

Milwaukie, Oregon International City of Peace

Updated, 10/11/2026

Message from the City Council: The City of Milwaukie strongly supports the Rotary Club of Milwaukie's application to become an International City of Peace. This designation firmly aligns with our community vision, adopted in 2017, which calls for Milwaukie to become a flourishing city that is entirely equitable, delightfully livable, and completely sustainable. Milwaukie's commitment to peace is not new—one of the city's founding fathers, Seth Lewelling, who settled in Milwaukie in 1847, was a passionate advocate for abolition and women's rights. Milwaukie's modern-day leaders remain committed to promoting community safety, fostering equity and inclusion, and strengthening relationships with the Tribal government and indigenous peoples who originally inhabited this land.

As President of the Rotary Club of Milwaukie, I am proud to stand in support of our city becoming an **International City of Peace**. Peace is not an abstract ideal—it is built locally through inclusion, service, dialogue, and care for one another. Rotary's mission of *Service Above Self* aligns directly with this vision.

Our club actively supports peacebuilding by fostering community connection, supporting youth leadership, promoting environmental sustainability, advancing education, and partnering with organizations that address the root causes of conflict—inequity, isolation, and lack of opportunity. Through service projects, international partnerships, and meaningful local engagement, Rotary creates spaces where understanding replaces division and collaboration replaces conflict.

As a Rotarian and as a global citizen, I believe peace begins at home. Declaring our city a City of Peace is both a commitment and a call to action—to lead with empathy, to listen across differences, and to invest in a future rooted in dignity, compassion, and hope. Rotary is honored to support this effort and to continue doing the work—locally and globally—that turns peace from a principle into a practice.

The Rotary Club of Milwaukie's Environmental committee: The Environmental committee of the Rotary Club of Milwaukie proudly supports the City of Milwaukie's designation as an International City of Peace. Our club works alongside community and City partners to plant native species in public and private spaces, creating healthier habitats for pollinators, strengthening green spaces, and using our natural resources more responsibly thereby creating sustainable and resilient spaces for all community members. These local environmental efforts help build peace by bringing people together around shared care for the land we all depend on. By protecting our environment and managing resources sustainably, we foster a sense of cooperation, resilience, and mutual respect—key foundations for a peaceful and secure community.

The Rotary Club of Milwaukie's International Service committee: With over 48,000 clubs and over one million three hundred thousand members around the world, Rotary reaches into virtually all countries and

through the Rotary International Foundation, enables Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and the alleviation of poverty.

In the recent past, Rotary Club of Milwaukie has been involved in a number of international projects to further the goals of the International Foundation.

Recently, we assisted the Rotary Club of Beaverton as they finished the construction of a grain storage warehouse for women farmers in Uganda. The women have been selling their corn at harvest for rock-bottom prices because they had no place to store it. With this new warehouse, after the 2025 harvest, they will be able to take advantage of the gradual increase in the price of corn, which in 2024 rose in a few months from 4 to 5 times the price at harvest time. With larger incomes, marginalized rural women will gradually be able to move out of the deep poverty in which they live.

Through the Kenya Keys organization and their programs providing educational sponsorship, support, and resources to empower disadvantaged students in rural Kenya, we are sponsoring three students through their years in high school as education is not free in Kenya.

We are developing a long-term project to drill for water and set up solar-powered water wells in western Zimbabwe, a region adversely impacted by wide-spread drought over the last three years. The wells will provide clean drinking water as well as water for drip irrigation of the crops of needy villages and will relieve women and girls of the task of walking miles for water. This will allow the girls to have the time to attend school. The company we have chosen for this effort is Intuba Water Wells with offices in Texas and Zimbabwe. Intuba has drilled wells and trained the people of twenty eight villages in a number of sub-Saharan African countries.

The Rotary Club of Milwaukie's Local Community Service committee: The Rotary Club of Milwaukie's Community Service Committee strengthens our city by bringing people together to meet real needs with compassion and collaboration. Through hands on projects and partnerships, we foster connection, equity, and mutual respect – helping create a safer more resilient community where service becomes a pathway to peace.

The Rotary Club of Milwaukie's Peacebuilding committee: The Rotary Club of Milwaukie was one of the first Rotary Peacebuilding clubs, joining as a District 5100 Peacebuilder club, around 2013. We have planted over 20 Peace Poles around our city, and have planted a Peace Pole at every public school within the City Limits (as well as at the Portland Waldorf School), as well as at a number of local businesses. We received one of the last Hiroshima Peace Trees, in 2023, planted from seeds harvested from trees that survived the nuclear blast at Hiroshima, Japan, at the end of WWII, on the grounds of Milwaukie's Historic City Hall. We have sponsored multiple Peace Walks, in our community. We have worked on projects to help stop human trafficking and bullying, and to help people recognize the bullying experienced when we were children is far different than today's bullying. We have worked with other local Rotary clubs, collaborating to hold Peace Symposiums, at a local community college, multiple years. We have also supported a number of international Rotary peace projects. We continue to work on a number of peacebuilding projects and ideas.

The Rotary Club of Milwaukie's Vocational Service committee: The Vocational Service committee of the Rotary Club of Milwaukie works in the community in a number of capacities. We work with youth at our local schools, emphasizing ethics, peace and inclusion and have assisted with exit interviews and mock job interviews. We also emphasize ethics to local businesses and to those in our Club. We stress Rotary's three tenets, The Rotarian Code of Conduct, The Object of Rotary, and, arguably the most important of Rotary's three tenets, The 4-Way Test as ways to serve society and promote ethics in all we think, say and do. Now the schools are beginning to normalize, after COVID-19, we hope to restart some other Rotary programs in the North Clackamas School District.

Vision Statement: Milwaukie is a community where peace is more than the absence of conflict—it is a shared commitment to respect, belonging, justice, service, and opportunity for all.

Mission Statement: Led by the Rotary Club of Milwaukie and our community partners, we foster peace by encouraging meaningful conversations, celebrating diversity, supporting collaborative service projects, and providing tools that empower people to resolve conflict respectfully and build lasting relationships.

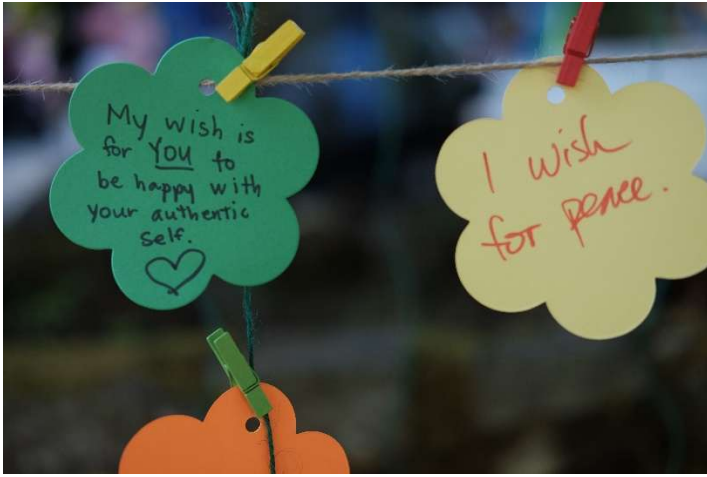
Goals: The City of Milwaukie, Oregon and the Rotary Club of Milwaukie, Oregon plan to continue to plant Peace Poles around our city, to stress peace, equity and conflict resolution and to recognize all humans are created equal and will treat everyone without regard to race, religion, sex, age, national origin, disabilities or sexual orientation.



Dedication of the Hiroshima Peace Tree



Peace Pole dedication at Portland Waldorf School



"Wishing Wall" at the Milwaukie Pride Celebration, 2023