

# World Community Service

## 2016/17 Annual Report

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The WCS Committee undertook **23 active projects** in 2016/17. In addition, work continued on projects initiated in prior years. The following are outlines of some of the projects, both funded during the year and continued from prior years. Through the dedicated efforts of over 20 Rotarians involved in the WCS committee, our club is a shining example of how we make the world a better place.

### GUATEMALAN LITERACY PROGRAM

The Guatemalan literacy program is recognized by Rotary International as the **gold standard** in literacy projects. This project serves the indigenous peoples in the Western Highlands of Guatemala where there is the lowest literacy rates in the Western Hemisphere. Ineffective teaching methods, lack of resources and pressure from peers and family to drop out are the primary causes of low literacy.

The school systems are under-resourced and typically neglected by the government support structures. We are working together with other Rotary Clubs around the world on this program and are the sponsoring club outside of Guatemala in 2018/19. Through this project we provide:

- Training for elementary school teachers and books to accompany the reading program in the early years
- The production and delivery in Guatemala of textbooks for junior high students consistent with the curriculum and approved by the government.
- The development and supplying of computer centers in middle schools



### GUATEMALAN LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB

Work has expanded from the original library we built, to include support to the communities adjacent to the library. The library is growing as a **community hub** and the leaders of the community see it as a focus for a number of activities. In February of 2017 meetings were held with a number of these leaders to determine what the priorities are to move this forward.

The local community junior high school had no textbooks and texts were provided through our connection with the Literacy program, free of charge to us or to the school. The main problem at the adjacent elementary school was lack of security due to the poor condition of the protective fence (wall) around the school. Funding has been allocated to this and work will commence later this year.

## HONDURAS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (HECD)

This is a micro-credit program led by the Rotary Club of Calgary West. The objective of the current phase of this project is to lend to SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) and Trust Groups in order to increase employment and income generating opportunities which enable families to provide for their basic needs, reduce poverty and improve their standard of living, including access to clean water.

This phase (IV) builds on the work funded by previous Phases, which we have also participated in. This project is being implemented by IDH, a Honduras Microfinance Institution (MFI), with Opportunity International Canada (OIC) acting as coordinating agency.

The project's funding comes from a combination of sources. Rotary clubs are providing a portion of the funding, supplemented by an Alberta CIP grant, a District 5360 grant, and a Global Grant.



## CHILD'S FUTURE - EDUCATION PROJECT IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia is still recuperating from the Kmer Rouge days. Rebuilding an education system takes a long time especially when the general mindset of the older population still has a negative perspective on education. Things are changing but today 60% of children still cannot read by grade 6. Our project: "A Child's Future – Education Project" is a large-scaled 3 year project aimed at reducing rates of illiteracy and improving community's support for education.

The main goals are to reduce illiteracy by working with the teachers, providing educational resources, supporting youth clubs and peer to peer tutoring and improving the community's support for education by working with the local community committees through youth clubs and community discussion forums.

This project is a wonderful example of the leveraging of Rotary funds. With \$4,700 US funding from our club, we obtained support for 6 other clubs in Calgary (\$22,557 US). The total funds were leveraged at the District level (\$40,000 US) and at the Federal level (\$67,257 US) through the Rotary Foundation of Canada. Finally the Rotary Foundation matched funds and contributed \$87,257 US for a total project budget of around \$221,773 US. Manon Mitchell is the project champion for this initiative.

## CHILD'S FUTURE – WASH PROJECT - CAMBODIA



This project is focussed on improving the health of students at 6 primary schools in the rural province of Pursat Cambodia through the provision of a complete Water, Sanitation and Health program.

The project will provide drinking water, hand washing stations, latrines and a comprehensive hygiene education program to 2,800 children. This \$65,050 US project is funded by our club (\$12,800

US), District 5360 (\$15,000 US), The Rotary Club of Montreal & Foundation Coup de Coeur (\$7,400 US), The Rotary Foundation (Global Grant \$25,100) and Clear Cambodia, our implementation partner (\$4,750 US). Kurt Kowalchuk is the champion for this initiative.

## Lights, Camera, Action!

Many of you may remember Rick Castiglione sitting in front of the camera delivering the evening news in Calgary. Rick's biggest love is that of telling stories and he created a story about Cambodia in the early 1990s when it was still suffering the after effects of the Kmer Rouge regime. Rick just finished his teaching career at Mount Royal University where he skillfully guided students in the broadcasting program to creating compelling works of interest. Rick heard about our club's projects in Cambodia and was eager to tell the story of Rotarians making a difference in the world.

Rick agreed to write and produce, at cost, a half hour documentary about the work of Rotary with a primary focus on international efforts. He travelled with Walter Haessel, Frank Sparks, Kurt Kowalchuk and Manon Mitchell to Cambodia in December of 2015. Rick visited our club interviewing members of our leadership team and rounding out the story of the impact our club has on our community both locally and internationally.

This 30 minute documentary, entitled **Making Change Happen**, will be aired **3 times** on CTV on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 at 6:30 pm.

## TUK TUK 4 CHILDREN - CAMBODIA



A couple of years ago the Tuk Tuk Theatre brought fun and entertainment to rural Cambodian kids one bumpy tuk tuk ride at a time. This brilliant idea was conceived by Adrian Paschkow, an Australian volunteer at Sustainable Cambodia. The idea has evolved into the Tuk Tuk for Children Mobile Library and its first year of operation is now funded by our club. This mobile library brings books to 6 schools and is geared to the pre-school population. None of these schools have libraries or resources to help children learn.

As the Tuk Tuk travels from school to school it also brings a toy library so the children learn practical skills through play, such as how to hold and control a pen or pencil. More importantly the children begin to learn the basics of problem solving and other cognitive skills. These are very important at an early age and can greatly assist in the future development of the child.

Adrian and his team are also conducting workshops, adding games and creating resources for the teachers. Not wanting to reinvent the wheel, they have started to translate the government curriculum and will start to enter lesson plans into the mobile library boxes each month to help the teachers with ideas. The teachers will all undergo a workshop with follow up classes to train them on story telling. Anyone can read a book for sure but being able to tell a story is a skill that needs to be learned. Giving books is only half of the equation with the other half being the ability to utilise them to their maximum potential and that is exactly what this project is planning to do.

## DAYS FOR GIRLS IN CAMBODIA/UGANDA/ALBERTA

Over the last 2 years our Club has enabled girls to go to school full time! In countries like Cambodia, where menstrual health management options are minimal, it is quite common for girls to miss school one week each month and consequently drop out. Days for Girls (DfG) provides washable reusable sanitary products that can last up to 4 years. The first year Manon distributed 70 Days for Girls kits (that's all that could fit in her suitcases). This past December not only did Manon distribute 90 kits but also conducted "Ambassador for Women's Health" training to other trainers as the NGO we have worked with for many years, Sustainable Cambodia, embarks on creating a DfG Enterprise, hiring women to make the kits right there in the country and distribute them locally. What a great way to build local economies! We look forward to supporting this enterprise with further funding to buy the material to create the kits. This last summer Manon travelled to Uganda to conduct more "Ambassador for Women's Health" training as part of our club's "Water is Life" project. Manon and Anne Dale (Rotarian from RC Chinook) engaged Rotarians in their break out session about Days for Girls at the District Conference in the spring. It's time to add a Days for Girls component to many of our Rotary projects if we are to include women and engage them fully. Manon is also involved with Days for Girls at a local level as she did a distribution at the Alexander First Nation Kipohtakaw Reserve, just northwest of Edmonton in May 2017.

## WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS HEALTH - Rakai and Kulungu Districts, Uganda

Since 2015 more than 6,000 students and teachers in 20 schools and 16,800 residents in rural Ugandan communities have directly benefited from this comprehensive Water, Sanitation and Health project. Women and children are the targeted beneficiaries accessing potable, safe water supplies and improved sanitation practices. Comprehensive health and sanitation education training programs reached out to all community residents and students.

The widespread introduction of bio-sand water filters, rooftop water catchment systems, larger storage tanks, additional new latrines and solid waste handling improvement have re-established a heightened awareness. High levels of environmental waterborne diseases have been dramatically reduced. Student attendance among girls is improving significantly with local availability of reusable sanitary pads. Our club's initiative for school age girls being educated and trained in the health benefits of sanitation and reusable sanitary pads has enabled female students to attend school full time. Local seamstresses and sewing groups are now being trained to produce reusable sanitary pads. The overwhelming local demands for reusable sanitary pads is creating new job opportunities and increased cash flow to local and previously unskilled seamstresses.

This successful and ground breaking WASH project will be concluded by the Host Club RC of Kalisizo on budget in early 2018.

## PANAMA FIRST AID PACKAGE

Our club provided \$3,000 US in funding to support a \$17,000 US project initiated by the Rotary Club of Calgary South to provide basic medical equipment for two locally funded medical transports to serve as an alternative to barely functioning ambulances and a lack of medical facilities in the rural area of Coronado, Panama. The two transport vehicles will be a significant improvement over the unreliable and expensive current option. Drivers will be trained in CPR and the use of the defibrillator and other equipment.

Concurrently, as the result of contacts provided by a former member of our club, SAIT donated additional medical equipment, including stretchers, back boards, jump boards and other accessories to outfit two ambulances.

## LIBERIA-HONEY TRUCK AND GENERATOR FOR BEEKEEPING OPERATION

WCS donated \$21,500 in addition to Don Ross's generous contribution of \$7,500 towards the purchase of a Renault Okker (truck) and a generator in support of a Vancouver based NGO, Universal Outreach Foundation's (UOF) beekeeping program in Liberia. The construction of a honey processing and packaging and warehouse facility will be facilitated by Liberian Pure Honey (LPH), a local NGO created specifically in support of the growth of the honey business. LPH is now the largest purchaser, processor and marketer of local honey in Liberia. The need for value added income generating skills led UOF to train and support subsistence farmers to develop the skills for beekeeping to help them strive towards sustained economic independence. UOF has helped in the development of a honey industry that is community driven, economically viable and financially beneficial to subsistence farmers. The annual cash flow provides the villagers with the capital required to independently attend to the financial priorities of their families and the community.

## SAN SALVADOR WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

Our club was asked to complete a project proposed by the Rocky Mountain House Rotary Club following the death of its main champion, Past District Governor Al Bergsma, and the temporary termination of the Club. The San Salvador Wheelchair project has as its Host the Rotary Club of San Salvador Noroeste. The objective of the project is to purchase 340 wheelchairs to be given to disabled people in San Salvador. The United Cerebral Palsy (Wheels) Organization is partnered in this project because of their extensive experience in sourcing excellent wheelchairs, and providing the necessary training to professionals who will oversee the maintenance of the wheelchairs and ensure appropriate people are chosen to receive them.

WCS officially agreed to take over the project. Funding for the project was fully in place prior to the hand over to our Club and the project had been approved by the Rotary Foundation. In total the project has approval to spend \$95,100US. This project also demonstrates the power of pooling funds from clubs and leveraging through our District. Funds were provided by the Rotary Clubs of Rocky Mountain House (currently rebuilding), Lacombe, Innisfail, Sylvan Lake, San Salvador Noroeste as well as District 5360 Designated Funds, Global Grant and other matching funds. Our club champions include Murray Young, Cristina Castro, Walter Haessel, with Garth Toombs as Primary Contact.

The project will provide more than 340 wheelchairs to needy recipients. Training is also a part of our commitment within the budget, and Laverne Bissky from the No Ordinary Journey Foundation is leading our team of trainers. It is anticipated that the project will be completely by January 2018.

## POTABLE WATER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Providing clean water means the reduction of disease and early death. In the Philippines, our project will see spring water collected in the mountains and chlorinated in a reservoir; the water is then piped to a number of villages. In addition, a new ground reservoir will be installed to increase the storage capacity of the water.



WCS provided the initial \$5K US; the District matching grant provided \$15K US and the local Rotary Club and water district also contributed funds. Finally, a global grant from The Rotary Foundation matched funds so that the total amount for the project is \$57K US. Construction will proceed shortly.

## SCREENING FOR AND PREVENTION OF CERVICAL CANCER AND HIP ARTHRITIS - Ecuador

WCS has committed a \$15K US contribution to a project in Ecuador providing all funding can be achieved. The lead club is the Rotary Club of Port Moody with contributions from other Rotary clubs. Their district will provide at least \$25 K and further funding is anticipated through both a Government of Canada Grant and a Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation. The total budget is approximately \$186K. The proposal is to screen for and prevent/treat cervical cancer and congenital hip dislocation (to prevent adult disabling arthritis). This will involve one assessment of the mothers and infants at which time the screening and treatment when necessary can be achieved simply and effectively at very low cost per patient. There will also be an educational component; the medical schools will incorporate the process in the curriculum and health care trainers will be trained to sustain the program long-term. The model will also be applicable in many other 3<sup>rd</sup> world environments. We hope to start within the next few months.

## SYRIAN REFUGEES PROJECT

The objective of this project was to provide Starter Kits for Syrian Refugees who recently arrived in Calgary from Syria. Our WCS committee approved \$2,500 CDN and this amount provided a further \$7,500 CDN contribution from our District 5360. The project was carried out mainly by the Syrian Women's Club of Calgary of which Club member Ghada Alatrash is the Chair. It was a straightforward project in which we provided 26 starter kits consisting of packages of non-perishable items, cleaning and personal hygiene kits. The project was completed in 2016.

## COMPUTER PROJECT FOR UGANDA ROTARY CLUB OF KALISIZO

Nine Computers were purchased for a Girls Secondary School in Uganda. This project is a follow-up to the TRACC (Taking Rotary Assistance to Communities & Children) Project in Southern Uganda. The primary



objective is to foster the development of young girls by providing a rounded education curriculum that will enhance their position as an agent of change. The project also helped to empower both students and teachers with basic computer skills to enhance their academic performance and provide access to internet services and linkages

with international universities and long-distance learning. The 575 young girls in residence from all parts of Uganda come from poor families and are completely dependent on bursaries.



## WEST AFRICA MALARIA PROJECT

Using a global grant and a match from the Alberta Government, the Rotary Club of Calgary supported the efforts of District 9101 to fight Malaria in countries served by this District in West Africa. The project involved the purchase and distribution of insecticide treated bed nets, training in their usage, and promotion of intermittent treatment in the various communities. The project focussed on the more vulnerable people in the



district i.e. women, children and the elderly. The fourteen countries that benefitted from this project are Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo, Niger, Burkina, Faso, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde and Liberia. Ninety thousand (90,000) bed nets were purchased and distributed to the various communities in these countries.

These countries consider malaria as a major public health issue and with the assistance of WHO, worked with Rotary to control this disease which often results in subsequent lack of productivity, increased need for medical intervention and in many cases significant negative impact on a host of other debilitating childhood illnesses. This project has created an awareness within the governments of the affected countries and they now consider malaria prevention and control in their health care budget plans. Some of these countries have established strategies to ensure continuity of the Rotary Club of Calgary's efforts at national levels.

## MERCY SHIPS

The Club supported a Global Grant initiated by the Rotary Club of Sidney by the Sea in Vancouver for the work being done by Mercy Ships in the Republic of Guinea in West Africa. The Mercy Ship is staffed by volunteers and ground based teams to deliver free healthcare to the developing world. Our support helped build capacity with the country and addressed pressing medical needs including the training of local healthcare

## COMMUNITY WOMEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN WEST AFRICA

Through the Rotary Club of Freetown, our club sponsored a training project in Sierra Leone to ensure the development of skills required by women and girls to facilitate confidence necessary to increase their level of participation in decision making in their country. The total cost of the project was \$15,000 US. Logistics items including transportation and food were provided by the Rotary Club of Freetown. Manuals and learning materials were prepared for a core of women who cascade the training received to other potential women leaders in the various communities resulting in enhanced leadership, decision making and communication skills.

## TOLIMA COLOMBIA WATER SANITATION

We participated in the Tolima Colombia project, a water/sanitation program which supplies Bio-Sand Filter Systems and Training. The Rotary Club of Calgary South leads this program. Bob Wiens from the South Club spends several months there each year working on this project.

## MAYA DEVI HOSPITAL INDIA X-RAY MACHINE

We participated in the funding for X-Ray and medical equipment for the Maya Devi Hospital in India. This project is funded through a Global Grant and is led by the Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial.

### Funding Distribution 2016/17

Funds Allocated to WCS: \$250,000 (amounts are in CDN \$ unless specified otherwise)

Project	Champion	Amount	
CAWST	Tom Loucks	\$50,000	
Ethiopia WASH	Nicky Liao	\$10,000	
San Salvador Wheelchairs	Garth Toombs	only project review costs	
Curly Galbraith Program in Uganda	David Bromwich	\$8760	
Days for Girls Cambodia 2017	Manon Mitchell	\$700	
Micro Credit Honduras	Lynn Exton	\$7500	
Guatemalan Literacy 2017/18	Barb Young	\$10,000	
Guatemalan Literacy 2018/19	Barb Young	\$10,000	USD
Ecuador Medical Program	Sonny Belenkie	\$15,000	USD
Child's Future Water Program in Cambodia	John Ridge	\$12,800	USD
Malawi Girls School	Helene Weir	\$5000	
Cerebral Palsy Vocational Training Team Thailand	Walter Haessel	\$5000	
Guatemalan School Security Fence	Barb Young	\$16,000	
Sierra Leone Computer Project	Charles Pratt	\$13,000	USD
Tuk Tuk for Children - Cambodia	Manon Mitchell	\$7426	USD
Surgical Mission in Guatemala	Greg Stevenson	\$5000	
Tolima Clean Water in Columbia	Ali Gursoy	\$3000	
Philippines School – Shegeru	Gerard D'Mello	\$25,000	
Band Uniforms for Rotary Marching Band in Brazil	Gerard D'Mello	\$2500	
Wings of Hope – Africa	Barb Young	\$2000	
Days for Girls Cambodia 2018	Manon Mitchell	\$5000	
Gardens in Uganda	John Ridge	\$5200	
Cambodia Education Project Management	Manon Mitchell	funds from past BIE	

Remaining funds were dedicated to project monitoring and evaluation (\$10,000) and amounts due to exchange and US dollar conversion.

Additional directed donations were received for many projects – some flowing through our club and many going directly to the final project country.