

ROTARY DISTRICT 5470

International Service News

D-5470 International Service Newsletter #27

March 2021



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.



“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.” – Oscar Wilde

It also inspires Rotarians like you who chose to visit international projects and see first-hand how *Rotary Opens Opportunities*.

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.

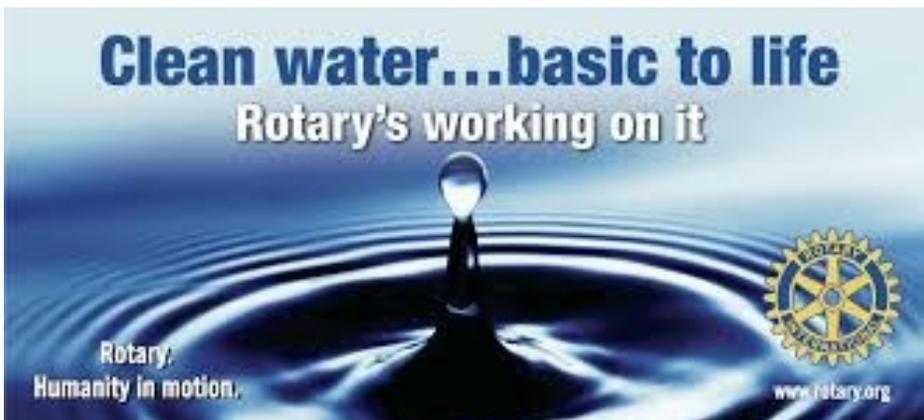
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The First Term at Trinity College Update from Sarah Harper- Johnston D-5470's Global Grant Scholar

My first semester at Trinity College Dublin as district 5470's Global Grant Scholar was, as all things 2020, ambiguously challenging but full of immense personal growth. I am pursuing a Master of Philosophy in Race, Ethnicity, and Conflict thanks to Rotary's support. Upon graduation in August 2021, I hope to work in genocide and mass atrocity research and prevention. I arrived in Dublin in mid-September. After two weeks of quarantine, I attended my classes in person.



Moving to a new country in the middle of a pandemic presents many challenges, both logistical and social. Fortunately, I arrived in Dublin with a support system. Trinity College and my postgraduate student accommodation did their best to facilitate a safe way for students to meet and feel a part of the community. I spent my first few weeks in Dublin exploring the city on foot and getting to know my classmates and roommates from all over the world. After a month of classes in person, Covid cases became too high and Ireland went into a nation-wide lockdown.



The lockdown announcement, although expected, was a disappointment, but 2020 taught me resilience. I developed a routine, stayed active, and remained connected as best and as safely as I could. My program has only thirteen other students so, although classes were online, we became close and relied on each other. Fortunately, Trinity kept the library open at lower capacity and with a booking system so I was still able to appreciate the 500-year-old beautiful campus. I attended weekly zoom meetings with my host club, Rotary Club of Fingal, and was warmly welcomed as they included me and the other

Global Grant Scholar in weekly Thoughts for Today and asked us to share our perspectives on the election and American holidays. Additionally, myself and the other Global Grant Scholars in the UK and Ireland created a virtual Rotaract Club where we hope to host virtual Ted Talks, networking events, and ways for scholars to connect when we may feel disconnected due to lockdowns and zoom school. Although isolating at times, lockdown was the perfect distraction free environment to focus on my studies.



The first term of my M. Phil in Race, Ethnicity and Conflict was heavily focused on theory, while our assignments and discussion were about application of the theory to current events. Additionally, the course prepared us for the dissertation each student will be writing over the summer as we discussed research methods, reflexivity, and how our position as researchers and cultural baggage can influence sociological research. I will be writing my dissertation about Myanmar and the current genocide of the Rohingya, a Muslim minority group. I will focus on how international non-governmental organizations are working with the stateless Rohingya people and examine the underlying hierarchical western imperialist structures rooted in postcolonialism.

The First Term at Trinity College (cont.)

Update from Sarah Harper-Johnston

D-5470's Global Grant Scholar

I am especially interested in this area having worked with Peace Corps, an apolitical governmental organization in Myanmar where I lived for two years. Although I was far from the conflict, I witnessed its quotidian effects towards the Muslims in the community I lived in. Through exploring this topic, I hope to springboard into a career working with statelessness, genocide research and prevention in Myanmar.

As I prepare to begin my second term in Dublin, I am looking forward to taking more courses focused on application of theory and learning more about statelessness, forced migration, and the intersection of gender and conflict. I will have about a month of classes online and then hopefully finish the term attending classes in person.

On February 19th, I will be the keynote speaker at the North American Youth Exchange Network Conference. The theme this year is 'Rotary Exchange Opens Opportunities' and I will speak about how my youth exchange propelled me to pursue my undergraduate degree at The American University of Paris, my experience in the Peace Corps in Myanmar, to where I am now, as a Global Grant Scholar. I am honored to have been chosen to represent Rotary Exchange and district 5470 at the conference.

Despite the limitations and challenges presented by Covid, I am so thankful for the opportunity and continuous support from Rotary International. The program at Trinity fits perfectly with my areas of interest and is providing the academic base necessary for work in conflict resolution. Being refreshed from the holidays, I am motivated for this second term and elated to start the research for my dissertation this summer. As always, I am thankful to every single Rotarian for their support and am proud to represent this organization.



Village Aid Project - Pacli, N. Nicaragua

By Walt Duhaime, Durango Daybreak RC

In late winter of 2020 the Rotary Clubs in Durango were ready and almost packed for Nicaragua. On the agenda was a “Village Aid project” in Pacli, a village in northern Nicaragua. The Rotary Club of Durango Daybreak, the Durango High Noon Rotary, and the Pine River Valley Centennial clubs all had financial and hands-on participation in the works. One little thing got in the way, a Pandemic. Since the project required the engineering knowledge of the Durango participants to get off the ground, it cannot be completed until the pandemic allows unrestricted travel conditions. The clubs have committed to the project and will jump into action when it is safe to travel again



Village Aid Project was started, and still headed by, Don May, Engineering Professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango. Having some experience with NGOs like Engineers Without Borders, Don and his co-faculty participants along with FLC students know how to plan and build water and sanitation projects in developing countries. Past and current project countries include Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Ecuador and Nicaragua. The Pacli project is designed to create a sustainable pipeline from a clean water source to the village of Pacli. Another complication was the 2018 political unrest in Nicaragua. Because of State department warnings for travel to Nicaragua and the possible legal problems with having active students in the midst of a political crisis, Fort Lewis College was no longer willing to sanction current student participation.

With the ban for current students to travel to Nicaragua, ten Rotarians from the aforementioned Durango area Rotary clubs were willing to go into planning/training with the Former FLC students during the middle and late winter of 2020. During these training sessions, the scope and particulars of the project would be modeled and tested for implementation in the wilds of Nicaragua. These were the same sessions that the students, now banned from traveling, were going through. Some sessions were simply on how to manage the travel needs for a jungle environment with topics like vaccinations against mosquito-borne tropical diseases as well as cultural and linguistic relations with the locals. Mechanically, the Rotarians were learning how this particular system was designed and how to be construction managers without formal training in water systems or hydro-engineering. In these trainings the students and Rotarians build actual replicas of the components of the water system to be built on site in Nicaragua. Some participants have knowledge in these areas but most come from career fields unrelated directly to water engineering.

With the recent new hope of vaccine distribution for COVID-19 the Rotarians are hopeful they can finally fulfill their commitment to this project and the people of Pacli, Nicaragua.

Community Mental Health Services & Economic Development in Uganda - GG2120182

Durango Daybreak RC & Colorado Springs RC

Community Mental Health Services & Economic Development in Uganda is a project that will be supported by the Global Grant in partnership with Rotary Club of Kampala Munyonyo (Uganda) and Rotary Club of Denver Mile High. This project will take place in Agago District, Northern Uganda from January 1 – December 31, 2021. It will focus on Disease Prevention & Treatment and Community Economic Development. A cooperating organization called Finemind will be the key implementing partner. Finemind supports community mental health through a peer to peer support system. They are active in Agago District and have the support of the District Health Office, local chairpersons, and Uganda's Ministry of Health. Moreover, they've successfully completed a District Grant with the Rotary Club of Denver Mile High.



The 12-month project consists of two primary activities: 1) mental health counseling and 2) empowerment skills training that offers saving, banking, and business tools.

With regards to the mental health counseling, additional lead trainers and community mental health workers will be upskilled to provide supervision and peer counseling support. This will result in 13,000 counseling sessions. Additionally, 50,000 community members will be educated about mental health via an ongoing radio talk show. Rotary Club of Kitgum (Uganda) will offer monitoring and evaluation support. Abovementioned activities will cost around \$70,000.

For the empowerment skills training, 60 women who have successfully recovered from depressions will participate in a business training intensive. This will focus on equipping the cohort with relevant skills that encourages the community to dream bigger and to move beyond a mindset of 'need.' Abovementioned activities will cost around \$20,000.

The decades-long conflict in Northern Uganda caused by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency resulted in untold suffering and thousands being displaced. The LRA is estimated to be responsible for the abduction of anywhere from 60,000 to 100,000 children and the displacement of over 2.5 million people across Uganda, South Sudan, Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Estimates put the number of deaths to over 100,000 people. The group utilizes visible and extreme violence, torture, mutilation and massacres.

Most of the 1.7 million people who lived in camps have since returned; however, recovery and development efforts have been insufficient. A former study looking at the factors associated with the health status of internally displaced persons in northern Uganda shows that over two-thirds meet symptom criteria for depression.

The Durango Daybreak RC and the Colorado Springs RC have decided to participate in this global grant and are contributing \$ 2,000 and \$ 1,000 respectively. Our district will match these contributions with \$ 3,000 in DDF (District Designated Funds)

Durango Daybreak Internat. Committee: Covid 19 Activities

By Alicia O'Brien, Durango Daybreak RC

It has been an unusual year for us all, but our Durango Daybreak Rotary International Committee has continued to strive to serve the global community during this time. Over the past couple of years, we have worked on the Compestre Christmas Project (an annual project for our club), the Peace Environments Global Grant, the Rebuilding Lives Global Grant, Zimbabwe School Fencing Project, Guatemala Dictionary Project, and the Let's Leave No Girl Behind Project.

The Compestre Christmas Project has brought gifts to 4th and 5th graders in Juarez, Mexico. The Peace Environments Global Grant develops a youth education program for peace and peaceful dialogue within community, school, and family spaces to reduce and prevent violence. The Rebuilding Lives Global Grant helps to provide peace and conflict resolution training and other alternative courses to prevent youth from joining gangs in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. The Zimbabwe School Fencing Project provided funding to enclose a garden area at a school in Zimbabwe. The Guatemala Dictionary Project provided dictionaries and other books to school-aged children as part of the Rotary Literacy Project. Finally, the Let's Leave no Girl Behind Project is a literacy project for girls from 13 to 18 years old in a remote Mayan village.



Currently, the Rotary International Committee for Durango Daybreak is working on Compestre School Garden Project Global Grant, Pacli, Nicaragua Water System Project, and Biochar Project in El Salvador. The Biochar Project is in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Dolores. The Santa Ana Rotary Club in El Salvador will have Dr. Odette Varela Milla instruct, coach, and create biochar kilns for farmers. These biochar kilns can help improve soil fertility. This can help with the world fertilizer issue in which large quantities of commercial fertilizers are used to sustain soil fertility. Biochar will, potentially, lead to autonomy from these large companies for the farmers of El Salvador. The Compestre School Garden Project is one of many we work on with our Sister Club in Juarez, Mexico. This project provides funding for a school in Juarez, Mexico that is educating students on cultivating a vegetable garden. Finally, the Pacli, Nicaragua Water System Project will provide water and sanitation to the residents of the village of Pacli.



The Durango Daybreak International Committee is proud of our continued efforts to the global community despite the challenges Covid-19 restrictions have placed on our committees and clubs. As Rotarians and citizens, we encourage each Rotary Club to find ways to impact the people of the world and we look forward to working with your club one day.

Rice Project, Gueoul, Senegal

North Fork Valley RC & Judy Beggs

By Niki Richardson

Judy Beggs retired from the directorship of “Friends of Gueoul” early in 2020, but she did not like to be idle and so it was only a matter of time before starting on a new project. After moving to Hotchkiss, Judy joined the Rotary club of North Fork Valley. This group embraced her over ZOOM and helped her with a new idea - a way for her to stay connected with the community she loved and the activity of bringing her American friends together to make a difference.

While we were facing hardship with COVID here at home, the pandemic was building more barriers for students in Gueoul. As schools shut down and roads were closed, students were forced to stay home, many families lost their income, and meeting their basic needs became difficult.

Hearing this, the North Fork Valley Rotary club offered to apply for a district grant match of \$1,000, and that’s when Judy began to do what she does best: fundraising. This included rustling up many personal donations from her new colleagues as well as promoting a Lasagne take-out-dinner provided by the North Fork’s Kids Pasta Project. All activities Judy loved to do!

Two weeks ago, the Rotary’s \$1,000 check was received, bringing the grand total to \$4,300 - that is enough to purchase one 33 lb bag of rice for every scholarship student at “Friends of Gueoul”. That is 150 bags of rice for students and their families.

During the past week, a Senegalese staff member purchased and distributed the rice to each family. Although Judy passed in November, her good deeds remain in perpetuity. Stay tuned - surely we will hear more.



Friendship Exchange with Botswana

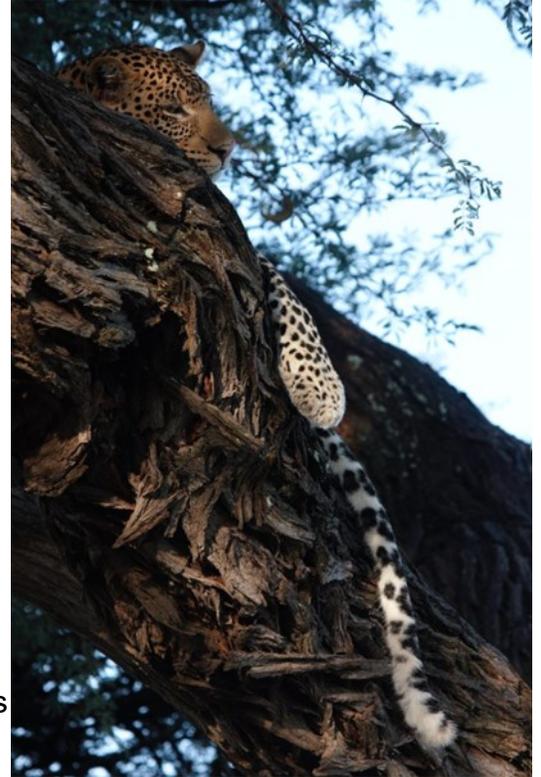
Delayed from May 2021 to May 2022

The Rotary Club of Gaborone invites you to Botswana as part of a Friendship Exchange originally planned for 2021, but due to Covid travel uncertainties moved to 2022. The Club proposes May as the month for Coloradans to visit Botswana, since the weather is neither too hot nor too cold, wildlife viewing is at its best, and Victoria Falls is at its peak. You'll need two weeks (four days of travel and ten days in Botswana) for the trip.

The Club proposes August 2021 to come to District 5470, since they want to partake in hiking, jeeping, camping, flyfishing, mushroom foraging, and all the other great things to do in Colorado in August (and people from Botswana aren't keen on cold temperatures). However, it may be necessary to move the visiting team to 2022 as well.

Here are ten reasons why you should visit Botswana:

- It has the world's largest population of elephants.
- *Over 500 species of birds have been recorded in Botswana.*
- *You can easily see the "Big Five"—Cape buffalo, lions, leopards, rhinos, and elephants.*
- It's the newly-declared "evolutionary birthplace of humankind."
- Animals roam freely in the nearly half of Botswana that is protected through national parks, reserves, and management areas.
- Victoria Falls, the world's largest waterfall (by surface area) is next door!
- *The climate is mild...with highs in the 70s and lows around 50 in May.*
- There are no vaccination requirements, and Botswana is one of the safest countries for travel in Africa. [Do note that malaria prophylaxis is recommended.]
- The people! Extremely friendly! And fun!



The proposed itinerary has you flying to Gaborone (the capital city) and recovering for a day (with dinner, drinks, and a bird's eye view of the city atop Botswana's tallest building). Then it's off to Khama Rhino Sanctuary where you'll sleep under a baobab tree and go on a game drive to see wildebeest, zebras, kudu, and rhinos (of course).

Then you'll head to the Makgadikgadi Pans, one of the world's largest salt flats, to enjoy its incredible tranquility and flamingoes. You'll have two nights in Kasane, on the edge of Chobe National Park which is home to the highest concentration of elephants in Botswana. You will enjoy a morning game drive and hopefully see leopards and lions and amazing birds, like the Kori bustard (Botswana's national bird and Africa's largest flying bird). In the afternoon, you'll cruise down the Chobe River and see bathing hippos and elephants, crocodiles and Cape buffalo.

Friendship Exchange with Botswana Delayed from May 2021 to May 2022

Victoria Falls is next. You'll take a ferry across the Zambezi River and then stay in Livingstone, Zambia (named for the famed explorer and there's an excellent museum about him). You'll spend a day at the Mosi-o-a-Tunya National Parks (there's one in Zimbabwe and one in Zambia), taking in the glory of the Falls. If you'd like, you can bungee jump off the Victoria Falls Bridge, take a helicopter flight, or raft the Zambezi.



Then it's back to Gaborone, with a stop in Francistown, Botswana's second largest city and a 19th-century gold rush town. From Gaborone, you can either fly home, or book a side trip to Cape Town, South Africa to partake in its amazing beauty, wine, food, and penguins!

A number of D-5470 Rotarians have committed to participate in this unique friendship exchange opportunity. The group decided to move the trip from 2021 to 2022 to allow for potential covid-related travel issues. There are a few more slots available. If you are interested, please let me know by sending an email to amylopermcbride@gmail.com or a WhatsApp message to 970-433-8779 (phone calls, SMS, or WhatsApp)

GG 2122587: Perinatal Training Center Rotary Club of Carapachay, D-4895 Argentina Project Assistance Needed

The project aims at collaborating in the enhancement of the training room at the Hospital y Maternidad Santa Rosa (Santa Rosa Maternity Hospital) through the acquisition of clinical simulators hardware and software. Although the incorporation of these technologies offers new training tools, it is necessary to review the theoretical foundations which support the pedagogical models, and to define the new roles both lecturers and students will adopt for these new teaching-learning scenarios. The project's greatest impact will be reflected in the decrease of maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.



Goals:

Incorporate high fidelity simulators as a tool to acquire, strengthen, update, and integrate the knowledge of the biomedical field with clinical practices

Apply the principles and general rules to achieve a comprehensive management of the patient by using simulators

Actions:

Apply existing standardized protocols in emergencies

Develop/Master —through Real Environment Simulators— the technical and non-technical skills required to assist at-risk patients

Adopt a multidisciplinary approach to handle critical situations

Optimize patient care and clinical safety by minimizing errors

Set guidelines to improve communication among team members

Advantages of Using Simulation:

Increased patient safety and well-being

Broadened student expertise through repetition

Reinforcement and review of algorithms, protocols, etc.

Promotion of an experience-based learning approach, with the focus on the student rather than on the teacher.

Acquisition of skills in real environments

Use of errors/mistakes as a learning method

Objective evaluation

Acquisition of technical and non-technical skills, i.e., leadership, organizational abilities, task management, teamwork, coordination, communication, management of human and material resources, decision-making, self-control, and serenity

Impact Per Year: Municipal Nursing School: 90; Region V Nurses: 500; Residents: 100; Region V Staff Physicians: 150; Hospital Austral Nursing School: 30; Community: 1000

TOTAL DIRECT BENEFICIARIES: ~2000

Estimated budget: U\$ 46,500.

The links to see informative videos:

Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvB_JUkDVNE

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMzjgF2sQoc>

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Community Center for families living at the dump in Guatemala City

Madison South Rotary WI, Needs Project Partners

By Lyn Kenney, Madison South Rotary

Lyn Kenney of the Madison South Rotary has been working on various district and global grant projects in Guatemala for 10 years and has established many relationships with Rotarians and Rotary clubs there. Two years ago, she was approached by a coalition of organizations working with families at the dump under the leadership of Planting Seeds, a Canadian /US nonprofit organization that does primary schools throughout Guatemala. After Planting Seeds (PS) completed a detailed needs assessment, families living at the dump expressed a primary need (beyond schools for their children) for some central place to meet like a community center, so they themselves could teach some of the classes like art, music and dance and feel more empowered to help their own. While there are a number of schools run by organizations at the dump, it doesn't begin to help the large number of children living there. Less fortunate children (if not put to work) attend government schools that run 4 hours per day, are poorly run and end at grade 5 or 6. After 5pm, there is no place for anyone to go and children play in the alleyways (*see pictures below).



NEED: Guatemala is the most populated country in Central America with 13 million inhabitants and with 60% of Mayan descent. Only 69% of the population is literate. Half of the children under 5 are chronically malnourished, one of the highest rates in the world.

The Guatemala landfill is one of the largest and most toxic in Central America. Over a third of the country's waste including medical supplies, toxins and biohazardous materials is dumped there. Most people living next to the dump, estimated to be between 40,000 and 72,000, make their living by scavenging for recyclables inside the dump. Community members in this area of Zone 3 face a number of challenges and dangers in their community, including gang violence, teenage pregnancy (including rape), childhood glue addiction and domestic violence. Up until 2005, most were living at the dump itself, but due to a number of deaths from chemicals, fires, and landslides, the government built a wall around it and charged \$12. per year for a card to go in and scavenge.

CORE ISSUES ORGANIZATIONS AT THE DUMP DO NOT ADDRESS: The majority of these organizations close at 5 pm. The exception is churches. Most community and domestic violence along with teenage pregnancy occurs after 5 pm. With no open spaces available to kids and families after 5 pm, kids resort to spending their time in alleyways which can be very dangerous.

Most organizations do not have relationships or strong visible collaborations with other services in the area. Organizations and local services work hard on advancing their mission but do not have a collective mission on how to work together to improve the community. Rotarians along with Planting Seeds addressed this issue by forming a coalition that meets monthly, shares resources, and has been involved in the community center

Organizations are only accessible to their program affiliates. On average, each organization works with 150 students. Only those children have access to the amazing resources the organization offers. They serve a very select number of the children and families.

THE SOLUTION: Planting Seeds is working to create a community center with the central purpose of providing community members with a safe space that they can call their own and that will remain open for extended hours 7 days per week. They have incorporated members of the community as well as local government and other organizations in the design and construction of the center, as well as in the managing and implementation of the programs.

Community Center for families living at the dump in Guatemala City

Madison South Rotary, WI Needs Project Partners

By Lyn Kenney, Madison South Rotary

The Community Center will have structured and unstructured programming with multi-use, multi-purpose spaces. They can offer exercise classes and an open-gym soccer program, while simultaneously offering parent education programs and a community library where students can study and read at their leisure. There will be men's domestic abuse classes, English classes and business workshop classes.



Planting Seeds worked with families to find a piece of land close to the dump where a community center could be built. After viewing 10 properties with dilapidated buildings, a selection was made next to a municipal park that had not been maintained. Planting Seeds is working with the municipality to obtain permission to renovate the existing park.



The land was purchased. Planting Seeds, which has an International board as well as a board in Guatemala of all Guatemalans, did fund raising and is now ready to break ground March of 2021. There was a volunteer Civil Engineer, architect, Architectural Firm (Taller ACA) and International Architectural Consulting firm (SNC Lavalin) involved in the studies of the land and design of the center. Families living at the dump were fully involved in the design of the center and programming for the center.

APPROACH: At Planting Seeds, they believe that their approach is the most important element of their work. Rotarians involved agree with this assessment. The co-directors Mac Philips and Shannon Moyle have 18 combined years of experience living in Guatemala and working in Zone 3 and have witnessed how community members have been excluded from decisions and programming in their own communities. That is why the Planting Seeds Organization expanded their mission beyond education in 2016 to strengthen the community by listening to community members, involving them in every element of the process and providing them the opportunity to lead, the only way to create real change within the community.

OUR ASK: We need the support of multiple Rotary Clubs in a number of districts to either write a district grant to help with the cost of furnishing the various rooms of the community center to be completed in February or March of 2022 or provide any dollar amount toward another club's District Grant. One club has already committed to doing the Family Nurturing room and a donor who is not in Rotary has already agreed to do all of the library. We also have commitments from 3 different Rotary Clubs in Florida who will combine to write a district grant (they have put up \$4,500. and possibly another \$2,000 from another Club) and we are waiting to hear from the Milwaukee downtown club about some support for us as well as districts in California, Maine and South Carolina. We are looking for any amount you could provide. We are hoping you would be willing to write a district grant for \$14,950. to be matched by the district and sponsor a couple of rooms, but we realize that may be beyond your reach since you are primarily seeking Global Grant involvement. The Madison Downtown Club could also consider joining with the grant from the Madison South Club. At present, we have only \$2500. in the budget (includes money I personally put in) as we usually have a budget of \$5,000. Since we could not do the brat stand this year, we may not reach our usual amount we wanted to put into this project. Any amount you could help with to be matched by the district would be a great help.

For additional information, please contact Lyn Kenney, Madison South Rotary, lynkenney4@gmail.com
cell phone: 925 518-4444

Community Center for families living at the dump in Guatemala City

Travel Opportunities to Project Area

By Lyn Kenney, Madison South Rotary

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS TO TRAVEL TO THE PROJECT: Lyn Kenney is actively involved in organizing teams to both visit and do hands on work at this and other projects. The last trip this past January, Deb Walters from Maine set up a lot of the logistics that Lyn usually has to do (transportation, reasonable hotels etc.). The entire trip cost about \$1200. for one week depending on what someone had to pay for airfare. There were 8 team members from 4 districts and part of us went early and attended the Central American Rotary Project Fair in Antigua. During the week we did the following:

First day was orientation in Antigua and some history of the country for those that had not been there.

Second day we went up to the Global Grant Projects (I had one for Water and Sanitation and Deb Walters had one for Maternal and child Health in the same two villages) in the highlands of Tecpan. We traveled by a van for 2 hours outside Antigua, met the Mayan families there, divided up and spent 5 hours helping 3 families along with their children and one mason each to build a stove that vented to the outside. This was part of Deb's GG. They spoke only Kaqchikel but we used lots of body language. We held a ceremony to bless each stove, and we left with many hugs and them feeling more like we were equals.

Day two we visited a school project (Loving Arms) that was just completed with a district grant from my club and taught English for 2 hours to young children. One of the members on our trip selected two children to sponsor for their education going forward (\$40/month per child). That night we went to the Antigua Rotary Club meeting and I presented a PH Fellow to the Guatemalan project manager overseeing projects in the highlands of Tecpan.

Days three and four we went to Lake Atitlan and had to travel by boat or Tuk Tuk to get to our hotel or other destinations. Several of us visited a GG project from 5 years ago, the team met with a Mayan healer, and we learned about making and dyeing the wool that is used to make their native dress.

Day five Deb and I met with Rotarians to tour the hospital there in Antigua that was established for the Mayans and those with few resources. They need some medical equipment and they plan to write a GG in the future and need our help.

Day six the team went to the school for disabled children to see how they were doing as a number of us from different districts have helped them out with district grants and have put two businesses in place to help them be more self-sufficient. They had been moved back to a different space by the government and had a need for more desks; paint supplies etc. I wrote a district grant to cover this. Because SC did fund raising for a physical therapist for 3 years several years ago, 14 out of 25 children that could not walk are now walking.

Day six we were free to explore Antigua.

Day seven we went back to Guatemala City and met with Max from Planting Seeds and viewed the site of the Community center. We also went to a class for Breakdancing in a rented space run by community members and some of us joined in! That night, we stayed in a mansion converted to a hotel. Several flew out the next day. I remained for several days and held meetings with additional Rotarians.

This just gives you an idea of one team trip. We can accommodate whoever wants to go (within reason) as it is always nice for team members to meet Rotarians from other districts. We have excellent resources in Guatemala for dependent driving companies and clean, safe hotels and food.



For additional information, please contact Lyn Kenney,
lynkenney4@gmail.com
cell phone: 925 518-4444

Global Grant for El Salvador Biochar Kilns - Update

By David Nuttle, Dolores RC

Project Partners NEEDED

For those of you supporting or interested in the Dolores Rotary global grant biochar project for El Salvador, the following update is provided:

To meet project sustainability requirements by Rotary Foundation, a series of actions were undertaken. An agreement was made w/ Cuzcachapa Coffee Coop & Mill in El Salvador to manufacture our unique mobile biochar kiln and rent these to local farmers. These farmers need a good means to make bio-activated biochar as a soil additive to improve their soil fertility long-term. We work with local NGO FUSADES in creating barter trade operations, worldwide, to provide all smallholder farmers w/ biochar kilns using barter purchases. We are working to obtain grant funding for the above from the Inter-American Foundation (our global grant will not cover costs for the sustainability efforts). N.B. U.N. Food & Ag Organization (FAO) has reported that not less than 440,000 smallholder farmers are in need of our biochar kilns to improve soil fertility on their farm fields;



Our biochar project is technical, complex, and requires training and support for 30 poor smallholder farmers assisted, in El Salvador, for a 12 month period. The original host Rotary Club could not effectively support our effort and elected to cancel their offer of support. A lengthy search for a new host Rotary club with needed capabilities took some time. We found an El Salvadoran host club and are now completing an MOU with. Details will soon be provided in our completed global grant application. We have made a number of local friends in our search for the new host club - a positive from our project delay.

Club donations for our global grant were slowed by the fact that most Rotary Clubs in our District were prevented from engaging in usual types of fund raising by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds promised are \$1,000 from Dolores Rotary, \$500 from Durango Daybreak Rotary, and \$4,000 from the Aspen Rotary Club. The balance of \$4,500 is anticipated from a grant to our Dolores Club from the Inter-American Foundation. This grant is not guaranteed, so keep us in mind if your club obtains significant funds in 2021.

As part of our global grant application, we completed a lengthy, fully detailed community assessment, needs assessment with documentation, a project training plan, recruitment of qualified local training staff, evaluation plan, sustainability plan, and added funding to support the sustainability efforts. None of the above could have been accomplished without the hours of dedicated work by local volunteers supporting our project.

My hope is that the above information may be useful to those of you who might want to start your own Rotary Global grant in the future. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we seek to start a difficult but potentially rewarding means to help improve food security for the people of El Salvador and worldwide.

David Nuttle (npiinc2000@aol.com)

Tel. 1-918-868-7090 (cell)

Dolores Rotary Club Member & Technical Advisor

for: David Sanford, Dolores Global Grant Chair & Renee King, Dolores Pres.

N.B. Our biochar project would not be possible without our volunteer local Project Director, Luis Albanes, & our local Ph.D. biochar expert Odette Milla.

Our Rotary Club Can Never Get a District Grant - MYTH!

By Becky Kiser, East Colo. Springs RC

That's what I believed as I rolled my eyes every time a Grant Training was available. My imagination was certain that grants were for the big clubs or clubs who had been able to "break the code."

There were those clubs who could, and ours, who couldn't. In fact, Grant Training time had become a nice break in a training schedule to have a drink with friends or make a phone call. My "grant life" continued in the dark for years.

That is, until our Knight in Shining Armor, Peter Jeschofnig, was on a Zoom call I was facilitating. Now that there seemed to be no escape, it really would be rude not to pay attention, don't you think?

Peter started saying crazy things like all a club needs to do to qualify for a District Grant is have one person from their club attend a quite simple training to be grant certified, make sure their club president has signed an MOU with the district, decide how much money their club can raise on their own or with other clubs, fill out a one-page grant request available on our District 5470 website, submit the form by email to the grant committee for comment or approval, accept the grant and use it for the good of the world, and then just send back the receipts to the committee to show that the club did what they said they would do. Really??? I decided, with my club's blessing, to give it a try.

Well, wishes really do come true and often myths are false. After following this process, the real-life students in Aliyu Amba will have twenty-six computers to prepare them for the modern world. I'm back in Ethiopia now and will soon write chapter two, complete with the photos of happiness and about how Rotary changes the lives of hundreds of students-- all because I listened and was ready to try something new. How about you?

XO Rebekah Kiser
Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs
hello@trampledrose.org



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



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 or Peter Jeschofnig, pjeschofnig@gmail.com