

Update on the Mityana Farm Project in Uganda

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The club's humanitarian project in Uganda has received the go ahead from District 5060 and the Rotary Foundation. Shortly, its implementation will begin meeting many of the needs of the homeless, destitute, orphans and street people in that country.

While it did take more time than anticipated to gain the approvals, Patrick McAllister, the project coordinator for the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise club was informed on September 10th that the club could proceed with the project. The project grant application was submitted to the district back on February 24th, 2014, but it wasn't until April 05, 2014, that the district gave approval for the project and then proceeded to attain confirmation from the Rotary Foundation. That confirmation was received on August 01, 2014.

As stated in an earlier website story, the Mityana Farm Project is focused on economic and community development, one of the six areas of focus on the Rotary Foundation. With this focus, the project will serve to build the capacity of entrepreneurs, community leaders, local organizations, and community networks to enable them to support economic development in impoverished communities, develop opportunities for productive work, and reduce poverty in the community. In addition, the project will provide the means for the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise to conduct a needs assessments for Basic Education and Literacy and/or Maternal and Child Health, as these areas have also been identified as needs by the local club in Kampala, Uganda.



The project is being implemented in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Kampala Sunrise in Kampala, Uganda, with support from the Missionaries of the Poor in Kampala, a non-Rotarian partner that will have the responsibility for the ongoing activities upon completion of the project.

The project is being funded by the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise which has contributed \$US11,062, Rotary District 5060 with a matching grant of \$US11,062 and by the Rotary Club of Kampala Sunrise with funding amounting to \$US3000. The Rotary Foundation will not be providing a matching grant as the total value of the project is under \$30,000.



The funding will provide financial assistance for improved irrigation, new fencing and new farming equipment for the Mityana Farm. The project will be implemented for the most part in year one with the installation of a pump and water tank, fencing, and a walk-behind tractor; followed by a contribution of vegetables valued at \$5000 for two orphanages operated by the Missionaries of the Poor and a thorough needs assessment for a future Global Grant Project. These orphanages now provide a home for over 800 severely disabled children.

As is required by the Rotary Foundation, the project will result in sustainability for the seven acre Mityana Farm and the recipients of the farm production. Specifically, vegetables will be made available at an increasing amount each year for the two orphanages, the Good Shepherd and Bethlehem Homes, well into the future; maintenance of the irrigation equipment, fencing and the small tractor will be covered by the Farm's regular operating budget; management of the Farm based on environmentally sound principles will continue to be provided by the Missionaries of the Poor; and on-going support will be provided by the Rotary Club of Kampala Sunrise.

The Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise is very appreciative of the extensive planning and work that has been contributed to the project that has its roots well over ten years ago when club member Dieter Howald and his wife Gisela first became involved with the orphanages with visits and fundraising endeavours. Subsequently starting in 2009, the club with some assistance from a District 5060 Simplified Grant began funding food purchases for the orphanages totaling over \$16,000. Club member Pat McAllister, along with assistance from Dieter Howald and other members of the International Service Sub-Committee have been very instrumental in bringing this project to fruition and ultimately in making a great difference for many orphaned children in Uganda.