

Club President Visits Site of Major Humanitarian Project

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February 24, 2014



“Rotarians in Tegucigalpa have a tremendous commitment to increasing the quality of life of the poor in their country,” stated Club President Barb Penner following a visit to Honduras from January 28 to February 02. Penner expressed that the Tegucigalpa club takes “their responsibility of implementing projects funded through the Rotary Foundation grants very seriously.” These conclusions strongly support the desire of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise’s to partner with the Rotary Club of Tegucigalpa in Honduras to implement a \$US61,689 project focused on providing an Early Childhood Stimulation Program for vulnerable children from 0-5 years of age whose parents work in public markets and city dumps of Tegucigalpa. The project based on funding from the TRF Global Fund, if approved, would be implemented during the 2014-15 Rotary year and the beginning of the 2015-16 Rotary year. Considering that the implementation of this project also requires a hands-on approach by the local Rotarians in Tegucigalpa, Penner is confident that these Rotarians clearly demonstrate their commitment with their avid personal involvement with whatever their club takes on.



The project will empower mothers by providing them with the skills to enhance their children's ability to succeed in their future education opportunities by providing alternative health and educational services. With a program emphasis of preventative care, social integration and community solidarity, mothers and their children will pave the way for increased social participation and an influence in the project and their community. It is expected that 200 families will be the direct beneficiaries of this program.



While in Tegucigalpa, Penner assisted in the registration of eleven scholarships all sponsored by Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise Rotarians for students from K-12 to enable them to attend school through "Alternative Y Oportunidades," an NGO that HELP Honduras partners with to deliver the scholarship program.

On her way back from Honduras, Penner had the opportunity to meet with Helen Griffin and her crew of nine young people who share Helen's Christian Home for Children which provides support and care for destitute children in San Salvador, El Salvador. This is an orphanage that has been in existence since 1991 and which was set up and maintained by Kelowna humanitarian Helen Griffin; and which is now supported financially by the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise and individual members of the club.

While visiting Helen, Penner enjoyed the local food, including pupusa which is a tortilla made with different fillings, and a concert put on by six of the youth from the orphanage.