

WCS Project Update to the Rotary Club of Calgary April 2015

Major projects currently being actively supported by the Rotary Club of Calgary through the World Community Service Committee are listed below. All projects, whether run by our club members or in cooperation with other clubs, require the active involvement of a member of the WCS committee – the Champion. Further information on projects can be obtained by contacting them.

1. **TRACC** – Project Champions Madeleine King and Bev Gallagher – A multi-year project that provides support to children orphaned by aids in Uganda. In 2015, 55 TRACC students that are on target to graduate with vocational diplomas this year are being funded. As of the end of the last Uganda school year, 67 funded students graduated with diplomas from government accredited schools.
2. **Curly Galbraith Memorial fund** – Champion Carl Smith and the Curly Galbraith Committee – Funds have been provided to the Curly Galbraith committee to assist in funding scholarships for children so that they can obtain the post-secondary education necessary to pursue their career dreams and support their families in the absence of their parents.
3. **Right to Play** – Project Champion Charles Pratt – A project run through the Rotary Club of Cochrane supporting initiatives in cooperation with the Right to Play organizing in Benin, West Africa.
4. **Safe Water for La Guajira – Columbia** – Project Champions Frank Sparks and Walter Haessel – A cooperative initiative with the Rotary Club of Calgary South and the Rotary Club of El Cerrejon in Colombia. This project will provide 630 rural families in La Guajira with safe drinking water, using the Bio Sand filter technology, as well as sanitation and hygiene training.
5. **CAWST** – Champion Tom Loucks – Continuation of a ten year partnership. Contributions over the past three years totalling \$150,000 were used to support the development of CAWST's Wet Centres, mini versions of the CAWST program, providing clean water and sanitation in 8 countries. Our funds were matched 3 to 1 by the Federal Government. Over a million people have been impacted in the past two years.
6. **Samsara Thailand** – Champion Walter Haessel – Support for the RCC Centennial project to build a dormitory for children from hill tribes in northern Thailand to allow them to continue to attend school since many of them have to walk for several hours to get to the school.
7. **Dental Clinic, Fort Portal Uganda** - Champion – Sonny Belenkie – This is a program being carried out in partnership with 4 dentists from Deer Valley Dental to support the efforts to modernize the facilities at Fort Portal Uganda. It is part of a program “Adopt an African Clinic” which has partnered with the Minister of Health of Uganda to modernize the facilities at all 13 Regional Referral Hospitals throughout the country.
8. **Kisunku Uganda Borehole Repairs** – Champion - John Ridge – John has personally funded the rebuilding of the worn out manual pump and community borehole in Kisunku. Approximately 500 students at Kisunku Primary School and 800 local residents in surrounding communities now have a reliable fresh water supply for the first time in almost a year.
9. **Honduras Economic and Community Development (HECD) - Phase II** - Champion Walter Haessel - The HECD project consists of two parts--microcredit and delivering safe water to two villages in Rural Honduras. Phase II focuses on two water projects in remote areas of Honduras where women (or children) typically use up to 20% of their day walking to and from the current water source (to access water to bring back to their homes, and even then this water is polluted.
10. **The Fight Against Ebola, Freetown, West Africa** – Champion Charles Pratt – Assisted by the South Club we provided a rapid respond to the Ebola Crisis in the worst hit area. Education and services have and

are being provided in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Freetown. As noted in the press, efforts in this regard have been successful in reducing the threat and ensuring it does not spread further.

11. **Guatemalan Literacy** – Champion Barb Young – This is a partnership between Rotary Clubs across North America, a Not for Profit organization, Cooperative for Education, operating in Guatemala and Rotary Clubs in Guatemala. It is designed to address the root causes of poverty focusing on literacy and the ability to earn a living. The program supplies vital books to middle school children in rural Guatemala, computer centers for use by indigenous youth, and training for teachers and books in support of reading programs in elementary schools.
12. **Community Computer Library – Guatemala** – Champion Barbara Young – The Rotary Club of Calgary provided the initial funding for the building of a community computer library in rural Guatemala west of the city of Quetzaltenango in cooperation with a not-for-profit language school and the Rotary Club of Quetzaltenango. Links to the Literacy program as well as other support for the community and surrounding schools is being pursued.
13. **“Water is Life – Sanitation is Health”** – Champion John Ridge – This project is based on a “PPP” comprehensive needs assessment for water supply, water quality, waste management, health and hygiene in Rakai and Kulungu Districts in southern Uganda in June 2014. The host club is RC Kalisizo. RC Calgary is the international sponsor club. The project has attracted financial support from 16 Rotary Districts and 19 clubs worldwide of \$ US\$310,000 (including estimated TRF and District Designated Fund “matches”) at the time of writing.
14. **Community Development and Micro Credit in Cambodia** – Champions Frank Sparks & Walter Haessel – The project has been implemented in 11 communities, aiming to improve Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Community Development. The project provides wells, RRHs, latrines, Bio-sand-filters, community fish ponds, animals pass-on, capital for microloans, and community road repair.
15. **Light up the World (Guatemala)** – Champion Barb Young - Light up the World is a local not-for-profit that is installing solar panels in rural homes in Guatemala. These solar panels power two light bulbs and provide light to those that had no electricity before.
16. **Syrian Shelter Box Initiative** – Champion Ghada Al Atrash – Funds from the club and from a fund raising event organized by Ghada and the Syrian Women’s Club of Calgary will provide for the purchase of Shelter Boxes to benefit those fleeing the current conflict in Syria
17. **“READ UGANDA”** – Champion John Ridge – A literacy program run in cooperation with the RC Greater Huntsville (USA) and Rotarians in Uganda to provide the recipient NGO “African Children’s Educational Initiative Inc” (ACEII) in Luwero, which is focused on improving Ugandan English teaching standards. Containers of pre-selected school books collected by The Africa Book Project in Calgary have been shipped to ACEII in Uganda for distribution and teacher training in schools.
18. **Water and Sanitation in India** – Champion Ali Gursoy – Project being led by the Centennial club to provide clean water using CAWST technology and sanitation to a rural community in India.

Comment

The Amarok Society, Mothers of Intention, Bangladesh - Champion John Ridge – While this is not currently one of our ongoing projects, John wanted the club members to know that a donation of \$1000 was approved following a luncheon presentation to our club by Amarok’s president. The empathetic response from Rotarians present was both positive and generous. WCS members agreed that this humble and quietly effective Canadian charity’s volunteers are successfully providing unprecedented literacy training to the poorest mothers and children in Bangladesh’s worst slums.

B. Young, WCS Chair