

District 6290 Grants Committee

District and Global Grants

Approved November 13, 2018 for Rotary Years 2018-2019

GG1980200

Kentwood

Global Grant

Grant Title: Umm el-Jimal Water and Economic Development Project

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

The Rotary Club of Kentwood (RCK) will partner with the Amman Cosmopolitan Rotary Club of Amman, Jordan as host for a water conservation and economic development project. The project will install a system to harvest rain water using ancient water channels and reservoirs to collect, store, and distribute rain water for use based on assessed needs of the Umm el-Jimal, Jordan, community and surrounding region. The system will generate employment for its operation and will provide water for the gardens of the Umm el-Jimal archaeological park. It will also provide supplemental water for gardens and produce farms in the Umm el-Jimal village and surrounding area. Many of the channels and storage reservoirs are within an archaeological park that will be opened as an international Heritage Tourist Site under the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) and under the authority of the Umm el-Jimal municipality. The original ancient channels and reservoirs will require repair, and, in several cases, additional channels inside and outside the park will be constructed following archeological site integrity guidelines. The installation project will include work with the local Hand-by-Hand for Heritage Corporation (HbHH) to manage the water system as a sustainable operation after the completion of the proposed project. The Rotary project will show that the water system is a sustainable operation through charging for the water use and/or with government/ donor support/ grants/fees. The region is arid and water quantity and quality are already a significant challenge.

Dr. Bert de Vries is the Director of the Umm el-Jimal Archaeological Project. UJAP is an agency under auspices of Calvin College located in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The UJAP project address is Umm el-Jimal, Mafraq, Jordan. The web site www.ummel-jimal.org includes sections on "Water" and "Community". The UJAP acknowledges the project support of the Clean Water Institute of Calvin College, NORAD, the Norwegian Government Development Agency via the University of Bergen, Norway, and the USA and Jordan Rotary.