

Humanitarian Projects Provide the Means for Assisting Those in Need in Three Countries

Story by Ed Kolybaba on May 22, 2018



The Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise has supported three international humanitarian projects since the beginning of the 2017-18 Rotary year.

The first project, involving the co-sponsor of a Global Grant led by the Rotary Club of Ogoopogo, enabled the extension of the Early Childhood Stimulation project with AyO in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, a humanitarian project that the Sunrise club has been involved in since 1992 when back then, club member Fred Lindsay provided leadership for the club to enable it to obtain a Global Grant for a project that was recognized with an award by Rotary District 5060. Each year individual club members have also financially supported the scholarship program for the children of the poorest market families in Tegucigalpa. This can be done through a Canadian organization called H.E.L.P. Honduras. The club's funding commitment for the 2017-18 project with AyO was US\$3850.

As it has done so over the years, the club also bought a ShelterBox which was designated for the Rohingya Crisis. The crisis has been brought about as Muslims have continued to flee Burma's Rakhine State to escape the military's large-scale campaign of ethnic cleansing. Restrictions on movement and the lack of access to shelter and basic health care have led to dire humanitarian conditions for the displaced. Each ShelterBox costs \$1,200. This contribution was matched by the Canadian Federal Government for the Rohingya Crisis.



Recently, the club made a decision to provide \$2,000 in Canadian funds to a Canadian organization, CFO (Canadian Friends of OSAPO) in Haiti to help support a sewing school already set up teaching eleven women to sew. By developing their sewing skills, these women will then have the ability to use this skill at a job which will provide them with the means to support their families.

The International Committee for the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise is now actively researching the need for a humanitarian project in Mexico for the Rotary year 2018-19. The plan is to then apply for a District Grant to maximize the funding that would be necessary to finance the project.