

Puerto Rico Disaster Relief

Opportunity to Provide Immediate, Direct Assistance



One would have to be living under a rock not to know that we are being pummeled by mother nature, in the form of unprecedented natural disasters.

At the request of many members, our first effort to address some of these in a direct way, where every penny will go directly to those affected in Puerto Rico, there is an opportunity for clubs, Rotarians and non-Rotarian friends to participate in a District Grant.

Goal: \$20,000 by November 1st

[Georgie Hildebrand](#), who was our District Grants Chair for two years (2014-2016) relocated to Puerto Rico and joined the Rotary Club of San Juan, where she continues to do good in her adopted home. She and her club have offered to host a District grant, to provide the most basic of needs in the poorest communities on the island, where people have lost everything and do not have access to clean water and food. They are



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communities that are not receiving relief through the normal channels, because they are often immigrants of questionable legal status.

The statistics are grim:

- 80% of the island is without electricity and it is unlikely to be restored before the first months of 2018.
- Over 20 preventable deaths have occurred from leptospirosis, because 40% of the population is deriving drinking water from polluted water sources. More are sure to follow.
- In the poorest communities, people lost everything – clothes, beds and basic household necessities. They have no financial means to replace those things, so they are sleeping on the floor or moldy mattresses, if they got them to dry out. Homes in the poorest communities have dirt floors. In a tropical environment such as Puerto Rico's, vermin of all types abound and the devastation from the hurricane provides a perfect environment for them to proliferate, further endangering the health of vulnerable populations.

Georgie and her club have assembled a team to go into the poorest villages, door-to-door, to interview the residents and determine the greatest needs that can be provided in the short term. So far, those needs include: Beds, clothing, water filters, small generators, diapers and formula for infants, small solar panels for cell phone chargers/providing light ...and much more....

What can your club do?

Obviously, cash contributions will be happily accepted and will be included in the grant we are proposing. Tax Deductible Cash Contributions can be made to: Rotary District 5170 Foundation, 2570 West El Camino Real, Suite 150, Mountain View, CA 94040

For clubs which have District DDF that they would like to contribute to this grant, each dollar of that DDF will be exchanged for \$1.25 through our "Max the Match" program.

The Deadline for District Grant Applications is October 31st

If your club has District Grant DDF and you wish to participate in this project, please contact: Cecelia Babkirk, District 5170 Grants Chair at (408) 242-6286 or rotariancecelia@gmail.com

This is the perfect opportunity to do something meaningful, managed by someone who we know will get the job done with EVERY penny going to the beneficiaries, in the fastest way, with no administrative headache.

Oh and by the way, Georgie has offered to arrange housing for a group of D5170 Rotarians with a possible hands-on opportunity, once the time is appropriate.

THANKS AS ALWAYS TO DISTRICT 5170 ROTARIANS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!