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HHART is an acronym for Haitian Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Team. The goal of HHART missions is to bring medical, dental and community development services to extremely poor people who live in the Puerto Plata region of the Dominican Republic.

A large percentage of the persons served are of Haitian heritage. These people have no official citizenship status. They do not have (free) access to the Dominican public education system and health services, and they are not legally permitted to work.

163 people including 33 Rotarians, 2 Rotaractors and 33 family members of Rotarians representing 10 clubs in Rotary District 7010 have directly participated in at least one of the six international service "HHART" missions since they began in 2011. Additionally, more than half of the Clubs in the District have provided indirect support to HHART through material donations or grants or cash donations. The multi-faceted operational and recurring nature of previous HHART missions has resulted in a fantastic relationship between Rotarians in District 7010 and the people in the communities HHART missions have served. More info about HHART service missions is available at www.Facebook.com/HHART.info.

HHART 7, which is scheduled to occur in April and May of 2016, includes many projects that qualify as a district grant. Clubs of District 7010 are invited to sponsor a HHART 7 project through a district grant. Each of the listed projects fulfills at least one of the three grant objectives required by District: Improving Health, Supporting Education, and Alleviating Poverty.

Clubs are asked to review the list of proposed HHART 7 district grants below and contact Rotarian Steve Wallace if there is a project that they can sponsor or if more information is required. HHART Coordinator, Rotarian Steve Wallace, will assist sponsor Clubs with their district grant application and will act as an agent for the Club to provide oversight of the project in the field.

1. MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND MEDICINE FOR HHART 7 MEDICAL CORPS

The HHART 7 Medical Corps will consist of numerous Canadian medical professionals (MD's, RNP's, RN's, Paramedics, etc.). Their primary mission is to conduct medical clinics and provide basic optometry services during mobile in-village clinics. As per previous missions, medical supplies and medicines required by the Corps will be ordered through Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), a registered Canadian charitable foundation that provides these items at a fraction of their retail value. The medicine and supplies will be delivered in Canada and transported by the HHART 7 Medical Corps to the Dominican Republic. The Corps will retain custody and control of these items during the mission. Surplus medicines and medical supplies will be donated to the Leon/Laroche Medical/Dental Clinic in Sosua and the community hospital in the town of Montellano.

Estimated total cost: \$3,600 (Club cost: \$1,800. District grant: \$1,800)

2. DENTAL SUPPLIES AND MEDICINE FOR HHART 7 DENTAL CORPS

The HHART 7 Dental Corps will consist of between 4 and 8 Dentists, at least 2 Registered Dental Assistants and 2 Registered Dental Hygienists. They will conduct dental clinics in the villages and at the modern Leon/Laroche clinic in Sosua. As per previous missions, dental supplies and medicines required by the Corps will be ordered through Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), a registered Canadian charitable foundation that provides these items at a fraction of their retail value. The medicine and supplies will be delivered in Canada and transported by the HHART 7 Dental Corps to the Dominican Republic. The Corps will retain custody and control of these items during the mission. Surplus medicines and dental supplies will be donated to the Leon/Laroche Medical/Dental Clinic in Sosua.

Estimated total cost: \$2,000 (Club cost: \$1,000. District grant: \$1,000)

3. COMMUNITY MEDICAL FUND AND HEALTH WORKER TRAINING

HHART serves only the poorest, most disadvantaged people living in the Puerto Plata region of the Dominican Republic. Most of those people have no citizenship or landed immigrant status in the DR. Therefore, they do not have free access to the public health system. If the people HHART serves want any type of health service or care, they are forced to pay for it. As a result, many seek no treatment for illness. Death due to treatable infections, cardio-vascular disease, diabetes and bronchial/asthma related illnesses occur regularly, particularly amongst the young and aged. As a new initiative, modeled on a system in place and operated by another NGO in the region, HHART proposes to create a community medical fund and to train a group of persons living in the village of Cangrejo as volunteer Community Health Workers (CHW).

The community medical fund would be administered and controlled by a group of Rotarians from District 7010 for a period of one-year. This fund would offer disbursements for diagnostic services and treatments to poor villagers with potentially life-threatening illnesses.

The role of the Community Health Workers is to identify people who require urgent medical evaluation and treatment, and to ensure that people who require follow-up evaluations or extended treatments comply with their physician's instructions. HHART 7 will prepare prospective community health workers by conducting a 15-hour training course. The CHW course provides education about: Vital signs & 1st Aid; Hypertension; Diabetes; Infectious Diseases; Medication and Patient Compliance, and Public Health and Sanitation. On graduation, each CHW will receive a certificate, notebook, stethoscope, thermometer, and first aid kit.

Estimated cost: \$4,000 (Club cost: \$2,000. District grant: \$2,000)

4. SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Children that attend school in the Dominican Republic are required to wear a uniform type of shirt and pants/skirt, and “dress” shoes while at school. This is a mandatory requirement. A small nap-sack (for boys) or a shoulder bag (for girls) to carry books is also needed. Growth spurts, and normal wear and tear mean that most children require a new uniform at the start of the school year. The financial burden on the poorest of families to provide school uniforms is great. It is not uncommon for some children to stay away from school because they do not have a uniform. The purpose of this project is to ensure that every school-aged child living in bateyes Cangrejo, Poncho Mateo and La Union receives a new school uniform and nap-sack.

Estimated cost: \$4,000 (Club cost: \$2,000. District grant: \$2,000)

5. YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

HHART has a close affiliation with 6 villages that have no public sport facilities of any kind. The necessity to keep youth engaged and occupied has inspired each batey to cobble together some sort of basketball court or half court. These limited facilities are well used by the youth and 3-on-3 basketball is the most popular sport played in the bateyes. Friendly competition between the villages occurs infrequently but when it does community pride and camaraderie shines brightly. In April 2015, during the HHART 6 mission, several villages came together in Batey Cangrejo and played the first ever (annual?) HHART Cup 3-on-3 basketball challenge tournament. The event was well attended and a huge success. The tournament prompted pre-tournament selections and practices in each community. The half-court playing surface in the host batey (Cangrejo) was rejuvenated with a deep cleaning and freshly painted lines and backboard in advance of the tournament. People came from afar to cheer on their team – rooftops adjacent to the court were filled to capacity with spectators. The intent of this project is to get more youth involved in physical fitness activities by expanding the tournament to include numerous age groups for both genders. The project involves providing tournament uniforms (one set per community; they will be reused in following years), 3 new basketballs for each community, paint to refresh each community’s basketball court/half court, new netting for each basketball hoop, and water and fresh fruit for participants during each tournament game.

Estimated cost: \$3,500 (Club cost: \$1,750. District grant: \$1,750)

6. RAINWATER DIVERSION & CONTROL

The Dominican Republic is a tropical climate that includes a rainy season from approximately September until late November. During the hot summer months, it is not uncommon for a violent thunderstorm to occur late in the day or overnight. The torrential rainstorms that occur during these events cause erosive damage to pathways and building foundations in the underdeveloped villages in which the poorest people live. The purpose of this project is to construct concrete walkways, curbs and ditches in strategic locations within the village of Cangrejo that will eliminate the destructive forces of the torrential rains.

Estimated cost: \$3,000 (Club cost: \$1,500. District grant: \$1,500)

7. DRINKING WATER FILTERS

It is extremely rare for a household in the bateyes served by HHART to have running water or even a bathroom. There are a few freestanding “community” water taps in each batey hooked to the local municipal water supply. Normally, when the water is flowing (public works limits the flow to 2 hour every other day), people collect and store water in 5-gallon plastic buckets. The water provided is not safe to drink. If they have the money, residents buy bottled or bagged drinking water. But, more often than not, they cannot afford to buy drinking water so they drink the tainted water that flows from the community tap. This contributes to a high incidence of parasitic inflections and gastro-related illnesses. The purpose of this project is to provide each household in the villages of Cangrejo and Poncho Mateo with a system to filter their water.

Estimated cost: \$4,000 (Club cost: \$2,000. District grant: \$2,000)

8. SLEEPING MATTRESSES

This project involves the distribution of mattresses to impoverished persons who live in the Dominican Republic. Specifically, the objective is to provide 50 hygienic, long-lasting mattresses to the most needy Mom's and kids amongst the 8,000 or so disadvantaged, disenfranchised people (primarily of Haitian decent) that live in shantytowns and villages near Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Some mattresses will be the first the recipients have ever owned; some will be replacements for worn-out or unhygienic mattresses currently in use.

Estimated cost: \$3,000 (Club cost: \$1,500. District grant: \$1,500)

9. GARBAGE AND PEST CONTROL

For decades, there was no formal or organized garbage collection occurring in Batey Cangrejo. In 2015, community leaders made arrangements with the municipality of Montellano to provide a service that would haul garbage from the batey to the local landfill in Sosua. The service occurs weekly and is limited to a stake truck backing to the edge of the batey to allow residents to throw trash into the back of the truck. Since this service has begun, the amount of trash evident in the batey has declined drastically. However, the villagers store trash in used rice bags and any other container they can acquire. The problem with this holding method is that, given the weekly collection/disposal cycle, the bags are susceptible to intrusion by mice, rats and cockroaches. This project will provide Batey Cangrejo with 25 large trashcans with secure lids that will be positioned on concrete holding pads (to prevent tipping and spillage) in strategic locations which around the village.

Estimated cost: \$2,000 (Club cost: \$1,000. District grant: \$1,000)

10. INITIAL FIRE RESPONSE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

Bateyes are small in area (under 2 acres in size) and always densely populated. Most are tens of miles from a fire hall. In April 2015, the batey in Munoz was destroyed by fire before the nearest fire department could respond. 23 homes were destroyed and 64 people were displaced in the Munoz fire. This project will install initial fire response equipment in 3 or 4 strategic locations in Batey Cangrejo and Batey Poncho Mateo, and will also provide initial fire response training to the citizens of both villages.

Estimated cost: \$4,000 (Club cost: \$2,000. District grant: \$2,000)

11. ELECTRICAL SAFETY INSPECTION AND RISK REDUCTION

The original batey buildings and the makeshift homes (shacks) that have been erected near them are not provided with electrical service. However, most domiciles have “tapped” into a nearby power line. This illegal power source provides limited electrical capacity in the home. Unfortunately, the connections, wires and receptacles used are poorly installed and/or of poor quality. Thus results in a significant risk of electrical shock and fire. The purpose of this project is to inspect, correct or replace wiring that is truly unsafe and hazardous in the original batey buildings and adjacent shacks in bateyes Cangrejo and Poncho Mateo.

Estimated cost: \$4,000 (Club cost: \$2,000. District grant: \$2,000)

12. BOOTS AND GLOVES FOR DUMP WORKERS

About 80 inhabitants of the batey in La Union have elected to “work” in the Sosua municipal landfill site. These self-appointed “dump workers” pick through every load delivered to the dump looking for food and recyclable goods. They share the food to feed their families and earn a modest fee for recovering recyclable goods from the waste. Their work is dirty, hot and smelly, and hard on their bodies, gloves and footwear. This project involves providing each worker with a pair of rubber boots, working gloves and a meal in their workplace while the distribution of boots and gloves takes place.

Estimated cost: \$1,500 (Club cost: \$750. District grant: \$750)

13. EQUIPMENT FOR PROPOSED CANGREJO ROTARY SPORTS PARK

Very recently, community leaders from Batey Cangrejo were invited by the manager of the state-controlled organization that serves as trustee of land previously owned by now-bankrupt sugar cane producing companies to purchase plots of land adjacent to the current Batey Cangrejo to use as gardens and parkland. It is anticipated that several acres of said land will be purchased by private entities and gifted to the community of Batey Cangrejo. With the assumption that the purchase, gifting and grooming of the land occurs before HHART 7 commences in April 2016, this project involves providing 4 bases for the baseball diamond and a two soccer goals (posts and netting) in what will be likely be known as “Cangrejo Rotary Sports Park”.

Estimated cost: \$2,000 (Club cost: \$1,000. District grant: \$1,000)

14. GOAT MILK AND CHEESE PRODUCTION COMPANY

Since most of the people in the bateyes served by HHART are not recognized as citizens or landed immigrants they have no statutory and no practical opportunity to be employed in the Dominican Republic. Therefore, these non-status people have created a micro-economy within the bateyes to provide income. Very little milk and no cheese are consumed in the batey because it is too expensive to buy on the open economy. An excellent opportunity in Batey Cangrejo has been identified to set up and operate a goat cheese production company. Seed money is required to set-up the business and operate it for one year. Specifically, funds are required to purchase 7 milk producing does and 3 junior doelings, construct a holding pen, purchase feeding equipment and supplements, purchase milk and cheese production and sales supplies, provide for occasional veterinary services, and pay for fall breeding services.

Estimated cost: \$3,600 (Club cost: \$1,800. District grant: \$1,800)