

# ROTARY DISTRICT 5470

## International Service News

D-5470 International Service Newsletter #34

May 2022



The Rotary District 5470 International Service Committee educates and nurtures Rotarians and clubs working in the seven Areas of Focus.

- ◊ It connects clubs
- ◊ It builds relationships
- ◊ It educates, assists, and may help

finance clubs' international project development and fulfillment efforts.

It also inspires Rotarians like you who chose to visit international projects and see first-hand how to *Serve to Change Lives*.

In this newsletter, we'll continue to show more of our many global grants as well as upcoming projects .

*Share your club's international projects and interest with District International Service Chair [Peter Jeschofnig](#) who will share with District clubs.*



“Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.” – Anonymous

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**Clean water...basic to life**  
Rotary's working on it



# D-5470 Rotary Youth Exchange Active Again

## By Kristi Redlinger, RYE Chair - Grand Jct Horizon Sunrise

Our D-5470 Rotary Youth Exchange program is active again after a 2+-year hiatus for COVID. We had to make some changes to our application process to accommodate ongoing COVID restrictions, and we selected 16 new Outbound students via a virtual "Selection Weekend" in February. Last weekend in Grand Junction, we hosted their first in-person event – Outbound Orientation – which brought together our Outbound students, their parents, and our D5470 RYE leadership team. New Outbound Coordinator Megan Webber hosted a wonderful event! Megan is a new member of the Rotary Club of Carbondale, having joined to "pay it forward" to Rotary. Megan was a Rotary Exchange Student to Argentina in 2015-16, earned a degree in journalism, and recently moved back to Colorado for her "real job."



Our 16 outbound students are going to/coming from as follows:

Host Country	Sponsoring Rotary Club	Host Country	Sponsoring Rotary Club
Argentina	Telluride	Italy	Crested Butte
Austria	Telluride	Mexico	Vail/Edwards partnership
Brazil	Montrose Black Canyon	Romania	Carbondale
Czechia or Slovakia	Salida	Spain	Aspen
Denmark	Montrose Black Canyon	Sweden	Colorado Springs
France	Crested Butte	Taiwan	Durango Daybreak
Germany	Durango High Noon	Thailand	Vail/Edwards partnership
Hungary	Pueblo West	Turkey	Glenwood Springs



# D-5470 Rotary Youth Exchange Active Again (cont.)

## By Kristi Redlinger, RYE Chair - Grand Jct Horizon Sunrise

We will have inbounds from all 16 of these countries PLUS 3 more for a total of 19:

We're taking 2 students from the Czech/Slovak district. They have many families hosting refugees and can't accommodate as many inbounds, but their students still want to come on exchange. So we are taking an extra student. We're also bringing in students from Colombia and Zimbabwe.

### Hosting Club

Carbondale  
Colorado Springs  
Crested Butte (2)  
Delta  
Durango Daybreak (2)  
Durango High Noon  
Edwards  
Glenwood Springs

### Hosting Club

Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise  
Montrose Black Canyon (2)  
Pagosa Springs  
Salida  
Pine River Valley Centennial  
Pueblo West  
Telluride (2)



# Life of an Exchange Student in Brazil

## By RYE Student Lylah Martin - 2019-20 in Brazil

All right, it has been a while. A lot has happened this past month. But one big thing I have learned here is being foreign is really hard. Like it has its up's and down's, but the biggest thing that happens when your foreign is embarrassing yourself 24/7. I can't count how many times I do something that they find funny or where these Brazilians think I'm crazy. So this blog entry is about the times I either embarrass myself, look crazy, or learn different and new things about Brazilian culture.



A little heads up. I am in no way trying to discriminate against Brazilian culture in this blog. I love these people and learn so much about life here. I love the way they live. It is not weird just different. So here I will talk about the differences and getting a little laugh out of them eases the hard process of culture shock. Also explaining to everyone the wondrous world of Brazil and their culture in a fun relatable way. I do love it here and their culture.

Starting the story time with the school in Brazil. One day recently in PE class our PE teacher passed out 'bibs' as they call them. In the US we call them 'pinnies' the jersey type material you use to know what team you're on when playing small games. Ya know what I'm talking about? Well someone was like "What do you call these in the USA?" And I explained how they called 'pinnies' and they gasped. I went on by saying, "Yeah, she has a pinny, there are 4 pinnies, pennies are also the currency in the USA. My penny is green and yours is red" As I was saying this they were all laughing and I was confused why this was so funny. Then someone was like "Lylah penny means dick in Portuguese". As you could guess I was so embarrassed because I pretty much said the word dick in Portuguese like it was no big deal. Saying in left and right. But hey that's culture. Overall language barriers make for good stories.

There were only a few times my family thought I was crazy. The first is when my host dad brought home an avocado. The avocados here are MASSIVE. Like the size of my whole hand. I went to make it into avocado toast one morning and my host sister watched me like I was cooking drugs. She was shocked when I pulled out the toast and took my mashed avocado and added that. Her face was as if I just stepped on a puppy. She then proceeded to tell my host parents in the room over and they all came out and watched me commit the crime of making avocado toast. My host dad then had to defend me by saying "It's normal in the United States. It's normal don't worry! It's normal." Another time was when I said I don't shower every day back in America. They were mind blown. I was so confused and they then told me to go shower right away and I HAVE to shower 1-5 times a day. Who takes 5 showers a day?! We don't have enough energy on this planet to shower 5 times. But hey that's culture. Can't argue there.

Brazilian culture has opened my eyes on so many things. This paragraph is about the different Three Showers? Here they also have Brazilian sandwiches. These sandwiches were talked about so highly by every Brazilian. A Brazilian sandwich is if a college kid took everything from his 4x4 dorm fridge and put it on a bun. EVERYTHING from the fridge. They will have a banana, ham, burger patty, pineapple, eggs, cheese, corn, mayo, potato, everything in your fridge. This sandwich is about 3-6 inches big. Absolutely massive. Another different thing is Brazilian swimsuits. These people created the Brazilian wax so no surprise the love to show their skin. My first day swimming at our apartment I went downstairs in my granny pantie swimsuit bottoms. My host mom was really confused. If I wanted to tan why was my swimsuit the size of Texas? That was the day I decided no not wear that swimsuit again. I looked fully dressed to these people.

I could go on and on about Brazil stories and all the new things I come across and learn every day. But overall I am not trying to make Brazilian culture sound funny or weird. Brazilian culture is so amazing. These people are some of the most loving people I have ever met. They are so sweet and loving. Their culture is so new to me and culture shock is not fun so finding some fun/joy out of it helps the struggle of culture shock. I love learning more and more about this country every day.



# Community Generosity Exceeds Expectations

## By David Smith, Pagosa Springs RC

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs undertook a campaign to raise \$10,000 in two weeks to aid Ukrainian refugees. Well, two weeks have passed and our community has raised \$23,920!

All of this aid will go to the Rotary Foundation, which will provide it to some of the 62 Rotary Clubs in the Ukraine and to many of the Rotary Clubs in neighboring countries. Volunteers in participating clubs will use the money to provide food, housing, medicine and other essentials to Ukrainian refugees.

Pagosa Springs joins with 1.4 million Rotarians and their communities in over 200 countries to reduce suffering accompanying this humanitarian crisis. The Rotary Foundation has now raised more than \$7 million dollars to aid Ukrainian refugees.

Although we cannot track the exact use of our funds, a report from the Rotary Foundation provides some examples. The Lviv Rotary Club is working with local authorities and major hospitals in Lviv to provide medical supplies and equipment.

Rotary Clubs in Slovakia and the Czech Republic have partnered with a railway company to offer transport to refugees and to deliver essential materials. French and German Rotarians set up a central fund and working group to coordinate aid to the Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Many of the Rotary Clubs in Poland, Romania and Moldavia are actively helping Ukrainian refugees. Aid includes providing supplies to refugee camps and even taking refugees into their homes.

The Pagosa Springs Rotary Club is known locally for its many local service projects, such as scholarships for Pagosa graduates, providing nutritious food for children through its Backpack Program, Teacher Mini-grants, support for Pagosa Outreach, and much more. Less known are its international efforts to reduce deep poverty around the world. These projects include providing wheel chairs for children in Argentina, water and sanitation projects in Central America, and science education and economic development in West Africa.

By your generous support our community has joined free people of the world to provide critical and compassionate support to those who are in dire need. Thank you, Pagosa.



Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs raises \$23,920 to aid Ukrainian refugees. Left to right: Rob Blaise, Allen Roth, James Garrett, Stacy Clark and David Smith.

# Work Weekend at Navajo Nation, Chinle, Arizona Via Nancy Bo Flood, Glenwood Springs RC

The Rotary Club of Glenwood Springs is planning another work weekend: March 19-23.

Glenwood Springs Noon Rotary partners with Chinle Planting Hope to bring new hope to a Navajo Nation community.

Schedule:

Thursday, May 19, arrival at Chinle

May 20 & 21<sup>st</sup> Work days with Chinle Planting Hope CPH (Friday – Sunday morning)

Concurrently Chinle Planting Hope Board and Volunteers will be leading specific projects. Glenwood Rotary volunteers will be assisting. Projects include sorting and transferring books so all is ready when the Bookmobile arrives this summer; completing the Thrift Store Space so it is ready for opening. Yahoo – Bookmobile, Thrift Store, Bicycle Shop-Repair, projects moving forward!



Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> Nancy Bo Flood with Debbie Wilde will be reading to preschool children at Chinle Elementary School, please let me know if you would like to be a reader too.

“Durango Joe,” Durango Rotary, will be working with a number of solar light install volunteers. Joe is expecting no more than 8 folks. Durango “light people” will arrive Friday for orientation and one installation to get warmed up. Volunteers will be put into work teams, install lights all day Saturday, return home on Sunday. Glenwood Rotarians, please contact Ken Robinson or Joe this week if you are interested.

Friday evening, CPH will host dinner at their facility, welcome all, present an orientation, etc. We will meet the lead people for each CPH project.

Saturday, “solar light install crews” will load up and leave for work sites by 0930. Their goal is to teach and ensure CPH is well set to provide lights.

NOTE: CANYON de CHELLY TOURS can be arranged to see the National Park !

Hotel Reservations need to be made ASAP. Most of us are staying at the Holiday Inn or the National Park camp ground, both at Chinle, Canyon deChelly, Navajo Nation, AZ.

We all need to follow current Navajo Nation Covid regulations: Mask up! Wash hands.

Questions? Contact: Nancy Bo Flood [wflood@hotmail.com](mailto:wflood@hotmail.com) 970 456 7746 or  
Debbie Wilde [debbiewilde@debbiewilde.com](mailto:debbiewilde@debbiewilde.com) or Ken Robinson [rotarykar@gmail.com](mailto:rotarykar@gmail.com)



# Work Weekend at Navajo Nation, Chinle, Arizona (cont.) Via Nancy Bo Flood, Glenwood Springs RC



**A huge thank-you** to many for generously supporting the Read at Home literacy project. Your donations will provide subscriptions to HighFive/Highlights to over 500 children. Through the collaboration with Chinle Planting Hope YOU are supporting reading by providing books, fun magazines, and light to read by. Thank You! If you wish to contribute, very easy, go to the website and mail a check to Read at Home to the address next to the "donate" button. [www.readathome.org](http://www.readathome.org)





# **Maasai Women Empowerment Project**

## **By Khurshid Qureshi PhD; PE North Colorado Springs RC**

The Maasai are one of the most impoverished tribes in East Africa (Kenya & Tanzania). A noble and dignified people, they have proudly maintained their traditional lifestyle and cultural identity despite pressures of the modern world. They live a nomadic lifestyle raising cattle and goats, wearing traditional clothes, and living in small villages called manyattas, which are circular arrangements of mud huts. But increasing land acquisition throughout Kenya's Maasailand is threatening their nomadic culture, and pressure to accept change is growing. With this pressure comes a more urgent need to educate the current generation of boys and girls. In the process of preserving their culture, however, the Maasai have embraced a system that denies women basic human rights: the right to an education; the right to control her body, the right to choose whom and when to marry, the right to express an opinion.

Like most poor women in African nations, the majority of Maasai women in Kenya are destined to live a life of poverty and cultural oppression. Just one generation ago, less than 20 percent of Maasai women in Kenya enrolled in school. Today, even with free primary school education in Kenya since January 2003, only 48 percent of Maasai girls enroll in school, and only 10 percent of girls make it to secondary school, but only small percentage of them graduate from secondary school.

Women are basically property of their brothers and husbands. They work hard, 18-20 hours a day, fetching water, cooking, taking care of children, cleaning and making bead jewelry to earn some money to buy clothes and food items.



I got involved in Maasai projects during one of my Safari Trips to Maasai in Amboseli in Kenya. Amboseli sits in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro bordering Tanzania. Extreme poverty, lack of water and food and unemployment is widespread in the whole region. Rotary International had done many water projects but those water bore holes are not maintained very well and usually go out of service after couple of years. I met Jessica Censotti, an American young woman who has been working for many years in improving the lives of the Maasai.



# **Maasai Women Empowerment Project (cont.)**

## **By Khurshid Qureshi PhD; PE North Colorado Springs RC**

I conducted a 2-day Maasai Empowerment seminar and workshop to determine the needs and find solutions to eradicate poverty. In two days, we learned a lot about the proud culture and heritage of the Maasai and shared our knowledge to start small businesses and take advantage of the tourism industry. For women empowerment, I applied for \$10,000 district grant to support training, supplies and marketing of the jewelry products to the tourists and also on line marketing. This grant happened to be during COVID 19 lock-up but it did not stop the project.

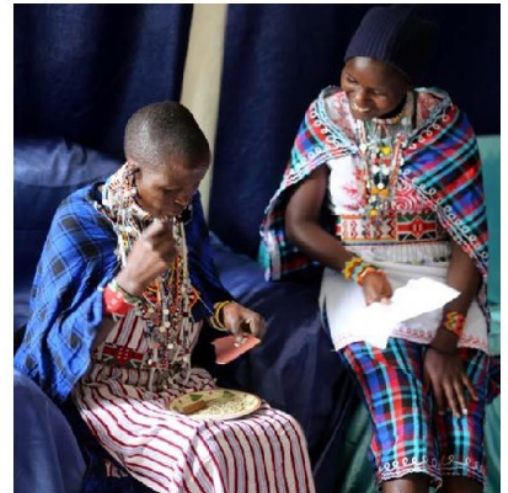
This project was done in cooperation with MCV (My chosen vessel), an NGO whose mission is to empower Maasai people. MCV selected 10 Maasai women to join our training program. These women never attended school, so they had a strong desire to make sure that their girls are educated. Because child marriage remains an issue, education is even more crucial; if a girl can afford to receive an education, she isn't forced into marriage. The mothers we are working with are illiterate, living in remote areas without job opportunities to support their families or pay their children's school fees, so the training MCV offers is a lifeline. As these mothers make more of an income, even more young girls will receive an education.

### **Developing New Products; Earning Income**

The Maasai women in our program were excited to receive training and have this opportunity to develop new skills and modern products. Within just three months of training, they learned to incorporate new material, including gold wire and coins, dyed leather, and fabric. We introduced new bead colors and patterns, launching a jewelry line with 30 new products to be sold in a global market.

### **Selling in US Market**

Already, the Maasai women designed over 100 jewelry pieces to sell to the USA market while making fair wages for their families. Not only are the women gaining work and income for their families, MCV NGO partners in the USA have also started selling the jewelry to raise funds for MCV's other humanitarian projects. For example, the Maasai women beaded the word "LOVE" into over 100 bracelets for one of our partners, who is selling these bracelets to raise funds for an upcoming school and water project in Amboseli.



The women in our program are already selling the jewelry and earning enough income to buy food for their families and pay their children's school fees, all in the hopes to break the cycle of poverty. Their girls will receive an education, learn to read and write, and, like their mothers, begin giving back to their communities.

The Maasai women also learned new sewing techniques to produce masks that will help their community stop the spread of COVID-19. MCV provided the fabric and training and has now started distributing the masks as part of a Maasai COVID-19 Prevention Campaign titled "One Village One World" which provides COVID education through Maasai music, sanitation training, masks, food, soaps, handwashing station, and resources to support the Maasai during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, this was a very successful project during the Covid Pandemic. The next phase will be to write a global grant to establish a cultural center where women could be trained and showcase their products to the tourists and to the world to gain financial independence.

# Maasai Women Empowerment Project (cont.)

By Khurshid Qureshi PhD; PE North Colorado Springs RC



Thanks to Jessica Censotti who is the Deva of Maasai women and men, North Colorado Springs Rotary Club and Rotary District 5470 grant.



# East Colo. Springs Rotarians going to Kenya District Conference Via Becky Kiser, East Colo. Springs RC



Becky Kiser



Rotary District 9212



Yechimebet (Yeshi) Guetahoun

Yeshi Guetahoun and Becky Kiser of the Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs are traveling to District 9212 in Kenya this week to represent the East Colorado Springs RC and D-5470 at the D-9212 District Conference and Assembly. D-9212 covers Ethiopia, Kenya, Eritrea, and South Sudan. The incoming District Governor is the first woman District Governor in D-9212. (Azeb Asrat).



Azeb Asrat Hailemariam, Incoming DG D-9212 - First woman governor of the District.



# Rotary Humanitarian Support in Ukraine Region

In response to the deepening humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for donors around the world to contribute funds to support the relief efforts underway by Rotary districts and has designated its Disaster Response Fund (<https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund>) as the main avenue for contributions.

To this end, The Rotary Foundation has approved:

- Now through 30 June 2022, designated Rotary districts that border Ukraine and the Rotary district in Ukraine may apply for grants of up to \$50,000 each from the Disaster Response Fund. These expedited disaster response grants can be used to provide relief to refugees or other victims of the crisis including items such as water, food, shelter, medicine and clothing.
  - During this same period, other impacted Rotary districts that wish to offer support to refugees or other victims of the crisis can apply for \$25,000 grants from the Disaster Response Fund.
  - Now through 30 April 2022, Rotary districts can transfer unallocated District Designated Funds (DDF) to support the Disaster Response Fund, directly supporting these Ukraine-specific humanitarian grants.
- Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund in support of Ukraine can be made via <https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund> . All funds need to be received into the Disaster Response Fund by 30 April 2022 in order to qualify for use in support of the Ukrainian relief efforts.
- Although the Disaster Response Fund will be the main avenue for Rotary Foundation support, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are also encouraged to create their own responses to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

In addition to support provided through the Disaster Response Fund, the Foundation is coordinating with partners and regional leaders, exploring effective solutions to the increased humanitarian needs.

- We are in contact with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees – USA to prepare for and respond to the needs of those being displaced in Ukraine and to neighboring countries.
- ShelterBox, our project partner for disaster response, is in communication with Rotary members in Eastern Europe to explore how it may offer support with temporary transitional housing and other essential supplies.
- The Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration is also mobilizing its resources to assist in this crisis.

More than 2 million people have fled Ukraine and are in dire need of emergency aid. The United Nations estimates that number could grow to as many as 5 million people displaced. Rotary clubs in Europe and around the world have stepped up their relief work, some working on the ground to help displaced families.

We will continue to monitor the situation in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Visit My Rotary and follow Rotary on social media to stay updated on how clubs can get involved and what actions Rotary members have taken and the impact it has had for people in the region.

For all other questions and to obtain more information, please contact the Rotary Support Center at [rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org](mailto:rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org).





# Rotary Fellowship Cycling to Serve (FCS)

Within the Rotary family, there are over 70 recognized International Rotary Fellowships : from antique Automobiles, Cycling, Diplomacy, Esperanto, Global History, Marathon, Photographers, Scuba Diving, Travel and hosting, Wine appreciation, to Yachting

With the registration of the first Fellowship, Rotary International recognized that common interests are a very special bond for friendship, opening additional opportunities for Rotarian ideas and projects with fellow Rotarians at national and international levels.

The objectives of our Fellowship are to develop and promote world-wide friendship through cycling both competitive and touristic; to serve the community locally, nationally and internationally through cycling activities; to promote international understanding and peace through cycling activities.

Main activities are the organization of the annual Fellowship Cycling to Serve World Championships, the organization of a 4-days touristic cycling event and the organization of local cycling events.

In 1988, Rotarians from Belgium and Denmark decided to form a regular Rotary Fellowship. FCS was officially recognized by Rotary International in Chicago/Evanston in the same year. Funds generated by registration fees and successful sponsoring are intended as prize money to the winners of the races for individual projects of their Rotary Clubs. Various projects of the organizing Rotary Clubs are supported as well.



In 1991, the 4-Days started additional as FCS -springtime event- Cycling tours in different groups had been offered so long by over 25 cycling enthusiastic Rotary Clubs in different regions of Europe. The combination Cycling sport, culture, sightseeing and meeting the cycling Fellows established close friendships among all participants across all nationalities.

Meanwhile, FCS is represented on almost all continents. A special appreciation to the FCS-National Representatives, they are the linking bond to the memberin all countries.

With the support of all participants, local Rotary Clubs and sponsors, numerous Rotary projects were realized in these 33 FCS years, local, regional, national and international : nethedal/Belgium, Cataract/

Ethiopia, Hospital Massango/Burundi/Italy, maternal health/Africa/Austria, Stop polio now/worldwide, Disabled cycling/Salzburg, Hospice care, etc. to name just a few of the past years.

For additional information, check out their website: <https://cyclingtoserve.org/>



# International Fellowship of Fishing Rotarians

The **Fellowship of Fishing Rotarians** promotes friendship between Rotarians who enjoy recreational fishing and encourages social activities among its membership and supports interaction between Rotarians and the youth of their respective communities so that young men and women may learn more about Rotary, sport fishing, and the value of protecting and conserving the fisheries of the world.

The International Fellowship of Fishing Rotarians is open to any of the 1.2 million Rotarians residing in over 161 different countries where Rotary International has a presence. Our membership includes Rotarians who fish inshore, offshore, fresh water, saltwater, fly fishing, bass fishing and, in some cases, simply armchair fishing.

Individual clubs throughout the world sponsor fishing events. Here are just a few:

Rotary Club of San Jose (California): The Fish Committee conducts a day of fishing for inner city third graders plus social events for Rotarians involving the sport of fishing. Meredith Rotary Club (New Hampshire) sponsors an ice fishing contest each winter.



Arlington Heights Rotary Club and Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills (Illinois): Rotarians traveled to a school in Uganda. Their goal? To provide a sustainable source of protein for its students. They built a series of aquaponics tanks, which are closed system created to harvest fish, in this case, tilapia, to eat and sell.



a



Point Loma Rotary Club (California) sponsors a fishing day for Veterans



# D-5470 Assistance to Ukraine via Slovakia (D-2240) Via Kristi Redlinger, Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise RC

Kristi Redlinger, Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise Rotary club and our district's Youth Exchange chair has been in touch with our Youth Exchange partner country Slovakia (D-2240). Stefania Duricova of the Rotary Club Košice in Slovakia is a member of the international aid team, which coordinates the help from different clubs and districts across the globe to support our initiatives. On recognizing the need for action, Kristi set up an account for donations to D-2240 (a direct neighbor of Ukraine)

The Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise club immediately committed \$5000 to D2240.

As of March 7, an additional \$4170 was raised through the above link, and Kristi has been sending periodic wire transfers as funds came in.

As of early May nearly 11,000 Euros, which is over \$12,000 have been sent. The club in charge is Rotary Club Kosice Classic in Slovakia. They have a Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryklubkosiceclassic/>

The GJ Horizon Sunrise club still collecting money for Ukraine at this link: <https://www.givsum.com/opportunities/ukrainian-refugee-relief-c601edd67>.



# The Easter Egg Project, Dukem, Ethiopia

## By Becky Kiser, East Colo. Springs RC

With participation from the Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs and the Rampart Range Rotary Club, Colorado Springs, we distributed over 25,000 eggs to almost 1,350 of the neediest families in Dukem, Ethiopia. The egg distribution took place on a Thursday in the early morning, so not all members of the Special Task Force were able to participate.

Rotarian (East Club) Tesfaye Legesse worked with his Rotary Elf helper, Oli Marga, for one month prior to the distribution. Oli was also key to the smooth distribution last year. Tesfaye raised the eggs and provided them to Rotary at a wholesale price. Oli and Tesfaye, with the farm workers, bagged all the eggs to make them ready for distribution to each family. Tesfaye then spot checked the names on the pre-submitted distribution lists to make sure they were truly the poorest. Finally, Tesfaye and Oli delivered the eggs to five kebele (an urban dweller's association, governed officially, similar to our neighborhoods) offices ready for the distribution.

This year there is a new mayor in the town of Dukem. He was wonderfully helpful in assisting the supervision over the fairness of the families chosen based upon kebele food scarcity information. The mayor was especially touched that our egg distribution was not based on religious discrimination but only upon need. Many of the families in Dukem are Muslims and their holiday of Eid is the week after Easter, making the eggs a valued gift for all.



*East Club Rotarians Tesfaye, Ambi, and Yeshi*



*East Club Rotarian Tesfaye, with Oli*



*East Club Rotarian, Rebekah*

Our morning started off early leaving by car from Addis Ababa at 6:00 am. As this is usually the rainy season, we were grateful to have a sunny and warm day. Our trip only took a little more than one hour, and we enjoyed the tea and bread provided by Ambi and Yeshi.

Our first stop was in the best run kebele. The head of this kebele is an amazing woman that has proved to be organized and kind all three years of our egg distribution.

Especially touching was how many people remembered us from the past years and ran to greet us. One elderly man, neatly dressed in a very old suit, was so grateful. Yeshi and I had doubts last year if we would see him on earth again this year. There were many children who were so happy to get their eggs and were eager to play. Easter is the biggest holiday in Ethiopia and the eggs are important for a special soup that is made as the expected holiday meal. Hyper-inflation has made it difficult for everyone, but especially for the poor.



*Kebele Head, Fatima*

There are two main reasons why we distribute eggs instead of chickens. First, chickens are very expensive, and with our greatly appreciated funds raised by those who care in Colorado Springs, we would only be able to help between 400 and 450 families. Next, at this level of poverty many don't have the required equipment and space to cook chickens. They would sell them early, and cheaply, and only affect the price mark of the supply and demand curve for other farmers.



# The Easter Egg Project, Dukem, Ethiopia (cont.)

## By Becky Kiser, East Colo. Springs RC



*Some of the faces of the precious ones we were honored to serve.*

Next we traveled to the second kebele. This kebele is in Dukem but consists of Somali Oromo refugees. Many have been in the refugee camp for five years or more. As Rotarians we were careful to respect their religious and cultural traditions. These particular Somalis speak Afan Oromo and were so happy when we spoke their language with them. (To be clear, my Afan Oromo only consists of a few words, but those made them happy.) Our time together ended with kisses and love and promises to see each other again. We took only a few photos to ensure we didn't cause offense. They have been through enough.



*A discrete photo of the women's line*



*My favorite photo of the day*

Our day for visitors from Addis finished after lunch. Tesfaye and Oli met with the people in the final two kebeles in the late afternoon after the full heat of the sun subsided.

Can you imagine this? Just a quick idea from a small group at a Rotary Special Task Force has resulted in over 75,000 eggs being delivered to help almost 4,000 families in only three years! Isn't it amazing what only a little LOVE can do?

**Note:** A special shout out to Penny Kelly of the Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs and Robby Dale Nelson from the Rampart Range Rotary Club for being our key contacts. With gratitude to all the donors, club treasurers, and friends, especially David Fein, who started the Christmas Tree Project and gave us this idea. You made Easter extra happy in 2022 and we appreciate YOU!



# Improving the Lives & Education of Women in N. Uganda Via Telluride Rotary Club

The Telluride RC recently made donations to two nonprofits working to support maternal and child health, literacy, and economic development in Uganda. They donated \$2500 to [African Women Rising](https://www.africanwomenrising.org) and \$2500 to [International Midwife Assistance](#). They invited the executive director of each organization to speak at the April 6 meeting, and members unanimously approve supporting the critically important and sustainable work their organizations do to improve the lives and education of women in Northern Uganda.

**Africa Women Rising-** Linda Eckerbom Cole (<https://www.africanwomenrising.org>)

Linda founded this organization in 2006 to support social and economic equality for women. It began with 150 women, and now supports 20,000. 15 or 16 employees are refugees. The organization supports northern Uganda women affected by war. In her experience most international support programs have been donor driven, short lived, and in the end do not accomplish long lasting success. Africa Women Rising employs 160 women and men, all from Uganda, with the exception of Linda, its director.

The program has several components:

**Agriculture:** Education of women on increasing productivity in both Field Crops and Permaculture

**Adult Literacy:** Most young women tend to drop out of school by grades 4-5. The program attempts to help keep women engaged through at least primary school by providing mentors and also female sanitary materials. Uganda had one of the longest COVID related school closures with approximately 30% failing to return after re-opening of schools. For those who have worked with Africa Women Rising less than 1% have failed to return.

**Refugees:** Over the last 5 years the program has lent support to the nearly 1 million refugees from southern Sudan, primarily through providing food security.

**Access to Capital:** the program has set up Community microfinance to provide women access to capital. This allows farming villages to set up their Savings and Loans with their own banking conditions for loans and repayment. Women are trained in record keeping and savings.

Linda states that if they were to receive a \$2500 grant this would support approximately 150 women in the program.





# Improving Lives & Education of Women in N. Uganda (cont.) Via Telluride Rotary Club

## International Midwife Assistance- Jennifer Braun (<https://www.midwifeassist.org>)

Nancy Kerr introduced Jennifer Braun, whom she first met in Telluride. Jennifer is trained as a midwife. Her work began in Afghanistan in 2004, first in Kabul, then in more remote areas including Paghman and then Bamiyan known for the three Buddhist statues destroyed by the Taliban, and as the town celebrated in the movie “Kite Runner”.

Afghanistan: International Midwife Assistance established the first accredited school for midwives in the country. Afghanistan has had one of the highest maternal and neonatal fatality rates in the world. The schools have since been shut down by the Taliban, but due to the prior work Afghanistan no longer ranks within the top ten with respect to mortality rates.

“The Teso Safe Motherhood Project (TSMP) was established in Soroti, Uganda. In 2019, a staff of 44 Ugandans performed over 60,000 patient visits, provided family planning services to over 6,000 women and vaccinated 8,241 children”. All these services are provided to the destitute population free of charge. It supports important laboratory services, as the region carries a high prevalence of HIV and falciparum malaria. It provides vaccinations for polio. Its program support treatment of neonatal HIV which can be eradicated when provided for two years after birth. The neonatal mortality rate in Uganda of approximately 27/1000 births in the Teso program has been lowered now down to 6/1000 births. The maternal mortality rate in the Teso project has been cut to zero.

The emphasis of the program is to partner and empower local management and emphasize kindness and dignity to women.



## Global Grants Projects Involving Our clubs

Many of our clubs are the International Partners of Global Grants (GG) Projects around the world.

Our clubs also contribute to projects conducted by other districts.

Whether your club is the international partner in a project or is simply contributing to a project, remember that D-5470 is usually prepared to match your club's contributions from District Designated Funds (DDF).

To request D-5470 DDF, you need to complete a simple request form and send it to the D-5470 Global Grants Chair, David Smith < dsmith7@unl.edu >

## Contact Us

Do you want to have your International Service project displayed in a future newsletter? Send the story and a few photos to [pjeschofnig@gmail.com](mailto:pjeschofnig@gmail.com)



Water & Sanitation Projects Around the World

### Global Grants Basics:

- Large, long-term projects
- Sustainable, measurable outcomes
- Alignment with Areas of Focus
- Real community needs (via needs assessment)
- International partnerships (frequent communication)
- Implementation plan
- Proper Stewardship of funds
- Involve Rotary clubs in two districts
- Minimum budget of US\$30,000

For detailed instructions on Global Grants applications, check out David Smith's **GUIDE TO GLOBAL GRANTS:**  
<http://www.rotary5470.org/SitePage/global-grants>

If you would like to be the international partner of a Global Grant or simply contribute to an existing D-5470 Global Grant, contact the Global Grants Committee chair, David Smith, [dsmith7@unl.edu](mailto:dsmith7@unl.edu) or Peter Jeschofnig, [pjeschofnig@gmail.com](mailto:pjeschofnig@gmail.com)