

Rick Carder – Community Service Lane Chairperson / Past President (1993 – 1994), Rotary Club of Montgomery Village
CHARACTER COUNTS! Contest Sponsor

Ed Fones, at the time serving as the Executive Director of the Upper Montgomery County YMCA and a member of the Rotary Club of Montgomery Village (MVRC), was involved in the CHARACTER COUNTS! program, as was Bill Schlossenberg [then with the Gazette Newspapers]. I was invited to join the group and served for several years, until early 2005.

The MVRC became further involved in the CHARACTER COUNTS! program and the City of Gaithersburg when it developed the Ethics Essay Program. For several years, the Ethics Essay program was presented to middle school students by Rotarians, with assistance from high school students. The Rotary of Montgomery Village recently became involved again with the CHARACTER COUNTS! program by sponsoring the CHARACTER COUNTS! Poster contest and celebration month.

One of the reasons that the Club became involved with the CHARACTER COUNTS! program and the City is that the Six Pillars represent the various elements of the Rotary International 4 Way Test: "Of all the things that we think, say or do: Is it the Truth", Is it Fair to all concerned?, Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?, Will be it Beneficial to all concerned?"

City Officials and employees should be additional role models in addition to the values taught by parents and the education system. When elected government officials or employees represent their constituencies and are entrusted to govern and carryout of the "laws of the land," they become role models for our youth. With all of the bad news in the world, having positive role models at home, in the community and in the government is critical ensuring that our children understand and model the 4 Way Test and the Golden Rule.