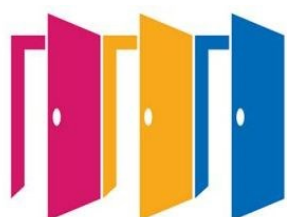


ROTARY DISTRICT 5470

International Service News

D-5470 International Service Newsletter #23

July 2020



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 fulfillment efforts.

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.



"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

— Oscar Wilde

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Clean water...basic to life

Rotary's working on it



Rotary:
Humanity in motion.

www.rotary.org

Let us stay Rotary Strong!

By DG Chip Ecks

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Let me take a few minutes, as we begin the new Rotary Year, to briefly discuss just how important it is here in District 5470 to continue to think and reach Globally in our service to humanity. The global network of Rotarians, 1.2 million strong, consists of our friends, our neighbors as well as those Rotarians we have not yet met, all problem-solvers who see a world where people can unite to solve difficult problems across the globe through international cooperation that is right in front of us through Rotary Global Grants.

By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources. As Rotarians, we refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary international projects can provide the training that fosters understanding and gives communities the skills to resolve conflicts around the world.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today faces new challenges: how can we make the greatest possible impact and how can we achieve our vision of lasting change? We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved in the process.

So, my fellow Rotarians, I am asking that we all think big. Think of ways we can work with other clubs in our district, or internationally, to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene, save mothers and children, support education, grow local economies or protect the environment. When viewing these problems as an individual it is hard to see how you can help. When viewing them through the lens of Rotary, it becomes clear that we all must work together to reduce or eliminate the effects of these humanitarian problems.

Let us stay Rotary Strong!

Chip
Governor
Rotary District 5470



Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise RC and Medicine: Arm-In-Arm via Andrew Kramer, Grand Junction Horizon Sunrise RC

Medicine: Arm-In-Arm, a 501(c)(3), provides on-site restorative dental clinical services for children in emerging nations. Clinics have been held in Armenia, Russia, Siberia, the Kingdom of Swaziland, and South Africa. On average, 400 to 600 children receive free dental exams, restoration (i.e., fillings), surgeries (i.e., extractions), and oral hygiene education during the week-long clinics. All who staff the clinics are volunteers; no one receives compensation for their services.

Since 2012, Horizon Sunrise Rotary has financially supported Medicine: Arm-In-Arm as well as provided “boots on the ground” at several clinics. While the Spring 2020 clinic in South Africa was postponed due to COVID-19, they are hoping to set a date in the future.

For more info, please visit Medicine: Arm-In-Arm or contact Horizon Sunrise Rotarian, Lindsay Keller, at 970-261-4002.



INTERNAT. PROJECTS OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS RC

by Jordan Davis & Judith Casey, Colo. Springs RC, Internat. Service Committee Co-chairs

Supporting the Colorado Haiti Project This year we had various presentations about the Colorado Haiti Project, a 501(c)3 based in Louisville, Colorado. The Project is 30 years old, and it supports a village in a rural area of Haiti, about five hours from Port au Prince. Our club is supporting the St. Paul's School Garden Club and the Family Farm Support Program. At St. Paul's School, students in Grades 6 through 9 participate in the School Garden Club, with the campus garden providing a hands-on, outdoor classroom for learning and experimentation. Students attend weekly club meetings where they learn and practice a range of skills. Projects have included planting trees and vegetables, raising rabbits, learning about the economic potential of agriculture, and developing simple water catchment systems. The students work closely with St. Paul's School's Agronomist, Raphael, in working in the outdoor classroom. The Family Farm Support Program provides a community-owned seed bank, animal husbandry co-ops, farm consultations and access to equipment, tools, and trainings. We worked closely with the Boulder Valley Rotary Club in preparing a grant of close to \$30,000 for support of the Colorado Haiti Project. The Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs also provided funds to support a water well and a solar-powered irrigation system to alleviate drought conditions. Feel free to access the website for the Colorado Haiti Project: www.coloradohaitiproject.org



Supporting Children's Needs in Mexico Working alongside Sister Cities International, we collected about twenty bags of new and gently used clothing and shoes for children in Mexico, partnering with Nuevo Casas Grandes.

Supporting Vocational Training Efforts in Pune, India We also have had the opportunity to partner with the Rotary Club of Koregaon Park in Pune, India, to help the Maharashtra Fellowship for Deaf with Vocational training of nine girls and five boys in Tailoring and Electrician courses. These deaf children get to live on the property of MFD Pune and learn these amazing life-saving skills.

Supporting Girls' Education in Ethiopia Through an organization called Trampled Rose, fourteen of our members have provided financial support to girls in rural Ethiopia to help them stay in school and graduate. Many of the girls are orphaned or disabled. Each girl is given her own bank account and is provided funds per month. With this money, each student is empowered to make the best financial choices for herself to stay in school.

We are very excited for what another Rotary year will hold for the Colorado Springs Downtown Rotary Club in the realm of international projects! If you have questions about our projects, please feel free to contact us by e-mail:

Jordan Davis jordan@sociallyexceptional.biz
Judith Casey jdcasey1@me.com



Action in Africa

via Sarah Nininger – Aspen, Washington, DC & Nakuwadde, Uganda

Supported by Aspen RC & Snowmass Village RC

I'm excited to share that "Action In Africa" has officially returned to its Colorado roots! The COVID-19 pandemic has been a unique, scary, emotional experience for many of us, and in these challenging months we've had time to reflect...

For me, quarantine revealed that it was time to come home. After three and a half beautiful years in Uganda, and two and a half in Washington, D.C., I couldn't be more enthusiastic to permanently return to Colorado - the community where Action In Africa was born, and the community that continues to show up for our organization. So Colorado friends, I hope to see you all soon!

In some ways it feels like life is returning to normal, but there is still a long road ahead of us. Much of life in Uganda is still on lockdown and many remain unable to meet their family's basic needs. Action In Africa's emergency response via Quarantine Kits has been remarkable. In the past six weeks we've helped more than 2,625 people by delivering more than 450 Quarantine Kits. We continue to assess the situation and deliver kits to the most vulnerable families in the community, with the support of our local government leaders.

If you haven't already, please consider making a donation towards Action in Africa's Quarantine Kits <<https://actioninafrica-covid19.org/>>. **Each kit is \$35 and provides one family (4-6 people) with 2+ weeks worth of life-saving supplies!**



Just as we move through phases of reopening here in the US, Action In Africa is moving into a new phase in our COVID-19 response. While providing emergency aid is still our top priority, we are now in the process of developing distance learning tools for our Primary 7 (P7) students. This is an exciting new development for students and teachers alike. With schools closed for the foreseeable future many of the schools we work with in Uganda cannot afford to keep their teachers employed. In response to this problem Action In Africa is able to step in in a productive, meaningful way. The AIA leadership team in Uganda is spearheading a pilot program that will work with teachers from our partner schools to provide educational materials and instruction to P7 students!

This new initiative will directly impact 12 teachers and more than 170 P7 students in Nakuwadde. This program will be a hugely collaborative effort, with teachers from different schools working together to educate and prepare P7 students for national examinations (once they are administered again). Teachers will travel to students' homes to hand-deliver learning packets, meet parents, and offer support during these difficult times. Teachers will also be paid to correct and grade homework assignments. All interactions will be safe and socially distant.

Action in Africa (cont.)

via Sarah Nininger – Aspen, Washington, DC & Nakuwadde, Uganda

Supported by Aspen RC & Snowmass Village RC

We are excited for the tremendous potential this new initiative has to help hundreds of students continue their education. We anticipate launching the program in the coming two weeks and plan to continue administering it through the rest of 2020.

As we celebrate the arrival of summer we ask that you keep us in mind, and if you can we hope you'll join us as we continue to respond to the ongoing challenges in Uganda. Your contributions make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable families and youth in Nakuwadde. Thank you!

With Gratitude,
Sarah Nininger and The Action in Africa Team

Mission: "Action In Africa" is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in the United States, and Community Based Organization that operates a thriving community center in Nakuwadde, Uganda.

The organization believes that sustainable impact starts with local leadership, that's why they are a community-led organization dedicated to advancing the economic and personal development of women and children in the community of Nakuwadde, Uganda, through greater access to education and other life-changing resources.

Despite great progress in reducing countrywide poverty, Uganda remains one of the poorest nations in the world. In a country where chronic poverty is the backdrop to society, there are critical shortcomings in its developmental policies related to human rights, these include: inadequate investments in food security, mental health, women's rights, and education. Uganda is a place that can benefit from additional resources, which are made available through the programs at the AIA community center.

Action in Africa (AIA) was formed by Sarah Nininger about 14 years ago when she was a student at Aspen High School. AIA is being supported by the Aspen RC and the Snowmass Village RC. Hopefully, a few other clubs will step forward to support this exceptional project in Uganda.

For additional information, please contact Sarah Nininger <sarah@actioninafrica.com>



Rotary Around the World

Special Task Force/Joining the world through local membership Via Becky Kiser - East Colorado Springs RC

What is it?

Special Task Force is a special interest group of the Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs. We have members from around the world and from other Rotary clubs. We work towards world peace and understanding through friendship and projects. Our projects do have an international focus, but we also help locally. We are a group that meets for fun and brainstorms ideas on changing the world, believing the path towards happiness is helping other people. Being a social experiment, our only rule is that all members can volunteer only for what they can do with joy and ease.



How we got started.

Special Task Force members from 3 countries

The Problem: I grew up loving Rotary and feeling proud of the values it stood for. My father, Jim Davis, was a Rotarian, first in Colorado Springs North Club and then Rampart Range Club. My chance to be a Rotarian myself came when I realized that the Rotary International membership rules had changed since my father's time. I no longer was restricted to missing only three meetings per year. At that time, I was wrapping up my work in the Philippines and beginning extensive travel to Africa. I could only be a club member if the options were more open. Not only did I join and love the Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs, I had the honor (one of the favorite years of my life) to serve as president in 2017/18. This happened despite my unusual situation. As the founder of Trampled Rose, Inc. (TR), an NGO dedicated to keeping girls in school in rural Ethiopia, my residence was in Ethiopia. I traveled back and forth between the two continents while caring for my father in Colorado Springs and living in Africa.

While president, I kept hearing what I considered a myth, that younger people are not interested in Rotary or service as our generation was. Our club had been in decline for some years and it seemed like a pity to allow the trend to continue. I knew that TR's most dedicated and hard-working group of volunteers included many selfless young women. I began to ponder the real reason why our club was in decline. The first step was a needs analysis: why is it that people are not joining Rotary? I received, almost exclusively, two answers: "Time and money", or "Money and time." The order was mostly dependent on the age of the respondent

International appeal.

The next pondering point was how could we use membership to best build world peace and understanding while encouraging diversity. I believe that the best conduit of peace is Love, and that travels easiest through real friendships.

Finally, how could we join "grass-roots" Rotary? Again, and again, with my own eyes, I have seen a small group of Rotarians move mountains. In the days of my father's Rotary membership with required attendance, Rotarians knew each other through "make-up meetings" when they would visit each other's clubs. The result was close Rotary fellowship in our city. How could this be rekindled?

Rotary Around the World (cont.)

Special Task Force/Joining the world through local membership

Via Becky Kiser - East Colorado Springs RC

As I finished my beloved year as president, I ran for the position of membership chair (unopposed) working with the leadership of then club president, Penny Kelly. This is the pilot plan that had a possibility of addressing all concerns: attracting more members, attracting diverse members, building world peace and understanding, and providing opportunities for Rotary clubs to work together connected by projects. This is the strategy we submitted; it was approved by our innovative board of directors.

After consultation with District 5470 leaders, our club chose to begin a Special Interest Group named Special Task Force (STF). It would be a group of international members who work on short term projects. We chose this model because we want to continue the tradition of mentorship through service. We launched this pilot

group, with twelve new members in our club of 35, on World Peace and Understanding Day, February 28, 2019. Many of our new members are young women and men who deeply value their time with our loving and successful older members.



Books delivered in Aliyu Amba, Ethiopia

What and How we overcame:

We overcame the problem of time. We utilize the new RI rules on membership. We open club memberships to anywhere in the USA and the world. This helps build world peace and understanding through friendships and projects and brings in greater diversity of ideas. There are no requirements for attendance so this group is especially attractive to those who cannot attend a weekly meeting.

We overcame the problem of money. We reduced the dues to the minimum to make it affordable for all. We charge \$27 per month to cover RI and local dues. This is paid through PayPal so there is minimal accounting required. STF members pay for their meal if they can attend regular lunch meetings. The members who are from out of town and other countries pay dues only.

We joined the synergy of Rotarians from other clubs and “not yet Rotarians” who want to help with projects. Our club invited others to join our Special Task Force and help each other with projects. We do have members from other clubs (Rampart Range RC and Glenwood Springs Sunset RC). Our “not yet” members are called Rotary Elves. This also allows us to invite experts to help on projects who are potentially wonderful members.



Projects

Special Task Force has been effective in planning and administering many short-term projects including:

Feeding starving children in Yemen.

Teaching English as a second language to first to third graders in a Yemeni mosque in Ethiopia.

Delivering 22,300 eggs on Easter to 1,450 needy families in Ethiopia.

Creating and monitoring a coloring contest for children in the City of Fountain, CO.

Delivering Christmas Items to needy families in Colorado Springs with The Christmas Tree Project.

And many more....

Rotary Around the World (cont.)

Special Task Force/Joining the world through local membership Via Becky Kiser - East Colorado Springs RC

Notes:

Our Special Task Force has completed an impressive list of projects. I would be happy to get you more information of our successes and lessons.

The most unexpected result, for me, of this experiment has been the depth of the friendships of the members of our Special Task Force. It has taken on a life of its own.

Penny Kelly and I now have the honor of serving, under the leadership of Steve O'Neil, on District 5470 membership committee. It would be an honor to share with your club any information, answer any questions, or enjoy just a fun "get the ideas out" session. I am not encouraging copying this exact method, but I hope you can use it for a starting place to think of ways we can all spread, in our own unique strengths, the Rotary way of life.

We have found the Special Task Force special interest group of the Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs to be more successful than we first imagined possible. All our charter members have remained members of our club. We continue to grow in numbers and scope of projects.

Becky Kiser with her father, Jim Davis
hello@trampledrose.org
Rotary Club of East Colorado Springs



EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF PROJECT 2020 (EFR 2020)

Montrose RC & Chapala Sunrise RC (Jalisco, Mexico)

Via Rick Bleier - Montrose RC

With the COVID-19 restrictions creating extreme disruption in the local economy, the project committee of the Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club approved an Emergency Food Relief Program on April 20, 2020. Within days this effort was met with approval and an urgent sense of increasing need coupled with a desire to donate from Rotarians, Sister Clubs, and concerned individuals.

The original concept of the Project was to distribute despensas, weekly distribution of basic foods and sanitary products (beans, rice, oatmeal, soap, etc) to hungry families who had lost their main source of income due to the crisis. These families were identified by members Alan and Becca Pohl, in villages and areas where they work directly or where they have a trusted connection.

However, the need continued to expand as did generous donations. We couldn't stay idle despite the "Stay at Home" restrictions. Given the nature of our club membership, however, many are required to avoid physical contact due to underlying conditions and age.

On April 27, 2020, the project was amended to a two pronged approach. (1) We are continuing our work in assembling and distributing despensas on a weekly basis. The villages in which we are currently working are Barrio San Miguel (just below Tepehua on the hill in Chapala), Ojo de Agua and San Luis Soyatlán across the lake. Alan Pohl goes into the Abastos weekly to buy the goods at the best price. He returns to Lakeside and the goods are separated out of 20 kilo bags into individual despensas by Rotarians. We are fortunate that a local non-Rotarian has offered a large space, free of charge, that allows for social distancing and has handwashing facilities, tables and chairs. On following days, Becca Pohl and Alan distribute those despensas.

(2) Since we do not have the manpower to survey areas and find those who have recently suffered economic loss and hunger, we are partnering with several organizations who already are "boots on the ground", have a track record with feeding programs and also validate the eligibility of the participants. We are coordinating with them so there is no overlap, we learn from each other, and we share information so that all of us are more efficient and effective. Our current Lakeside partners are Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Tepehua Centro Comunitario, and Poco a Poco. Each of these programs runs a bit differently, but the goal is the same.

We are able to do this kind of direct work and partnership because of the generosity of 18 individual donors, 3 Rotary Clubs and a Canadian Foundation. Other individuals and clubs are coming on board. The Foundation for Lake Chapala Charities is accepting U.S. donations for us and issuing U.S. receipts for Tax Deduction purposes. The Winnipeg West Rotary Club, through an Interclub agreement is doing the same for Canadians.

We stress that this project is not sustainable. These donations can be considered one time, and we have no ongoing fundraising vehicle. It is projected that the program can last about 3 months to help families get through the immediate crisis. It is the hope that all of those who participate will be able to get back to work or find other ways to meet their family needs once this program ends.

Barbara Wilson (bbwphd@gmail.com); EFR2020 Chair; Chapala Sunrise Rotary Club

July 13 Project Update:

We have completed 3 months of work providing despensas (weekly bundles of food) to families in dire need in our area. We began with 48 despensas and have increased to 130 despensas per week as we continued to expand our effort. Our Rotary Club administrator, Alan Pohl, drives into the Guadalajara Abastos (wholesale food market), once a week to buy food in bulk at the best prices. He purchases and carries 44 lb bags of nutritious and filling food (beans, rice, soya crunch, etc) and cartons of powdered milk, sugar and cooking oil to a van in the parking lot, in which the seats have been pulled out to make more room.

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF PROJECT 2020 (cont.)

Montrose RC & Chapala Sunrise RC (Jalisco, Mexico)

Via Rick Bleier - Montrose RC

Our shifts of between 10-15 Rotary members and friends meet on Tuesday nights and Wednesday mornings to break down the bulk food and pack it into family size bags. The following days Alan and his wife Becca Pohl (our new President), go to villages and barrios around the lake and distribute the food to families who we have certified have lost their jobs and/or have had major change in their housing status. The families are very grateful. They live in humble abodes, typically without running water, appropriate sanitation and sometimes under tarps.



Thanks to the generosity of individual donors and Rotary members and clubs in Mexico, the United States and Canada, we have also been able to support other groups that are providing despensas, as we cannot possibly purchase and deliver more than what we are currently doing. We have partnered with several charitable organizations around the lake, sharing information about needy populations and/or giving financial support so that they can provide despensas to villages or populations that we can't cover. Two of the organizations that we have been able to support are Tepehua Community Center, with special food for pregnant and lactating moms, and two drug rehab centers who are struggling to provide food because the families no longer can visit and bring food to their loved ones. Additionally, we are providing money for food for two orphanages that we have supported over the years; Love in Action and Hope House.

While our donors have been extremely generous, we understand that many are also supporting other outreach efforts in their own families, communities and other areas. Our donations have dwindled to a trickle. This was to be expected. The original hope was for a 13 week program which would have ended July 31 with employment opportunities abundant after several months of shutdown.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. Mexico's COVID cases are on the rise, especially in Guadalajara where many of the work opportunities, especially in factories, have not resumed. Those that are working are getting minimum wage (\$5 U.S, a day). Adding to that problem is a scale down in public transportation which is very limiting, especially to those in villages that have no other option.

We have let our partners know that they cannot expect additional funding from us. We do have enough money to continue our own 130 despensa program through August, but we are, on a trial basis, going to scale down despensas delivery to every other week to see if families can find other sources of food, and, to also start weaning people from a program that is unsustainable. If this is successful, it would allow us to continue into September with despensas for those most in need.

This is another opportunity to **thank all of our supporters**; donors, Rotary members and club and friends, for financial and despensa assembly support. We also have benefited from support from organizations that have facilitated our international banking logistics (the Foundation for Lake Chapala Charities and the Winnipeg West Rotary Club) and Jayme Littlejohn who has generously provided a secure building for us to assemble and store our despensas.



PS. The Montrose RC has committed \$ 500.00 for the project and is in the process of applying for District matching funds.

Shelter is Critical to Reducing the Spread of COVID-19

by Jessica Metcalf - Grand Junction RC

Coronavirus reminds us of the fundamental importance of home to our health and well being. All of our lives are being affected by coronavirus in some way, but those living in refugee camps or in makeshift settlements are particularly vulnerable.

As experts in emergency shelter, ShelterBox can contribute to flattening the curve. To date, we have served over 1.5 million people in over 100 countries, in over 300 disasters with life-saving shelter and basic household supplies. By providing families with emergency shelter along with the training, skills, tools, and materials they need to recover after disaster or conflict, they can rebuild their lives and their communities more quickly.

As we face this global pandemic, the work of ShelterBox has never been more critical.

During this crisis within a crisis, our top priority is to follow core humanitarian principles and do no harm. We are adapting and scaling our work to serve populations most at risk of being devastated by the COVID-19 virus.

HOW IS SHELTERBOX ADAPTING AND SCALING IT'S RESPONSE TO THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC?

ENABLING SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Our family tents and shelter items allow families in crowded camps to self-isolate and social distance.
- Private shelter enables families to move out of crowded collective centers and limit their exposure to the virus.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO GOOD HYGIENE

- We've customized our aid packages to include soap and hand-washing basins.
- In some responses, we have a healthcare representative present to raise public awareness on good hygiene practices.



MODIFYING DISTRIBUTION PRACTICES



We are distributing to smaller groups and encouraging social distancing. Our partners are using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks.

For safety, we are conducting post deployment monitoring via phone.

Shelter is Critical to Reducing the Spread of COVID-19

by Jessica Metcalf - Grand Junction RC (cont.)



MITIGATING THE SPREAD

- Personal cooking equipment and sleeping mats reduce physical interaction and sharing between families.
- Water purification tools provide access to clean water that might not otherwise be available.

ShelterBox continues to monitor and respond to recent disasters in Vanuatu, Tanzania, and the Philippines, while working with local partners in Syria, Somaliland, Cameroon and Ethiopia to address the shelter needs of refugees. For more information or to make a donation visit ShelterBoxUSA.org.

Climbing Colorado's 58 "Fourteeners" is a rite of passage for every aspiring mountaineer.



Towering over 14,000 feet, these mountains rank as some of the tallest and most challenging in North America.

Brittney "Bert" Woodrum, a student and Rotary Peace Fellowship Applicant, has made it her mission to summit all 58 peaks with the iconic ShelterBox on her back to raise awareness and funding for ShelterBox. Her goal is to raise \$1,400 for each peak totaling \$81,200.

Her trek will take place July through September of 2020. Visit www.ShelterBoxUSA.org/fourteeners to view the summit schedule, make a donation or to learn more.

Shelter is Critical to Reducing the Spread of COVID-19

by Jessica Metcalf - Grand Junction RC (cont.)

She shares, “It’s funny, but it seems the less I have, the happier I am. When I moved to Myanmar a couple years ago, I was living in a Buddhist nunnery to help start a language school. While there, the nuns taught me a lot about the idea of “impermanence.” With a desire to learn more, I eagerly dove into their way of life, shaving my hair and donating nearly everything I owned. These women became my entire life: they were my students, my friends, my teachers, and my sisters, and I still remember how surreal it all seemed. These women had nothing compared to life I was used to, yet their lives were overflowing with joy and purpose. This was where I learned the true meaning of community, and a little over a year later when I hiked the Appalachian Trail (AT), these lessons seemed to resurface all over again.

I am a big believer in Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. On the bottom of the pyramid you have your physical staples, such as food, water and shelter. On the AT, I never worried about finding those foundational necessities, but I did play a significant role in providing those things for myself and others each and every day. Being able to ensure that those around me had what they needed to survive gave me an immense amount of fulfillment; however, it also made me realize how many people don’t have that sense of security.



“That’s what really drives me. No one should have to worry about where their shelter will come from, and that’s why I was really struck by ShelterBox’s mission.”— Brittney “Bert” Woodrum

Supporter sponsorships will receive a picture of Bert with an agreed upon item or picture of your choosing at the top of your peak. Weight, size, and message of (on) object need to be considered. To learn more, visit www.ShelterBoxUSA.org/Fourteeners

The Glenwood Springs Sunset RC is sponsoring 4 peaks

Guatemala Literacy Project

via Peter Jeschofnig, Glenwood Springs Sunset RC

The Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) is one of the largest grassroots, multi-club, multi-district projects in Rotary. More than 600 clubs and 80 districts have been working together since 1997 to improve education for underserved students in Guatemala. In that time, nearly 225,500 students have been served through four sustainable programs that are tested and proven to work. In 2017, RI President Ian Riseley called the GLP “the gold standard of Rotary projects” for its sustainability and impact.

GLP partners with impoverished communities to implement four complementary programs:

- trains teachers in effective reading instruction and provides them with quality children’s literature
- provides textbooks to middle schools and trains teachers to use them effectively in the classroom
- teaches students to use technology to solve real-world problems so they can secure better jobs
- transforms young lives through youth development, social support, and scholarships



GLP and its partner organization Cooperative for Education (Coed) are organizing annual volunteer trips to Guatemala: [Guatemala Literacy Project Tour: February 6–14, 2021](#)—Deliver textbooks, inaugurate computer centers, and share in fellowship with other Rotarians from around the world on this nine-day tour.

[Snapshot Tour: February 23–28, 2021 & July 20–25, 2021](#)— Travel through beautiful landscapes and experience Guatemalan culture as you visit GLP program schools on this five-day tour.

[Helping Hands Tour: July 11–17, 2021](#)— Perform hands-on service projects alongside primary-school students at one of the GLP’s program schools during this seven-day tour.

Several Rotarians from D-5470 have participated in some of these trips and found them most interesting and exciting.

The Rotary Clubs of Guatemala Oeste and Sudbury have announced that the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) Global Grant for the 2019-2020 Rotary year has been approved by The Rotary Foundation! [Global Grant #1989785](#) is for a total amount of US \$631,247. 149 clubs, 19 districts, and a \$106,256 match from the Government of Canada contributed to this Global Grant, which will provide the gift of literacy, education, and training to more than 7,600 children and teachers in rural Guatemala. That’s incredible!

The Aspen RC and Snowmass Village RC are strong supporters of GLP, as are several individual D-5470 Rotarians. For additional information check out the GLP website: <https://www.guatemalaliteracy.org/>

Saving Lives in Botswana -- One Surgeon at a Time

by Amy McBride, Rotary Club of Montrose

Forty. That is the number of surgeons in Botswana, according to most recent data from the World Health Organization—far below the number in other Southern African countries.

The Rotary Club of Gaborone seeks to raise that number by supporting a young medical doctor, Weludo Ngwisanyi, to continue her studies for a post-graduate degree in General Surgery at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Upon completion, Weludo will return to Botswana to serve her country as a surgeon. Weludo was selected by the Government of Botswana to undertake her primary medical degree at the University of the West Indies. Following her graduation in 2014, Weludo returned to Botswana and worked as a medical doctor at several hospitals while volunteering her medical expertise at village wellness days, orphanages, and HIV testing campaigns.



Dr. Weludo Ngwisanyi

Weludo is committed to building the skills of her fellow doctors in Botswana, and has pledged to establish a mentor/mentee program in Botswana to train Junior Medical Officers in life-saving procedures.

The Rotary Club of Gaborone is seeking an International Sponsor to collaborate on and provide financial support for a Global Grant to fund this project. Would your Club like to join with Rotarians in Botswana to bring the number of surgeons there to 41?

If so, please contact me for more information: amylopermcbride@gmail.com or 970/433-8779. Thank you!

Sarah Harper-Johnston, Global Grant Scholarship Recipient Via Kate Carnahan Davis, District Scholarship Chair North Colorado Springs RC

District 5470's 2020/2021 Global Grant Scholar is Sarah Harper-Johnston, and she initially became involved with Rotary almost ten years ago. From Crested Butte, Colorado, Sarah was a Rotary Youth Exchange Student for her junior year of high school in Denmark. In September 2020, she will be studying at Trinity College Dublin to pursue a M.Phil degree in Race, Ethnicity and Conflict with the support of Rotary International.

Sarah owes her extensive international experience and interest in global affairs to the life changing experience in Denmark. After graduating high school, she moved to Paris, France and studied at the American University of Paris. There she majored in Global Communications with a focus in Film Studies and Political Communications. After graduating with honors and as the Undergraduate Student President, she joined the Peace Corps.

Sarah served two years in a rural town outside Yangon, Myanmar, where she volunteered as an English Teacher Trainer with the Peace Corps. After completing service in March 2020, Sarah intends to pursue a M.Phil degree in Race, Ethnicity, and Conflict and focus her dissertation on the ethnic conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State. Once completing the degree, she will seek further research in ethnic conflict and genocide prevention to move towards a career in international human rights.

We, District 5470, are extremely proud of Sarah representing us as our 2020-2021 Global Grant Scholarship Program recipient. We are currently looking for qualified applicants for the 2021-2022 academic term.

For additional information, please contact Kate Davis <katerotary1@gmail.com>



Sarah after finishing her Peace Corps service.

Bioactivated biochar project - El Salvador

by David Nuttle, Dolores Rotary Club

Dolores Rotary (CLUB 1159, D-5470) is in the final stages of perfecting an international bioactivated biochar project for a group of poor farmers in El Salvador. Agriculture research in 7 nations has established that biochar bioactivated with soil microbes will typically double normal crop yields and increase soil fertility on a long-term basis. Smallholder farmers grow most of the world's food crops and most of them are now having soil fertility problems because they are too poor to buy and transport commercial fertilizers to their farms.

Biochar is a charcoal-like substance that's made by burning organic material from agricultural and forestry wastes (also called biomass) in a controlled process called [pyrolysis](#). Although it looks a lot like common charcoal, biochar is produced using a specific process to reduce contamination and safely store carbon



The project technical director is David Nuttle, an agricultural specialist (club member) who is skilled in the making and application of bioactivated biochar as a soil supplement. Nuttle is also President of Needful Provision, Inc. (an agriculture development charity) that is providing added technical support. The technical coach for the project farmers is Odette M., a native of El Salvador with a PH.D. in Agriculture with prior research on biochar. (Odette is fluent in English.)



We have a local Rotary Club as sponsor, a supporting local NGO, and a farmers coop representing project farmers. We are now in the process of taking soil tests and obtaining project farmer statements to fully document their soil infertility issues. Progress in this one area was slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Project biochar kilns will be manufactured in El Salvador by the Inversiones Falcon Co. It will therefore cost us less than half what it would cost to make these kilns in the U.S., and then we would still need to pay transportation costs for shipping to El Salvador. (Our local kiln cost will be under \$300. per kiln.)

Our project coordinator, in El Salvador, is Luis A. an electrical engineer, El Salvadoran, and Nuttle's trusted personal friend. Luis will support all project efforts and focus on the addition of T-Gen (thermo-electric generators) to use kiln heat to power combination lights and bug-zappers to help reduce project farm mosquito populations to thus limit the threat of malaria. Kilns will also have a cooking area on top to make use of kiln heat for cooking of project family foods.

The subject biochar kiln project has good application to improve food security in nearly 100 nations. Dolores Rotary would like 3 more Rotary Clubs to join in this effort with each contributing \$2,500.00. As a reward they will be given detailed plans for their members to make their own bioactivated biochar to dramatically increase crop yields on their own home gardens.

For you further information, I have attached a drawing and info on our biochar kiln. We are making final improvements and will soon have a video showing the kiln. Good international projects are complex and need considerable support. It seems evident, that Dolores has the inputs needed to make its El Salvador biochar project a great success. Thank you for considering our efforts.

Potential Friendship Exchange with Botswana via Amy McBride, Montrose RC

[Note: Amy McBride is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Botswana. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Montrose, but has been quite active with the Rotary Club of Gaborone (Botswana).]

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

The Club proposes August 2021 to come to District 5470, since they want to partake in hiking, jeeping, camping, flyfishing, mushroom foraging, and all the other great things to do in Colorado in August (and people from Botswana aren't keen on cold temperatures).

Here are ten reasons why you should visit Botswana:

It has the world's largest population of elephants.

Over 500 species of birds have been recorded in Botswana.

You can easily see the "Big Five"—Cape buffalo, lions, leopards, rhinos, and elephants.

It's the newly-declared "evolutionary birthplace of humankind."

Animals roam freely in the nearly half of Botswana that is protected through national parks, reserves, and management areas.

Victoria Falls, the world's largest waterfall (by surface area) is next door!

The climate is mild...with highs in the 70s and lows around 50 in May.

There are no vaccination requirements, and Botswana is one of the safest countries for travel in Africa. [Do note that malaria prophylaxis is recommended.]

The people! Extremely friendly! And fun!



Photo by Aidan McBride

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

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

Potential Friendship Exchange with Botswana (continued) via Amy McBride, Montrose RC

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



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

At this point, the Rotary Club of Gaborone is gauging interest to see if there are twelve people from District 5470 who want to join the Exchange. If you are interested, please let me know by sending an email to amylopermcbride@gmail.com or a WhatsApp message to 970-433-8779 (phone calls, SMS, or WhatsApp)

Small grant leads to big changes for Tanzanian girls

By PDG Curt Harris, Evergreen RC, D-5450

Via Rotary Voices

Although I joined Rotary in 1997, it wasn't until I had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania to climb Mount Kilimanjaro as a Rotary-sponsored fundraiser three years later that I really felt I had become a Rotarian.

This was my first opportunity to visit a developing country and see first-hand what poverty looks like. It is quite an eye-opener. I also got to observe some of the great things that Rotary was doing in the area. On that trip, our team of 11 climbers raised nearly \$300,000 to support the Selian Hospital in northern Tanzania. Three years later, I returned with a smaller team, raising \$125,000 to help build Selian Hospital's new sister facility near downtown Arusha.



Curt Harris, right, displays the Rotary logo at the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro during one of his five climbs.



Kisa mentors

Some might think climbing Kilimanjaro five times a little strange, and they might be right! But the last two times, in 2016 and 2018, I led teams that did something truly special. On each of these climbs, we were joined by some young Tanzanian women who were graduates of the Kisa Project, a program sponsored by AfricAid. It provides robust mentorship opportunities that help secondary school girls learn skills like confidence, leadership, and resilience in order to succeed in school and beyond. In fact, 97 percent of Kisa scholars continue to tertiary education, compared with a national average in Tanzania of 3 percent. It's a remarkably effective program.

The young women who joined us were so excited to be part of our climb. Very few women in Tanzania get to climb Kili – they typically cannot afford it and the culture discourages it. We were also excited for them to join us, because it gave us all a chance to hear firsthand the stories that led them to become the confident, successful, university-educated women who now serve as Kisa Project mentors today.

One of the girls on our 2018 climb was named Ellie. Over dinner one evening, she shared that when she was young, her dream was simply to go to school. Ellie was the youngest of nine children with a single mother in rural Tanzania. Girls in her village didn't go to school. They stayed home, did chores, hauled water, got married, and had many children.

But Ellie had this dream. She snuck off to school whenever she could. Sometimes the headmaster would send her home. If her brothers found out, they would beat her. But she would always go back. Finally, the headmaster and her family gave in, and Ellie could go to school. She graduated, went to college and now is a Kisa Project mentor. She even started her own nonprofit, Her Journey to School, through which she works to convince parents in Tanzania to educate their girls.

Small grant leads to big changes for Tanzanian girls

By PDG Curt Harris, Evergreen RC, D-5450 (cont)

Via Rotary Voices

Now here's , the real takeaway:

Twenty years ago, my Rotary club in Evergreen, Colorado, had invited Ashley, a local 15-year-old girl, to talk about an idea she had for a nonprofit. Our club gave her the chance to speak (and maybe a little confidence), then passed the hat to raise about \$900. She used that money to start AfricAid.

Two decades ago, this one small grant from a club halfway around the world helped start a process that has since mentored 10,000 girls, giving them the skills to lead the lives they choose and create a ripple effect of change in their communities.

As Rotarians, we do a lot of good. But, sometimes we don't always realize the long-term impact of our work. So let's all remember – especially right now – that even a seemingly small effort can have such a major impact in your local community, or even half a world away.

Find out how to support mentoring opportunities for girls in Tanzania, or get information on joining Curt on his climb, by sending an email to info@africaid.com



Kisa mentors on a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro with Curt Harris in 2018.

7th Area of Focus—Supporting the Environment via Rotary International

The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: supporting the environment.

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

RI President Mark Maloney says that during his travels around the world as a Rotary senior leader he encountered many Rotary members and Rotaractors who advocated for the environment to be an area of focus.

“I believe strongly that our Rotary Foundation programs now have a valuable added dimension to our efforts,” says, Maloney.

Foundation Trustee Chair Gary C.K. Huang says that with the global population reaching near eight billion, protecting the environment is increasingly important.

“It is time for us to use our collective resources to invest in a smart and efficient way to protecting our environment,” says Huang. “We are qualified to take this initiative because we are a global group of problem solvers with diversified talents.”

In 1990-91, RI President Paulo V.C. Costa made the environment one of his primary causes, creating the Preserve Planet Earth subcommittee, which looked at ways clubs and members could conduct environmental initiatives.

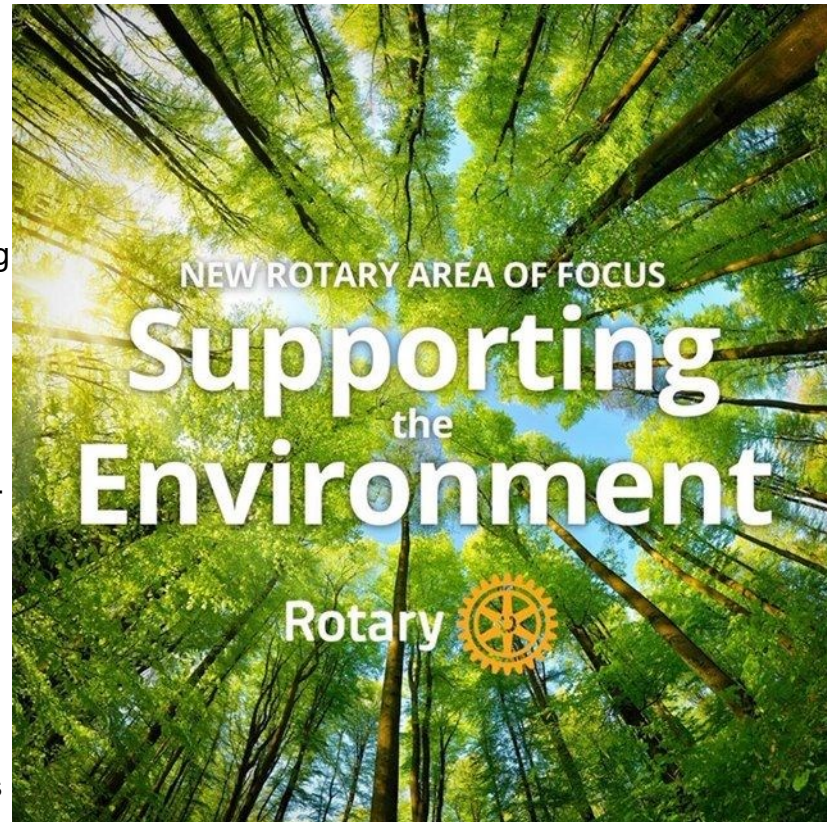
“We have finally caught up to Costa [his vision],” says Past RI President Ian H.S. Riseley, chair of the Environmental Issues task force, which championed the new area of focus.

“As a lifelong environmentalist, I’m delighted that our great organization has recognized that the environment is a worthy and appropriate destination for our project activity,” says Riseley. “This is an exciting moment in Rotary history.”

Supporting the environment becomes Rotary’s seventh area of focus, which are categories of service activities supported by global grants. It joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Grant applications for projects will be accepted beginning on 1 July 2021. Gifts and commitments from Rotarians and others will be sought to provide global grant support for the new area of focus.

More information about this new cause will be announced soon.



District 5470 Humanitarian Global Grant Annual Report

By David Smith, Pagosa Springs Rotary Club

In 2018, the World Bank estimated that 8.6% of the world's population (736 million people) lived on less than \$1.90/day. The World Health Organization reports that 1 in 3 people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water. Although most rotary clubs focus their efforts on serving their local communities, the Rotary Foundation directs a major effort to combating world poverty. Global Grants are the primary tool used by The Foundation to achieve this goal.

Information on the 7 Humanitarian Global Grants supported by Rotary Clubs in our district during the past year is summarized in the following table. Every Global Grant has 1 International Partner, which is usually the Rotary Club that initiates a project, applies to The Foundation for funding, and works directly with a Host Partner to carry-out a project.

Three clubs in our district, Pueblo West, Edwards, and Aspen, are the International Partners for Humanitarian Global Grants approved during the past year. Serving as an International Partner requires vision to recognize an opportunity. It usually involves some personal contacts in the Host country. It requires effort to raise funding and much more. However, the reward for carrying-out a Humanitarian Global Grant is immense. Special recognition goes to Melanie Phelps (Pueblo West), Richard Dangler (Edwards) and Robert Porter (Aspen), who are the Principal Contacts for each of these new projects.

Although the other 4 grants have international partners in other districts, clubs in our district provided financial support for these projects. Three requested and received matching District Designated Funds (DDF) from our district.

Yes, developing and executing a Humanitarian Global Grant is a lot of work, but, it is the most efficient use of club funds. The Project developed by the Edwards Rotary Club is an example of how a small amount of club money can grow 10-fold. The Edwards Club contributed \$4,000, and solicited support from clubs in Aspen, Vail and Durango. Our district matched funds from these clubs using its DDF. Then The Rotary Foundation matched these funds. So, an initial contribution of \$4,000 from the Edwards Club led to a project budget of \$43,900.

Although The Rotary Foundation reduced its match starting July 1, 2020, Global Grants still provide a way to do more with less. We are currently exploring the possibility of increasing the District match to compensate for the reduced support from TRF. More information will be posted on our district website as it becomes available. Details on the process for applying for a global grant are also given on our district website: <https://www.rotary5470.org/SitePage/global-grants>

What can you and your club do to help The Rotary Foundation combat world poverty?

District 5470 Humanitarian Global Grant Annual Report

By David Smith, Pagosa Springs Rotary Club

Global Grant applications receiving District support (DDF) during the 2019-2020 Rotary year

GG #	Project Title	International Partner Club/ District	5470 Club Contributions	5470 DDF Match	Global Grant Total Budget
GG1873895	St Helene, Honduras, WASH Phase 2, Water to every home	5450	Aspen 3,000 Snow Mass 3,000	6,000	216,977
GG2014920	El Paraiso and La Guayabas, Nicaragua Water and Sanitation Projects	Pueblo West 21,768	Pueblo 1,000 Pagosa Mountain 1,000	23,730	81,849
GG2012738	Equipment to the COVID-19 section at Hospital AinWazein – Chouf	District 3232	Grand Junction 1,000	0	42,735
GG2094034	TeleDermatology for Trifinio Center Guatemala	Edwards 4,000	Aspen 4,000 Vail 4,000 Durango 500	12,500	43,900
GG1988620	Mercy Ships - equipping Global Mercy and Capacity Building in Liberia	District 1260	0	10,000	1,125,956
GG1989785	Guatemala Literacy Project - Quetzaltenango & Chimaltenango	District 7010	Snowmass 3,000 Aspen 7,500	10,500	631,247
GG2093386	Copperbelt Province (Zambia) Malaria Elimination Project Phase 1A	Aspen 20,000	Carbondale 2,000	22,000	203,450

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, measureable 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 TRF match \$ 15,000
- Minimum budget of US\$35,000

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