

2013-14 Technical Coordinators

CADRE CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Michael Webb (England)
Francis Tusubira (Uganda)

BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY

Maureen Duncan (USA)
Jones Kyazze (Uganda)
John Thorne (Australia)

CHILD & MATERNAL HEALTH

Keith Barnard-Jones (England)
Himansu Basu (England)
Patricia Canning (Australia)

DISEASE TREATMENT & PREVENTION

Manoj Desai (India)
Estela Emeric (Argentina)
Jos Nolle (Canada)

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deniel Banks (USA)
Chalermchat Chun-In (Thailand)
Jean-Claude Piers de Raveschoot
(France)

PEACE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Caleb E. Lucien (Haiti)
Hugh Munro (Scotland)
Mark Zober (Israel)

WATER & SANITATION

Brian E. Foley (Australia)
John Kevan (Australia)
Vishwas Sahasrabhojane (India)

Message from the Chair

Michael Webb

This is my last contribution to *Tech Talk* as chair of The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers — my three-year term ends on 30 June 2014. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in office and look forward to returning to the back benches of the cadre.

During my term, the membership, achievements, and emphases of the cadre have changed significantly. The membership has increased by 27 percent, to 410 members. In the last three years, we have carried out 440 assignments, of which 28 percent were financial audits, 21 percent technical reviews, 20 percent interim monitor visits, and 31 percent a combination of post-project site visits, advance site visits, sustainability checks and area of focus evaluations.

Twenty-five percent of the 2013-14 assignments were area of focus evaluations. I was delighted by the way the cadre members transitioned from the previous technical sectors into the six areas of focus. We also began to distribute *Tech Talk* in six languages: English, French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. And the cadre assisted in the Future Vision pilot and launch activities. The technical coordinator terms of reference have been updated, and we have had significant numbers attending our training and recruitment seminars in Kampala, Uganda; Accra, Ghana; Bangkok, Thailand; and Lisbon, Portugal.

We have also been able to improve the criteria and process for selecting cadre members for assignments, as well as the method by which we assess the evaluations completed by cadre members.

I must place on record my thanks and appreciation for all the time and hard work that you, the cadre volunteers, put into this most valuable area of stewardship for the Foundation Trustees.

My sincere thanks also to all the Foundation staff involved with the cadre; to the regional grant officers who look after the grants and ensure that our work is made as easy as possible; to the senior staff, currently Meredith Burlew and Christian Pepera, and earlier, Heather Fosburgh and Miri Kanemoto. My job as chair would have been impossible without the tremendous assistance given by these dedicated staff members and their willingness to spend time in discussions whenever I was at Rotary World Headquarters.

Finally, I wish my successor as chair, Past RI Director Phil Silvers, as much enjoyment and satisfaction in the job as I have experienced.

Keep smiling,

Mike Webb

Save the Date - Friday, 30 May

The next cadre training will be held on Friday, 30 May, during the 2014 RI Convention in Sydney, Australia.



In Our Own Words

My First Cadre Site Visit—Honduras

Tristram Johnson, Rotary Club of Brattleboro Sunrise, Vermont, USA (District 7870)



A local woman poses with a justa stove in Honduras

Editor's note: Some identifying details, such as names of the project location and sponsors, have been omitted, to ensure confidentiality.

I am a fairly recent addition to the Cadre of Technical Advisers, having been accepted after Hurricane Irene hit Vermont in 2011. I am a resident of Vermont, worked on recovery, applied to the cadre, and was accepted. My credentials represent 16 years of working under contract in nine Latin American countries on a variety of community development projects related to potable water, health, education, local governance, microenterprise, and economic development. The cadre tasks I have been assigned so far have perfectly matched my background, expertise, and contextual awareness.

In November, I had the ideal assignment. It took me back to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to work with Rotarians, some of whom I met in 2001 on a previous trip, in order to evaluate the post-implementation status of the 3-H Grant-funded project. The whirlwind three-day visit was intense but allowed ample time to meet critical collaborators and direct project beneficiaries, as well as those wishing to get involved now. The enduring impact of the project is

powerful and full of the unexpected. The visit provided clear evidence that, offered some assistance and some leverage, the poor will leap to take advantage of new opportunities and improve their lives.

There were seven elements to this project: installation of justa stoves, biodigesters, eco ovens, fruit trees, worm composting, and bio-sand filters, and deployment of medical brigades to control Chagas disease and leishmaniasis. The medical brigades were recognized to be less needed than had been expected, so efforts then turned to fully supporting the installations and plantings. Each of those resulted in powerful, enduring changes that far exceeded the goals defined in the project. Most impressive was the impact caused by the justa stove, a more efficient wood-burning stove that includes a chimney. The chimney had been a first, took smoke out of the house, stopped the cycle of lung-related illnesses and conditions, and gave the women smoke-free kitchens. For the first time, they had homes without black walls and ceilings and were inspired to maintain clean kitchens, adding paint and tile, and it completely changed the environment from one that was dark, dingy, filthy to one that is now a showpiece — bright, colorful, and healthy. Walking into one of these houses offers a surprising visual impact that very loudly declares a passion for cleanliness and health.

The setting for this project is the Merendon mountain range outside of San Pedro, the primary watershed for the city's water. The poor living there occupied the land and cleared it for homes and crops. Naturally, if unchecked, the cumulative deforestation

would eventually affect water supplies and San Pedro. Reforestation with fruit trees was a critical part of this project. The municipal water department was and is a serious and fully committed participant, and their tree nurseries were the source for thousands of seedlings that included not only fruit but also cacao and coffee. The selected species of cacao is one that is in high demand on the chocolate market. The coffee trees are a stronger species, resistant to the current threat from airborne fungus. The nurseries are located in the project region, easily accessible to area residents. Staff is gentle, attentive, and sincerely interested in helping the hillside farmers successfully plant and harvest crops for household consumption and sale.

The enduring success of this project two years after its official completion is based on fully committed Rotarians — Honduran and foreign — who have continued to support the six project elements, on solid, impressive collaboration from local partners, and probably most important, on the pride the locals feel in the improved quality of life they are accomplishing with their own hands. This is truly a stellar project that sets many fine examples for other grant applicants to study.

One last note: I was involved in Matching Grants in the 1990's and since have seen Rotary's grant-making process mature, so that it now offers a powerful support system, serious demands for accountability, and, most important, long-term sustainability. Congratulations, Rotary, for learning with us!

Stewardship of Your Foundation Dollars

Carolyn Johnson, Rotary Club of Yarmouth, Maine, USA, governor of District 7780

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the D-7780 Newsletter on 24 March 2014

We are urged to contribute regularly to The Rotary Foundation (TRF), but how do Rotarians know how wisely funds are spent or managed? There is a significant process to grant applications that includes a needs assessment, goals, outcomes, and sustainability, while connecting a grant to the overarching goals of our Foundation. Recently, I was able to be part of “the rest of the story” to ensure that funds are wisely spent.

Many district clubs have supported the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP). Grants have been submitted over the years to support education opportunities for some of Guatemala's poorest children, each grant serving new communities. This year, the new GLP project application required a review before approval since over \$100,000 was requested from TRF. As a result, I spent last week with a member of the TRF's Cadre of Technical Advisers' basic education and literacy sector visiting schools; interviewing teachers, students, and parents; reviewing finances; talking with host Rotarians; and demonstrating that the projects are accomplishing what they were intended to do. It was a fascinating and educational experience for me. Bill Stumbaugh, a Rotarian and educator from California, was the cadre member assigned to review the GLP's projects of the past three years and report back to the Foundation on their strengths and weaknesses. Bill has a wealth of experience — both as an educator and as a Rotarian — and as a result asked tough questions and prompted much reflection. For more than a week, we visited at least four schools each day, traveled long, dusty roads (this wasn't about

taking the easy route!), and even stopped unannounced at a few project schools to confirm that books exist and teachers had been trained and were using the literacy process we taught them. It was long days, but a great opportunity for me to see the projects through the lens of a Rotarian (and Foundation donor) and the lens of project implementer. Overall, Bill was complimentary, but not without suggestions to improve the projects. For starters, we need to increase the involvement of local and sponsoring Rotarians.

I came away with renewed pride in the programs of the GLP, but more importantly, with a renewed respect for The Rotary Foundation. It isn't enough to contribute so funding is available for projects our clubs want to support. These are our funds and those of fellow Rotarians — funds that need to be spent wisely, make a difference, and have a long-term positive impact. I had no idea the Foundation went to such lengths to oversee appropriate stewardship of funds, but as a donor and a grant implementer, I have an even greater appreciation of the care and concern of the Trustees to ensure careful stewardship of our Foundation resources.

Remember to visit the cadre's shared site

If you're a registered cadre member, you can use the site by signing in to My Rotary at www.rotary.org and visiting the Rotary Workgroup section in your profile. The site serves as a document resource, survey tool, and news and information center. Contribute to discussion groups, download training documents, access the *Tech Talk* archive, view photo galleries, and more.

Recent Cadre Visits



Robert Downie (far left) visits a project that included elements to address health, clean water, and education needs in a community in Guatemala.



Cecilia Makoni (holding child) visits with beneficiaries during an assignment in South Africa.



District Governor Timothy Lee (left) inspects a water tank during an evaluation of a Matching Grant in St. Lucia.

The Rotary Foundation's Area of Focus Managers

Area of focus managers provide support and guidance for Rotarians' activities in The Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus. Managers are available for consultation on new initiatives and project design and collaborate with cadre members to strengthen grant projects. The next few issues of *Tech Talk* will feature the biographies of the managers.



Rebecca Crall — peace and conflict prevention/resolution

Rebecca is the area of focus manager for peace and conflict prevention/resolution and serves as the Rotary Peace Centers program officer.

Rebecca has been involved with international education, development, and peace-building initiatives for the past 15 years, including through work with World Learning, the French Ministry of Education, and various small-scale capacity-building programs in the developing world.

Rebecca has worked for Rotary since 2006. Since 2009, she has been deeply involved in the Rotary Peace Centers Program. In her current role as area of focus manager for peace and conflict prevention/resolution, she handles both project creation and capacity-building for Rotary grants, as well as leading strategic initiatives and program enhancements for the Rotary Peace Centers program.

Rebecca received her MS in management, with a specialty in international nonprofit management, from the SIT Graduate Institute.



Candace Embling — economic and community development

Candace is no stranger to the Rotary family. She worked in the Foundation's Humanitarian Grants Division from 1999 until 2006. She held a number of positions, including, ultimately, program officer for District Simplified Grants and department manager for the Americas region. From 2006 to 2010, Candace served as the executive director of World Relief Chicago, a refugee resettlement agency that provides comprehensive social service programming for refugees and immigrants in the Chicago area.

Candace began her career in community and economic development as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay from 1994 to 1997. There she implemented development projects including a project that funded the replacement of latrines and cooking shacks with bathrooms and kitchens. Upon returning to the U.S., Candace served as a Peace Corps Fellow, studying community and economic development and conducting grass-roots community organizing in Latino communities in central Illinois.

Candace graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in economics. Her graduate degree, from Illinois State University, is a Master of Science in politics and government with a concentration in community and economic development.

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