

Rotary District 7010 World Community Service Committee Report of November 2013

Over the last 2 weeks we have heard about and seen photos of the terrible devastation from Typhoon Haiyan in the Cebu area of the Philippines. Hundreds of thousands have lost everything material as well as loved family members and friends. We have problems here in Canada but none are as incapacitating as the present situation in south east Asia.

IMMEDIATE HELP IS NEEDED throughout the Philippines!!

Right now if you donate through a registered Canadian charity, the Canadian Government will match your donation. **Shelter Box Canada** is reliable and already on the scene. They have a Toll Free: 1-855-875-4661 or you can go on their website www.shelterboxcanada.org. For more than 2 years after Haiti's earthquake people were still living in Shelter Box tents! The **Canadian Red Cross** is another reliable charity doing work in the Philippines. There are also 2 Rotary Clubs in southern Ontario that have connections with the Philippines. Both of the following Canadian Clubs will issue Canadian tax receipts.

1. The Rotary Club of Collingwood South Georgian Bay has been doing projects with the Rotary Club of Cebu West in the Philippines for years and is able to wire monies weekly to assist with local relief. Please contact PDG John at vanlaar@sympatico.ca to donate or to get information about his Global Grant Vocational Training Scholarship Program. My own Club and a number of individuals have donated to this relief charity.

2. There is another nearby Rotary District (7080) that has a strong Club connection with the Philippines. Anyone wishing to contribute can make a cheque out to the Woodstock-Rotary Benefit Trust and note "disaster activities" or go online at **Woodstock-Oxford Rotary** Donate Page, then select disaster relief fund in the drop down menu.

WCS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT AND SERVICE HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION

1. The Rotary Club of North Bay is joining a multi-club, multi-district Global Grant to benefit **The Guatemala Literacy Project** (GLP). This grant will promote lifelong reading and writing skills in the Highlands of Western Guatemala by providing badly-needed story books, textbooks, and computers to impoverished schools. They are seeking financial help and hands-on partners. If interested please contact cthacker@sympatico.ca .

2. Rotary Wheels for Learning is an international program of the Rotary Club of Gravenhurst. In late January 2014 a team of 29 Rotarians will be arriving in Cambodia to spend 3 weeks distributing bicycles, food, clothes and dental care to needy children in the rural areas. Their goal is to distribute 800 bicycles in 9 target locations but would be able to provide more if they receive additional donations. Each bicycle costs \$50. The 2014 team is now full but plans are already being made for early 2015. For more information please contact Patrick Bongers at 705-689-1646 or pat@cedarcoasthomes.com.

3. The **Rotary Club of Barrie** has a number of international projects they are working on. Recently Carol Forde has been putting together a Global Grant application in **Ethiopia** to supply textbooks, computers and scholarships. She had strong partners in the country but at this end needs financial support. Please contact Carol (barriecookies@yahoo.com) for further information or to extend some financial support.

4. The **District Wheelchair project** has run into a customs glitch that our Jamaican partners are trying to solve. As soon as information is available, our District committee will get back to all Rotarians who have expressed an interest.

5. During the past 3 years Steve Wallace of the Wasaga Beach Rotary Club has been coordinating **Haitian Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Trips** in the Dominican Republic together with his own and 3 other District Rotary Clubs (Innisville, Midland and Lindsay). Steve has recently informed me there will be a **HHART 5** trip this coming spring for former HHART veterans and that it will primarily focus on dental care and service. Steve will be getting up to date information out shortly but for answers to your questions, Steve's email address is steve.wallace@rogers.com.

6. Before the typhoon hit, PDG John Van Laar put out a call for financial assistance with a Global Grant he is working on in the Philippines. He also is putting together an awareness/mission trip leaving Toronto for Cebu in the Philippines on March 21st, 2014 for approximately 10 days. If you would like any details about either the grant or the trip please contact PDG John, see above.

7. One part of the role of the District WCS Committee is to assist Clubs with their International or World Community projects. If your club wants and needs support, information, or publicity about a project you are doing or wanting to do, I am prepared to do all I can to assist or suggest assistance. Please do not hesitate to call (705-295-6375) or email dawn@straka.ca.

UPDATE ON CURRENT AND FUTURE DISTRICT 7010 WATER AND LITERACY PROJECTS IN HAITI

1. The Literacy project is well under way and very shortly all the books and other supplies will be up in the assigned schools. As for the primary school in Marbial, a mountainous area 15 kms or so above the city of Jacmel, they now have 400 students, some of whom walk 2-3 hours to get there. We are their only source of text books. This year they added grade 8 and daily the children get a sandwich for lunch, thanks to a donor. This is a very poor area of the country.

2. The Water Cistern Project for the people in Demontreuil only recently got its funding released by The Rotary Foundation. The current President of the Rotary Club of Jacmel, Alberto Paul, is most hopeful that this project will now move ahead quickly.

Both the above **Literacy and Water Cistern projects** are currently happening thanks to financial support from 10 of our Rotary Clubs, District 7010 Designated Funds and The Rotary Foundation. The involved Clubs were Barrie-Kempfenfelt, BEL, Gravenhurst, Haliburton, Huntsville, Lindsay, North Bay, Orillia, Peterborough and Peterborough-Kawartha). I am going to Haiti in early February 2014 and expect to witness the efforts of the investment of these clubs. On return I will have photos and information that I can share with you.

3. Our next **District 7010 project** is a large one that will bring clean potable water to a number of communities. Our Haitian partners refer to it as "**K-Laurent, Meyer, Breman, Paisible et les écoles en Bas Cap Rouge**". When DGE Gary and Christine Traill and I were in Jacmel in January of this year we saw a part of the area and witnessed the need. Another positive factor is that our relationship with the Jacmel Club has improved and deepened as we worked together through the grant process. This new project will be

almost 6 times bigger (in the range of \$195,000) than any other project we have recently done. I believe that we can do it and will seek partners both inside and outside our District to make it happen.

4. Haitian Awareness Mission This February 10th to 17th (or possibly the 19th), 2014 I am going to the Jacmel area of Haiti to monitor our current District projects and to work with the President of the Jacmel Rotary Club on the next grant. I feel it would be an ideal time to launch our first Haitian awareness trip. Participants would have the opportunity to experience Haiti's culture and learn about this country's history, geography and values, observe in a number of classrooms in small and large schools, visit and learn more about our current and past projects as well as the orphanage my Club has been supporting since 2007, attend a Rotary meeting and tour some of the southern part of the country. (If an individual team member had a particular professional or other interest then an attempt would be made to make appropriate arrangements.) This first team should probably be no larger than 6 members. Speaking French is not necessary but having a smattering of words helps. The group would be staying at the Cyvadier Hotel right on the coast. (Check it out on the internet.) It is reasonably priced. I have stayed there my last 5 trips to Haiti. Airfares to Port au Prince (where we fly into) are currently about \$600. return including taxes. (The sooner one books the cheaper it is!) If anyone has an interest and/or questions, please feel free to get in touch with me.

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