

**Rotary**



**Rotary Club  
of Roatan**

**Serving Rotary in a Third World Country  
During a Pandemic!**



**Roatan, Honduras**



MIKE WITTRY  
CO-PRESIDENT

SHELLY BURICH  
CO-PRESIDENT



Roatan  
**Rotary**  
Club



Rotary Opens Opportunities

## On Roatan...

- Rotary is the premier community service and professional networking organization
- Its members are men and women who are business, professional, and community members with a shared commitment to make Roatan a better place
- We currently fund 20 student scholarships for island students from grade 9 through college. This represents an approximate 450,000 lempira annual investment in the future of the island



# Past & Current Projects



Some of our past projects include;

- Securing an \$80,000 fire truck and firefighting equipment from the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie to benefit the east end of Roatan Island
- Our club is also the recipient of numerous Rotary Global Grants including:
  - a \$60,000 water filtration grant in La Moskitia on the mainland
  - \$36,000 for the “Banos para Ninos” program to improve bathrooms and sanitation in 7 public schools in Roatan
  - A \$61,000 grant for the English Language for Latin America which has now been introduced to the schools on Roatan.
  - A \$156,000 water grant and a \$176,000 education grant for Saint Helene and a \$170,000 school building which was recently completed in 2019.

# Where is Roatan?



US Dept of State Geographer  
© 2020 Google  
Image Landsat / Copernicus  
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 12/13/2015 31°30'07.82" N 98°52'34.80" W eye alt 6740.24 mi

Approximately 140,000 residents in four Municipalities of the Bay Islands

- Roatan and Santos Guardiola on Roatan Island (100,000)
- Utila (20,000)
- Guanaja (20,000)

Approximately 10,000 ex-pats

- United States
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- United Kingdom



# Rotary

***PEOPLE OF ACTION***



# Covid-19 & The Bay Islands

- Islands have been on lockdown since March 15, 2020
- In the beginning, nobody from the mainland or abroad allowed in or out
- First 2 weeks of lock down there were many repatriation flights for foreigners to leave the islands
- Unemployment rate at 90%
- No social safety nets
- Food – cargo ships are allowed in
  - But with no jobs people can't buy food or medicine
- Virtually no resources to deal with the crisis
  - Central government provided ~\$2,000 for the Bay Islands



# The Governor's Request

- Governor and Rotarian, Dino Silvestri was charged with looking after the Public Relations and Communications for the Bay Islands during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- No experience in dealing with it.
- Remembered that the Rotary Club of Roatan President had a substantial background in Emergency and Crisis Communications.
- The Governor requested that I attend a couple of meetings with him to get up to speed.



# The Bay Islands COVID-19 Response Team

- The Bay Islands Covid-19 Response Team emerged from those meetings and a communications plan and strategy were developed.
- We also realized that this was going to be a long haul and we would need to develop teams of volunteers to put the plan into action.
- We currently have 20 members on the Response Team and approximately 50% are Rotarians.



# The Communications Team

- The major part of the response team is Communications.
- Currently eight members on this team; five are Rotarians
- Handle all external communications channels including:
  - Facebook
  - Messenger
  - Emails
  - WhatsApp Chats
  - Word of mouth
  - Publications
  - website





## The Repatriation Response Team



Rotary Opens Opportunities

- Many native islanders, Hondurans and expat residents were stranded off island when the lockdown began in March.
- This team is charged with assisting in the repatriation of displaced residents from the mainland of Honduras and all over the world.
- They obtain the necessary permissions for people to travel and flights to land at take off from the International airport which is still closed.

- The Health Care System in Honduras has collapsed and the ability to treat COVID-19 is meagre at best.
- A COVID-19 Treatment Centre has been established in a building in French Harbour. And two triage centres have also been established.
- However, there has been no funding from the Central Government to help set it up or staff the facility.

# The Medical Brigade Team

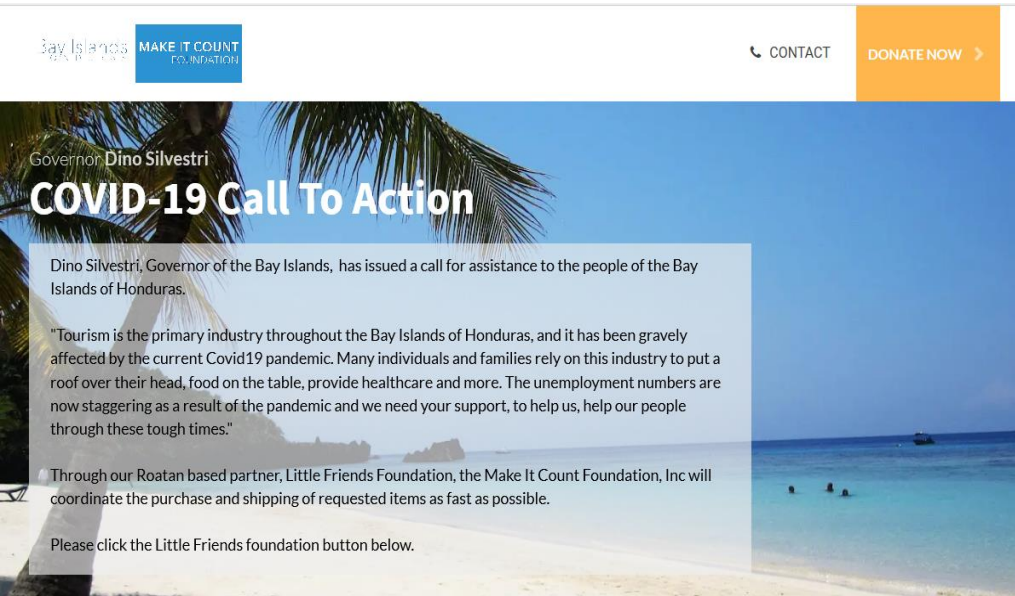


- We have put together a team with members located on island and in the USA.
- Our first brigade arrived on August 17. The team included respiratory therapists, doctors, nurses and paramedics. These volunteers spent their tour in the Covid-19 Treatment Centre.
- More teams are scheduled to be arriving in the coming months.

# The Medical Brigade



# The Foundation and Oversight Committee



Bay Islands MAKE IT COUNT FOUNDATION

CONTACT DONATE NOW >

Governor Dino Silvestri  
**COVID-19 Call To Action**

Dino Silvestri, Governor of the Bay Islands, has issued a call for assistance to the people of the Bay Islands of Honduras.

"Tourism is the primary industry throughout the Bay Islands of Honduras, and it has been gravely affected by the current Covid19 pandemic. Many individuals and families rely on this industry to put a roof over their head, food on the table, provide healthcare and more. The unemployment numbers are now staggering as a result of the pandemic and we need your support, to help us, help our people through these tough times."

Through our Roatan based partner, Little Friends Foundation, the Make It Count Foundation, Inc will coordinate the purchase and shipping of requested items as fast as possible.

Please click the Little Friends foundation button below.

- TheMakeltCountfoundation.org.
- Over \$700,000 in cash and medical equipment and PPE materials donated to the Bay Islands.
- An Oversight Committee was established to approve purchases and the distribution of medical equipment throughout the Bay Islands.
- Rotary Club of Roatan was honoured to be provided a seat on the Oversight Committee.

COVID-19  
Oversight  
Committee

# The Audit Committee

- All funds from the foundation have all been spent and or allocated.
- For ethical reasons, we felt it was important to provide the Bay Islands and those that contributed to the Foundation with audited reports.
- As a result, the Covid-19 Response team has developed an independant Audit committee which is being headed up by a CPA from the United States.

# The Community Outreach



- This project is the brainchild of Rotarian Dr. Liliana Choccaro and became a joint project between the Rotary Clubs of Roatan and Oakville Trafalgar from Canada.
- Provide information to communities to allow them to acquire the behaviours that will contribute to stopping the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Uses Zoom for the delivery of the program.



# Community Outreach Cont'd

- Identify a small number of community leaders (2-3) from each community to participate in and to carry the message to their communities.
- The success of this program will depend on choosing the right people to invite to be a part of this training.
- Providing the needed information to key people in each community and allowing those leaders to take ownership of it in their own communities will be what helps us to succeed.
- The program is presented by Dr. Liliana Chocarro in collaboration with the Bay Islands COVID-19 Response Team and available in Spanish and English.





PPE Support  
for our Bay  
Islands Health  
Department





- Rotary Clubs of Honduras collectively purchased PPE using Rotary District grants allocations. Rotary Club of Roatan members presented gowns, masks, gloves and disinfectant to the Bay Islands Health Department on July 14 as part of the national effort.

## PPE Delivery – July 14



## PPE Relief – September 11



- On Friday September 11, 2020, The Bay Islands Health Department, represented by Doctor Jayleen Coleman received donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) from the dental brigade formed by Denver Cherry Creek Dental Mission from Colorado. It was founded by the Rotary Club of Cherry Creek, Denver, Colorado and has expanded through the years.



- Some of our Rotary members have been participating with the Food Bank who have delivered over 35,000 food bags to residents throughout the Bay Islands.
- The Food Bank is being run by two organizations whom we have worked on projects over the years: *The SOL International Foundation* and *Roatan, Because We Care...*

# COVID-19 Relief

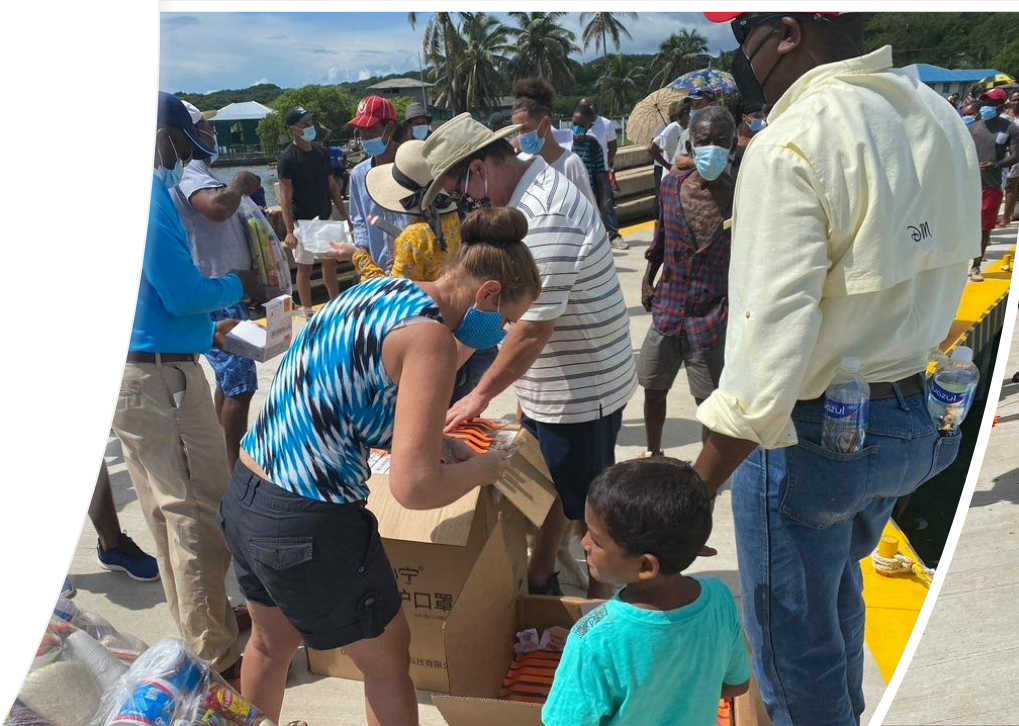
With \$1,500 received from the Rotary Club of Evergreen, Colorado and \$2,000 received from the Rotary Club of Oakville Trafalgar (Ontario, Canada) we delivered 225 food bags to the island of Saint Helene on October 30, 2020.

The generous generous donation will feed the entire island for a full month.



# COVID-19 Relief for St. Helene

Thank you to the  
Rotary Clubs of  
Evergreen, Colorado  
and Oakville  
Trafalgar for their  
generous and  
continued support



# Rotary



**PEOPLE of ACTION**

## Our Rotary members who have dedicated their time to the COVID-19 Reponse in the Bay Islands

Lisa Blythe

Angela Szuch

Hilisy Villalobos

Trudy Hilton

Delvin Merino

Keena Haylock

Bertha Montoya-Summerell

Larry McLaughlin

Edward Ake

Mike Wittry

Roger Karlsen

Shelly Burich

Ana Flores Paron

Cindy Carter-Thomson

Mike Carter

Angela Karlsen

Dino Silvestri

Anna Moskowitz

James Timlin

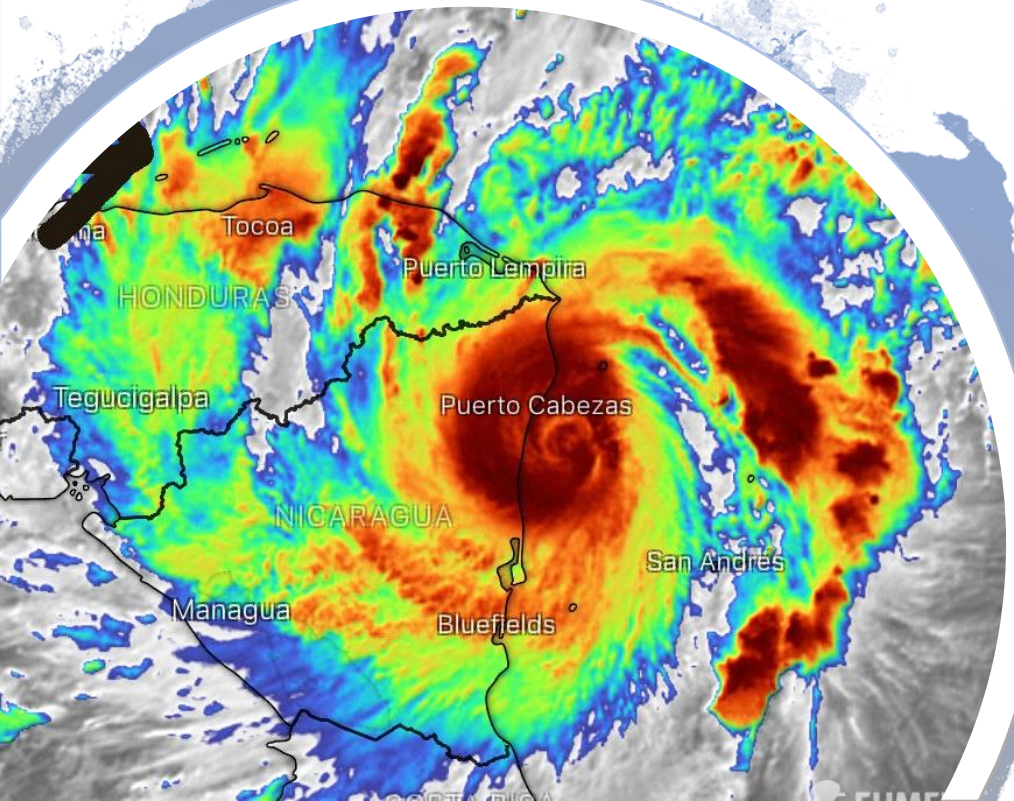
Russ Summerell

Ingrid Rosales *(A Rotary Club of  
Roatan Student Scholar)*



# Hurricane ETA Relief Efforts

- Approximately 400,000 people are now homeless. What little they had is now gone.
- All Rotary Clubs in Honduras are working together under the banner of Rotary Honduras to help with Relief efforts for those affected by Hurricane Eta.
- We are working on everything from fundraising, to collecting donations, to ensuring that those that have lost homes have shelter and food and much more
- A website for the project is being built as we speak, and we will be able to share a fundraising and information page on FB in the next day or so. Keep in mind, this all happened at the height of Honduras' first wave of COVID-19





Once we get back to whatever our new normal may be, we would like to continue building the relationship between our clubs and identify projects in the future we can take on together.

Roatan  
**Rotary**  
Club



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Opportunities**

*Thank You!*