



Orphans benefit from Minnetonka Rotary funds

Meghan Davy Sandvold - Jan 21, 2016 - www.swnewsmedia.com

Minnetonka Rotary member Stacey Quinn, left, with Alexandra, head of the Higuey Orphanage.

Submitted photo

Minnetonka Rotary member Stacey Quinn and her family recently spent time in the Dominican Republic, bringing some much needed supplies to local orphans.

"In 2012 and 2013 our Rotary Club went to the Dominican Republic, and installed BioSand Water Filters to provide clean, safe drinking water," said Quinn. "I couldn't go on those trips, but I did understand that there were needs not being met and a little support could go a long way. We raised almost a thousand dollars locally and gathered school supplies to help these young people."

Quinn, her husband David and their two children, Dominic, 15, and Anna, 16, left Minnesota on Dec. 20 and spent a week in the small Caribbean nation that shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti to the west.

On Dec. 24 they rented a car and drove to the Higuey Orphanage, with the intent of making the children's Christmas a happy one. "Driving on the road off the main highway was more than an adventure — lack of signs and traffic controls, with cars, trucks, motor bikes and foot traffic intermixed on an unimproved narrow roadway, was somewhere between a free-for-all and chaos," Quinn said.

They eventually reached the orphanage, home to 25 boys ages 4 to 16 who recognized the Minnetonka Rotary banner and wheel from the organization's previous visits. The rotary funds were used to purchase paper, pencils, pens, toothbrushes, a soccer ball, solar flashlights, t-shirts, a 50 lb. bag of rice, powdered milk, powdered chocolate, oatmeal, noodles, beans, oil, grapes, apples, and some candy, and enough pork for a Christmas meal.

"It felt like we were a century away from our reality and that it is a very good thing to live in the USA," said Quinn.

For more information go to www.minnetonkarotary.org