

Off the News

White Plains Rotary has new president

Longtime community volunteer ready to serve

By Richard Liebson
rliebson@lohud.com

With 103 members, the Rotary Club of White Plains is one of the largest in the Lower Hudson Valley, but Heather Miller, who was installed as the club's 99th president last week, says her first goal is to increase that number by 10 percent.

The reason, she says, is simple: "The more people you have, the more hands you have to do good work."

And the Rotary is all about doing good work, both locally and globally, said Miller.

Locally, among other things, the Rotary funds scholarships for area high schools, hosts an annual dinner for more than 700 athletes during the Glenn D. Loucks Track and Field Games, and makes tens of thousands of dollars in donations each year to various community organizations.

Globally, the White Plains club has donated two ambulances and two fire trucks to a small, impoverished town in

Ecuador, along with \$11,000 toward construction of a school; participated in Rotary International's "Gift of Life" program, which gives free medical care to children from around the world suffering from heart disease; and is part of the global organization's "End Polio Now" campaign.

Miller is no stranger to doing good for the community. She's worked at the Thomas H. Slater Community Center in White Plains for more than 30 years, serving as its executive director since 2005. In 2013 she co-founded the Haitian Resource Center to provide services for that growing community. She is active in a long list of organizations including the White Plains Community Action Program, where she sits on the advisory board. She also serves as vice president of both the White Plains Juneteenth Heritage Committee and Access Westchester.

But, as she told her fellow Rotarians during her induction as president, "This year is not about me, it's about us and



Heather Miller, executive director at Thomas H. Slater Center, is the new president of the White Plains Rotary. CARUCHA L. MEUSE/THE JOURNAL NEWS

what we are going to do to move our club forward to be the best us."

To that end, in addition to boosting membership, Miller said she wants to spread the word about the good works Rotary does and encourage more people to get involved.

"Personally, I get excited going to the

meetings each week," she said. "I've made so many friends through Rotary and have found it to be very fulfilling. It's a wonderful organization to be involved with, if you're someone who wants to give of yourself for the good of the community."

Twitter: @richliebson