

Rotary Club Presentation on Water and Hygiene Area of Focus

Presented by Anne Swift-Kayatta, 4/27/22

You have heard previously from other members of our club's Foundation Committee about Rotary's seven Areas of Focus.

One of these areas of focus is:

Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education, which are basic necessities for a healthy environment and productive lives.

When people have access to clean water and sanitation, waterborne **diseases decrease**, **children stay healthier** and **attend school more** regularly, and **mothers can spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families.**

\$24 is all it takes to provide one person with safe water.

Since 2013, the Rotary Foundation has invested **~\$148 million in over 2000 water, sanitation, hygiene and water resource management projects worldwide**, many via the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Global Grant Program.

WASH Projects invest in infrastructure and training and yield long-term change.

In **partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, Rotary volunteers help communities and governments to plan, finance and deliver **safe water, sanitation and hygiene services, while sustainably protecting and conserving water resources.**

These programs focus on **measuring the impact that WASH** and basic education and literacy initiatives have **on school attendance**.

Some water-related **projects include:**

- Delivering **clean water to every public school in Lebanon** by overcoming religious, cultural, and political divisions.
- Putting together a **rainwater harvesting and distribution center for 4000 people in Madan, India**.
- Providing **toilets and washing stations to schools in Guatemala and to towns in the Philippines**.
- Installing **water filters to 650 households in Colombia** with follow-up health and hygiene training, and, where necessary, medical intervention. This was a joint project of Clubs in Canada and Colombia.

Our own district and club have financially supported international water and sanitation projects in the past.

Water is key to life—thus it is one of Rotary’s important Areas of Focus.