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Rotary Family,

It is truly astonishing how the world has changed in the past month. Today, everything in our lives revolves around the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the immense upheavals in our lives caused by this pandemic. It seems like every decision we make, every plan we think about, every activity we engage in, our everyday lives are completely controlled by this virus.

But as ever, Rotarians rise to the challenges they find in the world around them. Even though our clubs can't meet face to face, they are meeting virtually. The incredible connections we have with our Rotary family are strong and are being nourished wherever and however we can be together. Rotarians are finding ways, using Zoom and other online platforms to meet, socialize and do great work in their communities.

The virus has caused major changes at the District level also. Bill Schilling, our DGE from Casper, made the decision to step back from the DG role so he could protect his health and take care of things in his personal life. Consequently, the Executive Committee asked me to stay on as District Governor through the 2020-2021 year. Karoline and I are in a position where we can do this and are honored to serve. We will be helped by Shurie Scheel our DGN, Lee Varra-Nelson our DGND and PDG Barb Redder.

What a powerhouse team!

We also postponed our District Conference and the Foundation Recognition Dinner in Greeley until May 2021.

So what is happening now? Clubs are meeting, with several coming on line this week. We had an excellent District Assembly on April 4 on the Zoom platform. My special thanks go to Mark Holdt and Leslie Glover from Estes Park who were our featured speakers. They reminded us to keep thinking and planning for the future, because there is a bright future coming.

Our district is in the forefront in providing relief to hurting people. The Finance Committee approved donating \$28,000 to our Food Banks and pantries in the district. In addition, we received a \$25,000 grant from the Rotary Disaster Relief Fund for additional help to the Food Banks. These funds, because of the 4X multiplier effect, will provide **212,000** meals to people in need in every corner of our district. I am so proud that we as Rotarians can step up and help in such a meaningful and tangible way.

We continue to work our other grants and projects around the world. We continue to support the eradication of polio. We also continue to support the Rotary Peacebuilding Initiatives in our District and around the world. Bill Timpson from Ft Collins and his committee are doing great work in this area. I invite you to read the Peacebuilding Newsletter that Bill prepares. You can find it our District 5440 website.

These are very unusual times. They call for us to give of ourselves, in a time of great uncertainty. What I know is that Rotarians always rise to the challenge. We take on the hard things because it is the right thing to do. We serve others before we serve ourselves.

## District Governor Message (Continued)

Rotarians have an opportunity for the world to get to know us better during this pandemic. They will see and judge us by how well we serve our communities. We will emerge from the pandemic invigorated, encouraged and hopeful for a better future.

I am honored to be part of this family.

Chris Woodruff, District Governor (2019-2020)

Rotary District 5440

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Greeley Centennial Rotary



## 2019 - 2020 District Governor Partner Project

**By Karoline Woodruff**  
**District 5440 DG Partner**

I want to share what is close to a final report on the 2019-20 District Governor Partner Project – the Navajo Water Project Global Grant. I'm sorry that we won't be able to celebrate at a District Conference this year, but there is so much to celebrate!

You will remember that DG Chris gave me a few minutes to discuss the idea of a "partner project" and share with you about the extraordinary need for clean water in the Navajo Nation, which is located in the four-corners region of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Before we started the Rotary year in July, Chris committed to contributing \$10,000 to a global grant focused on providing clean water to over 100 Navajo homes. This was to be made up of \$5000 from District Designated Funds, with a challenge that I raise the other \$5000 through club and individual donations collected at our club visits.

Well, I know that you have heard that we exceeded our original pledge, but we just couldn't stop. The grant project touched so many generous Rotarian hearts in the district that we were able to increase our contribution to the 2020 Global Grant and have additional funds that are earmarked for Navajo Water, possibly as seed money for the next round of global grants. All together, we have collected over \$37,000. \$20,002 was sent to the Rotary Foundation in late February, in response to the call for funding of the global grant. This leaves us a little over \$17,000 retained by the district for contributions to this ongoing project in the future.

We keep hearing that the Rotarians of District 5440 are rock stars! We have received thanks from district governors deeply involved in the project and from staff of DigDeep, our partner in the Navajo Water Project.

Recent events have emphasized the desperate need for clean water in the Navajo nation. Around 175,000 people live on the reservation. As of Saturday, there were 698 confirmed cases of COVID-19. This number is expected to rise, as the Navajo government gets access to fast-result testing. In addition, 24 people have died. Health experts believe that lack access to water is a contributing factor in the spread of coronavirus in the reservation. About 40 percent of residents have no access to running water, which makes hand washing and intense hygiene difficult.

District 5440 Rotarians are impacting this need, providing clean, sustainable water for Navajo families – improving health, safety and quality of life – doing what Rotarians do best, serving others. We will continue to update you as work on the project moves forward. Thank you for making a difference!

# Cheyenne Rotary Club

*This is beautiful message from President Robin in Cheyenne. It is something we can all share in. Thank you Robin for giving me permission to share it with our District.*

**DG Chris**

**Subject:** From Your Rotary Club President, with Gratitude

Dear Fellow Club member,

This email isn't one to share news, relay cancellations, or instruct you how to join our next meeting. It's a message of shared experience, and of gratitude for you, my Rotary family.

Over the past weeks, we've all experienced it. We've felt the need to know the latest information and the need to unplug from everything and escape. The need to get outside or go someplace, the desire to huddle in a corner at home and never go out. The responsibility to protect the people, businesses, future of those we've been entrusted to care for. The helplessness we feel. The overwhelming weight of this crisis, and the relief that comes with stepping back from the things that we carry. The gratitude for what we have - and the grief for what we've lost. We've all experienced it, and while we know that we are going through this together, our hearts know that it's not easy. For weeks I've personally felt strong, and then Thursday I was laid bare.

My faith and my friends reminded me this week that even now when we are physically distanced, we aren't alone. The poem "Footprints" has hung in my kitchen for over 40 years, and I'm grateful for those who left their footprints on my journey this week. Others have forgiveness to offer, strength to lean on, advice and encouragement to share. Sometimes we are on the giving side of those gifts, sometimes we are called to be on the receiving end, and there is strength and grace on both sides. Thank you to each of you that have extended empathy and compassion, shared time and energy and talents, just been there to walk beside another during all of this.

This isn't meant to be "the message" of the day. Without question, Rotary does not promote any religion, any political viewpoint. We each carry our personal beliefs to Rotary, as we should, and I'm grateful that Rotary brings together people with different vocations and talents and beliefs. Whether you are celebrating Passover, or Holy Week and Easter, or Holi or the spring equinox, or just that you woke to see another day, we are all celebrating hope and renewal in a different way than we have before. The wonder of Rotary is that we can come together to live that renewal and to be that hope, not in spite of our differences but because of them.

As together we experience a world challenged and changed, I hope that the vision of Rotary connects with you as it does with me. You need Rotary in ways that you may not have ever known before, and Rotary needs you. "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." Rotary gives me a place to live my faith, expands my vision of what "together" looks like, opens opportunities to serve - and to be changed.

With gratitude that we are on this journey together,

**Robin Sims**  
**Rotary Club of Cheyenne**

# Casper-Five Trails Rotary Club



Here's Marie Puryear's son Miles (Young RYLA last year) helping with Cathy Stepp (one of our Satellite members and also employees of Wyo Food Bank of the Rockies) and then our treasurer Teresa.



Back then the four of us

# Jackson Hole Rotary Club

## **Jackson Hole Rotary Donates to Ntsika Secondary School Water and Sanitation Project in Grahamstown, South Africa**

Ntsika Secondary School in Grahamstown South Africa has graduated the leading students in the township. This outstanding achievement by 700 students was accomplished in a facility with practically no working sanitation facilities, intermittent water supply of questionable quality, and a wetlands on the school grounds that received raw sewage from the school.

The Rotary Club of Jackson Hole joined with Rotary Clubs in Fort Collins, Colorado, and Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia to raise funds for an International Project in Grahamstown, South Africa. Rotarians were supported by generous donations from local citizens that caused the project to be fully funded. Our funds are being combined with donations from the Rotary Club of Uttoxeter U.K., the Rotary Club of Grahamstown, the Rotary Districts of each club, and The Rotary Foundation, The estimated cost of the total project is USD 109,418.

The project will rehabilitate several ablution blocks (bathrooms) that have fallen into unserviceable condition. Water storage tanks and pumps will be installed at the school to assure utility water and potable water is available at all times. An existing sanitary system will be connected to the city sewer. And a scullery will be built to provide the surfaces and water for students to wash their dishes from the mid-day meal.

This is the second project in a year that joined the Rotary Club of Grahamstown and the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole to provide water and sanitation in a major school. As an international project, The Rotary Foundation provides matching funds for cash donations, donations by Rotary Clubs, and funds designated for the project by Rotary Districts.

Through the generosity of Rotarians and non-Rotarians, the project was funded in only a few months. Contributions to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund are used to provide the match for international projects which, in a normal year, will amount to over \$120 Million USD.

Rotary International is a global service organization of 35,000 clubs with 1,200,000 members that serve their communities in 174 countries.

## **Rotary International Humanitarian Project Approved for Equipment for a Basic Health Unit in Birigui, Brazil**

The Rotary Clubs of Birigui, Brazil and Jackson Hole, Wyoming came together to propose and fund a Rotary International project to buy medical equipment required to operate a neighborhood clinic in Birigui. Birigui is a town outside of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The local government could fund the building but not the equipment for the walk-in clinic.

Rotarians (and Past District Governors) demonstrated the power of relationships and mutual goals by developing the concept of the project, supporting the preparation of the Grant Applications, developing the equipment list and budget estimate, and responding to questions from The Rotary Foundation.

The total budget of \$44,000 was funded by \$5,000 from a member of the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole, \$5,000 from Rotary clubs in Birigui, \$12,100 from the Rotary Districts in Brazil, and \$19,500 from the Global Fund of The Rotary Foundation. The equipment will provide the means to offer medical support to a neighborhood of 10,000 citizens.

The project was considered and approved as supporting a Rotary area of focus of child and maternal health. The staff of 1 doctor, 1 nurse, 4 nurse technicians, 6 health community agents, 1 dentist, and 1 pharmacist expect to treat 500-999 children under the age of 5 in each three month period while also training 100-499 health professionals in each three month period.

The Rotarians of Birigui and Jackson Hole continue to work together to strengthen the health, education, and understanding of Brazil and the USA. Many thanks are due all Past President Tony Paulus and PDG Stuart Palmer for organizing the USA portion of the project and to President John Goettler of the Rotary Club of Jackson Hole for final approval of the support from RCJH.

Rotary International is a worldwide service club with six areas of humanitarian support. There are 35,000 clubs totaling 1.2 million members in 174 countries.

## Upcoming District Events

Unfortunately, this page has lots of blank spaces. We look forward to the days when we can fill this page again with lots of great Rotary District events. Until then, stay safe and healthy!

**Kick that virus!**



District 5440 is using Zoom for our video conference meetings. They are offering a 100 participant meeting for free right now. Visit <https://zoom.us/pricing> for more information. If you need help navigating Zoom we have people who can help. Email Kellie at [rotary5440@yahoo.com](mailto:rotary5440@yahoo.com).

- **[Rotary District 5440 Conference - 2021](#)**

What should have been in 2020. Stay tuned for details.

<https://rotary5440.org/>

District Governor—Chris Woodruff



*Service Above Self*

