the business site. It is currently being piloted at Kimball Midwest and is beginning to gain traction elsewhere.

Positive outcomes propel the program forward. Seventy percent of participants experience substantial progress with communication skills and employment outcomes. Kim shared two success stories with us as examples of FESTA's impact on participating families.

The organization's goal is to have 20 locations in Central Ohio and she has heard from several other communities inquiring about the program. The cost to serve a community for one school year is about \$250,000.

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

## GREETERS

### November 26

Chris Copeland  
Mike Turnbull

### December 3

Robert (Bob) Nolan  
Beau Taggart

### December 10

Robert Hunt  
Bill Hosket

## REGISTRATION DESK

### November 26

Ted Foster  
Brendan King

### December 3

Rick Barth  
Tom Westfall

### December 10

Jim Winfree  
Dave Shelby

## CALENDAR

### November 26 - Scioto CC/Zoom

**Joe Valentino** "A Message of Thanksgiving"

Host: Angela Lanctot

### December 3 - Scioto CC/Zoom

**Jesse Jones, National Alliance on Mental Illness**

Host: Debbie Johnson

### December 10 - Scioto CC/Zoom

**No Lunch Meeting**

**UA Rotary Holiday Party**

5:30pm - 7:30pm

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**NOVEMBER 26TH**

Scioto Country Club / Zoom

Upper Arlington  
**Rotary**  
Club



## THE MEETING



**Angela Lanctot** called the meeting to order and asked **Bill Loveland** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance

There were no visiting Rotarians or guests today.

The annual Christmas party is December 10. Watch your email for an invitation soon and be sure to reply promptly.

The club's Board met recently and approved \$6,000 to support A Night To Shine which provides a prom-like experience for those with special needs.

We recognized Paul Harris Fellows **Rod Essig**, **Joe Berwanger**, **Bob Long** (+5), **Tom McClain** (+1) and **Herb Gillen** (+7).

## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



**Sandra Cotter** announced the December 3 Roundtable will feature **Bill Hosket** with his discussion of OSU basketball.

**Tom Davis** thanked club members for supporting the Salvation Army bell ringing program at the Kroger store on Chambers Road. We still have two slots remaining – 6-7 PM and 7-8 PM on Saturday, December 7. Let him know if you can assist.

**Chip Knoop**, for the Community Service Committee, thanked the Rotarians and Interact Club members who helped with the successful Senior Service Saturday last week. He read a thank you note from a resident whose property was cleaned up. He also provided details about the upcoming Santa's Silent Helpers program which UA Rotary supports financially. Upcoming events include the box build on 12/11, packing the boxes on 12/14 and delivery of the boxes on 12/21.

**Jack Cotter** thanked Rick Barth for his Rotary Roundtable concluding presentation about the circumstances surrounding the Kennedy assassination.

**Anne Croskey** reminded us again about the availability of club directories – two per member.

**Andy Livingston** presented a check to the UA Rotary Foundation from Shirley Edler in memory of Bob.

**Milt Lustnauer** recognized new members of the '24-'25 125 Club.

He also distributed OSU/Michigan football pool sheets. Ten bucks per square. Again this year, all proceeds go to the Polio Plus campaign.

**Ned Clark** called on members of the Nominating Committee to meet after today's meeting.

