

Let's Make Rotary a Priority!

CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

11.12.2025

Cortlandbreakfastrotary.org

Edited by Sophie Welburn

“WE’RE HERE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS”

RAMONA PETRELLA CUMMINGS & PROJECT HOPE FOR THE CHILDREN



[Learn more on their website](#)

This week the Cortland Breakfast Rotary club welcomed Ramona Petrella Cummings, Founder and Executive Director of Project Hope for the Children, as guest speaker!

During a trip to Romania in 2003, Cummings spent time helping at a pediatric hospital rocking babies, but quickly learned that the need was far greater- many of the children, especially those that had been abandoned, were simply wasting away without the proper supplies nor means to take care of them. Through donations Cummings was able to provide some of the essentials for a period of time, but upon returning to the U.S. she found she could not move on from the problems she witnessed.

Project Hope for the Children, through the generous support of churches, clubs (like CBR!), and individuals, has been able to consistently supply necessities to abandoned and needy children in the hospital. Further efforts include aiding Romanian organizations in the establishment of programs aimed at alleviating the roots of the problems that led to such a high rate of child abandonment in the first place. By providing work for women, establishing day cares, as well as through programs like children's music lessons that encourage school attendance, the hope is that these individuals will have the opportunity to move forward and become responsible members of the community.

In the last four years these efforts have been expanded to Puerto Rico which faces many similar issues as found in Romania. Project Hope is currently working with two orphanages and a pediatric hospital in Puerto Rico, as well as providing support to single mothers by helping to sell their hand-crafted jewelry.

What Cummings has learned is that through consistency Project Hope for the Children has come to be trusted and depended upon to meet their needs.

Project Hope will be conducting an online auction fundraiser from November 20-23; more information may be found on their website (link above) or via Facebook.

Announcements:

- Rotary Radio Day went well! – Mark Roberts, Terry Cahill, Kathy O'Mara, Pino, and Mike Eves featured. Check link below to listen!
- Youth Exchange Passport Fair was a success- upwards of 100 attended; great job to Karen DeWitt!
- 12/14- Gingerbread 5K Run/Walk- sign up by November 16th for a t-shirt. Seeking volunteers to help with the food drive portion @ 7am.
- Next week is our Center for the Arts work day, where we show our appreciation to our hosts every week.
- Jackie is working on coordinating the three decorating at the 1890 House.

President: Mark Roberts
Front Desk: Terry Cahill & Bob Martin
Thought of the day: Kim Cameron
Raffle winner: Mike May

Birthdays:

None

Anniversaries:

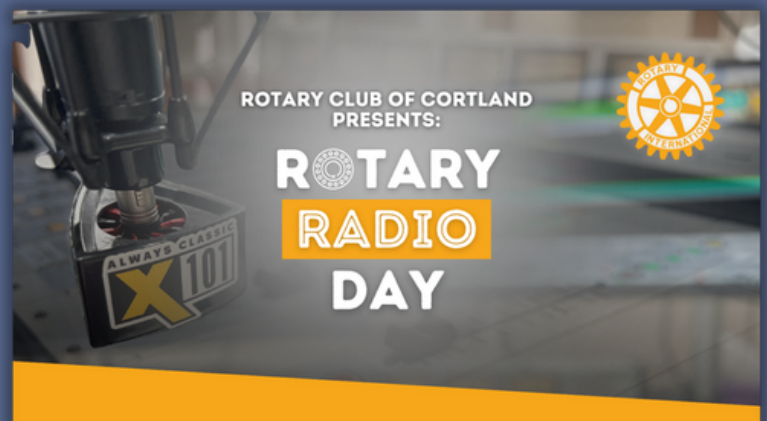
Dick Kroot (11/11/1998)
Kurt Behrenfeld (11/16/2016)
Valerie Kaiser (11/16/2022)

Attendance: 25

Zoom: 3

Guests:

Ramona Petrella Cummings
Pino Alarco Hernandez
Kim Allen



CLICK HERE TO LISTEN!



Happy Dollars



Karen DeWitt: For the passport fair- Chuck, Kathy & Mark were there doing interviews. Many approached her thanking her for the meal.

Ed Finkbeiner: Happy Veterans Day to our club veterans.

Matt Banazek: Thank you to our veterans for your service; to Ed for his 10 years of service to the village of Homer; to our speaker, Ramona.

Kim Cameron: League of Women Voters discussion on health care, and food drive brought supplies to Catholic Charities who were out of food.

Kim Allen: Thank you to those who participated in Rotary Radio Day; Empty Bowls event was fabulous & heart-felt.

Doug Withey: For our veterans.

Chrissie Allen: Thank you to Corrine for a great event last Wednesday.

Dianne Higgins: Eight days in Arizona, wonderful time in Scottsdale, highly recommend it!

Pat Clune: \$10 for every year Ed was Trustee on the Homer village board.

Mark Roberts: For the veterans; the Empty Bowls event, thank you Mike Shafer for a spot.

Conrad Janke: For Empty Bowls event; first day of winter and he doesn't have to be out in it! And for Ramona, our speaker.

Holiday Dinner & Discussion

Let's Talk:
Improving Communication with Elected Officials, A Discussion with Liz Arnold, Homer Village Trustee and Maxwell School Professor
PLEASE JOIN US!

Holiday dinner (\$25/person) at 4:45 p.m.
and/or a discussion (free) at 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 1st, CNY Living History Center



Sign Up HERE





The Guthrie Cortland Activities Committee presents

THE GINGERBREAD 5K RUN/WALK



**Dress in your
best holiday get-up!
Ugly Sweaters
Encouraged!**

**Cookies & Cocoa
Post-Race**

**Drop off
non-perishable food items!**
A partnership with
Cortland Rotarians to benefit
Seven Valleys Health Coalition

Rotary
Club of Cortland

**Cortland Breakfast
Rotary**
Club

**seven
valleys
FOOD
BANK**

Guthrie Cortland Medical Center
December 14, 2025 / 9AM
(Registration starts at 7:30am / Run/Walk starts at 9am)
Registration: \$30 includes a T-shirt
(Deadline for T-shirt order: **November 16, 2025**)

Proceeds to Benefit Cortland Memorial Foundation's Behavioral Health Fund
falconracetiming.com/event/the-gingerbread-5k-cortland-ny/
For Info: Contact Jarrod at jkolo72@hotmail.com

 **GUTHRIE**
Cortland Medical Center

**Cortland Memorial
FOUNDATION**

[Sign up here](#)