John Cosby: Interim Executive Director, Project Mexico

L.G. Rotary Grant

Project Mexico began in Orange County, California, in the fall of 1988. Its Founder, Greg Yova, had a strong desire to provide our youth with an opportunity to look beyond themselves and reach out in a very personal and meaningful way to those in need in Mexico. After participating in a home building trip in Mexico through another Christian organization, Greg felt compelled to develop that experience and deliver it to the youth within the Orthodox Church. He then began coordinating home building trips among his own friends and acquaintances.

Beginning small, the ministry focused on helping struggling families make a better life for themselves by providing them with secure, safe, permanent homes. In the beginning, volunteer groups from Southern California spent three weekends a month in Mexico building homes on land provided through the Mexican government. Over the next few years, this volunteer effort gained such momentum that Greg felt the endeavor worthy to be a full-time effort. Quitting his job, he established Project Mexico, an organization with bylaws, incorporation as a non-profit charity, and set up an office.

After recognizing that many teenage boys that were living on the streets of Tijuana without a family, Greg began working with the local, state and federal governments in Mexico to establish an orphanage for homeless teenage boys. After a substantial amount of planning, preparation and hard work, government approval was finally obtained and St. Innocent Orphanage opened its doors in September of 1996. Since then, this equestrian ranch converted to an orphanage has provided a loving and stable home that emphasizes family, healing, education and faith.

In addition to providing a home for teenage boys through St. Innocent Orphanage, the property is also the base operations for the summer home building program, providing volunteers a place to eat, sleep, and pray. Through faith in action, volunteers of all ages regularly come to Mexico and labor to build homes for families they have never met. By their own offering of service to others, these volunteers are transformed and realize after the experience that they have received much more than they had given. Since 1988, over 11,000 volunteers have traveled to Mexico to perform works of mercy in the name of Christ.
Important Dates:
Mar 3rd Jenny Flynn Grotarian – 6:00 pm
Mar 8th John Cosby: Interim Executive Director, Project Mexico - L.G. Rotary Grant
Mar 15th Cindy Goodman RI Fellowships
Mar 18th Rotary District Training Assembly
Mar 22nd Lemon Grove Rotary Robot Grant
Apr 8-9 RLYA Youth Conference
Apr 12th La Mesa Mayor - Dr. Arapostathis
Apr 29th Rotarians at Work Day
May 20th District 5340 Conference – Liberty Station

Save the Date for a Grotarian gathering!
Get to know Jen Flynn
March 3rd, 6 – 8:30 PM

“Never doubt that a small group of THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED CITIZENS can CHANGE THE WORLD. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead

We can’t wait to share our passions and get better acquainted with everyone at Rotary. We look forward to changing the world with you!

Please join us: Friday, March 3rd 6-8:30 PM
3428 Juniper Street, South Park, 92104
Cross street is Westland
RSVP TO JEN at jen.flynn66@gmail.com or – 860-830-4454
On February 15th, La Mesa Rotary donated $1,000 to The Monarch School as part of our annual Charitable Giving Campaign. President Steve presents the check!
On February 17th Sue Richardson held her Grotarian Meeting. These are always the best time to get our newest members of La Mesa Rotary. President Steve was in attendance along with Don Jenkinson, Ron Morrell, Bill Ashman & President-Elect Jack Dargitz. Special guest of the day was past-president of La Mesa Rotary and current La Mesa City Manager Yvonne Garrett!

La Mesa Rotary Charitable Giving Campaign

The Community Giving Committee will be meeting March 29th to review any requests submitted. A few reminders of what is required for a proper submission:

- Charity must be a 501(c)(3)
- Amount of request can not be greater than $1,000
- A letter from the charity stating what the funds will be used for
- A sponsoring letter from you, the Rotarian, that explains why we as a club should support this particular charity.
- A person from the charity must be able to make an appearance at a club meeting to be presented with the donation

Please send all requests directly to Sam Bauchmann. Please let Sam know if you have any questions or need any additional information.