



# District 5580

## District Simplified Grant Application

Please print or type all information and use additional sheets of paper if necessary. *Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

See District Simplified Grants (DSG) 'CRITERIA & GUIDELINES' (attached) for instructions, eligibility, and program requirements.

### ***FOR DISTRICT 5580 USE ONLY (once Grant is approved)***

District Grant No. 13.4.14 Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
District Grant Subcommittee Chair Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
District Rotary Foundation Chair Signature \_\_\_\_\_

1. Project Description - Detroit Lakes KIVA Club

A. What is the purpose of this project?

The Detroit Lakes Breakfast Rotary Club, the Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary Club, and public school students in Detroit Lakes have joined forces in a creative business partnership, which we have titled: The Detroit Lakes KIVA Club. Thanks to a donation in 2012 of \$1,700 from these two Rotary Clubs, public school students in Detroit Lakes have begun the process of helping to alleviate poverty around the world by giving micro-finance loans to individuals and small groups through the KIVA program. Our goal is to accumulate approximately \$5,000 in funding to be used for the long-term development of this partnership. As a result, we are asking for \$2,000 from the District 5580 Simplified Grant Foundation.

B. How will it meet the needs of the community?

KIVA ([www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)) is a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of micro-finance institutions, KIVA lets these students lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunities around the world. Breakfast Rotary Club Past President Kathy Michaelson explained the partnership in this manner: "This year's Rotary theme is 'Reach Within to Embrace Humanity.' Rotary's vision is world understanding and peace being built with service, education and building bridges between ethnicities, countries, the rich and the poor...this project is getting our children to begin reaching out to others at an early age...you cannot get any better than this." Added Rotary President Brent Gerber: "This is the perfect demonstration of Rotary's mission to serve both locally and internationally. When you add the educational component, which allows Detroit Lakes' students to gain global understanding-this program is really a homerun in terms of fitting the values of Rotary."

Thus far Detroit Lakes students have given 56 different loans in 25 countries on five different continents. Samples of KIVA loans that students have made include helping a man named Salah rebuild a bombed out bookstore in Iraq; helping a group of women in Benin to create a business making and selling shoes; helping a peanut farmer in Bolivia buy seeds to sow his fields; and

helping women in Kenya buy cloth to make clothing to sell. There are 52 other stories similar to these four. Kent Mollberg, a Detroit Lakes teacher and Rotary member is coordinating this partnership and stated, "In my 27 years as an educator I have seen a great many activities where students get to learn about this world, but this is one of the first where I have seen the students have the opportunity to not only learn about the world, but also participate in helping alleviate poverty. This project is a win-win for all involved."

Mindy Nielsen, a teacher in the Detroit Lakes district summed up her student participation. "My students have been busy researching their KIVA loan recipients. They are all fired up. They start writing down their information, and the people disappear because their loan has been reached right before their eyes. They are so excited. The conversations are amazing. They are actually arguing about which type of loan is more valuable, which would help more people. This is a great experience for them."

KIVA works with micro-finance institutions on five continents to provide loans to people without access to traditional banking systems. 100% of every dollar lent through KIVA goes directly towards funding loans; KIVA does not take a cut. Furthermore, KIVA does not charge interest to their Field Partners, who administer the loans. Ladd Lyngaas, a member of the banking industry, a Rotary member and a Detroit Lakes School Board member commented, "This is a great deal. I am interested in what the kids are learning from both an educational standpoint and from a banking standpoint. The best feeling in the world is making a difference for somebody that is trying to do something to better themselves. There is a tremendous amount of pride and satisfaction in this and you feel a little ownership in what that person is trying to accomplish." Added President Gerber, "Perhaps my perspective is a bit different as someone who works in the financial services industry, but I'm just as excited about the business and banking skills that these kids will learn, as I am with the newfound knowledge that they will acquire about how people live across the globe."

### C. How will the host and partner(s) communicate and work together to implement this project?

The two Rotary Clubs have a unique partnership with the schools as there are Rotary members who are also school district employees. Kent Mollberg has the unique opportunity of being both an active Rotary member and a school district employee. Mollberg will be responsible for the administration of this project at both the club and school district level.

Another creative aspect to this program is the opportunity for club members to visit student classrooms during the loan selection process. Rotary members will be informed of dates and times that students will select loan recipients and will be encouraged to visit classrooms at these times to participate in this educational process. Also, educators and students will be invited annually to share their experiences at Rotary Club meetings.

Two of the most important aspects of this program is that there is no end date, and it is completely self-sustaining. There is no estimated project completion date because these are not grants that are being given, they are loans that are being repaid and then being re-distributed. According to the website Charity Navigator, KIVA has a higher charity rating than the American Red Cross, and the payback rate for these loans is greater than 99%. Simply put, students will make a loan. The recipient will pay back the loan. Students will then lend the same funds to another needy individual or group. Because these are loans, this program should be completely self-sustaining for the foreseeable future.

Finally, we want to include a year end celebration. We envision hosting an annual celebration at which we invite students, educators, parents, media and Rotary members to attend. At this celebration students would lead a presentation in the school district auditorium that would highlight all the loan recipients for that year. This would be a very upbeat and educationally enlightening celebration of not only what students learned in this process, but more importantly, how they impacted others around the globe. At this time, as we are partnered with the school district, we do not envision this celebration adding any additional costs to this program. The Detroit Lakes KIVA Club project is a win-win for all involved, and we ask for, and appreciate, the support of District 5580.

## **2. Other Non-Rotary Organizations**

Detroit Lakes Public Schools has been the partnering organization in this project for the last year. Kent Mollberg has successfully acted as the intermediary between these two organizations. Mollberg has presented the happenings of the Laker KIVA Club to both School Superintendent Doug Froke, and the Detroit Lakes School board. Both the Superintendent and the school board are highly supportive of this partnership.

The Laker KIVA club aligns perfectly with the 8th grade state social study standards. In a nutshell, these standards say that at the 8th grade level students should learn as much as possible about other cultures of the world. Through KIVA, not only will students be learning a great deal about other cultures, but they will also be actively participating in making the world a better place. Also in the 8th grade, students are required to access and use data in the math standards. The KIVA program provides tremendous amounts of statistical data on each loan. We receive data on percentages paid back, and the number of recipients by gender, by country and by sector.

## **3. Rotary Club in District Making the Application**

### **Primary Contact**

Kent Mollberg  
Laker KIVA Club Coordinator  
[kmollberg@detlakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:kmollberg@detlakes.k12.mn.us)  
1301 Roosevelt Avenue  
Detroit Lakes High School  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Home 218-847-6841  
Cell 218-234-3284  
Office 218-847-4491

**Additional Contact**

Brent Gerber  
Breakfast Rotary Club President  
[cdis@arvig.net](mailto:cdis@arvig.net)  
PO Box 286  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Home 218-847-6841  
Cell 701-388-5909  
Office 218-983-3008

**4. Project Budget - Detroit Lakes KIVA Club**

Current Balance	\$1700	Start-up provided by Rotary Clubs in Detroit Lakes
Grants Requested	\$4000	DSG and Matching Funds from Detroit Lakes
Total Operating Budget	\$5700	

**5. Purchase of Equipment, Materials or Supplies - Detroit Lakes KIVA Club**

**1. Who will own equipment, materials or supplies?**

There are no equipment, materials or supplies that will be purchased.

**2. Who will be responsible for maintenance of equipment, operating and/or storage costs of the equipment/supplies.**

There are no equipment, materials or supplies that will be purchased, however, Kent Mollberg will be responsible for all accounting records. These records will be shared annually with the participating local clubs and District 5580.

**6. Proposed Financing - Detroit Lakes KIVA Club**

**Primary Sponsor Rotary Club**

Detroit Lakes Breakfast Rotary Club \$1000

**Other Rotary Clubs**

Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary Club \$1000

**Subtotal \$2000**

**Amount requested from District Simplified Grant \$2000**

**Total**

## 7. Publicity ~Detroit Lakes KIVA Club

As stated earlier, we want to include a year end celebration. We envision hosting an annual celebration at which we invite students, educators, parents, media and Rotary members to attend. At this celebration students would lead a presentation in the school district auditorium that would highlight all the loan recipients for that year. This would be a very upbeat and educationally enlightening celebration of not only what students learned in this process, but more importantly, how they impacted others around the globe.

## 8. Report ~Detroit Lakes KIVA Club

Kent Mollberg  
Detroit Lakes Breakfast Rotary Club

## 9. Active Rotarian Participation and Authorization

### Sponsorship Authorization

All Rotary Clubs and Districts involved in this project are responsible to the District 5580 Foundation Grants Subcommittee and ultimately to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for the conduct of the project and for reporting on it. The signature at the bottom of this page confirms that the sponsors understand and accept responsibility for the project. Sponsors may either sign this page or submit a separate letter of commitment.

By Signing below, we agree to the following:

- All information contained in this application is true and accurate, to the best of our knowledge.
- This application meets all District Simplified Grant criteria as stated in District Simplified Grants (DSG) CRITERIA & GUIDELINES.
- The club has agreed to undertake this project as an activity of the club.
- We understand and will comply with the required Rotarian activities and reporting requirements as stated in the District Simplified Grants (DSG) CRITERIA & GUIDELINES.
- We agree that, should the project take more than six months to complete, interim reports will be submitted every six months from the time the grant is paid, and final reports will be provided no later than two months after the completion of the project.
- Projects using DSG funds must be completed within two (2) years from the time of grant approval. Interim Reports are due every six (6) months during the activity of the project and within two (2) months of completion of the project. If the project cannot be completed as expected within the two-year time frame, all DSG funds MUST be returned to the District 5580 Treasurer to replenish the DSG Grant Fund.

Club President (printed name) \_\_\_\_\_ Brent Gerber \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Brent Gerber

Rotary Club name \_\_\_\_\_ Detroit Lakes Morning Rotary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_ March 28, 2013 \_\_

Club President (printed name) \_\_\_\_\_ David Karsnia \_\_\_\_\_

Signature David A Karsnia

Rotary Club name \_\_\_\_\_ Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_ March 28, 2013 \_\_

**10. Authorization of Rotary Club's Funds**

Complete below authorization for club funds to be used for this project. Presidents of all clubs contributing must sign this authorization. (Duplicates of this sheet may be made).

Club President (printed name) \_\_\_\_\_ Brent Gerber \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Brent Gerber

Rotary Club name \_\_\_\_\_ Detroit Lakes Morning Rotary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_ March 28, 2013 \_\_

Amount authorized \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Club President (printed name) \_\_\_\_\_ David Karsnia \_\_\_\_\_

Signature David A Karsnia

Rotary Club name \_\_\_\_\_ Detroit Lakes Noon Rotary \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_ March 28, 2013 \_\_

Amount authorized \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_