

Rotarians Ship Medical Equipment to the Republique of Guinee

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Dec 05, 2012



A container of medical equipment is now on its way to the Republique de Guinee, West Africa, to help supply medical facilities which are in deplorable conditions and most times unable to provide the health care that the people so desperately need. During an early morning in late November, Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise and from other Rotary clubs within Kelowna, assembled at the Rotary Warehouse to load a 40 foot container destined for departure from Kelowna on Monday, November 26th.



This is now the second container shipped to a developing country. The first shipment was to Uganda, East Africa.



The Rotary District 5060 Medical Equipment Committee (MEC) commenced operations in 2010 when it was established to collect surplus medical and educational material donated by the Interior Health Agency (IHA) and to then ship this material to developing countries where it is desperately needed. Being fortunate in British

Columbia to be affluent enough to afford reasonably good quality medical and educational facilities and to continually upgrade medical facilities and to replace equipment, MEC has recognized that the old equipment and supplies that are no longer in use can be of high value and greatly appreciated in developing countries.

The MEC gathers the goods for shipments overseas from hospitals, health care and educational facilities, and various community-minded organizations. To ensure the goods reach their intended destination, arrangements are made with a local Rotary Club in the developing country to act as the recipient and distributor of the goods.

MEC, with a membership of eight and with the help of many local Kelowna Rotarians, has now shipped two containers to the developing world, one to Uganda, East Africa, with Dieter Howald, RC of Kelowna Sunrise in charge, and another to Guinea, West Africa with Kent Boothman from the RC of Ellensburg as the coordinator. The equipment value in these containers was estimated \$350,000 - \$500,000 each. Four major hospitals and seven health clinics benefitted from these donated container goods. The next container is designated for Romania.

To learn more about MEC, go to the site page "Service Areas and Committees," and then to "Foundation/International Service" where you will find a link to "News Stories from the Past" which includes a story about the "Humanitarian Work of the District Medical Equipment Committee."