

CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY 2 FEB, 2022



Mindy Gardner

Introduced by Rotarian **Richalle Cicioni**, **Mindy Gardner**

helped us to better understand **Bridges For Kids**, the YWCA's mentoring program.

Mindy has been in Cortland and with the YWCA for twelve years, and has been in charge of the Bridges program since 2017. Bridges For Kids is for children aged from 5-12 years of age. For 2-3 hours a week, an adult is paired with a child to bond, and to afford the child extra attention. During the pandemic, Bridges For Kids also started a Pen Pal mentoring program. Currently, the program has 28 mentors and 27 Pen Pal mentors. They also have mentors for girl groups.

In Cortland County, 18.2% of its youth live in poverty, with many more children near the poverty line. New York State is 32nd in the nation in child poverty. In addition, it is estimated that roughly 29% of the youth in Cortland suffer from some type of child abuse. Bridges For Kids helps girls to see different perspectives and backgrounds. It is a safe place for girls to eat lunch and discuss the things that are important to them.

Bridges For Kids has found that girls who meet with mentors are less likely to miss school, to skip class, do drugs, drink alcohol, or suffer from depression.

What do mentors do with kids? Everything and anything! Mainly, they are the extra person for the girl to have in her life.

Another important facet about Bridges that **Mindy** explained to us that helps the whole child are the Family Fun Nights, especially when the kids use the pool in the YWCA or have movies. When you help the family, you help the child.

Mindy told us how we can help Bridges by sponsoring a Family Fun Night, obtain gift certificates for mentors, grocery cards, buy crafts, or donate to the program.

Thank you **Mindy** for explaining to us this vital program, and for the fine work you do!



bridges@cortlandywca.org

TULLY ROTARY CLUB LOOKS TO “GROW” IN 2022

President. Peter Williams
Front Desk. Dianne Higgins, Jim Dempsey
Invocation. Mike Shafer
50-50. Dick Kroot

Announcements

President **Peter Williams** reminded us that on **Wednesday, February 16**, the **Chamber of Commerce** and the **Cortland Breakfast Rotary** will host an evening meeting at **Grace and Holy Spirit Church** on Court St. The meeting will be from 5-7PM, and is \$7 per person. **Dianne Higgins** will send out the info from the Chamber; they would also appreciate any door prizes.

Because of the meeting with the Chamber, there will not be a Cortland Breakfast morning meeting on the 16th.

At the Board meeting on February 1, the Board requested that Rotarians who view the meeting on Zoom contribute \$5 per meeting on Venmo.

We need a few more people to help set the meeting up on Wednesday mornings.



Mike Shafer—saw **Conrad Janke** at ONCO in Tully, they both got the last Sauerbraten meals.

Pete Williams—for **Chuck Feiszli** being flexible on Speakers.

Conrad Janke—be gone the next two weeks to Key West and West Palm Beach.

Matt Banazek—was late to meeting because of fire alarm at St. Anthony's Church, no harm done.

Jim Dempsey—wished everyone Happy Groundhogs Day.

Dianne Higgins—Groundhogs Day is her favorite holiday because she knows that it is a downhill slide to spring!

The Tully Rotary Club is excited about the projects and events it has planned in 2022. Tully Rotarians were busy in the past year helping our local community and people around the world.

Tully Rotarians have worked tirelessly over the last nine months planning a new environmental project which will benefit the community for many years. T.R.E.E.S. is the Tully Rotary Ecological and Environmental Sustainability program. Tully Rotary has pledged to plant 1000 trees, clean up local roads and stream beds and promote the growth of plants that will attract pollinating insects. We will begin planting this Spring and look forward to working with Tully FFA, SUNY ESF, Tully Action Group and our corporate friends at Clear Path Energy.

Rotarians worked together with the Tully Central School District and the Tully Free Library to collect hundreds of used books. Tully Rotarians and Interact teenagers worked to pack the books in boxes and load several pallets which were sent overseas to under-developed nations.

In 2022, Tully Rotary will continue our popular Business Backstory events which help to promote local businesses. Local business owners can contact Tully Rotary to find out how we can work together to grow their company.

In the past year, Tully Rotary has partnered with the New York State Department of Transportation in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Tully Rotarians, Interact teenagers and members of the community worked to pick up trash along Route 11 in Tully. We will continue in 2022 beginning in April.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Tully Rotary members managed to carry on with important business meetings virtually and, when safe, in-person. Our Tully Rotarians followed all available safety precautions to prevent the spread of the virus. Tully Rotary understands the importance of keeping our community safe while still carrying out our work.

Tully Rotary has worked hard in the past year to let the community know about our work. A brand new website has been developed to get input from local residents and invite more people to get involved in our work. The Tully Rotary website can be found at: www.tullyrotary.com

