



Literacy
WITHOUT BORDERS



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Rotary Club of
~~ROTARY CLUB OF~~
~~EDUCATIONAL~~
Legacy Project

Sharing Your Inner-City Experience
with South Belize City

April 2012

Rotary Club of Edmonton International Legacy Project

Building Educational Capacity and Community Infrastructure in South Belize City

Executive Summary

The Future Vision Program of Rotary International compels Rotarians to find and invest in large projects where the need is great and then tell the story to fellow citizens around the world in new ways. Instead of quietly pursuing small projects, Rotary Clubs and Districts around the world are identifying communities where focused multi-year projects can have a sustainable long-term positive effect on the people who live there and the Rotarians who collaborate to making the projects a success.

Project Summary

In three separate phases, LWB proposes to work with the Rotary Club of Edmonton and its partners to transform the educational and community infrastructure in focused sites in South Belize City. With a 48% of its population of 320,000 under the age of 18, Belize is a country that must focus on education and economic development if it is to succeed as a nation. District 5370 has a long history of working directly with government, educational and community service leaders in Belize to bring sustainable change to country. Literacy Without Borders, an Edmonton-based federally-incorporated charity, that is an official project of the Rotary Club of Edmonton, has been working directly in Belize since March of 2010 to build educational capacity through the training and implementation of literacy programs.

The Rotary Club of Edmonton can choose to leverage its own \$50,000 for a total project contribution of \$250,000 or it can choose to partner with the District 5370 Playground and Adopt A School Program, which has the potential to add up to \$225,000 in additional resources to the project in Belize City. Literacy Without Borders will contribute a minimum of \$45,000 over three years to this project. Both budget scenarios are presented later in this document. The elements of our proposed project follow:

Revitalize Libraries and Provide Classroom Resources

- Deliver a minimum of 100 Classroom Libraries to students and teachers in schools across South Belize City.
- Renovate and restock the Central Library in a minimum of three South Belize Schools.

Renovate and Rebuild School Latrines

- Replace a minimum of one latrine facility at Queen's Anglican School.

Build Playgrounds and a Rotary Club of Edmonton Park

- Build a minimum of three playgrounds in South Belize City
- Construct a Rotary Club of Edmonton Park

Provide Access to Effective Literacy Programs

- Upgrade two temporary Computer Assisted Literacy Solution sites to permanent sites. Add three more permanent sites in South Belize City.
- Offer the Rhymes That Bind Parent and Child Learning Program to over 2,000 mothers, fathers and children across South Belize City

Rotary Areas of Focus Matrix

The following two tables demonstrate how this proposal addresses each of the Rotary Areas of Focus and demonstrates the number of citizens of South Belize that will benefit from these projects. The first table outlines the relationship of the project to Peace and Conflict Resolution, Disease Prevention and Treatment, and Water and Sanitation. The second table outlines Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy, and Economic and Community Development.

Table 1: Rotary Areas of Focus

South Belize Educational Capacity and Community Infrastructure Program				
Activity	Number of Beneficiaries	Outcomes by Areas of Focus		
		Peace and Conflict Resolution	Disease prevention and treatment	Water and sanitation
Provide classroom resources	3000	Increased graduation rates; higher number of youth engaged and away from gangs	Increased health awareness and education	Access to latrine facilities
Revitalize libraries	2400	Increased graduation rates; higher number of youth engaged and away from gangs	Increased health awareness and education	Access to latrine facilities
Build/Renovate School Latrines	1000	Pride in school contributes to increased morale, improved retention and better learning conditions thus reducing the likelihood of students dropping-out and engaging in criminal activities.	Reduction and elimination of open sewers and non-functioning toilets. Installation of proper faucets and sinks to reduce the spread of germs	Improved student health by installing functioning toilets, proper faucets and basins, and eliminating open sewers and non-functioning toilets
Build playgrounds and RCE Park	7500	Safe location for play; higher number of youth engaged and away from gangs	Safe location to encourage physical fitness, improve mental health.	Cleaner, safer and well-maintained locations for children to play.
Access to Computer Assisted Literacy Solution	7500	Increased graduation rates; higher number of youth engaged and away from gangs	Increased health awareness and education	Access to clean latrine facilities during programming
Rhymes that Bind Programs	2400	Early-age literacy to encourage life-long learning; increased graduation rates; higher number of youth engaged and away from gangs	Increased health awareness and education	Access to clean latrine facilities during programming
TOTAL	23,800			

Table 2: Rotary Areas of Focus Continued

South Belize Educational Capacity and Community Infrastructure Program				
Activity	Number of Beneficiaries			
		Maternal and child health	Basic education and literacy	Economic and community development
Provide classroom resources	3000	Increased health awareness and education	Increased reading and numeracy skills	Increased number of community literacy programs using resources; improve employability
Revitalize libraries	2400	Increased health awareness and education	Increased reading and numeracy skills	Hire the shelving design and purchase the raw materials locally. Increased number of community literacy programs using resources; improve employability. Source books locally and regionally.
Build/Renovate School Latrines	1000	Improved child health through improved latrines and running water in the bathrooms. Reduction of infections, influenza and other spreadable diseases	Improving the health and morale of students and staff will improve the learning environment for all	Local redesign of latrines, purchase of building materials locally, partnership and contracting of local construction companies. Opportunity to engage parents and local volunteers in critical community-building opportunity.
Build playgrounds and RCE Park	7500	Safe location to encourage physical fitness, improve mental health.	Increased cognitive abilities through play	Community gathering place; economic development opportunity for local business in procurement of supplies and materials. Jobs creation for design and build of park
Access to Computer Assisted Literacy Solution	7500	Increased health awareness and education	Increased reading and numeracy skills	Improves employability prospects for learners. New computers are purchased locally.
Rhymes that Bind Programs	2400	Increased health awareness and education	Increased reading and numeracy skills	Program contributes to healthier, happier families and stronger communities
TOTAL	23,800			

Project Budget

The total project investment for RCE is \$257,000. Literacy Without Borders will commit \$45,000 to the three-year project. The District 5370 Playground Project and Adopt A School Initiative will commit at least \$50,000 to the project. This combined project value is \$352,000. Funding requirements from the RCE would be \$60,000 in Phase 1, \$102,500 in Phase 2 and \$94,500 in Phase 3.

The Proposal: Building Educational Capacity and Community Infrastructure in South Belize City

After working in Belize since 2010, it is clear to LWB that basic education, community development and economic development are critical factors in the survival and future development of the country. With a population of 320,000 people of whom 48% are under the age of 18 and of whom 75% are under the age of 35, extending basic education, including literacy, developing sustainable communities, and making links to meaningful employment will contribute to healthier communities, crime reduction, and lower levels of poverty for the citizens of Belize.

Literacy Without Borders proposes to work with the Rotary Club of Edmonton (RCE), the Rotary Club of Belize City (RCBC) and a range of in-country partners to make a significant investment in the educational and community infrastructure of South Belize City as well as provide literacy programming that will make a difference in the lives of individual Belizeans and their families.

Why Invest in Belize?

Independent since 1982, Belize is a country that is committed to becoming a fully-developed country. The official language of Belize is English. Corruption levels are low to non-existent compared with other potential international projects. Flights from Edmonton are daily and connections may be made through Houston or Miami. A 6 am departure ensures arrival at a Belize City Hotel by 4 pm. The laws and customs of Belize follow the British system. Though located in Central America, Belizeans self identify as a Caribbean nation. Rotary Club of Edmonton and Literacy Without Borders enjoy a long history with Belizean officials thanks to the ground-breaking work of the Belize Literacy Program. There is great interest among these and other country partners for resources focused on South Belize City to be invested in Belize. A range of partners in Belize including Restore Belize, the Ministry of Education and the Rotary Club of Belize City to name but three ensure confidence for an investment of this scale. Belize is a country of stunning natural beauty and great potential and affords Rotarians from the Edmonton Club, their families, Rotaractors and Interactors with a safe and engaging opportunity to volunteer and enjoy time off in the sun. It is an ideal country in which to partner to make a difference.

Demographic Profile: Belize

A recent country update by the US Central Intelligence Agency's World Factbook provides a useful overview of key economic, social, and political conditions facing Belize. An excerpt from this report follows:

“Tourism is the number one foreign exchange earner in Belize followed by exports of marine products, citrus, cane sugar, bananas, and garments.. Although Belize has the second highest per capita income – at just over \$8,400 USD - in Central America, the average income figure masks a huge income disparity between rich and poor. The 2010 Poverty Assessment shows that more than 4 out of 10 people live in poverty. A sizable trade deficit and heavy foreign debt burden continue to be major concerns. As the elderly population grows and nuclear families replace extended households, Belize's government will be

challenged to balance a rising demand for pensions, social services, and healthcare for its senior citizens with the need to reduce poverty and social inequality and to improve sanitation.¹

With this background on Belize the country, and the macroeconomic challenges it faces, it is important to understand the fundamentals of the community LWB is proposing for this project, South Belize City.

Demographic Profile: South Belize City

Tourists who flock to Belize for diving, snorkeling, maya ruins, or just to soak up the sun will likely never set foot in or even hear of South Belize City. Of the 53,500 citizens in Belize City, approximately 27,000 live in South Belize City. Yet for Belizeans who spend their lives in country, for international NGO officials, and for government officials in Belize, South Belize City remains a complex and critical area of focus. With the lowest literacy and school performance rates, the highest crime statistics, and decades of under-investment in basic infrastructure, South Belize City has proven to be a drag on civic development and has become home to some of the country's most despondent souls. Recent changes in the Mayor's Office in Belize City, the involvement of funding from international agencies, and a renewed focus by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) in the community have provided the citizens of South Belize with a renewed sense of hope and optimism. It is in the spirit of this local renewal combined with the ethos of Rotary that Literacy Without Borders proposes a multi-year, hands-on human capacity building and physical community building project.



Working with our partners in Belize, LWB has outlined a range of investment and involvement opportunities for the Rotary Club of Edmonton over the next three years. Each component of the project will invite hands-on involvement from Edmonton Rotarians, their spouses, and families, where such interest exists. Each component also demands local stewardship and involvement and all of our local partners have demonstrated track records in this regard.

The Cultural Fit with Rotary Club of Edmonton: Inner City Expertise and Commitment

The Rotary Club of Edmonton has a well-established long-term brand as the Rotary Club of the Inner City of Edmonton. A long string of successful Legacy Projects demonstrate RCE's long-standing commitment to Inner-City infrastructure and human capacity development. From the Africa Centre to the Lurana Shelter, the Bissell Centre, The Centre for New Canadians, and Millennium Place, Rotarians from the Edmonton Club have shown their hearts, provided their time and donated their treasure to these worthy causes, thus improving the lives of countless Edmontonians most in need.

¹ US Central Intelligence Agency – The World Factbook, Belize. April 8, 2013 <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bh.html>

And yet it is a club that has pockets of deep involvement in international projects as demonstrated by regular and long-time commitment to medical missions to Ecuador, participation in the District 5370 Belize Literacy Program and the development over the last three years of Literacy Without Borders to name but three examples.

This proposal provides the Rotary Club of Edmonton with a golden opportunity to leverage your character and expertise as an Inner City Club to another Inner City that desperately needs your support: South Belize City. With deep relationships forged in Belize through the District 5370 Belize Literacy Program, the District 5370 Playground Project and Adopt A School Initiative and LWB, the timing is right for the Rotary Club of Edmonton to take a leadership role and commit to making a difference in the lives of Belizeans in South Belize City in the same way that your club has done in Edmonton. By working with local officials and volunteers to adapt your inner city expertise to South Belize City, Literacy Without Borders believes that many lives, both in Belize and in Canada, will be changed for the good.

Building Educational Capacity and Community Infrastructure in South Belize City: Project Elements

Build Library Capacity to Enhance Student Performance

A recent survey of South Belize schools by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport revealed a significant lack of books in elementary, junior high and senior high classrooms in schools across the community. Additionally, school libraries in the vast majority of South Belize Schools are deficient in terms of shelving, protection from the elements and books. To remedy this situation, LWB proposes to build on the success of a MOEYS Literacy Unit Classroom Library program that targetted schools and classrooms with the lowest performing students. The classrooms were provided with 100 books as well as facilitation in reading instruction and reading aloud. The results of students in these classrooms increased significantly.

Literacy Without Borders proposes that the Rotary Club of Edmonton equip a minimum of 100 classrooms with classroom libraries over three years. Funding would include books, classroom support and program coordination. The attached budget outlines preliminary estimates for this and all other elements of the Legacy Project. Rotarians would be invited to present the libraries to the classrooms and to assist with in-classroom reading. The classroom libraries, the classrooms and the schools will ensure appropriate recognition and signage for the Rotary Club of Edmonton. After the three-year RCE Project, LWB will work with in-country partners and other donors to ensure the regular replacement of and sustainability of the Classroom Libraries.

In the same MOEYS survey and subsequent school visit, Ministry officials encountered that a number of schools in South Belize City from elementary to high school no longer had functional libraries. A combination of lack of resources, deteriorating physical plants, and lack of programming led to former libraries being converted into storage rooms or classrooms. It is a goal of the MOEYS to work with partners to reclaim and rebuild these libraries. The RCE and RCBC could be just the partners that the Ministry seeks to work with.

To enhance student achievement in targetted schools in South Belize City, *LWB further proposes to work with the Rotary Club of Edmonton to renovate and equip a Central School Library in each of three schools over*

three years. Working with the Literacy Unit of MOEYS, LWB will identify two elementary schools and one junior/senior high school that are most in need. Rotarians from Canada and Belize along with parents and community leaders in South Belize City will collaborate to design, renovate and launch three libraries over three years. In coordination with the District 5370 Playground Committee and Adopt- A-School Initiative, LWB and RCE will support the renovation and refurbishment of these libraries as well as teacher capacity to reacquaint school staff and students with the role, use, and function of their school library.

For the purposes of Rotary International Funding, these three libraries would qualify as renovations as opposed to new builds, as they are all physically located within an existing school. Each school will prominently display the Rotary Club of Edmonton logo and signage.

Renovate and Rebuild School Latrines

The current state of school latrines in a number of South Belize schools is deplorable. The number of toilets is either insufficient, dysfunctional, or both. A tour of four such sites for the development of this proposal provoked disbelief and dismay on the part of Rotarian Giovanni Heredia from the Rotary Club of Edmonton and the Executive Director of Literacy Without Borders, Randy Boissonnault. Neither would have let any of their children or nieces and nephews even set foot in these latrines. The stench could be detected up to 30 meters outside of each facility. At Queen’s Anglican school, for example, three latrine blocks serve 1,000 students. None of them function properly. Construction of fourth latrine was started and never completed. RCE, LWB and RCBC could make a significant difference to the lives of 1,000 students by fixing this situation at Queen’s Anglican. A letter of support from the Principal, Ms. Myrna Smith is attached as Appendix 3.



Build Playgrounds to Stimulate Student Health and Community Engagement

Many communities in Belize are becoming increasingly unsafe, violent and crime ridden. Designing playgrounds and play spaces that accommodate all abilities, ages, and genders can make communities into safe central places, where additional community literacy programming and libraries can be introduced. Safe, sturdy and bright playgrounds can stimulate community engagement, foster civic pride and provide an environment to support the health of children. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31, outlines that “parties recognize the right of the child to... engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child...”.



Building on the success of Rotary Clubs in Belize and the Rotary

Club of Glenora, *Literacy Without Borders* proposes to work with the Rotary Club of Edmonton to finance the refurbishment, shipping, and assembly of three playgrounds from Canada for South Belize City over three years. **One of these playgrounds will be funded directly by the Rotary Club of Edmonton and bear appropriate signage to mark this contricution.** Edmonton and Belize Rotarian and Rotaractors as well as other community members will assist in the building of each playground, and coaching in 'Play Leadership' at each site. We will ensure prominent recognition for the Rotary Club of Edmonton.

In discussions with the Chair of the District 5370 Belize Playground and Adopt-A-School Project, Wendy Andrews, of the Edmonton Glenora Rotary Club, the opportunity to deploy three new playgrounds in South Belize City between 2014 and 2017 is a welcome addition to their programming. The District 5370 Belize Playground and Adopt-A-School Project Committee is compromised of a number of Edmonton-area Rotary Clubs: Glenora, Nisku/Leduc, Sherwood Park, Whyte Avenue, Jasper and Camrose. The principles that underpin the Playground Project Committee's work stem from their partnership with the Emmanuel Foundation, who believe strongly that these playgrounds should be placed in the poorest communities and where they will contribute most to community identity and development.

The Playground Project Committee has also entered into discussions with project partners in Belize to source components for the playgrounds in Belize City, thus opening up an economic development aspect to the playground component to this community renewal program. The playgrounds are designed to last for a minimum of 10 years which contributes directly to sustainability of the site. At the official playground opening a set of tools is ceremoniously handed off to a local committee of volunteers stewards who then take on the responsibility of maintaining the quality and safety of the playground as well as the play leadership program.

Wendy Andrews and members of the District 5370 Belize Playground Project team are eager to work with LWB and the Rotary Club of Edmonton to maximize local economic development opportunities and collaborate with the Rotary Club of Belize to coordinate volunteer involvement in the construction of the playgrounds. The Belize Playground Project Committee is prepared to invest voluntee time and \$50,000 over the project span to make this partnership a success. There is scope to have part or all of this \$50,000 contribution matched in part or in whole by Rotary International, which will provide additional resources to the legacy project. LWB will elaborate on what this additional funding could mean for the project in the Next Steps section of this proposal. The letter of support from Wendy Andrews is attached as an Appendix to this report.

A Rotary Club of Edmonton Park in South Belize City

Building on the importance spaces for children and adults to congregate, LWB proposes to work with the Ministry of Works and Cisco Construction to build a Rotary Club of Edmonton Park in South Belize City. A current site is under development as part of the South Belize Canal Redevelopment Project. Located near the Dolphin Bridge in North Creek, South Belize City is a area of the Canal Redevelopment Project that the Ministry of Works is setting aside for green space. Cisco Construction has agree to surface this area to a



level ready for park enhancements. In the heart of an area where over 2,400 children attend school each day, the space is ideal for a playground and a green space park located right adjacent to the canal. The photos below demonstrate the site under construction and provide an example of how the canal will appear once the project is completed. This project allocates \$49,000 for the building of this RCE Park in Phase 1 and 2 of this proposal. Our Rotarian Partners and the Ministry of Works will ensure the appropriate signage for the RCE.



Extend Access to Computer Assisted Literacy Solution

In December, 2012, LWB and Restore Belize announced a partnership to introduce the Academy of Reading and Academy of Math Computer Software Programs to Belize, through a generous gift of USD \$200,000 from the Government of Taiwan (China).

In addition to providing 100 computers to community agencies, the donation also purchase a Master Licence for Belize for the Academy of Reading and Academy of Math Computer Assisted Literacy Solution (CALS) software, which allows four agencies to host the software programming in perpetuity and allows eight other sites to host the software for one year. In February 2013, LWB conducted 2.5 days of training in Belize City for the first round of agencies to implement the software. The response to having this software in country has been so positive that international agencies have contacted our in-country partner, Restore Belize, to purchase extensions of the licence for use with their learners. The United Nations Development Program is the latest of such country partners to request access to the Academy of Math and the Academy of Reading



Why use the Academy of Reading and the Academy of Math?

The simple answer to this question is, 'Because it works.' Adopted by former Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson in his year as Rotary President, CALS has been used around the world to help learners of all ages to learn to read, to improve their math skills, and to unlock the keys to lifelong learning.

When a student commits to three 20-minute sessions per week on the computer, they will experience an increase, on average, of one grade level every 10 weeks. If the students are able to use the computers more intensively, they will simply progress more rapidly.

The current roll-out of the Academy of Reading and the Academy of Math is taking place at a number of partner sites including the Belize Central Prison, the National Resource Centre for Inclusive Education, the Port Loyola Library in South Belize, and EGLAS Community Centre. Software installations in each of these centres will be completed by the end of April 2013 and programming will begin shortly thereafter. Each site has the potential to help hundreds of Belizeans to learn to read per year. We simply need to extend the number of

sites accessible to Belizeans and to make the locations easy to reach for Belizeans without the means or time to travel.

LWB proposes to work with the Rotary Club of Edmonton to convert two temporary Computer Literacy sites to permanent sites and to fund three new permanent sites over the course of the next three years. Once up and running, each site can assist from 800 to 2000 students per year. With 5 permanent sites running in South Belize City, the Rotary Club of Edmonton would contribute directly to helping thousands of Belizeans to learn to read, and, as such, change the course of their lives. By funding a total of 5 permanent sites, RCE would provide the foundation for access to this life-changing software well beyond the 2017 scope of this project.

LWB and Restore Belize are committed to building on the momentum and early success of the CALS program. As such we will continue to work with country partners after 2017 to sustain and extend the use of the Academy of Reading and Academy of Math software after this RCE International Legacy Project wraps up.



In terms of project measurements, the CALS program records all learner progress in real-time. Program administrators can produce daily reports of student progress and track any areas for additional study or for reading support off-line. Each site would work with individual learners to determine their personal reading and math goals. LWB, Restore Belize and MOEYS would work with each CALS site to set a target for the number of participants per site.

Extend Literacy Programming through Rhymes That Bind

Early childhood development is a key indicator of future health and success in school. The critical window of brain development for children is from 0-36 months. In three short years, 80% of a child's brain is hard-wired. The MOEYS and its Literacy Unite are focussed on extending and enhancing their approach to family

literacy programming and parent skills development across the country. Funds are limited, yet current pilot programs are demonstrating encouraging results. One of the most successful Early Childhood Development tools in the LWB toolbox is the powerful Rhymes that Bind program, which encourages oral language development, parent-child bonding, and improvement of parenting skills. Developed by our partner, the Centre for Family Literacy, based in Edmonton, this program has demonstrated consistent positive results across the province and beyond.



LWB has already conducted one in-country training on Rhymes That Bind as part of our Foundations in Literacy Training in June of 2012. We trained representatives from over one dozen community agencies and government ministries in the model and worked with the participants to adapt the program model to the Belizean context.

Our current network of partners in South Belize City would welcome the opportunity to roll out this program across the community. *LWB proposes to work with the Rotary Club of Edmonton to operate Rhymes that bind at 10 community sites three times per year over the next three years.* This would enable us to reach between 1,840 – 2,640 parents and their children aged 0-3 over the time of this project and build significant family literacy programming capacity in the city.

LWB will work with community agencies to set targets for community participation. Our estimates are that in Year 1, with two 10-week programs at 3 sites in South Belize City, the program will reach a minimum of 120 parents and 120 children, with positive referral effects to other children in each family. In Years 2 and 3 with 10 sites operating three 10-week programs per year, the program will reach a minimum of 600 parents and 600 children each year.

International Legacy Project Criteria

This proposal outlines an optimal mix of human capacity and community infrastructure development projects which combine to help move an entire community forward. The project components qualify for aspects of Rotary funding at the District and Rotary Foundation levels. LWB is also mindful of partnering with other sources of local and regional funding including MOEYS, the Caribbean Development Bank, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Program and local Rotary Clubs. We will also be working with the Belize Literacy Program to determine what partnerships may be appropriate as this project unfolds.

As an English-speaking Commonwealth country, Belize is accessible to and inviting of Canadian visitors and volunteers. Our robust network of local partners and contacts will ensure a memorable and meaningful experience for each Edmonton Rotarian and companion who travels to Belize to assist with the implementation of this project. LWB will also work with our in-country contacts to ensure a balanced mix of volunteer work and enjoyment of all that Belize has to offer to travellers. We will ensure that each element of the Community Legacy Project provides appropriate recognition to the Rotary Club of Edmonton. Additionally we will work with our contacts in the media to provide real-time coverage in print, on radio and on television of the capacity building work of the Rotary Club of Edmonton and its partners.

Partners

Three reasons underpin our submission of this full proposal to the RCE. The first is demonstrated, confirmed need by country officials and international agencies. The second is our club's commitment to inner city development and making a difference at the international level. The third is the outstanding track record of our partners in Belize. These partners include Restore Belize, a community capacity-building agency that reports to the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Literacy Unit of that Ministry, and the Rotary Clubs of Belize City and Belize City Sunrise. The combined strength of these partners, LWB, and the Rotary Club of Edmonton will deliver results and drive change in South Belize City.

The email below confirms the participation of the Rotary Club of Belize, following discussions with the President Elect, Lynn Young, while I was in country earlier in April.

Lynn Young

To: Randy Boissonnault

Cc: Maria Coyi <maria_hospedales@yahoo.com>, Giovanni

Educational and community renewal project in South-side Belize City

12 April, 2013 10:03 PM

[Hide Details](#)

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Dear Randy,

Many thanks for working with the Rotary Club of Belize to elaborate this educational and community renewal project for South Belize City. It was a pleasure to meet with you in April while you were in Belize on Literacy Without Borders business. As President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Belize, it will be my pleasure to work with you and colleagues of the Rotary Club of Edmonton should this project be chosen as your Club's International Legacy Project.

As discussed when we met, the Rotary Club of Belize has received funding for international projects in the past. Our club is in good standing with Rotary International. It would be a pleasure for us to serve as Host Partner on this project with the Rotary Club of Edmonton. Our Club will commit the minimum contribution of \$100 required to qualify for the Matching Grant Program. We are prepared to work with you to determine what additional financial commitment our club will be able to make to this worthy program.

As you have seen first hand, Belize has been slipping with respect to literacy, and the youth in South-side Belize City are especially vulnerable and need our attention. We cannot express how glad we are that the Rotarians of Edmonton are considering this project.

South Belize City and citizens across Belize City will benefit from the project as Literacy Without Borders has outlined in this proposal. We look forward to working hand in hand with Edmonton Rotarians to making this proposal a reality starting in July 2014.

Best regards,

Lynn Young
President Elect 2013-14
Rotary Club of Belize

Sent from my iPad

Project Phases 2014 – 2017

LWB will work with RCE and project partners through a series of distinct phases to develop and execute on this important project.

Phase 1: July 1 2014 to June 30 2015

Community Investment: \$60,000

This critical phase of the three-year project will involve several foundational elements. Broadly speaking, the elements of this phase will consist of Team Development & Coordination, Project Site Selection, and Project Execution.

Team Development & Coordination

LWB and the Rotary Club of Belize City (RCBC) would work with the Rotary Club of Edmonton (RCE) to appoint representatives to the joint project committee. LWB and the RCBC would search for a Project Staff Person to provide administrative, logistical and clerical support for the three-year project. As well, RCBC and LWB will constitute a South Belize City Project Advisory Committee (SBCPAC). This Advisory Committee will consist of representatives from a number of organizations that LWB and RCBC have partnered with in the past including:

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
- Literacy Unit, MOEYS

- National Library Service
- RESTORE Belize
- Rotary Club of Belize Sunrise
- United Nations Development Program
- YABRA Community Policing
- Office of the Mayor, Belize City
- Rotary Club of Edmonton

Project Site Selection

For each of the project elements, LWB will work with RCBC and the SBCPAC to determine the optimal first sites for investments of time and funding. The Committee will work with the Literacy Unit to develop a framework for selecting classrooms that will receive age-appropriate books in the form of a classroom library. LWB and the Literacy Unit will identify the appropriate books for the classroom libraries. We will also develop a short list of candidates for School Library redevelopment. Working with RESTORE Belize we will also recommend to RCE a short list of sites for the conversion of temporary CALS sites to permanent sites. We will confirm the site parameters for the RCE Park near North Creek as well.

Project Execution

This section outlines the key deliverables for each of the project elements in Phase 1.

Classroom Libraries

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm Classroom site selection criteria
- Develop a Master List of eligible schools in South Belize City
- Confirm the first 20 Classrooms for Classroom Library delivery
- Coordinate with Literacy Unit for program renewal and delivery.
- Hire Program Coordinator
- Confirm books for each age category and order as appropriate
- Coordinate with Rotary Club of Edmonton and Rotary Club of Belize City Volunteers for Classroom Library Delivery Weeks
- Deliver Libraries to 24 Classrooms
- Conduct Classroom reading program at each site.
- Evaluate success of Phase 1 and position for Phase 2

School Libraries

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm School site selection criteria
- Develop a Master List of eligible schools in South Belize City
- Confirm the first school for School Library Refurbishment
- Coordinate with Adopt-A-School for Teacher resource to provide training with Literacy Unit staff
- Source books for age range of students at the school
- Develop renovation plans for school library, identify in-kind support of volunteer time and materials
- Coordinate with Rotary Club of Edmonton, Rotary Club of Belize Volunteers, and community volunteers for Classroom Renovation Weeks
- Complete Library Renovations
- Coordinate Library Rededication Event and unveil RCE Signage
- Conduct Library Training
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate success of Phase 1 and position for Phase 2

Renovate and Rebuild Latrines

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm School Site for Latrine Rebuild (Queen’s Anglican, for example)
- Develop site plan
- Hire local demolition team
- Determine materials and labour required
- Determine weeks for building. Assess volunteer labour required
- Develop volunteer engagement plan for RCE Rotarians and local volunteers
- Remove existing building and build new latrine
- Schedule dedication event
- Evaluate project for potential latring projects in Phase 2 and 3.

Playground Project

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm Playground site selection criteria for RCE Playground
- Develop a Master List of eligible sites in South Belize City
- Choose the Phase 1 site.
- Coordinate refurbishment of playground in Canada

- Hire local Part-time Coordinator
- Coordinate shipping and receipt of playground in country
- Establish and work with Local Playground Committee to identify volunteers for site maintenance
- Schedule playground site conversion and build dates
- Coordinate with RCE, RCBC and local South Belize City Volunteers
- Conduct playground build with volunteers
- Ensure high media visibility in advance and during the build.
- Unveil completed Playground and RCE Signage
- Evaluate Playground build and position for Phase 2

Rotary Club of Edmonton Park in South Belize City

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm role of Ministry of Works and of Cisco Construction
- Determine site size.
- Assess for Playground suitability
- Hire local design team to develop initial Park layout and design
- Position for Phase 2 and Park Development

Computer Assisted Literacy Solution

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Hire In-country coordinator for CALS
- Work with Restore Belize to identify one South Belize City site for licence upgrade
- Confirm site selection, purchase licence
- Conduct software installation on site (Restore Belize and LWB)
- Conduct training of site administrators (Restore Belize and Literacy Unit Staff)
- Recruit learners, set 10 week class schedules
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate results of Phase 1 and position for Phase 2

Rhymes That Bind

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Work with Restore Belize and existing CALS sites to select first Rhymes that Bind Site
- Work with Literacy Unit and local Belizeans to identify culturally-appropriate rhymes, stories, and songs and choose program language: Kriol, Spanish Kriol, and/or English for each site.
- Conduct Rhymes That Bind Models training with Program Coordinators and Volunteers
- Pilot one 10 week program at first site
- Evaluate results and then expand to two additional sites each running one 10 week program
- Recruit students, conduct pre and post interviews with participants
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate results of Phase 1 and position for Phase 2

Phase 2: July 1 2015 to June 30 2016

Community Investment: \$104,500

This section outlines the key deliverables for each of the project elements in Phase 2.

Classroom Librairies

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm the next 48 Classrooms Classroom Library delivery
- Coordinate with Literacy Unit for program renewal and delivery.
- Confirm books for each age category and order
- Coordinate with Rotary Club of Edmonton and Rotary Club of Belize City Volunteers for Classroom Library Delivery Weeks
- Deliver Librairies to 48 schools
- Conduct Classroom reading program at each site.
- Evaluate success of Phase 2 and position for Phase 3

School Librairies

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm the second school for School Library Refurbishment
- Develop renovation plans for school library, identify in-kind support of volunteer time and materials
- Source books for age range of students at the school
- Coordinate with Adopt-A-School for Teacher resource to provide training with Literacy Unit staff
- Coordinate with Rotary Club of Edmonton, Rotary Club of Belize Volunteers, and community volunteers for Classroom Renovation Weeks
- Complete Library Renovations

- Coordinate Library Rededication Event and unveil RCE Signage
- Conduct Library Training
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate success of Phase 2 and position for Phase 3

Renovate and Rebuild Latrines

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- If RCE Partners with Playground Project and Adopt a School Initiative, identify two additional sites for latrine development
- Initiate Plan as per Phase 1

Playground Project

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Choose two sites for Phase 2.
- Coordinate refurbishment of playgrounds in Canada
- Coordinate shipping and receipt of playgrounds in Belize
- Establish and work with Local Playground Committee to identify volunteers for site maintenance
- Schedule playground site conversion and build dates
- Coordinate with RCE, RCBC and local South Belize City Volunteers for Playground Build dates
- Conduct playground builds with volunteers
- Ensure high media visibility in advance and during the builds.
- Unveil completed Playgrounds and RCE Signage
- Evaluate Phase 2 and position for Phase 3

Rotary Club of Edmonton Park in South Belize City

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Determine labour required: hired and volunteer
- Schedule Volunteer Build Weeks
- Develop RCE Park
- Schedule Park Unveiling Event
- Celebrate RCE Park Development with Community Partners

Computer Assisted Literacy Solution

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Work with Restore Belize to identify one more South Belize City site for licence upgrade
- Confirm site selection, purchase licence
- Conduct software installation on site (Restore Belize and LWB)
- Conduct training of site administrators (Restore Belize and Literacy Unit Staff)
- Recruit learners, set 10 week class schedules
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate results of Phase 2 and position for Phase 3

Rhymes That Bind

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Work with Restore Belize and existing CALS sites to select 7 additional Rhymes that Bind Sites
- Conduct Rhymes That Bind Models training with Program Coordinators
- Continue to adapt and enhance program materials based on additional rhymes, stories, and songs and share among all programs.
- Provide support to Program Coordinators and Volunteers
- Recruit students, conduct pre and post interviews with participants
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate results of Phase 2 and position for Phase 3

Phase 3: July 1 2016 to June 30 2017

Community Investment: \$94,500

This section outlines the key deliverables for each of the project elements in Phase 3.

Classroom Librairies

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm the next 48 Classrooms Classroom Library delivery
- Coordinate with Literacy Unit for program renewal and delivery.
- Confirm books for each age category and order
- Coordinate with Rotary Club of Edmonton and Rotary Club of Belize City Volunteers for Classroom Library Delivery Weeks

- Deliver Libraries to 48 schools
- Conduct Classroom reading program at each site.
- Evaluate success of Phase 3 and compile final project report.

School Libraries

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Confirm the third school for School Library Refurbishment
- Develop renovation plans for school library, identify in-kind support of volunteer time and materials
- Source books for age range of students at the school
- Coordinate with Adopt-A-School for Teacher resource to provide training with Literacy Unit staff
- Coordinate with Rotary Club of Edmonton, Rotary Club of Belize Volunteers, and community volunteers for Classroom Renovation Weeks
- Complete Library Renovations
- Coordinate Library Rededication Event and unveil RCE Signage
- Conduct Library Training
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate success of Phase 3 and complete final report.

Playground Project

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Choose two final sites for Phase 3
- Coordinate refurbishment of playgrounds in Canada
- Coordinate shipping and receipt of playgrounds in Belize
- Establish and work with Local Playground Committee to identify volunteers for site maintenance
- Schedule playground site conversion and build dates
- Coordinate with RCE, RCBC and local South Belize City Volunteers for Playground Build dates
- Conduct playground builds with volunteers
- Ensure high media visibility in advance and during the builds.
- Unveil completed Playgrounds and RCE Signage
- Evaluate Phase 3 and compile final report

Computer Assisted Literacy Solution

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Work with Restore Belize to identify three new South Belize City sites for initial CALS software licence
- Confirm site selection, purchase licences
- Conduct software installation on site (Restore Belize and LWB)
- Conduct training of site administrators (Restore Belize and Literacy Unit Staff)
- Recruit learners, set 10 week class schedules
- Ensure high media visibility for program launches and communicate program results.
- Evaluate Phase 3 and compile final report

Rhymes That Bind

LWB and the SBCPAC will work together to achieve the following milestones:

- Continue to adapt and enhance program materials based on additional rhymes, stories, and songs and share among all programs.
- Provide support to Program Coordinators and Volunteers
- Replace sites with new sites as required.
- Add additional sites if volunteer scope and budget allow.
- Recruit students, conduct pre and post interviews with participants
- Communicate results of program results to the media on a regular basis
- Evaluate Phase 3 and compile final report

International Legacy Project Budget

Appendix 1 provides the total estimated and annual costs for each element of South Belize City Renewal Project. Literacy Without Borders will provide travel for the Executive Director to and from Belize as well as administrative support to this project in the amount of \$15,000 per year in each of the project years. All of project funding in this proposal will flow to projects outlined in this proposal and will not support any administration in Canada.

Next Steps

Literacy Without Borders is committed to making this project in South Belize City a success in partnership with the Rotary Club of Edmonton. We have demonstrated our ability to pull in project partners in Belize and in Edmonton to enhance the viability and sustainability of this project.

Should RCE wish to enhance the size of the project, the District 5370 Playground Project and Adopt A School Initiative Committee is prepared to position the \$50,000 Playground Project Contribution and an additional \$50,000 of Adopt-A-School funding for matching through the District Designated fund and TRF to maximize these contributions. This could mean a project enhancement of \$225,000 from these partners, once matched. LWB has provided the Expanded Project Budget in Appendix 2. Should RCE decide to partner in this way, it would facilitate the following additions to the project:

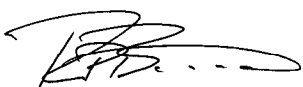
- 20 More Classroom Libraries (600-700 additional beneficiaries)
- 4 More Latrine Blocks (2000-3000 additional beneficiaries)
- 2 More Playgrounds (5,000 additional beneficiaries)
- 4 More Computer Literacy Sites (3,200 – 8,000 beneficiaries, in perpetuity)

LWB understands that a project of this scope needs a plan and we undertake to implement this plan as outlined here. We also have learned, through our work in country to date, that opportunities arise and partnerships are forged, in the act of doing, not just in planning. Our partnership with the District 5370 Playground Project and Adopt-A-School Initiative could attract the financial support of other Rotary Clubs in District 5370 and lead us to undertake other valued projects that can enhance the educational environment for students in South Belize City. We would like you and your colleagues and all members of the Rotary Club of Edmonton to know that we are flexible and open to these developments on the ground as the project unfolds from 2014 to 2017. Our success thus far as an NGO has come from keeping our ear to the ground, driving to results, and partnering with people who care and know how to get things done. This is why would hope to partner with you on this worthy project to extend the inner city expertise of the Rotary Club of Edmonton into South Belize City.

Conclusion

The leadership that the Rotary Club of Edmonton is demonstrating through this International Legacy Project inspires the Board and Management Team of Literacy Without Borders. We have been humbled by your Committee's support for this proposal us thus far in the process and I personally look forward to answering any questions that you or your colleagues may have regarding this proposal. I hope that we have the opportunity address the members of the Rotary Club of Edmonton later in this process.

Sincerely Yours,



Randy Boissonnault
Executive Director

APPENDIX 1: Project Budget

South Belize City Educational Capacity and Community Infrastructure Project Budget				
Program Element	All Years	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Project Partner Contributions				
District 5370 Belize Playground Project and Adopt A School Initiative	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Literacy Without Borders Contribution	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Total Estimated Project Partner Revenues	\$95,000	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
Costs				
School Reading Materials				
Materials for classrooms and libraries	\$80,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$40,000
Program support and evaluation	\$16,000	\$3,000	\$6,500	\$6,500
Installation and Renovations	\$24,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$16,000
Implementation support	\$6,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
	\$126,500	\$14,500	\$47,000	\$65,000
Renovate and Rebuild Latrines				
Materials	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Design, Demolition and Build	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0
Project coordination	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$0	\$0
Playgrounds(District 5370 Belize Playground Project and Adopt A School Initiative)				
Materials	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Shipping and Installation	\$18,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Project coordination	\$9,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Rotary Club of Edmonton Park	\$49,000	\$4,000	\$45,000	\$0
	\$88,000	\$17,000	\$58,000	\$13,000
Extension of Computer Assisted Literacy Program				
Conversion of temporary licences to permanent licences	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
New sites	\$18,000	\$0	\$0	\$18,000
Implementation support	\$32,000	\$2,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Training, monitoring and evaluation support	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	\$64,500	\$8,500	\$21,500	\$34,500
Introduction of Rhymes That Bind Program				
Training of Site Administrators	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Program pilot and implementation	\$18,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$10,000
Program Support and Evaluation	\$13,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
	\$37,000	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$17,000
Total Estimated Legacy Project Costs	\$352,000	\$85,000	\$137,500	\$129,500
Project Partner Support	\$95,000	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
RCE International Legacy Project Funding Required Contribution	\$257,000	\$60,000	\$102,500	\$94,500

APPENDIX 2: Combined Project Budget – Additional Scope

South Belize City Educational Capacity and Community Infrastructure Project Budget				
Program Element	All Years	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Project Partner Contributions				
District 5370 Belize Playground Project Contribution	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
District 5370 Belize Playground Project Contribution Matching Funds	\$63,000	\$0	\$31,500	\$31,500
District 5370 Belize Adopt A School Initiative Contribution	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
District 5370 Belize Adopt A School Initiative Contribution Matching Funds	\$63,000	\$0	\$31,500	\$31,500
Literacy Without Borders Contribution	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Total Estimated Project Partner Revenues	\$271,000	\$35,000	\$118,000	\$118,000
Costs				
School Reading Materials				
Materials for classrooms and libraries	\$95,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$45,000
Program support and evaluation	\$16,000	\$3,000	\$6,500	\$6,500
Installation and Renovations	\$24,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$16,000
Implementation support	\$6,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
	\$141,500	\$24,500	\$47,000	\$70,000
Renovate and Rebuild Latrines				
Materials	\$100,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Design, Demolition and Build	\$55,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Project coordination	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	\$160,000	\$36,000	\$62,000	\$62,000
Playgrounds(District 5370 Belize Playground Project and Adopt A School Initiative)				
Materials	\$20,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Shipping and Installation	\$22,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Project coordination	\$12,000	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
Rotary Club of Edmonton Park	\$49,000	\$4,000	\$45,000	\$0
	\$103,000	\$17,000	\$65,500	\$20,500
Extension of Computer Assisted Literacy Program				
Conversion of temporary licences to permanent licences	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
New sites	\$24,000	\$0	\$0	\$24,000
Implementation support	\$32,000	\$2,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Training, monitoring and evaluation support	\$4,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
	\$80,500	\$8,500	\$21,500	\$50,500
Introduction of Rhymes That Bind Program				
Training of Site Administrators	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Program pilot and implementation	\$18,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$10,000
Program Support and Evaluation	\$13,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
	\$37,000	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$17,000
Total Estimated Legacy Project Costs	\$522,000	\$95,000	\$207,000	\$220,000
Project Partner Support	\$271,000	\$35,000	\$118,000	\$118,000
RCE International Legacy Project Funding Required Contribution	\$251,000	\$60,000	\$89,000	\$102,000

APPENDIX 3: Letter of Support from District 5370 Belize Playground Committee

W E N D Y A N D R E W S

April 12 2013

Randy Boissonault, Executive Director
Literacy Without Borders

Wendy Andrews, Chair
District 5370 Belize Playground Committee
Edmonton Glenora Rotary Club

Dear Randy:

It has been a pleasure to reconnect with you, this time through Literacy Without Borders and the District 5370 Playground Project and Adopt A School Initiative.

It would be a pleasure for us to work with you, the Rotary Club of Edmonton and our Belize Partners to extend and enhance the work of LWB and Rotary in Belize over the past number of years to improve education, community development and sustainability.

What has particularly interested our committee in this proposal is your focus on results and outcomes as opposed to simple outputs. It has been a hallmark of our success to date and we would only be multiplying our success on the ground by partnering and combining resources.

With 5 Playgrounds in mind from 2014 to 2017 and support through the Adopt-A-School Initiative, we could safely budget \$50,000 toward your correct estimated costs of \$64,500 for this welcome initiative in South Belize City.

Bravo for pulling this together and please invite any Rotary Club of Edmonton officials to contact me at their convenience at 780 483 2570. Let's get building!

Sincerely,



WENDY ANDREWS

APPENDIX 4: Queen's Square Anglican School Letter of Support



"HOLD HIGH THE TORCH OF LEARNING

AS WE AIM FOR EXCELLENCE

QUEEN'S SQUARE ANGLICAN SCHOOL

1 ARMADILLO STREET

BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

CENTRAL AMERICA

Tel: 227-2478

Email: queensquare@btl.net

April 26, 2013

Dear Mr. Boissonnault:

The staff and students of Queen's Square Anglican School would like to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to you for offering to assist in the further development of our school's community. It is certainly a pleasure for us to be selected to be a part of your project. We pledge our commitment to work with you throughout this venture to ensure that your project is completed and successful.

The project according to our discussion includes the following:

- a) The demolition of a derelict building at the extreme south of the school's compound to be replaced by a bathroom suitable for use by our senior students. This also will include the refurbishing of two other bathrooms used by our lower and middle division students. The refurbishing of these facilities will provide a healthier and spacious environment for our students to practice good hygiene.
- b) The enhancement of our school's and individual classroom's libraries. This will definitely help with promoting reading as we continue to strive to improve the literacy rate within our school.
- c) The demolishing of a structure presently used as a bathroom to be replaced by a playground. This will help us to better supervise our students while at play in a secure and enclosed environment.

The staff and students look forward to working with you see the completion of these projects. Once again we thank you and we await further communication.

Sincerely,

Myrna Smith (Ms.)

Principal