

HEART 2 HEART HISTORY



The Heart 2 Heart Program is a cooperative effort between Rotarians primarily in the "Heart of America" (Zones 30 and 31) and in the "Heart of Mexico" (Districts 4170 and 4140) and The Rotary Foundation to provide humanitarian service, primarily through matching grant projects. The first cooperative effort was in fall 2004, when all the 2005-06 District Governors in both U.S. zones agreed to support a water well project in a rural town in Mexico District 4170. District Governors Olga Devlyn (District 4170) and Martin Limbird (District 6560) were the leaders of that cooperative effort, and they were also instrumental in the overall development of the international partnerships and friendships. District 6560 (Indiana) has been the leader of the cooperative efforts since 2005, and that district has done projects with District 4170 every year. Due in large part to the tremendous work and support by Patricia Vela (District 4170 Governor 2015-16) over the past decade and her visit to the U.S. in 2015, and the ongoing work of Jose Antonio Gonzalez and David Carranza, many other U.S. districts have joined in the effort during the past few years, and the Heart 2 Heart program has expanded significantly. Heart 2 Heart added District 4140 as a partner in 2017.

Heart 2 Heart offers global grant projects annually. One signature project, the Holtz-Beahon Kidney Transplant Program, has grown significantly in support and scope (thanks to the efforts of Ignacio Holtz) and is a global grant project about every other year. The Vickie Blade Pacemaker program was intended as a new signature project in 2016 but has slowed due to constraints from the Mexico government agencies. The Heart 2 Heart partners also annually support other global grant projects that are developed and proposed by District 4170 and District 4140 Rotarians.

District 4170 is located in the central part of Mexico and includes the Mexico City metropolitan area and several hundred square miles of adjacent rural areas and communities of various sizes. District 4140 includes an even larger geographical area adjacent on the north with District 4170 and includes the Guadalajara metropolitan area. Although the average size of a club in these districts is relatively small (under 20), these clubs provide incredible support for their communities, devoting tremendous amount of volunteer time and financial resources toward a wide range of needs. The ongoing efforts of these District 4170 and District 4140 Rotarians continue to inspire U.S. Rotarians who have had the opportunity to see the results of their outstanding work.

As we move forward, an added emphasis is on finding more partners, regardless of location, who want to make a difference. The Heart 2 Heart program is People of Action Making a Difference!

Rotarians from U.S. districts usually make an annual visit to Mexico. The next regular project visit will be November 3-10, 2021.

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WHY CLUBS AND DISTRICTS SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEART 2 HEART PROJECTS

1. The projects serve people in need.
2. The projects are designed well and usually completed timely.
3. Any club or district (or individual) can participate, regardless of size of club or amount of contribution. This is an easy way for clubs (and districts) to get involved internationally.
4. By working with The Rotary Foundation on matching grants, districts and clubs can multiply their contributions and provide larger projects.
5. There is no paperwork for the clubs and very little work for a district (except for sponsor clubs and districts). Mexico clubs write the grants.
6. Heart 2 Heart attempts to offer a variety of projects for clubs and districts to consider, either as a new venture or as a good way to expand international service.
7. District 4170 is in an area that is easy to visit.

HEART 2 HEART LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following group of 10 serves as the decision-making team for Heart 2 Heart projects and issues:

Coordinator for Zone 30 districts – global grants – **Steve Sorenson**

Coordinator for Zone 31 districts – global grants – **Richard Churchman**

Coordinators for annual trip to D4170 – **Rosa Mar and Tom Dusing**

Coordinator for service trips to D4140 – **Bill Walker**

Coordinators for public image and communications – **Craig Maxey and Rosa Mar**

Coordinator for financing and districts outside of Zones 30 & 31 – **Ron Appuhn**

Coordinator for official projects in D4140 (the go-to person for Mexico) – **David Bixler**

Coordinator for official projects in D4170 (the go-to person for Mexico) – **Steve Hopper**

Coordinator for Zone 30 districts – 100 in 100 program – **Beth Stubbs**

Coordinator for Zone 31 districts – 100 in 100 program – **Steve Hopper**

Coordinator for 100 in 100 program – **Ron Appuhn**