Rotary International District 7010: "Spotlight on Service" – December 3, 2019

Global Grants: Rotary's way of supporting Rotarians as Rotarians do long-term sustainable projects

What are Global Grants and how do they differ from District Grants?

Global Grants are funds from The Rotary Foundation that support Club and District applications to be used for international humanitarian, educational and vocational training teams for projects with long-term sustainable outcomes in at least one of the six areas of Rotary focus. **Global Grants** support larger international projects starting with a total budget of $30,000.US up to $200,000.US and in a few cases more than that. **Global Grants** are different from District Grants that support both local and international projects and are considerably smaller. This year in District 7010 District Grants were CAD$3,000 or less and must have been matched 1 to 1 by the Rotary Club. **Global Grants** can be applied for at any time of the year while District Grants must be applied for between April 1st and June 30th. The **Global Grant** application is accessed on the Rotary International website through My Rotary while the District Grant application is on ClubRunner. Unlike District Grants, Clubs can do up to 10 **Global Grants** at a time.

How are Global Grants being used in District 7010?

Clubs within our area of central Ontario and western Quebec are currently actively focused on a wide variety of humanitarian projects in countries like India, Guatemala, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. The actual projects currently active include school improvement projects, school and community literacy projects, putting equipment and supplies into a community health centre and water projects. Rotarians doing these and other projects using Global Grants have learned projects must be thoroughly planned and designed to:

- relate to an identified need in one of the 6 areas of Rotary focus that is thoroughly studied using a comprehensive needs assessment done in consultation with the benefitting community;
- have a sustainable impact which to Rotary means it will continue to exist after the project is complete and Rotary funding is finished;
- include a strong partnership between a host Rotary Club in the area where the project will happen together with an International Rotary Club and/or an International Rotary District that does some of the fund raising; and it
- may include a partnership with other approved cooperating organizations.

Some Rotarians think that that they should be able to plan, fund raise and complete a project within one 12-month year. This thinking is completely unrealistic.

What have we learned when doing projects using Global Grants?

Major projects can be challenging but generally this is only true when unplanned incidents in the process occur. Some examples our Committee members have experienced and worked through, include:

- a needs assessment that was not complete;
- timing and other unrealistic goals were set; and

- the Host Rotary Club went through organizational changes affecting their commitment and the cooperating agency changed its mandate, needing a revision to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Weather and other environmental or cultural happenings can also slow down the process. Preventing issues that slow down the application and then the project need to be thought about and dealt with from concept to writing the final report. These issues include the following:

- Decide whether the project you want to do is Club or District based;

- Choose all your Rotary and cooperating agency partner(s) carefully and continue to work on your relationships throughout the project;
- Ensure local community members and host Rotarians are involved in the community assessment;
- Ensure all partners are aware of their roles and agree with them;
- Always be sensitive to possible cultural and language differences;
- Use Rotarian resources starting with our District Global Grants Committee to support Rotarians thinking through the project process and writing their grant applications;
- Decide whether your project also qualifies for TRF (Government of Canada) funding;
- Use TRF written resources which are abundant and readily available (go online to Rotary.org and then My Rotary scrolling down to the Grant Center);
- TRF's A Guide to Global Grants (2019)is excellent;
- TRF also has staff that are prepared to comment on your application input (your initial contact with TRF is through the rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org);
- Ensure there are no conflict of interest by ourselves, our Host Rotary colleagues, the community recipients of the project and any suppliers of purchased supplies and equipment;
- Ensure that reporting to TRF is on time (that is one year after the project is funded, yearly thereafter and within two months of finishing the project; and
- Take time to celebrate.

It is our Global Grants Committee's intent to share articles monthly (for the next few months) that will deal with a number of grant writing matters in greater depth. In the meantime, if issues requiring assistance arise, please feel free to get in touch with the Committee through Dawn Straka, Chair at straka@nexicom.net.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Shelly

Shelly Duben
Director of Service Projects
Rotary District 7010