

Special Edition

Joint Meeting



Rotary
Club of West Sacramento, CA

JANUARY 22, 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Water and its role in meeting Rotary International's causes
- Rotarians overcoming natural disasters and executing projects in poor countries
- Community service during Covid-19 pandemic

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Rotary - International and Home

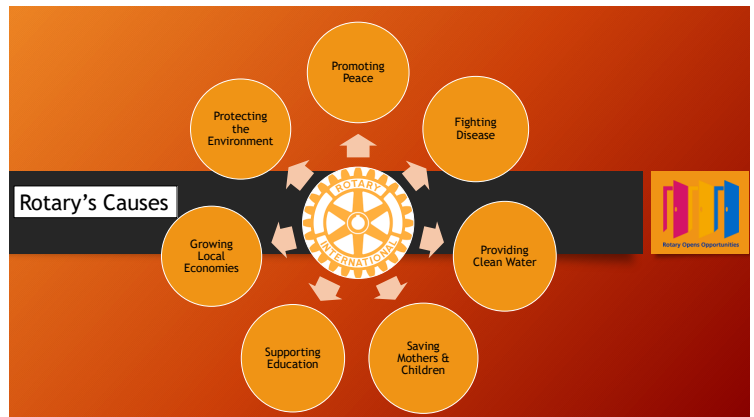
Rotary International has been helping people all over the world and has seven areas of focus: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment. These areas now termed causes. Although, providing clean water is identified as an individual area of focus, you would find that water plays a principal role in improving each and every other area of focus. For example, providing clean water prevents water borne diseases (Fighting Disease).

It is no wonder that a majority of the Rotary's international projects are related to water: providing clean water is the pri-

mary concern. However, having proper sanitation facilities co-exists with providing clean drinking water. These two are insufficient: maintaining proper hygiene is another element that needs to be considered.

No international project will succeed without local partners. Their cooperation is essential.

Finally, changing local habits is a difficult process. Changing habits must start from childhood meaning we must engage the schools and teachers. In addition, the parents too need to be included in any planning. Summarizing, the whole team must be engaged for the project to be sustainable.



WASH in Escuela Santa Teresa de Jesus

The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project provides potable drinking water during water shortage and improves the sanitation facilities and personal hygiene of students at Escuela Santa Teresa de Jesus (ESTDJ). The school serves an estimated student population of 4,500 stu-

dents. It is in "New capital" in the outskirts of Tegucigalpa. New capital is a group of several neighborhoods and the school is in "Altos de la Laguna" where the population is underserved, poor and the children are vulnerable for gang related violence. The students from Kindergarten

to Grade 11, have their breakfast, lunch and dinner at the school free of charge. After school, the students stay back to engage in extracurricular activities. Please visit, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7SIW1oYvHM and listen to their story.

Tegucigalpa Metropolitano



Volunteer Mom and student washing cutlery

The story began four to five years ago when the Tegucigalpa Metropolitan Rotary Club posted the project in the website of Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group's (WASRAG) website and the contact person was Oscar Berganza. The Club requested an international partner for the project. The President for the Club was German Palacios. Although the Club was new, it had an active roster of members.



German Palacios



Oscar Berganza

West Sacramento

West Sacramento Rotary had done several projects jointly with other organizations, but had not recently embarked on an international project with another Rotary Club in a foreign country. Then President Troy Bird (2018-2019), the incoming President Peter Anderson (2019-2020), along with the Board decided to join as a partner.



Peter Anderson



Troy Bird

Vail & West Sac Centennial

During this time, another dynamic person from the Vail Rotary Club, Reggie O'Brien, who had worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer, joined the team. In addition, Tome Engle, West Sac Centennial, too joined the team.

Thus, the team of four clubs and their corresponding Dis-

tricts partnered with the Rotary foundation to lay the framework for the WASH project called "Rainwater Harvesting and Rehabilitating the Sanitation Facilities at Escuela Santa Teresa de Jesus."



Reggie O'Brien



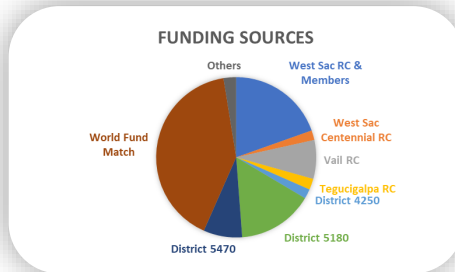
Tom Engle



Drinking untreated water

"The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation" by Bertrand Russell

Funding Sources



The funding for the project was provided by many sources: Two individuals, members of four rotary clubs, three rotary districts, and the Rotary Foundation. The pie chart shown above and the spread sheet

shows the distribution of the funding. Almost forty percent of the funding came from the foundation. There were several members who contributed generously for the project. A few West Sacramento community members too contributed to make this project a success. Thus, we are glad that potable drinking water can be provided for 4,500 students. (Note: RI Foundation approved \$51,194 for the project.)

Funding Sources	Amount
West Sac RC & Members	\$ 10,020.00
West Sac Centennial	\$ 1,000.00
Vail RC	\$ 4,000.00
Tegucigalpa RC	\$ 1,140.00
District 4250	\$ 1,000.00
District 5180	\$ 7,820.00
District 5470	\$ 4,000.00
World Fund Match	\$ 20,900.00
Others	\$ 1,300.00
Total	\$ 51,180.00

Protecting the Environment

A new area of focus identified by the Rotary International (RI) in 2021 is Protecting the Environment. Several decades ago, Mohandas Gandhi who started the non-violence movement to gain independence to India said "There is sufficient resources in the world for the needy, but not for the greedy." It is important to protect our natural resources and live in harmony

with nature.

Even before RI identified the environment as an area of focus, West Sacramento RC commenced a program to plant trees in various parts of the City to improve the surroundings and the atmosphere.

A few of our Rotary Club members are in action planting a sapling in the city.



*"He that plants
trees loves
others beside
himself"*

La Asociación Colobaración y Esfuerzo

For the project to be successful, the stakeholders must be involved in the planning, execution and maintenance or sustainability. The stakeholder for the school is ACOES. It manages the school and has been involved in the planning of the project.

ACOES and Father Álvaro Ramos who is in charge of the school will

be engaged in the phase of training the school staff, teachers, students, the parents, and maintaining the facilities.

ACOES has earmarked funds for three years for sustainability. It will be coordinating the training program with the Rotary Club of Tegucigalpa Metropolitano and maintain the facilities.



Beginning - Site Investigation



The project was to begin in March 2020. However, nature was not willing to co-operate: it released the Corona Virus. To deal with the pandemic, Honduras was under strict curfew. People were dying due to Covid and there was no medicine.

However, the Tegucigalpa Rotarians were dedicated and began the work in October 2020.



"It does not matter whether there is Covid or whether there are hurricanes. Rotarians are People of Action"



**Mario Blanco, President
Tegucigalpa Metropolitan RC**

Laying the Foundation

But, nature was not kind enough. Once again, it attacked Honduras in full force in November 2020. It unleashed two hurricanes, one after the other in the space of two weeks.

People lost their homes, their belongings and were desperate without food. Still, the Tegucigalpa Rotarians continued their work.



Completing -Foundation

Tegucigalpa team was dedicated. It did not waiver from the goal of constructing the water storage tanks and repairing the sanitation facilities. The school was closed due to the pandemic and there would not have been a better site condition for construction.



Engineered Bricks and Reinforced Concrete

The construction of water tanks in Honduras is unique in the sense, engineered bricks and reinforced concrete are used. The normal practice is to construct tanks out of reinforced concrete or steel. Standard designs are available from SANAA.



"We can achieve our goals by sheer determination and perseverance."

Formwork for the Roof

The construction of the two tanks proceeded rapidly and by the end of November the walls of the tank had been raised to the roof level. The contractor was ready to lay the formwork for the tanks. The tank roof is constructed of reinforced concrete.



Final Stages

Here we are in December 2020: workers are assembling the rainwater collection channels before fixing them on to the roof. The collected water will be sent to the tanks.

Nearly complete: A 15,000 gallon potable water storage tank of engineered bricks and reinforced concrete and the rectangular box at the top for the chlorinator.





Club 558 of District 5180
PO Box 288
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Note:

During Covid-19 pandemic the club meets through the Zoom platform. Please check the website and contact the Secretary.

<https://rotaryclubofwestsacramento.org>

Club Executives & Directors

President	John Raney
President Elect,	Dave Kamminga
Imm. Past President	Peter Anderson
Secretary	Amy Busch
Treasurer	Dusty Dumars
Exec. Secretary	Amy Busch
Club Service	Shaun Morrow
Comm. Service	Quirina Orozco
Comm. Service	Mike Campbell
Int'l Service,	Kumaraswamy Sivakumaran
Vocational Services	Drew Gidlof
Vocational Services	David Santiago
Youth Services	Joanie Kapell
Youth Services	JoAnn Moffett
Membership	Denice Domke
Rotary Foundation	Barry Kalar
Webmaster	Peter Anderson
Club Foundation	Jim Engstrom
Meals on Wheels	Tom Wallace
Newsletter Editor	Kat Gallagher
Sergeant-at-Arms	Steve Oren



Rotary Opens Opportunities

The International Service Committee of West Sacramento Rotary Club which coordinates the project consists of the following: Paul Kolarik, Tim Kuzelka and Kumaraswamy Sivakumaran. The Committee thanks the partnering clubs, the Districts, and the Rotary Foundation for supporting the project.

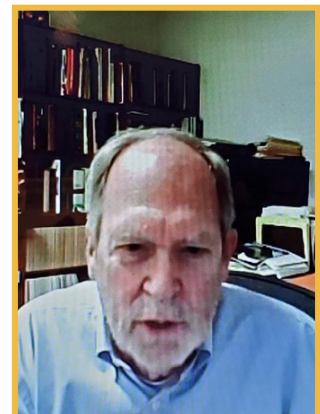
Covid-19 and Community Service

In 2020,

our Rotary Club focused most of its volunteer efforts on assisting the Yolo Food Bank to distribute food at eight different walk through and drive through events in West Sacramento. These distributions averaged 200 local residents. We also packaged Holiday meal kits at the food bank's Woodland facility, and then provided drivers to help deliver the kits to over 160 West Sacramento households before Christmas. The Club put nearly 400 volunteer hours into assisting this great organization currently serving the nutrition needs of more than 45,000 Yolo County residents each month, as demand grows with an increase of over 60% since Covid 19 hit.

Another highlight was our Club's first participation in the Collings Cares annual Christmas event put on by YFC Ministries. This was a gift and food giveaway to over 150 disadvantaged families identified by local schools. In addition to our Club and many individual volunteer efforts, the Club also made numerous mone-

tary donations. These included the Yolo Food Bank, the Colling's Care Christmas event, and the Yolo County Children's Alliance (YCCA), an inter-agency collaborative that coordinates needed family support services. The Club also contributed \$3,000 to help kick start our next international project, a water treatment facility in Nicaragua.



John Raney, President
West Sacramento RC