

Rotary Club of Northbrook



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Dear Fellow Rotary Clubs:

Re: Request to partner on a Global Grant – Decentralized Cluster Wastewater Treatment and Reuse Systems for Off Grid Communities in the Bedouin Community of the Negev in Southern Israel

Grant Amount: \$50,000 +/- . This requires about \$17,000 in commitments from District 6440 clubs.

The Need: The Bedouin population in the Negev region of Israel numbers 224,000 non-Palestinian Arabs who are full citizens of Israel who face many challenges. More than 50,000 live in unrecognized settlements and their sewer pipes from their houses empty untreated sewage into cesspits polluting the groundwater and surrounding environment. Diarrheal diseases affect their population and are the leading cause of hospitalization among Bedouin infants.

Project Scope: This system would serve a neighborhood of large households totaling 100-300 people.

Partner Roles: Jewish National Fund (JNF) would like to financially support wide implementation of these systems to improve health and the environment in the Bedouin communities. JNF is excited to partner with Rotary on this first one, so that it can be a showpiece of success and attract support for more cluster sewer systems serving more people. They will pay for engineering and other 'soft costs'.

Arava Institute teaches environment management to a student body of roughly 1/3 Israeli Jews, 1/3 Palestinians and 1/3 international students. Arava will provide project management, engineering oversight and student volunteers for implementation. They work with the community for training, acceptance and sustainability. They have successfully installed these systems in Palestinian areas of the West Bank.

Rotary Club of Beer-Sheva will provide local Rotary involvement and volunteers.

Benefits: The treated water is used for garden irrigation and toilet flushing. Improved health of people and livestock. Protection of precious groundwater resources. Cross-cultural, cross-religious cooperation and understanding. JNF involvement and future plans assure sustainability and high visibility for Rotary's involvement and contribution in this showpiece pilot project.

In Rotary Service,

Jeff Tideman, International Service Director, Rotary Club of Northbrook