

GLOBAL GRANT PROPOSAL FOR GUATEMALA SCHOOLS

The Rotary Club of Oro Valley is working on a project with The Rotary Club of Gualán, Zacapa, Guatemala (District 4250) to assist three rural schools in desperate need of basic hygiene facilities, furniture and supplies.

Oro Valley is also partnering with its Sister Club in Denia, Spain (District 2203), and The Rotary Club of Mersin, Turkey (District 2430). The Global Grant Number is GG1864823.

In April 2017, Rotarian Rick Chimblo (Oro Valley) and his Wife, Rianne, visited Guatemala to see the conditions first hand. Rick has conferred with Cecilia Walter, Rotary Grants Staff assigned to District 5500, and has also involved teachers, community members, and members from each of the participating Rotary Clubs in the planning process.

Guatemala is a predominantly poor country that struggles in several areas of health and development, including infant, child, and maternal mortality, malnutrition, lack of access to clean water and basic hygiene (see the article from January 2018 *Rotarian*). The country's large indigenous population is disproportionately affected. Guatemala is the most populous country in Central America and almost half of its population is under age 19, making it the youngest population in Latin America. Literacy, defined as people age 15 or over that can read and write, averages 81.5% of the total population but is lower in rural areas and among indigenous populations. Education expenditures are less than 3% of the GDP, placing Guatemala 139 lowest of 173 nations measured on this scale. Most children receive only 3 years of public education.

Why Guatemala? Simply, I have been there, visited the village of El Jute and its school. My wife and I had a personal meeting with a primary school teacher who also provided a tour of the classrooms and facilities. We all realize that the need for quality education is essential for the growth, development and security of every community.

In my initial correspondence with Alberto Guerra in RC Gualán, the prospect of expanding our school project in El Jute to other schools in Gualán evolved. After reviewing the list of basic needs provide by the teacher at the school in El Jute, we realized the need for a Global Grant to attend to more schools and increase our ability to provide better facilities, equipment and services.

This project is in the early planning stages and we are soliciting bids for work and materials in Guatemala. Funding is not expected to commence until the start of Rotary year 2018-19. Project execution is anticipated to commence in early 2020. For more information contact:

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