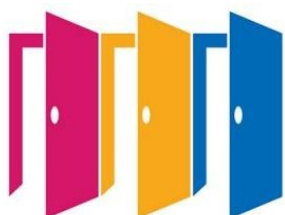


# ROTARY DISTRICT 5470

## International Service News

D-5470 International Service Newsletter #26

January 2021



Rotary Opens Opportunities



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 fulfilment efforts.



*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to others"*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

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.

### Newsletter Editors:

Helen Richardson, Pagosa Springs RC

Peter Jeschofnig, Glenwood Springs Sunset RC

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- Internat. Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians

## Clean water...basic to life

Rotary's working on it



# GG 1875083 Clean Water in Ecuador

## By Scott Perry, North Colorado Springs RC

The project of the N. Colorado Springs and Riobamba Rotary Clubs includes designing, installing and training for water treatment systems in the communities of Shilpala and Pumayacu, Ecuador. The two projects together, with a cost of \$78,250, will serve approximately 1,100 individuals who currently drink untreated water contaminated with pathogens.



A ceremony recently took place in Pumayacu with the local Red Cross and Napo provincial leaders based on the size and significance of the project. The project is 95% complete pending the completion of training and serves approximately 400 living in the community. Shown are photos of Mark Backlin, Rotarian and Adopt-a-Village board member, who visited Pumayacu in early November. In addition to receiving an update on the project, he delivered audiovisual equipment and a computer for the school donated by Adopt-a-Village.



The Riobamba Rotary Club has communicated that the Shilpala project is approximately 70% complete. Delays due to COVID have been experienced, but the project should be completed prior to year-end. Training and the establishment of a Water Board consisting of community members are key components of project sustainability. Thank you for your interest in our project!



# Rotary International and the US Peace Corps Magnify the Power of Community Projects

## By Vana Prewitt, New Bern RC, NC

Introduction: In 1985, Vana Prewitt served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia, where she first experienced the power of collaboration between the US Peace Corps and Rotary International. From Liberia, to the USA, to St. Lucia, Vana's experiences as a Peace Corps Volunteer and Rotarian have crossed borders and helped shape community service projects. It truly takes a village to move mountains, and with many shared common goals, a partnership between Rotary and Peace Corps can only expand the possibilities!

Vana's story: Rotary will forever be linked to my Peace Corps service in Liberia (1984-86). As an educational radio broadcaster and trainer, I worked with the Liberian Rural Communications Network to train broadcast students recruited from various ministries to produce educational programming in sixteen languages, supporting national efforts for agriculture, health, and basic literacy. One of our assignments was to develop programs that would promote an upcoming vaccination campaign.

The World Health Organization, UNICEF, and Rotary International were involved in the 1985 vaccination campaign. Peace Corps Volunteers assisted with logistics and communications in villages for these humanitarian groups and I consider myself privileged to have participated. Fifty percent of Liberian children died before their fifth birthday in 1985. Prior campaigns had failed for different reasons and our challenge was to convince villagers to gather their children and go to clinics on vaccination day. None of us knew we were making history in Rotary's promise to eradicate polio.

Radio programming featured typical announcements and discussions with prominent officials. However, our best effort went into a serialized radio drama about Flomo, Fatima, and their two children. Week after week, villagers gathered around radios to hear Fatima try to convince Flomo to vaccinate their children. Flomo countered that it took 2-3 days away from the farm and he needed their help. They did not know if the vaccines would be safe, or if a nurse would show, or if there would be enough supplies. There were so many doubts. Fatima eventually managed to overcome all obstacles raised by Flomo by collecting the facts.

The student broadcasters loved this project. Liberians are gifted storytellers and enjoy role play. The radio novella was a big hit. We heard stories that whole villages had clustered around the only radio with batteries to follow the discussion between family members, village elders, and health officials who answered questions. Of course, the villagers talked back to the radio, took up one side or the other, and pantomimed the radio actors, which was the goal. The topic needed to be raised and villagers needed to sort out their priorities before vaccination day arrived. We hoped but knew too well how things fall apart in Liberia, so were cautious as well.



# **Rotary International and the US Peace Corps Magnify the Power of Community Projects (cont.)**

## **By Vana Prewitt, New Bern RC, NC**

The radio drama format allowed villager concerns to be presented and solved in a nonthreatening way. The students had fun throwing in the typical village banter and humor. A problem-solving dialogue allowed all sides and options to be presented. Field nurses and the health minister were interviewed to reassure villagers that this event would succeed. For me, the phenomenal results came down to one word – Rotary.

Typically, there were no medicines or supplies at clinics that were rarely staffed because the nurses were rarely paid. It took a big leap of faith for a Liberian in 1985 to believe that a group of foreigners could succeed where no one else had. The last time a campaign had been held, the vaccines were not kept cold, arrived inert and needles were reused in some cases. Inoculated children developed abscesses, infections, and diseases that were supposed to have been prevented, making people more suspicious of vaccinations.

On Vaccination Day, parents stood in long lines with their children in the hot tropical sun. Villagers had walked many miles to get their children to the clinics that were fully staffed and supplied with cold vaccines in the care of Rotarians. Rotarians made the commitment to hike into the jungle with coolers and vaccines to save the lives of village children I loved. It was Rotary's face on this miracle. They blew me away with their planning, efficiency, effectiveness, communication, calm within a storm, and absolutely brilliant results. I was in love. I knew then that if I ever joined an organization, it would be Rotary.

I tried, but Rotary would not have me. I learned that only men could be Rotarians and gave it no more thought. It took a Supreme Court case to get women the right to become a Rotarian, but by then I was launched into a very busy career in organization development. I finally invited myself to join a Rotary Club in New Bern, North Carolina, after waiting decades for my lifestyle to catch up with Rotary demands and rules. Up until that time, my schedule and life were far too busy to work around Rotary's restrictions.

On the whole, I love my Rotary friends. A visit to one club is like visiting another village. Some things are similar and others new. It is a relief to see online formats, virtual clubs, and flexible ways to engage. As a return Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV), I am action oriented and want to connect with beneficiaries. New club design ideas can cater to special needs like environmental activism, a popular cause for many young people. However, traditional Rotarians seem slow to adopt and use online resources. In my club of about 100 people, only 3 have taken an online class. I would support a Rotary wide effort to upgrade our member skills in computer use.

I joined the Peace Corps a second time as a counterpart in developing knowledge management systems when I became a RSVP to a U.N. supported agency in St. Lucia. I moved to a small fishing village when the project ended and was a charter member of the Gros Islet satellite club in Vieux Fort. We remain friends and are often in touch. This is a club of really YOUNG people who had been Rotaractors, and there was such a difference from the traditional New Bern club.

My Lucian club was engaged with the local community to discover the best ways to serve. They were visible in the community doing a variety of projects. An important part of their Rotary experience was in direct service where they could see the results of their efforts. They felt better connected and more committed to service projects when volunteers worked together for a common benefit. Camaraderie developed quickly and member participation was high. Action learning was a successful strategy with young Rotarians that I believe could be useful everywhere.

# Manchichi Project: W. Panama - Project Partners Needed

## Reduce maternal and infant mortality

### By Nancy Kerr, Telluride RC

The Manchichi Project of the Rotary club of Boquete, Western Panama will reduce maternal and infant mortality through a program that trains and equips local indigenous midwives.

The project focuses on six remote communities within the Ngabe Bugle Comarca in Western Panama, whose residents are among the most impoverished and least medically served in the country. Due to lack of access to prenatal care, maternal mortality rate is 2.4 times the global average.



40% of pregnant women receive no prenatal care, and 60% of births occur at home. Care is generally provided by midwives, and most lack formal training and diagnostic tools. Deficiencies in pre- through postnatal care result in high mortality and injury, of which more than 90% are preventable. Midwives are typically excluded by doctors and nurses from patient care and treatment planning.

The Rotary club of Boquete and Phalarope are partnering to: 1) prove community empowerment-based midwife training to improve maternal care by supplying training and medical equipment to enable midwives to perform basic diagnostics; 2) allow early detection of potentially high-risk pregnancies and facility referrals to external providers for continuum of care; 3) improve cultural competency among external providers for improved patient comprehension and compliance

Project partners: Phalarope; Club Rotario de Boquete, Skidaway Isle RC, GA; Fundación Nuestra Señora del Camino; ASASTRAN (assoc. of indigenous midwives); Panama Health Ministry; Tommy Guardia Geographic Institute; Tan Foundation; The Telluride RC international committee is seriously considering this project, but has not yet made a formal commitment to help fund it.

Budget: Phase 1: Community assessment \$15,054; Phase 2: Training & equipment: \$75,870  
Total project cost: \$90,924

Doug and Linda Avery of the Telluride RC are currently living in Panama (for 6 months), have attended meetings in Boquete, and want to spread word about this project. The project needs club and district contributions

For additional information, contact Jeff Flynn, Manchichi Project Director, jflynn384@yahoo.com  
Phone WhatsApp –Panama +(507) 6447-2547; U.S. +1(225) 806-7393



# Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Project in Nigeria

## By Kate Carnahan Davis, North Colo. Springs RC

### Project Partners Needed

Hi! I'm Kate Carnahan Davis and am a member of North Colorado Springs Rotary Club. I wanted to speak a little bit about a project that my club is supporting. It is a club project for Rotary E-Club One and a Global Grant spearheaded by member Buchi Anikpezie, the DGE for 5450 and a personal friend.

The project is a water, sanitation, and hygiene response to Covid-19 and other diseases. It will benefit eight communities in the Kwara State, Nigeria. The purpose is to provide these communities the opportunity to have access to water that is clean and free of diseases. The way in which this will be accomplished is through providing boreholes to the aforementioned communities.

Currently, women and children have to walk 8km roundtrip to access the shallow river that is their water source. This is far too difficult to retrieve water.

All of the communities will ensure that there will be persons designated to ensure good compliance and maintain culture while the borehole will be operated. The project site will be watched and projects monitored. Community guards will watch the project site, while a committee made up of Rotarians and nominated contact people will monitor the projects. Both the materials and the labor are local.

This project is in conjunction with The Rotary Club of Ilorin, Nigeria.



If you are interested in information that is more mathematical or scientific, I will do my best to provide it. My email is [katerotary1@gmail.com](mailto:katerotary1@gmail.com)

# Rotary Provides Clean Water for African Village

**By David Smith, Pagosa Springs RC**

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, working with Rotary Clubs in Vienna, Austria and Niamey, Niger, has completed a project that provides both drinking and irrigation water for a village located in the Sub-Sahara desert of Africa. Drilling of this 350 ft deep well and management of distribution of the water was organized by the Catholic organization, Fraternité des Servantes du Christ à Maradi. This region, like most of Niger, is primarily Muslim.

This organization seeks to educate and generally improve the lives of the 7,500 residents living in the village of Saé Saboua. Because most of the water in this region comes from the July/August rainy season, water is scarce throughout much of the year. Most residents use contaminated surface water for drinking and bathing.

The new well is now providing over 1,000 gal/day of water that is used for both drinking and irrigation. Water from this deep well will provide clean water throughout the year. Approximately 180 women from the community are growing high-value crops, such as tomatoes, onions and lettuce, on the irrigated land. Sale of these crops provides both income and food for their families.

The cost of this project, nearly \$70,000, is far beyond the means of the community. Data from the World Bank show that 40% of the population of Niger lives on less than \$2/d, which makes Niger one of the poorest countries in Africa. Investing in such infrastructure enables communities living in deep poverty to help themselves.

This project was made possible through a grant from the Rotary Foundation, which is supported by its 1.2 million members located in over 200 countries. Although the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs focuses most of its effort locally, it is pleased to be part of this 3-continent project that is helping to combat deep poverty. The motto of Rotary International, "Service above self" applies to both individuals and communities.



# Guatemala Telemedicine Project—Update

## By Richard Dangler, Edwards RC

As detailed in an earlier edition of this Newsletter, the Rotary Clubs of Edwards and the host club of Coatepeque- Colombia, Guatemala submitted a telemedicine project to the Rotary Foundation in January, shortly before the world was aware of the COVID-19 out-break in China.

Public awareness of this dangerous virus was starting to build up steam in the global press, especially after China issued reports and the media started picking up more coverage from the WHO of a serious illness being identified. Even in the early days of February, while many people ignored the news, our group was aware that a global medical pandemic could happen soon. Accordingly, we were pleased to have received the Rotary Foundation approval earlier that anticipated in the amount of \$43,900 for a telemedicine global grant. Specifically, we were pleased with this early approval because we believed this project could move into operations given that it relied upon the use of internet posting of imagery of skin disease. While start-up operations consider the use of boots on the ground, we also believed that if push came to shove, we could fall back on internet capabilities for installation and taining. Further, we envisioned no problem for our cooperating partner to analyze, and recommend treatments for one of the leading medical problems in Guatemala, because that was the bases for the project in the first place. In addition to Rotary's willingness to support this unique medical effort, the University of Colorado marched forward as an analytical partner. With funding donations from Aspen, Durango and Vail, together with the supporting medical expertise of the University, the Trifinio Healthcare faculty was ready to establish the first teledermatology center in Guatemala. As of now, this project has been in operations for almost one year, administrated by the healthcare of the Trifinio Center for Human Development (TCHD).



As an aide-memoire, description of this project was covered in an earlier addition of this Newsletter. Basically, this global grant established a telemedicine internet platform application and staff training to set up operations of a teledermatology system. This facility is located in the Trifinio region of southwest Guatemala at the corner of three administrative divisions not far from the southern Mexico border. Since inception of the TCHD in 2012, the Trifinio Center has received financial support from AgroAmerica, a private family-owned Guatemalan rural agro-business enterprise. Furthermore, to provide healthcare services to this remote area. TCHD then developed a partnership with the Center for Global Health (CGH) at the Colorado University School of Medicine that provide volunteers to assist with training and analytical support of non-surgical services. Accordingly, the combination of these two entities brings together volunteers from the Colorado CGH and Guatemalan clinical staff to promote community medical and sustainable healthcare to villagers located in an extremely poor, remote region of Guatemala

Furthermore, the responsibilities of these two groups are covered in detail through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Key elements of the MOU ensure sustainability and the Center will continue to seek financial support from local private donors to assure longterm operations. The University of Colorado will provide volunteers to augment the Centers ability to cope with healthcare operations.

On March 1, 2020, right at the start of COVID awareness, we put the project into operation with the installation of the Medweb.com telemedicine platform application, specifically designed to handle dermatology cases. That achievement put the project totally on internet operations. The next step in the startup of this project was a plan to send a team of doctors and nurses to the TCHD center for initial training in application use. The travel plans were finalized, but worries mounted that the COVID19 virus was spreading faster than the public was aware. We considered that it would be a disaster if our team could be trapped in rural Guatemala, unable to get back to their Stateside practice. Consequently, their travel was canceled two days before scheduled departure, a week before Rotary International authorized its no-travel policy.



# Guatemala Telemedicine Project—Update (cont.)

## By Richard Dangler, Edwards RC

Our entire team was happy with that decision when we learned that the U.S. border was closed to Latin American countries a few days later. Nevertheless, that did not slow down this project. The team immediately used Skype to set up training sessions and used Whatsapp and Skype for audio communication. Further, we relied heavily on the email considering that trainers and clinic staff were in different time zones and had schedules making it difficult to coordinate team schedules.

These initial activities went off smoothly. The vibrant of this start came about because the last eight years of the Trifinio Center had established a firm foundation for their operations, during which time they proved its viability. Now that the teledermatology capability is running smoothly, the Center's patient load has significantly increased with people seeking treatment related to skin diseases, a service that previously was beyond their ability to analyze and treat. The public records indicate that the center now sees more than 30 patients a month, ranging in age from one year old to 60, with a third of the cases so serious that they require CGH analysis and recommendation for treatment. The internet platform has proven valuable and the dermatology platform has the ability to record complete details for each case allowing the TCHD an ability to analyze data needed to develop plan for the community use to improve awareness of actions that will prevent or reduce difficulties.



This photo is of a mother and her young son, who with the help of this project, was diagnosed with skin cancer, earlier than would have been the case before the establishment of the dermatology capability. Notice that the Center observes COVID protocol with both mother and son wearing a mask. With the early identification of cancer, treatment will be much more effective with better results. Now that the Center has the ability, together with their CGH partner, it can provide the community with information so the clinic can identify incidents before they become critical. This is a huge step forward for Guatemala since skin diseases are ranked 5th in prevalence in a 2017 medical study.

Thanks to Rotary, this clinic now has the tools needed for early diagnoses, thereby addressing skin ailments before the problem becomes critical. Additionally, the database will capture historic information automatically. With the availability of that data the application will be able to provide reliable insight needed to educate patients and the community on preventative measures to improve healthcare training in general. Furthermore, this information will be available for the Guatemala Health Authorities as well as other Latin American countries facing similar problems.

Dermatology services being provided include dermatitis, infections, skin cancer, and many other skin ailments. Recent discussions with the clinic doctor indicated that two of the causes of frequent consultation is acne and hyperkeratosis injuries. Hyperkeratosis is a thickening of the outer layer of the skin, apparently aggravated by working on banana plantations and other outdoor work. In this case, the outer skin layer contains a tough, protective protein called keratin. This skin thickening is often part of the skin's normal protection against rubbing, pressure, and other forms of local irritation. The next most prevalent problem is psoriasis. Our partner at Colorado University is now addressing the clinic request for your support by assisting in the:

- Establishment of an Acne management protocol.
- Working with the Rotary host club to obtain Ultra Violet Light lamps.
- Providing literature and Case Management for other skin diseases.
- Biopsy kits

The problem of providing needed supplies from the United States during the COVID crisis has been the only obstacle we encountered. It has been difficult to find suppliers and international carriers during this lock-down period. The Host Club has been able to help when items can be found in Guatemala. We are hopeful this problem will be solved in the near future.

# Guatemala Telemedicine Project—Update (cont.)

## By Richard Dangler, Edwards RC

The community is comprised of about 30,000 rural individuals with no access to private or governmental facilities. The photo is a view of the outdoor waiting area of the clinic. Wearing a mask at this clinic is a mandatory practice for staff and patients coming to the center. Notice that entrance to the verandah starts where two individuals test each patient for fever and other signs of asymptomatic factors before they are allowed into the rest area. Once they are allowed into the reception area, you can see that the chairs are more than 6 feet apart and masks are required.



In preparation of drafting the project's first progress report, some community leaders were contacted for their view on the success, or not, of the project. They expressed their thanks that objectives they requested at time of the project assessment period have not changed and services continue to provide teledermatology consultation to the community members that seek care at the Trifinio Clinic. They said that this project clearly shows

the value of Rotary service in bringing telemedicine to their area.

Our team is now coming up on its first year of operations and proud that progress has met or exceeded the planned objectives. While the COVID pandemic is devastating, the Trifinio staff marched forward with the initial program to set up a training, and then to program additional training when needed using Skype and Whatsapp. In this regard, the grant application activities proceeded as if the COVID pandemic had not occurred. Staff was trained on imagery posting within two days, followed by two weeks of training on posting of imagery and another two weeks of establishing a telemedicine filing system. Moving forward, additional training is available on a needed basis.

One of the values of the imagery platform and corresponding analytical response is the fact that information is automatically captured in a secure platform application, not only to identify each patient but also to provide a database for use in identifying specific indicators for use in forecasting treatments and supply needs. The automatic aspect of this program assures that all results are maintained in established secure personal medical records.

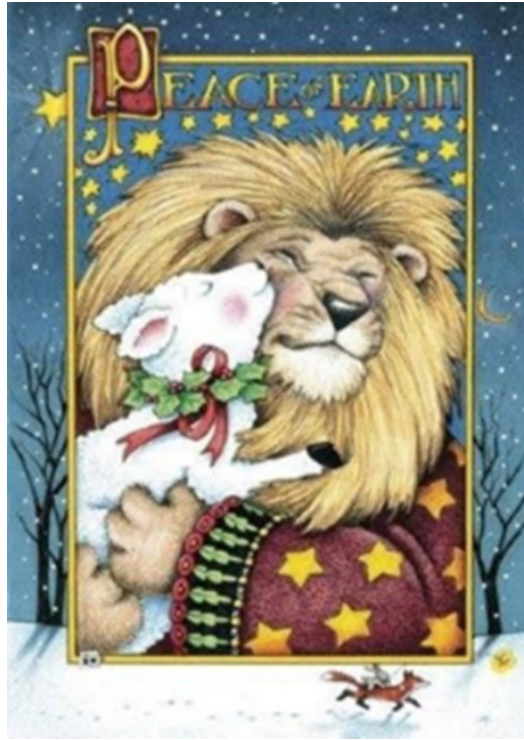
During the time that the clinic staff was setting up their operations and responding to the training required to assure smooth operations, the Cooperating Partner at the University of Colorado's Center for Global Health likewise were busy testing and confirming their platform responsibilities – which included the ability to retrieve images, analyze and report back to the Trifinio Center with their conclusions and recommended medical solution and treatments.

As the saying goes, this project is a three-legged stool – Rotary, the Clinic, and the third leg is the community. In this case the community has been a strong partner with volunteers stepping forward to promulgate healthcare awareness and assist the Trifinio Center cope with COVID issues. One can induce, based upon the volunteers' insolvent, that sustainability of these services is assured.

# STORIES BY THE FIRE WITH BECKY

## A COLLECTION OF SHORT TALES ABOUT THE COURAGE OF KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL IN RURAL ETHIOPIA

By Becky Kiser, East Colorado Springs RC



**DOWNLOAD THE BOOK HERE:** <https://clubrunner.blob.core.windows.net/00000050015/en-ca/files/sitepage/archive-d-5470-internat.-service-newsletters/stories-by-the-fire-with-becky-2020/Stories-by-the-Fire-2020-Final.pdf>

The background story:

My real storytelling began by my being born lucky. Amongst the abundance of love I grew up with, our family traditions included a nightly “story time”. My mother would read a chapter from a beloved book to my sisters and me as we dozed off to sleep at night, or my father would tell us a tale about his adventures overseas during World War II serving in the Merchant Marines, or his time growing up on a homesteaded wheat farm in Kansas. This storytelling tradition is continuing to new generations; storytelling is second nature to me.

This December, after four months of hard times in my second home in Ethiopia, I returned to the United States expecting to follow my annual tradition, which is telling some stories of my recent adventures of keeping rural girls in school in Ethiopia to interested friends and family. This event is traditionally held in the fireplace room of the historical Patty Jewett Golf Club in Colorado Springs. We have hot chocolate mixed with our favorite spirits, snacks, hugs, love, and lots of stories. This year government restrictions closed indoor dining the day before our scheduled event, giving me a push to write what I had planned to share. The stories quickly flew out of my fingers. In just one week, one day, and twenty years of experience, these stories were in book form!

Along with the stories, I’m sending out a wish that we will all become more passionate about our own participation in Service above Self. I hope you enjoy your own story time reading this book. Helping others really is the key to happiness.

More stories to come.

XO Becky Kiser



# Community Mental Health Services & Economic Development in Uganda; Denver Mile High RC Project Partners NEEDED

**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) an 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 depression 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 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 utilized 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 shown that over two-thirds met symptom criteria for depression.

For additional information contact: Pavel Reppo <[pavel@afinemind.org](mailto:pavel@afinemind.org)>

# Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group

## Ending malnutrition through school gardens

### By Peter Jeschofnig, Glenwood Springs Sunset RC



The Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action Group encourages the establishment of food gardens in schools and communities.

Past projects have proven that these gardens provide ongoing education and improve the health and nutrition of all participants, with malnutrition reduced by as much as 95%.

Several years ago, several of our D-5470 Rotary clubs (Carbondale RC, Aspen RC, Snowmass RC, and Burlington RC) were involved in a global grant project with the Niamey-Croix du Sud RC in Niger, Africa, named "Farmers of the Future " that provided for school gardens and related training in Niger, West Africa.

The goal of the project was to speed the adoption of modern agricultural practice and help rural communities escape the trap of subsistence farming. Students and parents engage in a combination of education and hands-on experience with modern farming concepts and techniques. By changing what is farmed (e.g. vegetables, fruits, protein from small animals, fish, etc.) and how it's farmed (i.e. irrigation to support year round production) communities can greatly increase the yields, economic value and nutritional value of food from their land, thereby addressing the challenges of hunger, poverty and malnutrition.



This project was extremely successful and is worth duplicating in other areas of endemic malnutrition. It was so successful that when I found out recently that the Windhoek-Auas RC in Namibia is trying to establish school gardens for their indigenous San bushmen populations, I shared with them what we learned from the Niger project. Also,

when their project is fully formulated, I plan to share it with our D-5470 clubs, and will probably contribute to it as well.

A few days ago, I discovered the existence of the Food Plant Solutions Rotary Action group. Its purpose isn't just about school gardens, it's about raising awareness of the food value of local food plants and encouraging their production and consumption. World-wide there is approximately 31,750 edible plants and yet the world regularly consumes around 300, (less than 1%). This means there's a lot of opportunity to feed the world with local food plants, if we understand their food value. Being local they will require less inputs and be less prone to pests and disease. School gardens and community gardens can be a vehicle to educate about local food plants.

If you or your club are interested in reducing malnutrition through school and community gardens, check out this Rotary Action Group: <https://foodplantsolutions.org/><sub>3</sub>

# HYGIENE FOR KIDS

## ORESTIADA RC, IFIGENEIA, GREECE

### CONTRIBUTORS TO GLOBAL GRANT NEEDED

We are Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Orestiada club, Ifigeneia, 2484 District, Greece. Our small town is located in northern Greece. In the recent year and due to Covid-19, have been created a lot of issues in our town, even in the field of health and disease care and prevention.

As Rotarians, our motto is: "Service above self". So we decided to act by contributing to the local community's needs.



Where? At local schools and the University of the Orestiada area. The Orestiada area has 51 schools and one University, with 6391 students in total.

The problem: Due to Covid-19, we saw that there was an opportunity to protect, prevent and most of all educate our students in the local area. Our project "Hygiene for kids" will do all these not only once but for all their academic careers. LED screens will inform and educate, hand sanitizers will protect and digital thermometers will prevent. Please see photos from the devices below:

The Project: To install these devices in every school in the Orestiada area. 51 schools and 6391 students including the University will be benefited from this project. A doctor will inform the students and educational personnel for the equipment and for the correct usage.

Our Goal:

- help the prevention of a disease
- inform the students for hygiene issues
- EDUCATE the students for all the hygiene matters they need to know. And not only, inform them in the future for other matters such as bullying, AIDS, HIV, etc.
- the project will cover 51 schools, one University, and 6391 students in total

Project sustainability: Ensured 100%

How?

1. Rotary members will supervise the project in every step (videos will be uploaded every 2 days and sent to our sponsors and partner)
2. 2nd and 3rd-grade educational department will support this project in every step and cover every need after the end of this project using their Technical personnel

Total project cost: \$ 64,412

International partner: Kakinda RC, D-3020, India

We ask for an International Sponsor to join us in our effort.

Dear Rotarian friends, we ask for your help and partnership in helping serve our community's needs and promote Rotary in our country.

For additional information, contact George Dimitriadis <dimitriadis1985@gmail.com>



# **Global Grant for El Salvador Biochar Kilns - Update**

## **By David Nuttle, Dolores RC**

### **Project Partners NEEDED**

Since most Rotary Clubs were not able to do their typical fund-raising projects, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, very few clubs had funds available to help support global grant projects in 2020. The Dolores Rotary global grant has been delayed as a result of this problem.

Many El Salvadorans have recognized that the Dolores Rotary effort is critical due to soil fertility, food insecurity, and related development failures in El Salvador. As a result several El Salvadoran professionals and members of El Salvador's Santa Ana Rotary Club volunteered their time, efforts, and funds to support planning for our project.



With the help of these volunteers, the following documents were completed to fully support our request for Rotary grant funding: 1) A community assessment; 2) A needs assessment with documentation of needs; 3) A training plan; 4) The identification and recruitment of local, professional staff to conduct the training; 5) A management plan; 6) The project budget with funds justification; 7) A plan for project evaluation; and 8) A detailed project sustainability plan. Due to travel restrictions due to COVID-19, none of the above effort could have been accomplished by Rotary volunteers from U.S. clubs. Our host volunteers created the basis and justification for Rotary's funding. We are truly grateful for all of this local, project-area help. To date, our project only has \$1,500.00 pledged toward our required \$10,000.00 match needed to obtain \$10,000.00 from Rotary District 5470 and another equal match from Rotary Foundation to obtain our needed \$30,000.00 project total. A number of clubs in our District are still working on raising future funds to support our efforts, but this amounts to further delay. (N.B. Dolores Rotary has pledged \$1,000.00 for our El Salvador project, and we have another \$500.00 pledge.)

Due to the urgent need to help solve the food security problem in El Salvador, we have been seeking a foundation grant for \$8,500.00 to provide Dolores Rotary with the balance of funding needed to make the above said match. One Latin American foundation has made an indication that they will seek to provide the needed funds via a donation to Dolores Rotary. The lesson seems to be that if one problem solution does not work, another needs to be tried. As a reminder, we seek to help El Salvadoran impoverished smallholder farmers solve their own critical soil fertility problems by initially providing 30 of these farmers with innovative biochar kilns so they may make their own biochar to be bio-activated with soil microbes for use as a soil additive. Agricultural research in seven nations has scientifically documented that such practice greatly improves soil fertility long-term and thus doubles typical crop yields. This is a solution that can help end global hunger with 820 million people currently living on the brink-of-starvation.

David Nuttle (npiinc2000@aol.com)

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

# The Power of Connecting ePCVs and Rotary Clubs

## By PDG Ellen Young, D-6440, IL

Although nine months have passed since Peace Corps Volunteers were evacuated worldwide, many still find themselves in limbo- either job searching or hoping to return to service. The good news is, there are many ways that Rotary clubs can help!

On March 15, 2020 news spread that EVERY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER ON THE PLANET WAS BEING EVACUATED! Every single volunteer's existing service was abruptly interrupted – while those volunteers preparing for FUTURE assignments faced uncertainty about their future plans. The global Covid pandemic impacted everyone – wherever they were. The well-established evacuation plans were launched, bringing the best of the United States' humanitarian volunteers home to an uncertain future.

It's been nine months since that day – months of continued uncertainty and disruption of what had been hopes and plans for overseas humanitarian service – for some, coming home meant an early end to the Peace Corps assignment; for those who had just begun their service, uncertainty as to when or if there would be a return to the overseas post. With concerns about contagion, and the impossibility of air travel to far-flung places, the intervening months have been filled with anxiety, and disrupted dreams.

Life's realities also intervened – some of those who returned needed to find gainful employment in a stressed economy; others were welcomed back home to begin filling their days with on-line course-work or job searches. For some of these volunteers, a local connection with a Rotary club might have helped volunteers upon their return – with local Rotarians providing referrals to job possibilities, volunteer opportunities and other activities – though in a new virtual world. For others, these connections had not yet been established. We should do something to change that!

The map in the middle of the “World View” Summer 2020 magazine of the National Peace Corps Association, reminds the reader of the incredible breadth of participation in the Peace Corps by our nations' volunteers. Every state, and several territories welcomed their Peace Corps representatives home unexpectedly – some having ended their service for good – others in limbo until the Covid-19 pandemic eases or a vaccine becomes available to them. A formalized collaboration between the Peace Corps volunteers and their home communities might have alleviated some of the concerns – providing a network of connections able to help, encourage and support these uprooted citizens as they awaited news and tried to plan their futures.

Though many months have now passed since March, 2020, it's not too late to establish connections between our nation's Peace Corps volunteers and members of US Rotary clubs in their home communities. The map sent by the National Peace Corps Association in its Summer 2020 publication shows 148 Peace Corps workers in my State of Illinois alone. There are many more Peace Corps volunteers throughout Zone 29 (and parts of Zone 25B, which is in Region 36). I can only offer to assist with these areas, but this initiative could be expanded throughout other regions throughout the US. Using the resources of the Rotary/Peace Corps alliance, and Partnering for Peace, we should be able to connect these volunteers with Rotary Clubs in nearby communities. Once we confirm these connections, we can give the volunteers the information about the local club and invite them to a meeting. You have to start somewhere!



# **The Power of Connecting ePCVs and Rotary Clubs**

## **By PDG Ellen Young D-6440**

We should also be matching every NEW Peace Corps worker with a US Rotary club so that there is a connection between the Peace Corps worker at home and a local club – the home club might be able to fund small international grants in the Peace Corps workers' villages, and then expand the Rotary footprint more broadly through a global grant as time goes on. Each volunteer has a story to tell, a village to help and a potential humanitarian grant to consider and support.

There is another reason for suggesting these connections: I am in the process of setting up a new Passport Club, the Northeast Chicagoland Passport Club, which might be an attractive alternative to potential Rotarians not interested in "traditional" Rotary meetings. Passport clubs typically meet virtually and focus on Rotary's humanitarian service and global initiatives – a good fit with the Peace Corps philosophy. Similar clubs are already in existence in California, Texas, Minnesota and other states which may also be of interest to RPCV's. It may also be possible for groups of former Peace Corps Volunteers to set up "cause-based" Rotary clubs to continue to support other Peace Corps initiatives.

Ideally, the establishment of these Rotary connections, through grants, local Rotary clubs, and potentially membership in virtual Passport or cause-based clubs, will enable Peace Corps volunteers to continue their passion for humanitarian service after they return home to the United States. Collaboration with local Rotary clubs will (1) facilitate the process of funding in-country projects in the volunteer's communities; (2) potentially scale-up small grants to other communities in the overseas country; (3) provide networking opportunities to the returning Peace Corps Volunteer through Rotary's business connections; and (4) facilitate the continuation of global service through the volunteer's lifetime through participation in Rotary's global humanitarian service.

Partnering for Peace – now – in the Covid crisis – and long term - can inspire collaboration and humanitarian service through 7000 Peace Corps volunteers now – and the countless former Peace Corps workers in our midst. Let's use this crisis to reignite the passions of the army of former Peace Corps volunteers – and introduce as many as possible to Rotary clubs in their communities so that they can share their stories, and possibly generate new ideas for grants and projects around the world.

Let's tell the story of our partnership – and the good it is doing worldwide.



# INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF MOTORCYCLING ROTARIANS



Today, Rotary Fellowships are more important than ever. They bring people together and establish real friendships all over the world regardless of race, religion, color or nation. IFMR is one of the largest and most active fellowships. It is open to all Rotarians motorcycle enthusiast.

Still a lot of Rotarian motorcyclists are not yet members of our fellowship, some even do not know about its existence. They are missing a lot. IFMR means friendship, riding adventures, petrol talks and a lot of fun. Help by disseminating this information throughout the entire Rotarian world. IFMR is open to every Rotarian motorcycle enthusiast.

In this turn of office I would like to strengthen our international activities and promote the cooperation between the Chapters. There is strength in numbers - in union even more. IFMR offers the unique opportunity to travel the world with real friends. We all should use this tool more often. And there are still a lot of white spots on the map. Already at the beginning of my term, after months of planning with the sponsoring Chapter, the Chapter Poland was founded. It started with a great ride in the Masurian Lake District, including a charity campaign for disabled citizens in the area. Perfect. Hopefully, there will be a new Chapter in South Africa next year, a revival of IFMR Russia and maybe some activity in the Baltic States.

I intend to ride with you on as many tours in as many Chapters as possible. Please, do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, remarks or proposals.

Four wheels move the body - two wheels move the soul.

Take care!  
Kind regards,  
Dirk Jesinghaus  
International President 2018-2021  
District 1860  
RC Saarbrücken  
Saarland, Germany

<http://www.ifmr.org/index.html>



# INTERNATIONAL SKIING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS



## Welcome to the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR)

Skiing is enjoyed worldwide by thousands of Rotarians and their families of all ages and abilities. What better and more enjoyable avenue to build new friendships and international understanding than to join your fellow Rotarians and sharpen your skills on the slopes of the world or see the world on cross-country skis! Not only will your physical fitness improve, but with a closer understanding of Rotary ideals, membership will enrich your spirit as well.

By joining the Fellowship, you will not only meet Rotarians from around the world who share your interest in skiing, but you will create lasting friendships.

The Ski Fellowship's annual meeting & ski week is held each year in a different location. Area Rotary Clubs sponsor and host events throughout the week. Local Rotary Clubs partner with ISFR to organize ski week activities. Host clubs & local Rotary members provide expertise in planning & organizing the week of events for both skiers & non-skiers. Activities may include mountain tours, home-hosted dinners, restaurant dine-around, après ski activities & visits to interesting local & historical sites.

The ISFR BOD typically reviews proposals and selects a host venue at their annual meeting two years in advance. If your local Rotary Club and Ski Area are interested in hosting the ISFR Annual Ski Week, please review our hosting handbook to learn more about what is involved.

The 2022 Ski Week is planned for Banff & Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada

Our Telluride Rotarian Marilyn Branch is a director of this Fellowship

<https://www.isfrski.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/isfrski/>



## Global Grants Projects Involving Our clubs

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

Our clubs also contribute to projects conducted by other districts.

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

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

## Contact Us

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



Water & Sanitation Projects Around the World

### Global Grants Basics:

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

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

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