

Antioch Rotary Club dinner and auction raises \$50,000 for scholarships and programs

BY RYAN PAGELOW
News-Sun

Serving up plates of barbecue pork chops and auctioning off trips, sports tickets and other items, the Antioch Rotary Club anticipated raising about \$50,000 for programs at its annual dinner and auction on Saturday.

Each year the club gives about \$25,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the area and donates another \$20,000 toward community projects, said club treasurer Jim Meyer of Antioch.

Some of the recent community projects include donating a truckload of food to the Open Arms Mission in Antioch and painting buildings in the Chain O'Lakes State Park in a joint effort with the Fox Lake Rotary Club, Meyer said. In addition the club contributes to international service projects.

"One of the big things Rotary is working on is the eradication of polio in the next two years," said Meyer, who is president of Meyer Machine & Equipment in Antioch.

The club also sent five high school students from the Antioch area to study abroad as foreign exchange students this year in countries like Germany, Japan and South Africa. A student from Bolivia is currently a foreign exchange student at Lakes Community High School through the Rotary program.

About 500 people were expected to attend Saturday's "Give My Regards to Broadway" pork chop dinner and auction at the St. Peter Father Hanley Social Center in Antioch. The club's annual event has been held since the early 70s. The silent and live auction included donated items such as a week stay in a Fort Myers condominium, Bears and Packers tickets, home parties and dinner and theater packages in Chicago. Singers from the PM&L Theatre in Antioch also entertained the crowd.

The Antioch Rotary Club was established in 1968 and currently has 53 members who meet weekly for lunch on Thursdays.

"We're always looking for people who are interested in joining," Meyers said. "It's a philanthropic organization. We're generally people who are in business. We find ways to give back to the community."

For more information about the Antioch Rotary Club, visit antiochrotary.org.