

ROTARY DISTRICT 5470

International Service News

D-5470 International Service Newsletter #4

April 2017



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

- ◇ It connects clubs
- ◇ It builds relationships
- ◇ It educates, assists, and may help finance clubs' international project

development and fulfilment efforts.

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

In the previous newsletter we primarily provided information about global grants involving clubs in our district. In this newsletter, we'll show some 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.



"Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.."

- Minor Myers Jr.



Health clinic, Maharashtra State, India

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Recent D-5470 International Rotary project

Health care in the high Nubri Valley region of Nepal

By Nancy Kerr, M.D. - Rotary Club of Telluride

The Telluride Rotary Club is helping to sponsor health clinics in the high Nubri Valley region of Nepal, in the Himalayan “foothills” since 2014, even before the devastating earthquake of April 2015. This area is beautiful and rugged, but because it is not on the way to Everest it has not elicited much international attention or funding.



Manaslu, the beautiful yet treacherous mountain above the village of Sama

Most of the clinics lie at 9000 to 12000 feet, higher even than our Telluride 8,750-foot elevation. Initially two of our club members, physicians Mark Hauswald and Nancy Kerr, became familiar with the clinics when asked by the local Buddhist lama, Lama Jigme, to do a health needs assessment for the area when they led global health seminars for US physicians through the area. Many of the health needs identified are the same primary care issues that we see in small town Colorado: respiratory infections, asthma, hypertension, trauma, and infectious diseases of childhood (respiratory and diarrhea). Some antenatal care and deliveries are performed. Rapid transport out of town is only by helicopter, otherwise it is a 5-day trek to the nearest hospital (and that is in summer.) Health facilities in the villages along the trail in this high valley are small, and are theoretically funded and staffed by the Nepal government. Unfortunately, the funds and staff often do not fully materialize.

Health care in the high Nubri Valley region of Nepal (continued)

By Nancy Kerr, M.D. - Rotary Club of Telluride

Fortunately Nepal Seeds, an NGO located in the US and Nepal has helped provide educational resources, and collaborated with Mark and Nancy in recruiting a British NGO, Community Action Nepal (CAN), to assist in running the clinics.



Clinic in Sama, with nurses, the Lama, and Mark, Nancy and another US doctor.

Initially the Telluride Rotary club donated funds to hire 2 nurses at the clinic in Sama for 3 years. Then in 2016 (following the earthquake) CAN requested help in purchasing medical equipment for the four clinics they now operate in the Nubri Valley. The Telluride club provided funds for, purchased and transported the equipment (with help from Nepal Seeds.) Nine Masimo portable Pronto Hemoglobin meters (for checking anemia) and 13 oxygen sensors (finger pulse oximeters) were purchased by our club (approximately \$10,000 worth of equipment.) Two colleagues from Nepal Seeds transported and delivered the devices from the US to Nepal, trained the nurses in their use, and followed up on them six months later. The hemoglobin meters are now in use in the four clinics mentioned, and the pulse oximeters in 13 of the CAN run clinics within Nepal.

Health care in the high Nubri Valley region of Nepal (continued)

By Nancy Kerr, M.D. - Rotary Club of Telluride

Telluride Rotary club will continue to follow up on these medical projects over the ensuing years. We are pleased to find that collaboration with other NGO's with local expertise and presence is effective in providing improved health care options to the Nepali people of the high Nubri Valley.



Beautiful little girl from along the trail. (Head shaved to minimize lice.)

Recent D-5470 International Rotary project

Thirsty in Nicaragua, the Country Where 'Agua' Is Part of Its Name

By Jean Feist - Rotary Club of Colorado Springs

Nicaragua, the Central American country where the country is suffering one of its worst water crises in half a century, fueled by climate change, deforestation, erosion and lack of conservation understanding and responsibility.

The shortage is a nationwide problem, and threatens the living conditions of the country's 6.1 million inhabitants. Many rural areas in central and western Nicaragua where thousands of families used to depend on wells and rivers—those have dried up. Today, more than 70% of Nicaraguans do not have access to potable water. In rural areas, where people lack such access, citizens must often procure their water from shallow wells, rivers, streams, and lakes that are polluted with residential sewage, pesticides, and industrial toxins. Although most of urban residents claim to have either legal or illegal water connections, cities are subject to frequent water and electrical outages, particularly during the dry season. But no short-term solution is in sight.



Four Rotarians from Colorado Springs Rotary visited Nicaragua in January 2017 to learn the best method to identify and help a community provide a sustainable water supply and clean drinking water. Our 7 day trip was arranged and guided by El Porvenir, A Colorado based non-profit organization that has installed 25—plus water projects in northern Nicaraguan communities over the past 20 years. The Team visited completed projects and two that were in—process located in San Lorenzo, El Tule, Apatu, Terrabona and El Crucero. Communities are located Matagalpa and Managua Departments.

In most villages, people walk long distances to find water. Some are able to buy water—the problem is—not everyone can afford to buy both water and food. The villages we visited are rural locations and dependent on rainfall during the wet months of June through November, known as their winter season. There is little or no rain during their summer months, December through May. Evaluating a project requires the skills of local qualified and knowledgeable staff—a staff that

assists with the evaluation, installation, construction, ongoing maintenance and sustainability. Having met with their staff in several communities, we were assured that we selected the right organization and are excited with the opportunity to work with El Porvenir.



Thirsty in Nicaragua, the Country Where 'Agua' Is Part of Its Name (continued)

By Jean Feist - Rotary Club of Colorado Springs

Thursday and Friday were spent at Clinica Suzie Syke in El Crucero, a small village located 30 km southwest of Managua. Our Team brought 200 pairs of eye glasses to the clinic for its first free eye exams and glasses. Dr. Luis Ocampo arranged for an optometrist to assist with exams and distribution. We gave 66 pairs of glasses and the remaining glasses were left for the doctors to distribute to other patients. The kids engaged in craft projects brought by the Rotarians to entertain them while waiting to see the doctor.

The Rotary Team accomplished our goal. We ended the trip with a bit of sightseeing—including lakes and volcanos and a coffee farm at the height of harvest season. A country producing coffees known for their floral aromas, distinctive flavor and bright acidity.

A meeting with Rotary Club of Managua gave us additional confirmation that Nicaraguans need help. These Rotarians have assisted Rotary clubs from far-away parts of the world on other in process water projects.



Colorado Springs Rotary team meeting with Managua Rotary

We were rewarded, enlightened with information and carried the enthusiasm back to Colorado to continue the sponsorship of a water project in Nicaragua. Following our return, we met with the Palmer High School Rotaract Club with a slide presentation about our trip. This Club has raised thousands of dollars to be donated toward this water project. Their excitement and continued support truly affirms the Four Way Test, "Service Above Self"



Recent D-5470 International Rotary project

Rotary Partners with Tribal Foundation to Enhance Health in Papua New Guinea

Submitted by Dave Frank - Montrose Rotary Club

Can you imagine never going to a dentist? Having a tooth ache and having no one to take care of it? Most of us are very blessed and have never experienced this, and we also know there are many people in the world who don't have access to the most basic healthcare needs. Poor oral health can lead to other health problems, including oral and facial pain, problems with the heart and other major organs in addition to digestion problems. In Papua New Guinea there is one dentist for 5000,000 people. As Rotarians, our goals include working together to fight disease, and we believe we have a responsibility to take action on our world's issues and that's why we agreed to step up to assist the Tribal Foundation in their quest to provide improved dental care in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

In 2016, the Montrose, Telluride and Carbondale Rotary clubs collaborated to write a grant led by Amy McBride to help enhance system and programs in place to improve dental care in a Papua New Guinea hospital. Each club donated \$500 which was matched by our district and also Rotary International for a total of \$34,650. The grant money will be used to provide a medical container and



dental training for the people of PNG. The project is also being carried out in partnership with the Madang Rotary Club in Papua New Guinea.

Rotary has a history of working with the Papua New Guinea Tribal Foundation and Project Cure to help fund containers full of medical equipment to provide hospitals and remote health centers with the most basic supplies. Each shipment is valued at approximately \$400,000 and contains items that are requested by the facilities in need based on a prior assessment done by Tribal Foundation's Medical Directors Drs. Mark Hauswald and Nancy Kerr who are also members of Telluride Rotary.

The Papua New Guinea Tribal Foundation, led by Montrose Rotarian Gary Bustin, is an organization with a reputation for working hard to answer Papua New Guinea's health and education needs. They work together with government, private organizations, corporations and individuals to support and implement projects they feel will produce lasting results and help develop Papua New Guinea. Their mission is *To combine our local understanding with humble expertise and build a solid foundation that will bring about significant and sustaining development for the people of Papua New Guinea.* To learn more please go to www.pngtribe.org

Rotary Partners with Tribal Foundation to Enhance Health in Papua New Guinea (continued)



Photo Courtesy of Tribal Foundation



Geoff Ila of the Tribal Foundation unloading medical supplies form a container in PNG

Recent D-5470 International Rotary project

30 Years of Women in Rotary: Helping Women and Girls in Ethiopia

By Becky Kiser - East Colorado Springs Rotary Club



Rebekah Kiser, PE of the East Rotary Club of Colorado Springs with Rotaracts from the Kerogye and Soloyana clubs in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This photo was taken during a meeting of the oldest Rotary Club in Ethiopia, the Addis Ababa Rotary Club.



Thousands of High School girls gathering for their team training. The girls learned the four way test in smaller groups that broke off after the main assembly. With Donna Dell'Olio and Laura Muir in Merhabete, Ethiopia.

30 Years of Women in Rotary: Helping Women and Girls in Ethiopia (continued)



Asres Bizuwork, past Rotary Leadership Scholarship recipient, Donna Dell'Olio, member of the Colorado Springs Rotary Club, Laura Muir, President of the East Rotary Club of Colorado Springs (left to right) discussing methods of teaching the Rotary four way test to over 3,000 rural Ethiopian girls. In Alem Ketema, Ethiopia.



Penny Kelly, member of the East Rotary Club of Colorado Springs, at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia celebrating the Independence Day of Nigeria. Penny was in Ethiopia helping with the beginning of the Royal Adventure, There is Greatness in You, a project of the East Club joining American girls and Ethiopian girls under these three principles:

- You are valuable.
- Your dreams matter.
- One of the keys to Happiness is Service above Self (This part of the class is taught with the Rotary Four Way Coin)



Rebekah Kiser of the East Colorado Springs RC visiting with one of the many girls to stay in school supported by her club. These precious girls (mostly orphans) are provided with a required school uniform, school supplies, food, shelter, menstrual care supplies allowing her to stay in school every week of the month, and the confidence that comes from knowing someone cares. Most funds for this project of the East CS Club are gathered at our annual fundraiser, the Bob Carlone Memorial Sporting Clay Shoot.

30 Years of Women in Rotary: Helping Women and Girls in Ethiopia (continued)



The Colorado Springs Rotary Club donated enough menstrual care supplies for 500 needy school girls. This included enough supplies for two years and allows the girl to stay in school every week of the month thus giving her a better advantage to do well in school.



Two of the girls in North Shoa sponsored by the Rampart Range Rotary Club in Colorado Springs



Note: In addition to the girls sponsored (a total of 48 in 2017 sponsored by Colorado Springs Rotary Clubs. (East Colorado Springs Rotary Club, The East Colorado Springs Rotary Fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, Rampart Range Rotary Club, Colorado Springs Rotary Club). Rotary clubs and friends in Vancouver Island, Canada contributed towards the building of toilet facilities and wash area for girls. The official government figure was 4510 girls helped in Muki Turi, Ethiopia by this joint project in 2016/17.

If you would like to find out more about this project, feel free to contact Becky Kiser of the East Colo. Springs RC - bkiser@aol.com

Recent D-5470 International Rotary projects

Aspen Rotary Club International Projects

By Heidi Hoffmann

Our Club is supporting the **following** global grant projects with most receiving a 1:1 match from our District 5470. These grants include the following projects:

- 1) providing wheelchairs in Formosa, Argentina;
- 2) water filtration and hygiene education in Meru, Kenya;
- 3) wells and latrines in Nicaragua;
- 4) bridges for prosperity in Nicaragua;
- 5) efficient cookstoves in Guatemala; 5) book distribution and literacy training in Guatemala;
- 6) a computer lab in Torreon, Mexico;
- 7) high school science education in Senegal, Africa.

Pending projects in 2017 include

Bariloche, Argentina (medical supplies to rural hospitals),

Rural solar electrification in the Himalayan Mountains outside Leh, Laddakh, India and the Guatemala Literacy Project, which we renew each year.



A **future** grant would be located in Cusco, Peru in partnership with the Boulder New Generations Rotary Club. This grant would build upon their previous Visionaria Peru project and their strong relationship with the Cusco Rotary Club to empower women to address sustainable outcomes for immediate development issues regarding pollution control from domestic and industrial waste water in Cusco (despite a water treatment facility).

Recent D-5470 International Rotary project

Rotary is Strong in Niamey, Niger, Africa

By David Smith, Pagosa Springs RC

I just returned from a week in Niamey, the capital of Niger. There are 4 Rotary Clubs in Niamey, each with about 20 members. The list of projects these clubs have participated in is long and impressive. These projects include healthcare, education, water and sanitation, high-end agriculture and much more.

Life in Niger is generally harsh. The country is the size of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona combined. About 80% lies in the middle of the Sahara Desert where the annual rainfall is usually less than 1 inch. A narrow strip on the south western corner, which includes Niamey, may receive 20 inches of rain a year, but it all comes within 2-3 months. Of course temperatures are HOT. Niger is consistently ranked as one of the poorest countries in Africa by the UN Human Development Index. Yet Rotary is strong in Niamey!

My host, Gaston Kaba, joined Rotary in 1988. While serving as president in 1993-1994, he inducted the first 3 women Rotarians in Niger. He has been involved with many international projects, which were sponsored by organizations in Germany, France, Canada, USA, Belgium and many other countries. Gaston studied at both UC Berkeley and SUNY Albany, so he speaks all forms of American. His father, Jean Kaba, was one of the original founders of Rotary in Niamey. During the great drought of 1969-1974, their Rotary club worked with 41 clubs in Europe to deliver 10 tons of medical supplies to those fleeing the expanding desert. They also created the Niamey Blood Bank and built a health center.

Gaston is currently working with the Carbondale Rotary Club on a global grant that encourages women and children to grow high-profit cash crops, like onions, lettuce, tomatoes etc. Areas that look like desert to me are leveled. A well is dug. A solar powered pump is installed. The women grow several crops a year and sell the produce locally. They keep 50% of the proceeds for themselves, return 25% to cover operational expenses and give 25% to their schools. Children learn the value of cash crop farming by caring for small plots of land. The project is going well and has one "Unintended consequence". The divorce rate in families where the women earn money is in sharp decline!

Niger's needs are great. Supporting Niger will give a high return on investment. A little money will do a lot. Given the strength and experience of Rotary in Niamey, we can be sure that projects will be well-designed and funds will be handled properly. I encourage anyone interested in starting a new global grant to contact Gaston (gaskab.kaba@gmail.com).



Recent D-5470 International Rotary project

Cañon City resident Linda Carlson works with Rotary International to equip African teachers with necessary tools, books

By Carie Canterbury , *The Daily Record* - Cañon City



The three high school seniors who were Carlson's assistants, with their sophisticated knowledge of Biology, and speaking both French and Wolof, were invaluable. (*Linda Carlson / Special to the Daily Record*)

Imagine a place where there is no need for police, where people simply help one another and share freely, a place where families live together in peace and harmony. Now imagine the same place, where students have little to no school supplies, where medical care is not available, a place where the average life expectancy is 60 and malaria is a constant threat to all age groups. People in Senegal, one of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, are happy and thankful for the little things in life, but Rotary International is working to help the country move toward becoming more developed so that its residents can have more successful futures.

Dr. Linda Carlson, an educator, artist and Rotarian, shared her recent visit to Senegal during a presentation Thursday at the Senior Mini College hosted by Pueblo Community College Fremont Campus. Carlson has a doctorate in biochemistry and specialized in molecular genetics. She was on the faculty at Columbia University before moving from New York to Cañon City several years ago with her husband, Dr. Eric Carlson, to raise a family.

Carlson represented Rotary International and its efforts in February to strengthen high school science in Senegal, where the government has set a goal to have 80 percent of high school boys and girls enrolled in science classes.

Cañon City resident Linda Carlson works with Rotary International to equip African teachers with necessary tools, books (continued)

"They put money into the budget to buy books, but they have absolutely no money to provide classroom space or science equipment," Carlson said. Rotary International put together a grant for \$70,000 two years ago to take equipment and computers to set up science labs in about six high schools.

"I downloaded their curriculum, went through it and looked at the things they were learning that I could do simple, cheap experiments, set them up for them and write the methods for them so that they could learn without a great expense being incurred," Carlson said.

Coming up with experiments that they could do in classrooms that have no running water or electricity was a challenge, but it was accomplished. The Minister of Education wants to adopt the chemistry, biology and chemistry handbooks Carlson created and use them in the high schools. The government also has indicated it will fund the items needed to do the experiments, Carlson said.

"Although I love teaching art to the little kids, and I love teaching the high school kids, what really matters is teaching the teachers and getting into the university," Carlson said. "If we can teach the teachers, then we are teaching a lot of generations of kids — if you teach just one class, then it's gone."

Rotary also paid \$500 to bring cable Internet to the town, which allowed the government to begin working on a university campus, and Carlson now can stay in contact with the teachers through Facebook.

About 80 percent of the country is Muslim — mostly liberal — and the other 20 percent is French Catholic. Women are not required to cover their arms or heads, but about half of the females do chose to wear a head covering. Boys and girls are educated together.

For these reasons, and because the government is pushing hard for women to be educated, armed guards conduct random safety and security checks in an effort to keep people safe from potential terrorists from neighboring countries. "I never once felt threatened, scared or anxious," Carlson said.

In Senegal, one of the reasons men have multiple wives is one in 35 births result in the death of the mother and/or the baby. Men take their first wife at age 20 or 21, and the girls are 11 to 12 when they marry.

The first wives have the children, and subsequent wives, if they are interested, pursue higher education and take advantage of free contraception offered by the government. Some men have as many as seven wives and up to 24 children. The girls who marry young are at high risk of dropping out of school and not going on to learn French, the country's official language.

"That's changing, and it is changing very quickly," Carlson said.



Carlson's second visit to Senegal was in February, and she plans to return two more times.

D-5470 International Rotary Project Update

Solar Energy for Himalayan Villages -- GG1746041

When you first hear “No” when you wanted to hear “Yes” — a story of a project TRF declined to review, then reversed their decision.

by Richard Dangler - Edwards RC

Recently the Edwards Rotary club submitted a global grant application for solar energy for Himalaya villages, a project that would be an economic boom to three communities and three schools serving another 40 villages. The project provides its poverty-stricken people with a tool to increase output of their cultural artisan handicraft enriched over hundreds of years, improve their Homestays businesses and start other enterprises. That life-changing tool is electrification using solar energy. Unfortunately, the TRF grant office deemed this activity as only an “equipment drop” making it ineligible for consideration by Rotary guidelines and, subsequently, declined a review of the application. In the Grant Officer’s interpretation of the policy Statement, an Economic and Community Development Project basically is a training program. While the project included technical components, it also included training and marketing, so we took exception to and challenged TRF’s interpretation of the guidelines. Here are the lessons learned and steps taken to overturn TRF’s initial decision not to review this application.

The critical document guiding TRF’s decision is based on the Grant Officer’s reading of Area of Focus Policy Statements <<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/areas-focus-policy-statements>> At the outset, we recommend that global grant seekers read and understand the intent of this document. The Rotary International policy, among other guiding issues, covers project eligibility. If a Grant Officer deems your project is ineligible, you will be stopped in your tracks without a project review. TRF does not take into consideration hours spent on research, discussions with community members and leaders, a community’s anticipation for help, nor time spent finding funding sources through collaboration with other clubs. We believe this is a serious defect in the Global Grant process. The process needs to have a new approach, one that will better inform the Grant Officer towards a decision of eligibility early on. However, in absence of this intermediate step, we root all of our efforts on the premise that Rotary works best when we work together and therefore it is a Club’s prerogative to question a TRF decision. Of course, as our grandparents taught us, you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar, so it is wise to proceed in a congenial manner when contesting a TRF decision.



We do not question the Rotary policy statement, only the capacity of a Grant committee member to make a decision to Decline a Review without any process to appeal. To be clear, the policy as written states that “*TRF considers activities targeting the following to be outside the scope of the economic and community development area of focus and as such are not eligible for global grant funding: Community infrastructure projects, unless they result in a significant increase in the ability of community members to produce and distribute goods and services that create personal resources.*”

When you first hear “No” when you wanted to hear “Yes” — a story of a project TRF declined to review, then reversed their decision. (continued)

Our position is that this solar electricity project WILL result in a significant increase in the ability to produce goods by substantially increasing the hours of work with the provision of light and thereby allow a community to better meet the demand for their products. Handicraft operations are currently limited to daytime hours. As a result, production output is low. Intervention by means of a solar energy project targets underserved communities and helps to improve livelihoods. In our view, the goals of ECD can best be realized by access to affordable, renewable energy. The proven value of electrification in the development of communities has been substantiated by history.

Yet, the Grant Officer took a totally opposing view by declaring a solar project not a good fit for EDC projects and asserted that it failed to meet a key TRF judging criterion which is that ECD is primarily obtained by substantial training. To this myopic decision, we raised questions. How can you train and work in the dark? Can consideration be given to the exception stated in the second half of the policy statement? Why should training be compulsory for a century-old cultural artisan industry? Maybe marketing help, but not training. Because no formal appeal procedure exists to counter a non-eligibility decision, the Grant Officer was not compelled to listen or answer our questions. It was disheartening particularly because an appeal process is a part of the integrity of a structured grant application process. Driven by the belief that production of artisan goods would increase by the access to light in the evening hours and inspired by the villagers' efforts in project development, we decided not to walk away.

Before launching into details on steps taken to reverse the decision to deny review, let me take a moment to provide a summary of this project and the mitigating steps chosen to obtain the grant. Note that in the end, to satisfy TRF's posture on this project, the training modules were enhanced, a training budget line was itemized, and clear justifications of solar energy as a primary tool for economic growth were added to the project description. In this redrafted presentation, the concerns of the Grant Officer were addressed without comprising the project vision. Access to electricity is fundamental to economic growth.

A brief project overview. This project is located in remote high-altitude hamlets in the Ladakh region of the Himalaya Mountains bordering China and Nepal. The villagers are pastoral people who live off produce they farm and the goats and yaks they herd. For approximately six to seven months of the year, heavy snowfall creates an impassable barrier between them and the rest of the world. In summer months, necessities are brought in by pack animals, trekking for several days from where the nearest motorized road ends including costly kerosene for cooking fuel and for what little light villagers can afford. Income comes from the sale of sought-after Tibetan artisan products to foreign trekkers and to tourists in urban markets. A little extra money is earned by trading farm products to other villagers. These people are abysmally poor and illiterate. Their 15% literacy rate is equivalent to a fourth grade education.

The primary objective of this project is to conduct an extensive, clearly defined training program that will lead to improved revenue and job creation. Primary areas for development will be in 1) improved Homestay accommodations for trekkers and better marketing of this business and 2) improved design processes to boost the quality and supply of artisan goods. Training for these two industries along with other local business development training will concentrate on ways for both men and women to exploit every opportunity for income generation.

When you first hear “No” when you wanted to hear “Yes” — a story of a project TRF declined to review, then reversed their decision. (continued)

Because lack of energy stymies both human and economic development, one of the tools to achieve income generation objectives and job creation is the establishment of a power system owned and operated by the community. This model of community-based development proved effective with similar programs recently implemented in other Himalayan villages. The assessment of the region indicates that over 100 villages are in need of similar improvements. Their leaders recognize the local government does not have the means to provide training in remote, hard to reach places, so they are ardently requesting assistance. To meet these villager needs and desire for development progress, this grant-training program will concentrate on assuring equal opportunities to women and youth in business development.



Training is based upon two economic rationalities. First, the need to support job creation from the inside through vocal skills workshops in order to sustain long-term growth. Second, the need to install energy to prevent a backslide of income opportunities and jobs created. A summary of six training plans that support job creation and income growth is provided in the Training Description Section.

On the matter of energy and its importance to economic development, electricity empowers communities to grow, diversify income opportunities and lead to market linkages for mountain niche products and services. This development tool, as the developed world knows and the U.S. demonstrated with the Rural Electrical Association, electricity is a key ingredient for development. In the case of these isolated villages, the intrinsic qualities of solar power make it the most viable power source available. First, kerosene for fuel would no longer need to be packed in for days by animals; it is safe; and, it is essentially the only renewable power source available. With over 300 days a year to capture sun rays in these high (13,000 to 16,000 feet elevation), one of the components of this project will be the installation of a solar DC- microgrid system to harness the sun's energy. To implement, manage, operate and maintain the system, training will be provided to community leaders and entrepreneurs on the system. It is exactly this training that will lay the foundation for every other training towards activity to improve life conditions and provide sustainable livelihood options. Similar programs have proven effective in 13 other Himalayan villages demonstrating the sustainability, community economic growth and diversified income opportunities.

Educational improvements are essential and access to energy will allow innovation-learning centers at three schools be developed are part of this project. Solar power at these schools will power digital technology and improve educational opportunities for Himalayan students. These Centers are based on the very successful Raspberry Pi computers (about \$30 each) with the Rachael Package server that provide off-line access to world-wide-web information.

When you first hear “No” when you wanted to hear “Yes” — a story of a project TRF declined to review, then reversed their decision. (continued)

Lessons learned—step by step

First step, contact the Grant Officer by phone, not email, to determine why TRF considered the activity ineligible and to persuade the Grant Officer to help resolve non-compliance issues. A phone call develops a more personal touch and allows the clearest way to exchange different viewpoints. In our case, we sought to persuade TRF to allow us to first bring the project into compliance while not reopening the application for review. To prepare for this call, be familiar with the Policy Statement on eligibility and be able to define the Club’s position.

After discussing the eligibility issue with the Grant Officer, it was clear that TRF would not change its position; however, the Grant Officer was willing to review a new position paper demonstrating her view of project eligibility. It was obvious that if we did not bend to her view of the guidelines we would go belly-up and be out of the game. The Grant Officer did not see this project other than an equipment drop even though the application covered new business applications, entrepreneur development and reinforcing on-going businesses catering to trekkers and tourist like handi-craft and Homestays (mountain type B&B).



Rather than pushing our position, we asked the Grant Officer to suggest changes she considered necessary for eligibility -- essentially switching the discussion to her views that train-

ing, and training alone, improved economic growth. Our immediate goal was to get the application reviewed not convince her of the merits of electrification in community growth. It was clear that TRF wanted to see not only a training plan, but a training plan formatted using the “Training Plan for Global Grants” matrix so we took the time and effort to prepare it well. Additionally we knew that any rewrite would need to embed narratives in the application that reflected her concept of eligibility as well as a detailed budget for the training components. Once her concepts took shape in the text and without compromising our goals of the project, we received permission to open up the Global Grant application to start a rewrite using the new Global Grant application system.

The second step was to present a brief outline of the proposed rewrite to demonstrate we were still on track with the Grant Officer’s expectations.

The third step was to rewrite the application taking care to downplay the primary tool for growth – the solar powered microgrid for electrification -- and to emphasize the training program. By this time, three months in the application review process had lapsed putting us about a month behind a very tightly programmed schedule controlled by weather concerns. The need to buy and transport material for the solar energy microgrid system into the remote villages and install equipment as soon as the mountain passes are clear of snow and before the on-set of the coming winter is immediate. Plans are to purchase materials from the Delhi area, transport them to the Ladakh region, and make arrangements for the villagers to pick up the solar panels and batteries. A critical aspect of this project is village participation and township of this system. It’s a commitment that starts with villagers trekking to the end of the motorized road with pack animals to carry the equipment to their village, normally requiring one or two weeks to complete this task for each village. Once the equipment is in place, a schedule is set for ten or more volunteers to trek to each village to install the equipment and provide light fixtures in every room.

When you first hear “No” when you wanted to hear “Yes” — a story of a project TRF declined to review, then reversed their decision. (continued)

Following installation, volunteer trainers start their responsibilities. Of course, the first training is for the operation and maintenance of the microgrid system to assure the community is ready to assume responsibility for sustainability. (The first test of its success will be when the village is cut off from the world when they become snow-bound.) Small business training will involve marketing guidance and help with Homestays activities to understand tourist expectations. Training on these activities need to be completed by the end of September at the latest. Keeping in mind the problems that can occur when working with villages at between 14,000 and 16,000 feet elevation, scheduling is critical. Loss of time in the beginning will be difficult to make up in face of their severe winter weather patterns.

Final step is submission of the application. Original authorizations need to be re-obtained. It is a step not to be taken lightly since it requires the authorization of eight people. Individuals providing their authorization are the Club Presidents, the DRFC—DDF, DGs and financial legal agreements people. These individuals normally have tight work schedules and travel frequently making coordination of their review and approval a time-consuming task. Reaching out to people from two different countries and different time zones is an added hurdle. Still, the effort and time expended are justified with a global grant approval. Now with TRF approval pre-implementation has started including routing funding to our Host Club so critical procurements can be made. With some mitigating changes in the project timeline, we should be back on schedule within a few weeks.

On a closing note, it can be a real eye-opener to learn why a proposal does not move up the ladder and when the news is received far into the project planning phase, it is difficult to reconcile time and resources lost. We share our lessons learned as a way to improve the global grant application process for all Rotarians seeking global grant funds and advocate for a new pre-eligibility stage in the process. Perhaps a simple worksheet will help applicants decide what is fundable, what is non-fundable.



Potential D-5470 International Rotary project

No child should ever go to bed hungry

Submitted by Eddie Cheung - Durango Daybreak RC

Hunger touches every community, nation, and region of the world. It is a problem without a simple solution. At Rotary, we are committed to using the vast resources of our diverse membership and our partnership with organizations like the Global FoodBanking Network to seek fresh insights and pursue innovative answers. In the following letter for the official [World Food Day](#) website, Rotary's General Secretary John Hewko explains why Rotary is so motivated to help:

Hunger. Famine. Starvation. Malnutrition. Indeed, as World Food Day (16 October) reminds us, there is no easy way to describe the grim fact that nearly 870 million people on our planet are chronically undernourished. And sadly, so many of those affected are children, whose minds and bodies are denied the sustenance needed to grow into healthy, productive adults.

It is a truly global problem, plaguing communities throughout the developing world and even in developed countries where surprisingly high numbers of families struggle daily to put food on the table.

My organization, Rotary, a global network of volunteer leaders committed to finding solutions to the world's most serious challenges, is well aware of the problem — and well positioned to do something about it. With more than 1.2 million members belonging to 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and regions, Rotary has “boots on the ground” where the need is high and also in communities with the capacity to help.

On their own initiative, Rotary members concerned about food insecurity have formed two very active international groups: the [Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger & Malnutrition](#), and the [Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group](#). These action groups serve as resources, assisting Rotary clubs worldwide to collaborate and undertake effective, sustainable approaches to the hunger issue.

Recognizing the value of leveraging resources through partnerships with top-tier organizations with proven track records, Rotary in 2012 also became a service partner with the [Global FoodBanking Network](#) to combat jointly the issues of hunger and food insecurity through food banking.



No child should ever go to bed hungry (continued)

Submitted by Eddie Cheung - Durango Daybreak RC

Rotary First Harvest, a Rotary club supported charity in Seattle, Wash., USA, has developed a unique and effective way to support the food banking concept. Working in cooperation with growers and processors, Rotary First Harvest each year gathers more than nine million pounds of fresh, nourishing produce that would otherwise be wasted, and then helps deliver it to local food banks and food distribution programs serving families in need.

Other examples of Rotary clubs in action against hunger:

In Florida, USA, the Flagler Beach Rotary Club co-founded the Family Food Co-op to provide food to needy rural families identified by local schools. A \$30 donation can feed a family of four for a week, and recipients are encouraged to volunteer their own time to help their neighbors.

In Australia, the Rotary Club of Brisbane Centenary launched the Beef Bank in 2007 to provide fresh meat to organizations working to feed local families. One beef cow can yield 500 pounds of meat, enough for 1,000 servings.

Since 1998, the Rotary Club of Madrid, Spain, has worked with local hotels to collect surplus meals for distribution to food programs serving families in need. Trucking and transportation companies donate delivery vehicles.

Rotary clubs in Ecuador are partnering with Banco de Alimentos Diakonia (Diakonia Food Bank) to provide equipment, expertise and volunteers to reach low-income families in Guayaquil, the nation's largest city.

Of course, there is no single answer to the daunting challenge of hunger and food insecurity. Starving people must be fed on an ongoing basis, as long-term solutions are developed and implemented. Meanwhile, we must lay the groundwork needed to generate the kind of steady, sustainable, economic development that lifts communities out of poverty, which is inexorably linked to the food issue and other problems, including illiteracy, disease prevalence, and violence.

This is what Rotary does. And Rotary clubs will continue to work at the grassroots level to identify community needs and to develop workable, sustainable, culturally appropriate solutions. If you would like to be a part of this effort, visit rotary.org and contact a Rotary club in your area. Learn what your area clubs are doing to alleviate hunger locally or internationally. Donate to or volunteer for a club-supported food project. Get involved.



Remember this simple truth: No child – anywhere in the world – should ever go to bed hungry.

John Hewko, General Secretary, Rotary International

No child should ever go to bed hungry (continued)

Submitted by Eddie Cheung - Durango Daybreak RC

More than 20 million people in north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen are facing famine or a credible risk of famine over the coming six months. With access to people in need and sufficient funding, the United Nations and its partners can avert famine and provide the necessary relief and support where famine already exists.

To avert a humanitarian catastrophe in the four countries over the coming months, the United Nations and its partners will continue to scale up humanitarian operations. Life-saving assistance in the areas of food and livelihoods, nutrition, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene will be prioritized, as these areas represent the key sectors of famine response and prevention.

"One of the biggest obstacles we face now is funding. Humanitarian operations in these four countries require more than US\$5.6 billion this year. We need at least \$4.4 billion by the end of March to avert a catastrophe. Despite some generous pledges, just \$90 million has actually been received so far – around two cents for every dollar needed," [said UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#) today, addressing a packed press briefing at UN headquarters. "Funding shortages have already forced the World Food Programme to cut rations in Yemen by more than half since last year. Without new resources, critical shortages will worsen within months."

Around 22 million children could soon starve without urgent aid, UNICEF warns

Eddie Cheung of the Durango Daybreak RC hopes that other Rotarians in our district will join him and his club to do something about the current global hunger crisis.

Contact Eddie Cheung at EandNCheung@aol.com



2018 Rotary Peace Fellowship

By Dennis Shoemaker

The 2018 Rotary Peace Fellowship application is now available! Rotary's [new online application](#) will streamline the submission and review process and help districts manage the increasing number of Rotary Peace Fellowship applications.

Users of the new application can expect:

- Better functionality and design
- A district dashboard for reviewing and endorsing applications and communicating with applicants
- Automated email communications from the platform
- Technical support and training from our platform provider, Embar
- A sign-in process that is separate from My Rotary and other Rotary databases and applications

Please note that the application is in English only, and we will no longer be able to accept PDF applications. As a Rotary leader, you play a key role in communicating information about the peace centers program to club and district leaders, who help identify and nominate candidates for the fellowships. We encourage you to use and share these resources:

- The [Rotary Peace Centers Program Guide](#) — information on eligibility requirements and finding qualified candidates
- The [application video](#) — explains the steps to completing the application
- The [Rotary Peace Centers Facebook page](#) — follow us and spread the news about our program

Candidates have until 31 May to submit applications to their district. Districts must submit endorsed applications to The Rotary Foundation by 1 July. General inquiries regarding the fellowship program may be sent to rotarypeacecenters@rotary.org. We thank you for your dedication to the Rotary Peace Centers and your continuous support in educating the Rotary network about the fellowships!

Rotary Volunteer Opportunity: Teach ESL in Senegal

You are invited to join a team which is teaching conversational English As A Second Language in Guéoul Sénégal, July 17 to September 17, 2017. This is a project by Englewood Rotary and Friends of Guéoul.

A top level computer classroom supports the program, which aims to give mastery of English, a requirement for admission to Sénégal universities. You get home stay and a cross cultural experience with a warm and hospitable people. Drumming lessons included! Call Katlynn Wright at [720 435 4043](tel:7204354043) or email her <katelynn.wright64@gmail.com



Global Grants Projects Involving Our clubs

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

Our clubs also contribute to projects conducted by other districts.

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

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

Contact Us

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



Water & Sanitation Projects Around the World

Global Grants Basics:

- Large, long-term projects
- Sustainable, 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 budget of US\$30,000
- Minimum TRF match \$ 15,000

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

First Annual Rotary D-5470 Cruise



FIRST ANNUAL ROTARY DISTRICT 5470 CRUISE

OCEANIA REGATTA, ALASKA, JULY 2017



Join your Rotary friends and colleagues from District 5470 cruising Alaska's Inside Passage on the beautiful Oceania *Regatta*. The Regatta departs from Seattle on July 14th, returning on July 21st, 2017.



FREE Unlimited Internet

PLUS select one from a choice of generous amenities:

*3 FREE Shore Excursions for Two

*FREE House Beverage Package for Two, or

*\$200 Per Person Shipboard Credit

OLife Choice Promotion expires 1/1/2017

For pricing and further information, contact Katherine at CTCVoyages, 866-629-6499 katherine@ctcvoyages.com

Book early for best choice of staterooms and best pricing

