

ROTARY DISTRICT 5470

International Service News

D-5470 International Service Newsletter #29

July 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.

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.

Newsletter Editors:

Helen Richardson, Pagosa Springs RC

Peter Jeschofnig, Glenwood Springs Sunset RC

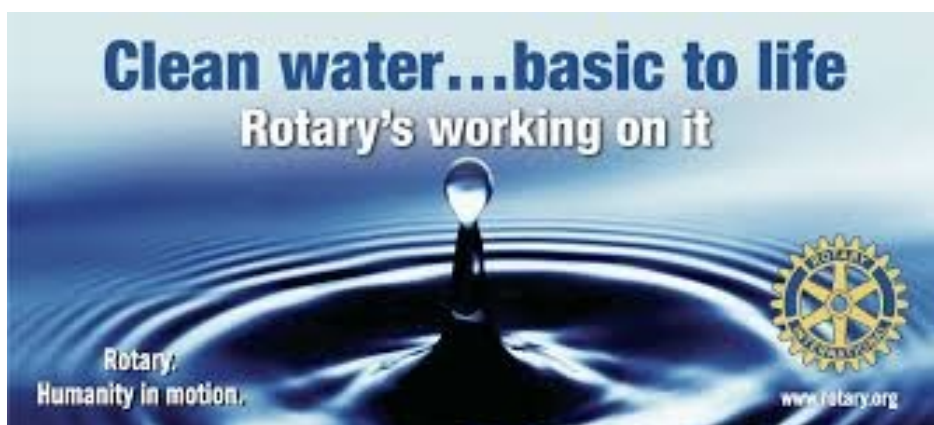


“Whatever Rotary means to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves”

– Paul Harris

In This Issue

- DG Becky Smith Welcome
- Health services - Papua New Guinea
- School Health Program - India
- Training science teachers in Ghana
- Computers, camels & empty schools, Ethiopia
- East Colo. Springs Party Invitation
- Guatemala Literacy Project
- Telluride Rotarians explore Panama
- Sometimes you have to build the tools you need
- Assvoelness School Garden, Namibia
- El Salvador Project
- News from “Crutches4Africa”
- Adopt-a-village International
- D-5470 Foundation Team



Rotary District 5470



Happy July Greetings!

I'm Becky Smith, your new Rotary District 5470 Governor. I'm so eager for our year of service together. It will be a year of personal interactions, re-uniting our clubs and serving those people who absolutely need our support. I'll be driving with my husband, Rick, to visit each one of your clubs....IN PERSON!

The theme for our year of service is "The Power of WE". It builds on PDG Chip Ecks' theme of "The Power of One."

The year ahead will be focused on three main topics. The first is to take the learning opportunities provided by COVID and to put them into action. Yes! COVID provided us with something positive; we learned that we can adapt, adjust and make impactful changes to the way we do things. At the district level, we learned that communications via technology allow us to reach those clubs who are far from our home. We learned that digital training can be available to anyone at any time. We learned that we can bring in dynamic speakers and trainers to expand our horizons. Our team of district leaders is here to work with you to learn, expand and to celebrate all things Rotary!

Our second focus will be to join Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta, in his efforts to empower girls in impoverished countries. We will support girls in Turkana, Kenya through a global grant that allows their local Rotary Club to align efforts with the Global Partnership for Education. You may remember me introducing the initiative to raise \$25,000 by asking each of our 57 clubs to donate \$500 to the districtwide initiative for this purpose.____

The final focus area will be to expand our collaboration and use of the Rotary Brand. By putting the Rotary Brand on all you do, you'll be telling your communities just how impactful Rotary is on the local level. You will build pride among your own members and encourage others to join Rotary. How do we expand the Rotary Brand? There's so much to share with you and too little space in this letter. I can't wait to tell you more when I visit your clubs.

Please! Include me in your club planning for fund raisers, community service projects and socials. I absolutely love spending time with Rotarians. If my calendar allows me to join you, Rick and I will hop in the car to be with you.

Together, let's energize our clubs to serve! Together, let's reach out and support our own club members. Together, let's do the impossible. It may take a bit longer, but we're ROTARY STRONG!

Becky

Improving health services in Papua New Guinea

Dr. Nancy Kerr - Telluride Rotary Club

Telluride Rotary Club's 2019-20 International Project has come to fruition, improving health and services at a medical clinic in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Our club purchased ultrasound equipment, which was delivered recently to a medical center in Kandep in the highlands of PNG. We used club funds, including a special contribution from member Nancy Venne, to purchase a new Butterfly-IQ ultrasound, an iPhone, and Internet connectivity for ultrasound education.

The Kandep Medical Center was just a small outpatient clinic until two years ago. With incredible effort and dedication, public health officials and staff built this clinic into a hospital. Telluride Rotary Club's past presidents, Dr. Nancy L. Kerr and Dr. Mark Hauswald, visited Kandep twice to assess its medical equipment needs. The hospital had very limited X-ray equipment and no ultrasound. Modern ultrasounds are used not only for obstetrics but also to diagnose pneumonia, cancer, gallstones, and other conditions.

Covid-19 delayed delivery of the ultrasound for almost a year. However, this week Gary Bustin, president of the PNG Tribal Foundation, delivered the equipment to Dr. Robert Imambu, the medical director for the Kandep Medical Center. The machine is highly portable as it is cordless and draws little battery power. Yet the quality of images is very good. Nancy and Mark helped Dr. Imambu set the system up over the Internet.

Telluride Rotary is proud of this international team effort and thanks Nancy Kerr and Mark Hauswald for all their work.



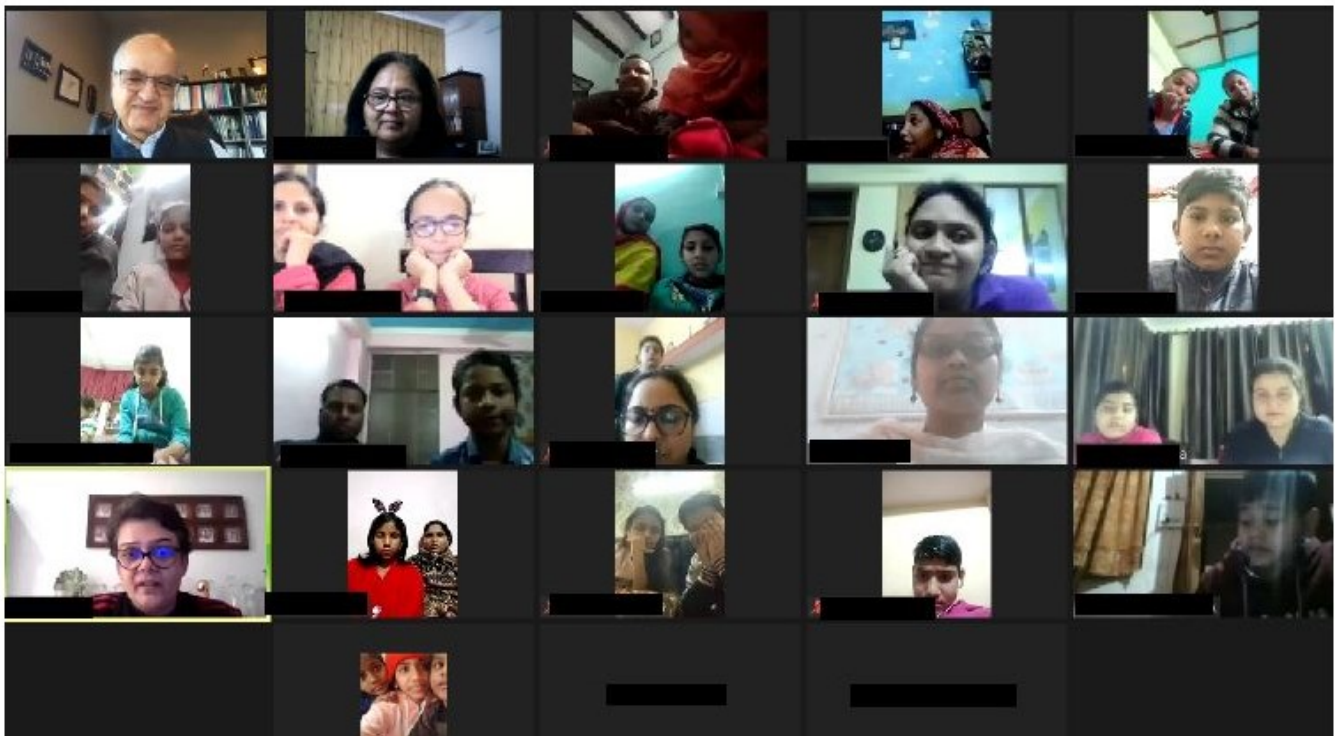
(L-R): John Maxwell, American author, pastor and lecturer; Dr. Robert Imambu; and Gary Bustin, PNG Tribal Foundation president, holding the ultrasound device.

Comprehensive School Health Program in India.

Rahul Mehra PhD - Rotary Club of Canon City

This project began in 2017 with a District Grant of \$19,500 from Rotary Club of Canon City. This project has been ongoing for the last four years and is now funded by a grant from a Lal Pathlabs Foundation in India. They funded my NGO in India (www.Taranghealthalliance.org) last year and this year they have given us a grant of \$38,000. This grant primarily pays for the two employees of my NGO in India. This is an example of how initial funding from a Rotary grant can grow locally when its value is appreciated by the community. I am writing this piece to provide an update and what we plan to do in the future.

The need for health education in India is greater now than ever before. Even before the pandemic, the life expectancy in India was only about 70 years and much lower than in the developed countries. More recently, we have observed the high number of Covid-19 cases & deaths in India as reported in the media. Why are the death rates from Covid-19 so high? Partly because there is a high incidence of comorbidities among Indian adults. Global research has demonstrated that when individuals have comorbidities like diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease etc., the chances of death are much higher. Comorbidities weaken immunity and cause inflammation which increase the risk of dying from Covid-19. In India, one in three people have high blood pressure and one in ten is a diabetic. Comorbidities can only be reduced by improving lifestyle health habits such as nutrition, hygiene, physical activity and tobacco use when these adults are in their formative years i.e., in school. Improving lifestyle health habits also reduces the chance of spreading infectious diseases. We are all in an interconnected community. If the infectious disease is not controlled in one part of the world, it will spread across the globe. The problem of poor health existed in India before the pandemic and has now been aggravated further by it. Therefore, our work has taken on even greater importance.



Parent Engagement session with parents and few students of Soami Nagar Model School

In 2020-21, our comprehensive school health program was implemented in three schools in Delhi for their Grade 6 students. All the student workbooks and teacher manuals were provided at no cost, and I trained the teachers at each school for 8 hours. It was all conducted online. The students in two of the three schools came from middle class families and had access to computers or cell phones. The children in the third school did not have any access to computers but some had cell phones or borrowed the phones from their parents.

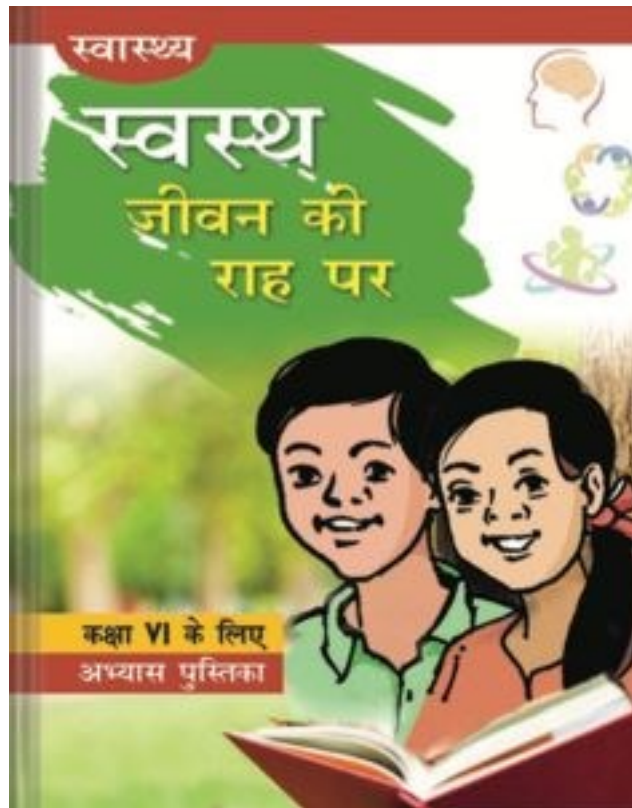
Comprehensive School Health Program in India (cont.)

Rahul Mehra PhD. Rotary Club of Canon City

We requested 40 hours of health education for Grade 6 students at each school. This duration is based on research which demonstrates that students need at least 40 hours of learning to improve health behaviors. During online classes, student attendance was a challenge in all the schools and none of them were able to complete 40 hours of health education. We also conducted monthly parent engagement sessions in these schools. I talk to the parents of these students about health topics for one hour per month to reinforce what the students are learning in school. A typical Zoom session is shown in the picture below. The academic year ended in March 2021. To evaluate the impact of the health curriculum, we collected pre and post data from students on their health behavior and knowledge. That data is presently being analyzed statistically. This academic year will start in July 2021, and we will be working in three new schools. We will engage with about 700 Grade 6 students in these schools. Again, the books will be provided at no cost to the schools. I have already conducted teacher training in two of the three schools. The classes will probably start online and may transition to offline if the pandemic situation improves.

Our plan for the next year (2022) is to expand to more schools and start educating Grade 7 students as well. All the student workbooks and teacher manuals for Grade 7 have already been published. I plan to start writing the books for Grade 8 now and then do the remaining grades over the next few years.

Comprehensive School health programs is a need not only in India but right here in our cities in Colorado. Few, if any, schools here provide a comprehensive school health program at every grade level. I would request those of you who are parents of school children or active in the community to engage with your local schools to ensure they provide comprehensive school health programs at every grade. The pandemic has put a spotlight on this issue. We all need to ensure that our children and communities are healthy.



The cover of the translated Grade 6 Health Education student workbook in Hindi

For additional information contact Rahul Mehra <rahulmehra35@gmail.com>

Training science, math & engineering teachers across Ghana

Martin Cook - Colorado Springs Rotary Club

The Downtown Colorado Springs Club has taken a strong interest in an educational NGO in Ghana, and is looking for other clubs to join us in sponsoring it and perhaps even seeking a Global Grant. What follows is a description of the NGO and its work. The Founder and director of the NGO will be visiting Colorado Springs during the period of July 20-23, and she will be speaking at our club on Friday the 23rd during our meeting from 12:15-1:30 pm. She would be available to discuss her work with interested individuals and Clubs during that time.

Dr. Heather Beem is the Founder, President, and CEO of The Practical Education Network (PEN) (www.practicaleducationnetwork.com). Dr. Beem has a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. She moved to Ghana and has devoted her work to finding ways to train science, math and engineering teachers across Ghana in innovative, hand-on ways to teach science using only inexpensive and readily available materials. In Ghana, most schools can't afford even a single piece of science equipment. Our International Committee is interested in applying for grants to support PEN's work and we may even shoot for a Global Grant.

As a result of COVID, PEN has had to modify its teaching methods from in-person teacher training to various virtual methods. As you might imagine, this is challenging in the extreme in a country like Ghana where the internet structure is unreliable and often not available. But this turns out to have an advantage: PEN is able to reach far more teachers with their training and to think about expanding their work beyond Ghana to other sub-Saharan African countries. It is estimated that, by 2100, one-third of all human beings alive will be in Africa, and the work PEN is doing developing talent in STEM areas will be key to Africa's flourishing with that many people.

While we hope that we can secure Rotary grants eventually to support PEN's work, Dr. Beem has recently indicated an urgent need for additional funds to support this expanded work. For the past year, she has been running everything from her living room! She needs funding for some of these needs much sooner than our grant processes can possibly provide. So Kathleen encouraged me to write up her request in case individual Rotarians might wish to contribute directly. Judith Casey and my wife and I are already "PEN Pals" (monthly contributors to her efforts), and we plan to contribute additional fund for Dr. Beem's specific requests:



"We have been working from my living room for the last 9 months or so. Although it has been a blessing to avoid paying rent during the period of uncertainty that COVID presented, we have reached the limit of what we can effectively use the space for.

Given that we are translating our content online, we are frequently recording audio and video. This requires the persons speaking to be in one corner of the room and everyone else to remain still and silent for stretches of time.

A larger space will enable us to record content at a higher frequency and see greater productivity across the entire team. We are looking to rent a 3-room space for 2 years. After that time, we will start looking into options for buying our own space. The rent and furnishing of this office space will cost \$35K. We are also going to set up a small showcase room within the office, as part of our new advocacy efforts, which will cost \$5K. And finally, we are looking to purchase a newer vehicle (\$10K) to effectively move around town to run our errands.

All of these core elements of our operation will enable us to work more efficiently. We are rounding off a series of online trainings in Accra in June. We'll use the summer period to get these key operational elements in place, then plan toward our online training pilot beyond Ghana in the latter half of the year."

Training science, math & engineering teachers across Ghana

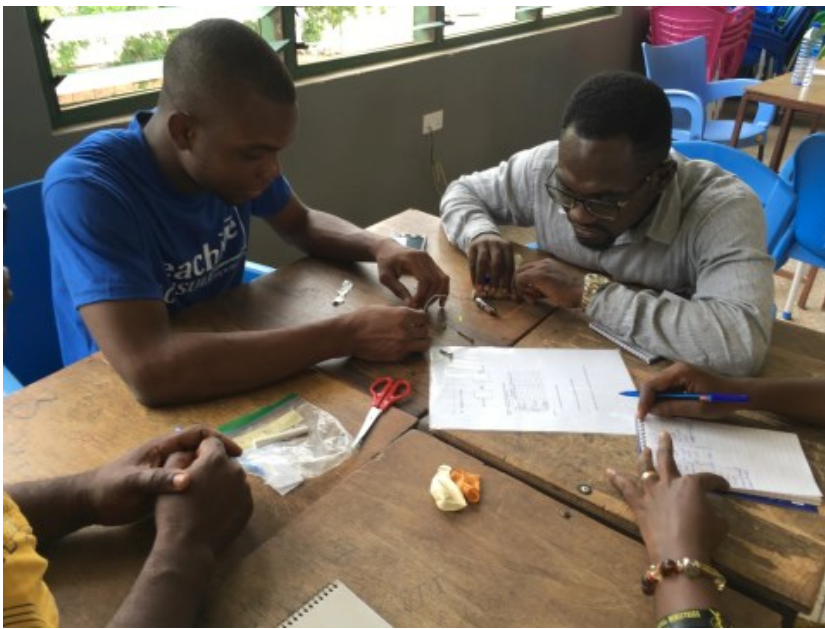
Martin Cook - Colorado Springs Rotary Club

If you are interested in contributing to support PEN's work, here is the link to contribute:

King Baudouin Foundation United States - A fundraiser for a more effective and efficient office
(networkforgood.com)

<https://kbfus.networkforgood.com/projects/53814-p-kbfus-funds-a-fundraiser-for-a-more-effective-and-efficient-office>

And of course I'd be happy to talk to any of you about PEN's work, the importance of STEM in African development, and the situation in Ghana. My wife and I volunteered to teach at Ashesi University in Ghana a few years ago, and I gave a talk about that a couple of years ago at Rotary. Dr. Beem is now a Lecturer at the University in addition to her work with PEN. I can be reached at (719) 244-8749 or martinleocook@gmail.com



Computers, camels and empty schools in Ethiopia

By Magali Combe, East Colorado Springs RC

In May, five members of a special interest group of the *Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs* left Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, to deliver the first of twenty-six computers to the Ankober Woreda in the Ethiopian countryside. This project is supported by the *Rampart Range Rotary Club*, the *Colorado Springs Rotary Club*, and the *Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs* with a matching grant by *Rotary District 5470*. It is also in partnership with *Trampled Rose, Inc.*, an International NGO focused on keeping girls in school.



This particular morning, May 6, 2021, we departed incredibly early to cover the five-hour distance that separated us from our last stop, Aliyu Amba. Ethiopia is divided into different regions where different ethnic groups live. For almost a year now, high tensions between the Oromo and Amara groups have forced the traveler who wishes to cross these regions to be careful. Of course, this was our situation.

Aliyu Amba is located on the northern border of the Amara region. While our starting point is located in neutral territory, the destination necessitated traveling through the Oromo region. You see the problem. Caution was in order. Two weeks earlier, we had already postponed our trip once because of riots that had broken out in Debre Birhan, the city in which we were to stop overnight.

However, today was the right day! Peace had returned along the planned route. We gathered all the necessary permission papers to move from one region to another and, above all, we had with us Tesfaye Legesse, a member of the *Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs*. Tesfaye is half Amara and half Oromo and is able to speak one or the other language with the correct accent. Police checkpoints had the right to stop us, but we were prepared.



Indeed, we arrived at our destination safely and without any snags. Policemen, thanks to Becky's humor and Tesfaye's authority, had nothing but smiles for us at every stop. The road itself was not easy though. It is one third asphalt, one third chaotic dirt track and one third a torrent of water and pebbles caused by the early rainy season! Over the difficult parts, we all closed our eyes and trusted in the dexterity of our driver, Abush, who obviously knew his business.

Thus, we were able to complete the delivery of the first round of computers to the schools in Ankober Woreda, including to Aliyu Amba, our final destination. However, as we know, in Africa, the ways of the authorities are often impenetrable. That is why we could not predict the fact that the Amara regional governor would decree those two precise days exceptional bank holidays. This meant that we delivered our computers to school officials and computer trainers in temporarily empty schools. Not one student.



We, who were looking forward to interacting with these students, to offer them small gifts, and start explaining how to use these funny machines, were deeply disappointed. We found some solace visiting the local market where we were able to play with small children. We bought incense and salt from old, dignified ladies (the salt desert of Danakil is not far), we admired the camels, and we almost forgot about our disappointment.

Computers, camels & empty schools, Ethiopia (cont.)

By Magali Combe, East Colorado Springs RC

Our happiness fully returned as we remembered that, thanks to the *Rotary* effort, all these young people from the Ankober Woreda would soon discover the benefits of computer science and so much more with their teachers. After all, we'd come to deliver computers and we *had* delivered computers. We would just have to



return to the area later to see how the students were doing with them. The important thing was that they could begin to use the computers right away.



Unfortunately, in these extremely poor and remote areas of Ethiopia, students very rarely see a computer in all their school years. Their education takes place on rickety desks in front of simple blackboards, on which the teachers still write with chalk. No experimental equipment. No modern technology. That's why, when the most gifted amongst them have earned the chance to go to university, they are completely lost the first time they find themselves in front of a computer.

It really is totally unfair that all the courage and perseverance these students have shown to get to this point, overcoming so many obstacles, problems, and challenges, should only be met with yet *another* major obstacle related to their social condition. Therefore, we were only happy to

be of help to these deserving students.

In the end, it doesn't matter if we haven't had the pleasure of meeting them this time, we *know* we will be back again!



Magali Combe
French National living in Addis Ababa
Member of the *Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs* 9

It's true,
Together we are Better.



The Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs invites you to:

It's A Party II

Thursday, July 29, 2021

You are Invited to come meet other Rotarians, bring guests, and dance the evening away.

Let's:

- Celebrate the completion, in partnership with Trampled Rose, Inc., of the pilot project, "Computers for Schools in Rural Ethiopia".
- Express gratitude to District 5470, The Rotary Club of Colorado Springs, and The Rampart Range Rotary Club for their participation.
- Hear from our Rotary District Leaders.
- Meet some of our international members.

Thursday, July 29, 2021

5:30-7:30 pm

Patty Jewett Golf Club

900 E La Salle

Colorado Springs, CO

Come join the synergy of Rotarians in our city and district.

Guests are encouraged.

Donations accepted.

Cash Bar

Question or comments

719-337-7393

bkiser@aol.com

pennykelly002@msn.com

Solar panel project for a homeless shelter, Colonia Icacos, Acapulco de Diaz, Mexico

By Kate Davis, N. Colorado Springs RC

The North Colorado Springs Rotary Club recently celebrated a long-awaited roof restoration and solar panel project for a homeless shelter and food kitchen in Colonia Icacos, Acapulco de Diaz, Mexico. Our Club applied for a District grant to match our contribution, with additional contributions from Rotary eClub One in District 5450, the Rotary Club of Acapulco Icacos, and individual members, to realize this important project.

We renovated the roof and reinforced the structure with a specialized membrane to prevent water penetration and leaks during the rainy season. Solar panels and an inverter system were also installed. These are also critical to the operation of the shelter and food kitchen. Electricity is especially expensive in Mexico, and the solar panels will save enough money each month to cover roughly half the monthly cost of food and supplies for the kitchen, leaving more funds to support the shelter, which will be even more necessary than ever in the aftermath of the pandemic with pent-up demand for medical services. The local solar contractor, based out of Mexico City, provided the materials at cost. The contractor and the local Rotary Club will continue to maintain the installation for years to come, with support from the US-based clubs.

The shelter serves as a hostel for the elderly poor. It also serves the poor seeking medical care at the nearby naval hospital who are generally not permitted to stay overnight, even with serious conditions, leaving them few safe options for recuperation. They slept on the cement floor of the adjacent sanctuary in the past. Many come from poor villages in the Sierra mountains and have no place to stay. It is also available for family members who might not otherwise have the ability or resources to transport loved ones without. The pandemic was especially devastating for this otherwise impoverished community in Colonia Icacos. With the support of E-Club One, Rotary provided food relief throughout the pandemic, enabling the food kitchen to feed as many as three hundred people daily. Lines stretched around an entire city block. The number of meals has declined as the local tourist economy has slowly recovered, but the need remains high.

My club and I are so grateful to our Rotary partners in Colorado, Mexico and especially our District 5470 for their sponsoring these essential improvements and are excited to see the community blessed in such a meaningful way.

We are especially thankful the tremendous support of our Past President Greg Palka, and Board member Rachel Guttman, who wrote the District grant application. We are also extremely grateful to the District grants committee, including Chairman Aaron Tice, for matching our contribution. It was a great collaborative project of which we are all very proud.



Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP)

Our Sponsored Student Yahaira

By Debbie Wilde - Glenwood Springs Noon Club

Our International Project Chairs, Jim Ingraham and Brad Mollman recommend the Guatemala Literacy Project <https://www.guatemalaliteracy.org/> as an international participation opportunity for our club. We all wholeheartedly agreed to sponsor a student. In March, Jim introduced us to Yahaira. She is in the 7th grade.



Yahaira tells us, “My mom tries really hard to support us and she is an example to us. With the help of a literacy program, she graduated high school as a mature student. Having a scholarship is the opportunity I have always dreamed of. I know that, through education, I can accomplish building a good future for me and my family. I truly want to become a person who contributes to the development of my community.”

“The GLP is the gold standard of Rotary projects.”
2017-2018 RI President Ian Riseley



Telluride Rotarians Explore Boquete, Panama

Linda & Doug Avery

We discovered Panama several years ago, on a stopover enroute back to Colorado from a visit to Columbia (the Panama City airport is known as the “hub of the Americas”). When landing we were amazed at all the skyscrapers and the bustle of the city. The Panama Canal was very impressive and they were just finishing the extra wide supertanker lanes. What really struck us the most during this brief initial visit was the incredible warmth of the Panamanians (a smile and a hello to everyone you pass, even in a big city - so reminiscent of our smaller towns in Colorado!), wonderful food, great climate, everything is well priced, and the ocean beckoning us to play.

We began visiting and exploring all parts of Panama on different trips. It is easy to get around, the major roads are paved and well maintained, cell service is really good, and this country offers so much diversity. Mountains and beaches are all easily accessed, and Doug learned to surf on the tip of the Azuero Peninsula. One time we had to stop the car and help a sloth off the middle of the road and back onto a tree - so fun! We enjoyed discovering all parts of Panama, but really loved the Boquete area, close to the Costa Rican border and into the mountains. This is a resort town, and the weather is known as “perpetual spring” - reminding us of the perfect Colorado summer climate, but year round!



Downtown Boquete

As 2020 was coming to an end, we decided to duck the snow and come explore this region for a bit. Packed up a few suitcases, the 2 dogs and Doug's bike and came on out to Boquete. This is a very lush area - lots of green, abundant flowers and so much wonderful fruit! It has been easy to meet people, Panamanians and fellow expats from around the world, and especially the members of the Boquete Rotary Club which we visited regularly. Rotary is popular in Panama and you see signage in the different towns highlighting the parks and other community projects Rotary here has contributed to. The Boquete Club is one of 2 in the country that offers meetings in English (so lucky - right? But...we are learning Spanish too.). The other English speaking club is in Coronado - a beach area about 1 hour outside Panama City - which we had also visited several times in our visits to Panama over the years. We always find it fun to drop in on local Rotary clubs around the world when we are traveling - to meet people, to share ideas on projects, and to get insights into the local area. When we had visitors to our Telluride Rotary Club, we always enjoyed meeting them too.

The Boquete Rotary Club is very interesting. The membership is both expats from different parts of the globe as well as Panamanians. Those who were in other Rotary Clubs lend ideas and processes to this club, and they are involved in a number of projects - including a now fully funded Global Grant for the Manchichi Project, which was covered in the last International Service Newsletter. The Telluride Rotary Club contributed generously to this project as well, after our Telluride Club President Dr Nancy Kerr and her husband Dr Mark Hauswald visited us and were fully supportive of these efforts to improve childbirth survival rates in the Comarca (reservation), representing 30% of Panama.



Telluride Rotarians Dr Mark Hauswald and Dr Nancy Kerr visiting us in February 2021

Telluride Rotarians Explore Boquete, Panama (cont.)

Linda & Doug Avery

When Doug had a very bad bicycle accident in Boquete (8 days in the ICU, and 10 overall in the hospital), the Rotary Club here really reached out to help and a number of members offered to donate blood for him. Rotarians and the community at large were very supportive. Doug's medical care at Hospital Chiriqui was really super - all reinforcing our positive impression of Panama. Doug has had a great climate here to recuperate and we are looking forward to a full recovery for him. Linda got to really pick up her Spanish every day in the hospital - working to understand when it really counts! (The translate app is a great tool, but it is not always accurate...). We are now ready to revive our plans to travel around and explore this region for a bit - our timeframe for this chapter is still to be determined.



Us visiting Telluride Rotarian friends Bill & Penne McKee in neighboring Costa Rica, May 2021



Panamanian Beach Scene

Sometimes you have to build the tools you need

By Evan Lavin, Engineers Without Borders - Colorado Mesa University Chapter

The idea for Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-USA) Colorado Mesa University Chapter (EWB-CMU) in Grand Junction, CO, began in the fall of 2019 when Jordan Coquoz and Evan Lavin collaborated on a Society of Women Engineers project to 3D print a prosthetic arm for a local boy. Coquoz was then a student in the CMU mechanical engineering technology program while Lavin studies civil engineering in the Colorado Mesa University/University of Colorado Boulder (CMU/CU) Engineering Partnership Program.

During many late nights and weekends in the robotics lab, Lavin, formerly an adaptive ski instructor with Telluride Adaptive Sports Program, and Coquoz, who now pursues a master's degree in prosthetics and orthotics, became friends and discovered their shared passion for helping others. To pursue larger humanitarian engineering projects, they decided to form a chapter of EWB-USA because of the organization's commitment to helping communities the world over sustainably meet their basic needs. The non-profit organization's mission focuses on civil works, structures, water (catchment, treatment, and distribution), sanitation, energy, and agriculture in the developing world.

The pair began the long process of applying for chapter status in January of 2020, knowing that their success would rely on their ability to build relationships. They first recruited as faculty mentor Dr. Michelle Mellenthin, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at CMU and an experienced EWB-USA volunteer. Grace Tandus, another CMU/CU partnership student, was next to join the group. At Mellenthin's urging, the team then contacted EWB-CU (in Boulder, CO), the very first chapter of EWB-USA, to learn how a thriving, well-established student chapter functions. Jordan, Evan, and Grace worked with EWB-CU, EWB-USA, the Engineering Partnership, Colorado Mesa University, and the local engineering community to navigate the application process and to establish and document the broad STEM and non-STEM University support (from both students and faculty) as well as the local professional support required by EWB-USA. Everything was moving smoothly.

Then the pandemic happened, and the world went sideways.

The middle of a global pandemic is a difficult time to start a student chapter with an international mission. However, taking inspiration from the legendary British comedic short story writer Saki, the group reasoned that the effort would nonetheless be much like the plight of Sisyphus in that it would go quite nicely uphill if they pushed it. That's exactly what they did.

Interest meetings were moved online. Knocking on doors became torrents of earnest emails and phone calls. Help was enlisted from Wisconsin to Colorado. The team reached out to and formed alliances with local engineering companies and government agencies, EWB-USA officials, other EWB-USA student and professional chapters, faculty, staff, students, and anybody else who cared to listen to their impassioned inquiries. They absolutely refused to fail.

All of their efforts paid off in July of 2020 when they received word from EWB-USA that not only had their application been unanimously approved but that it was also among the top five new chapter applications which EWB-USA had ever received. All of this despite not being able to meet face-to-face for the entire latter half of spring semester.

Encouraged, Jordan, Evan, and Grace began fall 2020 intent on building their active student membership and pursuing the most efficient route to a sanctioned EWB-USA project. Fall 2020 was admittedly slow going, but the group achieved a second milestone in spring of 2021 by acquiring its first official project: A hydrogeologic analysis of an aquifer in Centennial, Wyoming through CE Corps, a partnership among EWB-USA, AWWA, and ASCE dedicated to providing engineering consulting services to rural communities in the US. The project is conducted in partnership with SGM, Inc., a prominent western Colorado engineering firm.

Sometimes you have to build the tools you need (cont.)

By Evan Lavin, Engineers Without Borders - Colorado Mesa University Chapter

The nascent chapter is also proud to announce that, as of May 12, 2021, they have procured their first international project, a school-building project in the rural community of El Carmen, Ecuador. This project is also conducted in partnership with SGM as well as with Mesa County, CO, the Engineering Partnership, and CMU.

Today, EWB-CMU is grateful to have weathered one of the most difficult humanitarian periods in recent memory, formed strong relationships in the US and abroad, and joined a coordinated effort to leave the world a little bit better than they found it. Though Coquoz has moved on, Lavin remains behind to lead the group through its first international project. He has surrounded himself with people eager to help solve technical challenges, and, while the prospect of international travel remains yet uncertain, the team feels that you can't put life on hold and decide to help only when it is convenient. Where there is a will, there is a way. You just might need to build it first.

Inquiries into EWB-CMU may be sent to elavin@mavs.coloradomesa.edu or mmellenthin@coloradomesa.edu.



Coquoz (left) and Lavin (right) just before Coquoz's departure for graduate school in May, 2021



The group shortly before being led into Canyon del Muerte, near Canyon de Chelly, while on a humanitarian trip to the Navajo Nation in fall 2020

Engineers Without Borders - Colorado Mesa University Chapter is currently talking with the Grand Junction RC to be their Rotary Sponsor for future international projects

Assvoelness School garden, Northern Namibia

By Alexandra Parrs - Auas RC - Windhoek, Namibia & Peter Jeschofnig - Glenwood Springs Sunset RC

The school is situated in a very small village, about 40 km from Tsumkwe, the major city in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy. The school itself is in the neighboring Na Jaqna Conservancy, Northern Namibia. Both conservancies are home to indigenous groups J'//hoansi and !kun San. The students there range from grade 3 to grade 7 and most of them come from the surrounding San villages. Because many learners' families live in the villages, the children need to stay in a hostel that is currently being renovated by the Rotary.

The food the school receives is bought thanks to monthly donations and a lot of what the children consume is based on cheaper, easier products such as maize meal, canned pilchards and other dried or canned goods.

The idea of building a school garden was initiated a few years ago, but not activated. Our goal is to reinvigorate that idea for many reasons. First and foremost, the garden would allow some form of independence and sustainability for the school community. The children would eat more healthy food, especially fruits and vegetables. The garden would serve as a wonderful laboratory for the school and could be used by the teachers. One of the very important aspects of the project is that the teachers are on-board with it. They have designated the agriculture teacher as the future garden manager, and they have already discussed how they can use the garden in different topics such as math, sciences, language, storytelling, etc.

A unique aspect of the project is its cultural philosophy. San communities traditionally use nature as a training ground, and many children are educated in the bush, around the villages where they grow up. They learn from plants and animals, they learn to track animals and to identify different species. At the same time, they learn other skills such as teamwork, creativity, and resilience. Having a garden in the school would offer some continuity in learning to use nature as a training ground.

Further, the garden can teach farming techniques to young students who can bring them back to their families. Currently there are some gardens in most San villages but they are operated with moderate success. The children may be the ones to bring their knowledge home and help their families with new approaches to gardening.

This project will be a collaboration between Agri Connexions Africa and the Auas RC Windhoek. Agri Connexions Africa (ACA) Trust was established in 2014 to fill a gap in the provision of community-led, sustainable agricultural training services in northeast Namibia. It has successfully installed several school gardens in NE Namibia. Typically, new school garden installations involve the setup, the design and installation of the drip irrigation system, help with the establishment of an agriculture club at each school, training and mentorship on sustainable organic agriculture, and host field events to showcase the garden to the local community.



Assvoelness School garden, Northern Namibia

By Alexandra Parrs - Auas RC - Windhoek, Namibia & Peter Jeschofnig - Glenwood Springs Sunset RC



The San peoples (also Saan), or Bushmen, (a derogatory term) are members of various Khoe, Tuu, or Kx'a-speaking indigenous hunter-gatherer groups that represent the indigenous inhabitants of Southern Africa.

Several years ago, Peter Jeschofnig of the Glenwood Springs Sunset RC, lived in Namibia and was very active in the Auas RC and the Windhoek RC. The Covid pandemic allowed Peter to participate in the weekly Zoom club meetings and the pre-planning of this school garden project. The project is expected to cost about \$8,000 including drilling a water well and installing a drip irrigation system. It is expected that this will be a district grant with about half of the cost covered by a Rotary club in Germany and the other half by one or more clubs in D-5470.

This will be a very affordable club project, assuming \$ 2,000 coming from a club and \$ 2,000 from a district match.



For additional information contact Peter Jeschofnig <pjeschofnig@gmail.com>

Dolores Rotary Biochar Project Update - El Salvador

By David Nuttle, Dolores RC

Dolores Rotary (Club 1159), D-5470, has reached its required \$10,000 club match as needed for a Global grant. Our thanks to the several Rotary Clubs wanting to help but who could not do so due to COVID-19 disruption of their usual fund raising. Our funds came from the Dolores Club, Durango Daybreak, Aspen, a private donor, and Aspen Rotary Club Foundation. We are very grateful for the funds dedicated to our biochar project in El Salvador.



Our project training team is now complete with Odette Milla, Ph.D. Ag and expert in use of biochar, bio-activated with soil microbes, for a soil additive to greatly increase farm soil fertility and crop yields long-term for low cost. Our project Team Leader, Luis Albanes is an Electrical Mechanical Engineer and project organizer. Upwards of 25 poor El Salvadoran smallholder farmers will receive our unique, mobile biochar kilns to make and bio-activate their own biochar for use as a soil additive to typically double their prior crop yields, improve their well-being, and help provide food security in El Salvador. Upon completion of our successful field demonstrations with biochar, the El Salvadoran Cuzcachapa Coffee Mill & Coop has agreed to spend an estimated \$135,000 to sustain our efforts by manufacturing our unique biochar kilns and renting these to local farmers along with providing soil microbes for bio-activation and coffee-bean hulls used to make an excellent biochar. This sustainability effort will greatly improve food security for all the people of El Salvador.

Initially, we had project delays due to problems finding an El Salvadoran Rotary Club with the many capabilities needed. The project requires a host club with the means to provide complex support to achieve project success. We finally found the El Salvadoran Merliot Rotary Club that has the support means needed and has agreed to act as the host club. Since the training is all in remote rural areas by fluent Spanish speakers trained in biochar production, no U.S. Rotary Club members are being asked to travel to El Salvador and assist. My NGO, Needful Provision, Inc. (NPI), is skilled in making and using biochar and is **donating** technical consulting services for this project and assisting with training biochar project instructors. Any Rotary member is welcome to visit our project once in progress, but they will need to first assess their personal health and security risks in doing so and make prior travel arrangements with Dolores Rotary Club.

Our project would not have been possible without the dedicated local volunteers under the direction of Luis Albanes who completed: 1) The Community Assessment; 2) Needs Evaluation (with documentation); 3) Training Plans; 4) Training Team Formation; 5) Farmer Recruitment; 6) Budget; 7) Budget Justification; 8) Procurement Plan; 9) Maintenance Plans; 10) Evaluation Concept; 11) Project Evaluator Nomination; 12) Sustainability Plan; 13) Manufacturing Plan; and 14) Host Club input details. The foundation for a good Global grant project does not come easily nor quickly. On a complex project, technical flaws must be avoided and we have worked to do so.

Dolores Rotary Club plans to use this Global grant project as the foundation for a \$2 million Rotary Scale grant application with a \$2 million match from the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), and a \$2 million in-kind technologies donation from NPI. Funds would be used to start and operate a Global Barter Trade Center, in El Salvador, using barter to help over 440,000 poor smallholder farmers worldwide acquire biochar kilns and soil microbes to make their own soil additive to replicate what we will have demonstrated in El Salvador. U.N. Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that not less than this number of farmers have an urgent need for biochar kilns and, due to poverty issues, most will need to acquire kilns using barter. The biochar kilns will be made in El Salvador along with 15 self-help items known to be an urgent need for these farm populations; e.g. clean cook stoves, potable water systems, solar-zeolite refrigerators, gardening kits, safe grain storage bins, solar and thermoelectric power units, small and large composting toilets, and so on.

Dolores Biochar Project Update - El Salvador (cont).

By David Nuttle, Dolores RC

Support for our Barter Center is expected from local NGOs, Rotary Clubs, the El Salvadoran Ministry of Agriculture, U.N. FAO, USDA, USAID, the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador, and others. NPI has a successful record of developing barter trade centers in Africa. An example of a barter trade is an African Farmer's Coop trading surplus Neem seeds for safe grain storage bins. The Neem is then sold for cash to the W.R Grace Co., for use in making its commercial organic Neem insecticide similar to what African farmers have made for hundreds of years. Thousands of such trades are possible and we expect that U.S. Agriculture and Commercial Attaches in U.S. Embassies worldwide will help to identify barter trade items and potential cash buyers. N.B. Since smallholder farmers grow most of the world's food crops, our Scale project goal is to help as many of these farmers as possible soon double their crop yields. By so doing, we hope to lower the number of people now living on the brink of starvation, a number now reported to be 820 million poor worldwide (U.N., World Bank, & USAID data).

David Nuttle (npiinc2000@aol.com)

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

Dolores Rotary Club Member & Technical Advisor



**BIOCARBÓN: PRODUCCIÓN, APLICACIÓN
E IMPACTO EN LA AGRICULTURA.**

"GENERACIÓN DE GAS PARA PRODUCCIÓN DE ENERGÍA"

FECHA: LUNES 22 DE FEBRERO DE 2021.
HORA: 4:00 PM.


Odette Varela Milla
Ph.D. en Agricultura e
Ingeniería Ambiental


Luis Albanés Molina
Ingeniero Mecánico
Electricista

 **USDA** United States
Department of
Agriculture

 MINISTERIO
DE RELACIONES
EXTERIORES

 **FUSADES**
Asociación Salvadoreña para el
Desarrollo Económico y Social

 **PRO
INNOVA**

 **4.0
Talento**

 **NEEDFUL
PROVISION, INC.**

News from “Crutches for Africa”

David and Candice Talbot - Mountain Foothills Rotary Club



This past year has been unusual.

We had a distribution team in Uganda when all the lockdowns started and within a few short days we flew back to a different USA. Our flight out of Uganda was the next to last for our airline before they shut down. That was a packed flight from Kampala to Brussels! The Brussels airport was a ghost town. Our flight was not crowded at all as all on board had their own row. We were behind the mass exodus. The Chicago airport was all closed too, even the airport restrooms! Happily, we all made it home safely.

The first difficulty we had was the two containers that were in transit. Port lockdowns created a domino effect and transport on the ground was in chaos. Eventually those containers, one in Nigeria and the other in Uganda made it to their destinations and were eventually distributed.

In June as the lockdown was squeezing our disabled friends in Africa hard, we started an off-shoot program, REFRESH, to provide food for the disabled who had no access to closed markets and other sources of food. The funds raised through social media were independent of Crutches 4 Africa. Once funds were available, they were sent to our country directors, and they saw to the distribution. I marvel that they were able to do this and not get into trouble for being out and about, but they got it done! With lightning speed too. From the time we sent them funds to when it was in the hands of those in need was generally just 3 days! This program reloaded itself a few times over the summer and served over 5,000 people in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Zambia.

In March of this year, we worked with our Rotary partners and American Furniture Warehouse in Arizona to successfully ship a 40' container to Uganda and Kenya. After some delay due to truck shortage, we loaded on March 17. Normally a shipment to Africa takes 4-6 weeks, this one still has not arrived due to the ripple effect of COVID on shipping, then a sideways ship in the Suez. These events threw off schedules worldwide.



On May 18 we had planned to load a container in Los Angeles to go to Costa Rica. At the last minute we were informed that there were no containers available! We re-set for Saturday, May 29 and fortunately our LA crew (Rotarians and Salvation Army volunteers) were able to get that done and it is now on its way.

News from “Crutches for Africa”

David and Candice Talbot - Mountain Foothills Rotary Club



Coming up (hopefully!) we have another container to load in Smethport Pennsylvania on June 5. This one will go to Uganda and Tanzania.

Following later in June we are planning another load in Denver that will go to Pakistan for polio survivors there. This is still in the “setup” stage.

And now the pitch... we need money to do this, will you help?

You can donate directly through the button below, or if you wish to send a check, please contact us by email (c4a@crutches4africa.org) for the address.

In service,
David and Candice Talbot



Adopt-a-Village International - Ecuador & Peru

North Colorado Springs Rotary Club

Adopt-a-Village International provides basic humanitarian care to our adopted villages in Peru and Ecuador in the following ways:

1. Short- and long-term medical and dental care
2. Micro-loan/micro-business ventures
3. Installation of wells to provide clean drinking water
4. Sanitation projects
5. Hygiene and nutrition education
6. Training of local, in-country doctors and dentists

Several service trips are planned for 2022. Stay tuned for more information!

For more information, email us at info@adoptavillageinternational.org.



NO-SHOW GARDEN PARTY

Due to ongoing health and safety concerns,
Adopt-a-Village International
will be hosting a No-Show Garden Party again this year.

The remote villages we support have been significantly impacted by the pandemic, but we are happy to report that four of our villages in Peru have had zero cases of Covid-19! This is due in large part to the water projects that AaVI has completed in each village; the villagers haven't needed to interact with others for water and necessary supplies. AaVI's progress has continued during this difficult year, thanks to people like you! Your next generous online donation to AaVI will enable us to facilitate many more water treatment systems, agricultural micro-businesses and school projects.

The first \$20,000 in donations will be matched by several anonymous donors, so please give today!

To make a secure donation and learn more about our projects and 2022 trips, please visit
www.adoptavillageinternational.org

P.O. Box 26599 Colorado Springs, CO 80936

info@adoptavillageinternational.org

Providing a hand up, not a handout, to break
the cycle of poverty in Ecuador and Peru.



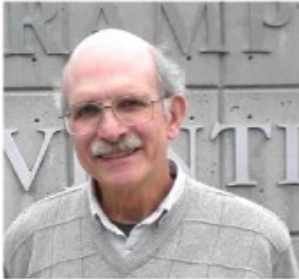
D-5470 2021-22 Rotary Foundation Team



District Foundation Chair - David Wood
Salida RC
Dwood.rotary5470@gmail.com



District District Grants Chair - Carol Bach
Colorado Springs RC
rotary.district.grants.5470@gmail.com



District Global Grants Co-Chair - David Smith
Pagosa Springs RC
dsmith7@unl.edu



District Global Grants Co-Chair - Eddie Cheung
Durango RC
EandNcheung@aol.com



District Vocational Training Team (VTT) Chair - Richard "Dick" Dangler
Edwards RC
rdangler@hotmail.com

D-5470 2021-22 Rotary Foundation Team



District Scholarship Chair - Kate Davis
North Colo. Springs RC
katerotary1@gmail.com



District PolioPlus Chair - Theresa Null
Garden of the Gods RC
theresanull@hotmail.com



District International Service Chair - Peter Jeschofnig
Glenwood Springs Sunset RC
pjeschofnig@gmail.com

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

A close-up photograph of a woman in an orange sari administering a polio vaccine to a young boy. The woman is holding a small white vial and using a needle to inject the vaccine into the boy's arm. The boy is looking up at the woman with a slight smile. The background is blurred, showing green foliage.

TOGETHER, WE

END POLIO

Rotary believes healthy communities are strong communities. That's one reason we've worked tirelessly to help immunize 2.5 billion children against polio. Bringing the world closer to eradicating a deadly disease — that's what people of action do. [Learn more at Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org).

Rotary



PEOPLE OF ACTION