



Rotarian Action Groups

2010-11 Annual Report

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Introduction

Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs) provide assistance and support to Rotary clubs and districts in planning and implementing community development and humanitarian service projects. They are organized by committed Rotarians, Rotarians' family members, and Rotaractors who have expertise and a passion for a particular type of service.

Every year RAGs submit a report of activities and finances to Rotary International. These annual reports summarize the groups' membership statistics and highlight their humanitarian service activities. The following report provides an overview of the work RAGs are doing to advance the Object of Rotary worldwide.

Additional information about RAGs can be found online, www.rotary.org/actiongroups.

RAGs at a Glance

Since RAGs were first recognized by the RI Board of Directors in 2005, their popularity and impact have grown around the world. The following provides a broad look at membership, finances, and general highlights for RAGs in 2010-11.

Membership

In 2010-11, 15 RAGs reported a combined membership of 29,025 Rotarians, Rotarian family members, and Rotaractors in more than 100 countries worldwide. Excluding the Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development, which reported the largest membership of any group at 23,005 members, the average size for each RAG is around 454 members.

Finances

Together these groups reported a combined income of nearly US\$292,000 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. In 2010-11, 13 groups required members to pay either annual or lifetime membership dues. The average annual membership cost was US\$20 and average lifetime membership cost was US\$68. RAGs reported expenses of over US\$275,000 for international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, RAGs reported combined net assets of over US\$210,000.

Highlights

- At its January 2011 meeting, the Board recognized two new RAGs, the Literacy Rotarian Action Group and the Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group.
- Twelve Rotarian Action Groups exhibited at the 2010-11 RI Convention in New Orleans and nine participated in breakout sessions.

Summary of Annual Reports

Rotarians for Fighting AIDS: a Rotarian Action Group

Purpose

The purpose of Rotarians for Fighting AIDS (RFFA) is to break the silence on AIDS, thereby reducing the stigma and making AIDS a mainstream issue. RFFA works on HIV/AIDS education and prevention, with a particular focus on developing and implementing community support efforts for orphans and vulnerable children.

Membership

In 2010-11, RFFA reported 754 active members in 43 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Rotary Family Health Day, Kenya and Uganda, May, 2011** – One thousand Rotarians from 102 Rotary Clubs in Kenya and Uganda gathered on 30 April 2011 and held a nationwide HIV Testing & Counseling Day at 125 sites throughout the two countries. 25,000 people were provided with free HTC (HIV Testing & Counseling). Other services included a dental clinic and hygiene education, blood sugar level screening for diabetes, blood pressure testing, malaria and TB screening and polio immunization. RFFA is already planning this event for next year.
- **Zambia Chongwe School Program, April, 2011** – The former CEO of Coca-Cola Business Systems and RFFA/Rotary leaders in Lusaka, Zambia collaborated to help 240 orphan children get back into school. The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation invested \$32,000 to this project, and a \$32,000 matching grant was facilitated by RFFA between the Kusinta Rotary Club in D9210 (host), the Rotary Clubs of Dunwoody, GA and Buckhead, GA, and Districts 7770 and 6900, USA. The funds paid for the refurbishment of a community school, an income-generating project for caregivers for the children, and the school fees and supplies. HOPE Worldwide was a collaborating organization by creating “Kidz Clubs” to provide the children with after-school life skills training.
- **Africa Network For Children Orphaned and at Risk (ANCHOR), December, 2011** – This five year program represents a multi-sector partnership between RFFA, HOPE Worldwide, The Coca Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF), and Emory University Schools of Public Health and Nursing. Together, this group obtained an \$8.1 million grant from PEPFAR¹ (channeled to/through HOPE). TCCAF provided a secondary grant of \$1.2 million for three years. As a result, RFFA provided care and support for 122,000 orphans and vulnerable children in seven countries: South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire. Many local Rotarians provided volunteer support. RFFA obtained \$294,000 in Orphan Rescue funds from the international community of Rotarians during the five year program, and RFFA obtained \$320,000 in funds from the Canadian government (CIDA) and from Canadian Rotarians to begin the ANCHOR program in Mozambique.

¹ U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Family Health International, Office of Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC)

Informal Collaborations: Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, AIDS Information Center, Delta Airlines, Emory University Schools of Public Health and Nursing

Contact Information

Chair: Michael McGovern

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Website: www.rffa.org

Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention

Purpose

The Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention (RAGBP) brings together, in fellowship and service, Rotarians, spouses and Rotaractors who have an active interest in the prevention of blindness and the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide. It provides both a platform and a forum to discuss ideas and develop appropriate cooperative programs to further shared goals, and promotes international understanding and peace through a common purpose and efforts.

Membership

In 2010-11, RAGBP reported 252 active members in 43 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: N/A

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100/\$50 Rotaractors

International Service Projects and Activities

- **“Gift of Light”, Tijuana, Mexico** – RAGBP worked with the Rotary Club of Tijuana-Independencia, and the Rotary Club of Temecula, CA to help provide vision care and glasses to children in orphanages in Tijuana, Mexico.
- **Eye Camp, Central Sri Lanka** – RAGBP worked with the Rotary Club of Kandy-Heritage in Sri Lanka and the Rotary Club of Calicut, Karala, in India, to develop eye clinics and conduct screenings in order to detect need for eyeglasses and test for cataracts.
- **Cataract operations in Purulia, India** – RAGBP helped provide for 1,000 cataract operations in India in partnership with the Rotary Club of Purulia, in W. Bengal, India, and the Rotary Club of Guildford, in Surrey, England.

RAGBP supported an additional 22 projects in the same manner. All projects had one or more members of the RAG directly involved in the development and/or implementation.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: RAGBP does not have any formal relationships with any organizations; however, it is evaluating the prospect of organizing partnerships with various eyesight-related organizations.

Informal Collaborations: American Academy of Ophthalmology

Contact Information

Chair: Thomas Kwako
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Website: www.rag4bp.org

Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group

Purpose

The Global Network for Blood Donation (GNBD) works to develop an international network of Rotarians and Rotaractors involved in blood donor projects, inspire other clubs and districts to join the endeavor, and serve as a forum to share experiences.

Membership

In 2010-11, GNBD reported 1,340 active members in over 70 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **The Governors' Challenge Blood Drive** – Encouraged voluntary blood donations among Rotarians and the general population at community blood centers. In 2010-11, the “Cowboy Challenge” was active throughout Rotary districts in Texas, New Mexico, and southern Oklahoma, USA; the “Indian Challenge” was active in all Rotary districts in India.
- **Mon Sang Pour Les Autres** – Developed blood drives encouraging voluntary blood donations among Rotarians and the general population in major population centers throughout France.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: Establishment Francais du Sang

Contact Information

Chair: P.T. Prabhakar

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Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers

Purpose

The Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers (RAGDV) provides humanitarian dental service throughout the world and promotes awareness of opportunities for service in the vocation of dentistry.

Membership

In 2010-11, RAGDV reported 402 active members in 32 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: \$30

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **University of Florida / Quito, Ecuador Dental Project** – RAGDV took a second group of 13 dental students and three faculty members from the University of Florida College of Dentistry to Quito, Ecuador. Selected students were incoming seniors who had earned the best grades and highest clinical scores in their class. RAGDV partnered with over 60 dental students from the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, working in Mindo and Los Bancos, northwest of Quito, for four days and then at the dental school for four days. Over this eight day period, they set up 10 stations and treated hundreds of patients.
- **Rwanda Dental Project** – RAGDV is in the initial phases of consulting and providing resources to ship more than 18 units of dental equipment from a college in Canada to a project university in Rwanda. RAGDV is also working to provide technical assistance to the university upon shipment.
- **RI Convention in New Orleans** – RAGDV participated with a booth at the convention, which was very well visited. Rotarians, spouses and Rotaractors signed up to receive the newsletter, volunteer for projects, and highlight areas of need for new dental projects. RAGDV also participated in a presentation on how Rotarian Action Groups can increase humanitarian service.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: University of Florida College of Dentistry, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, LDS Academy of Dentists, Southern Institute of Technology-Edmonton, Alliance for Smiles, Project Amigo, RFFA, Mercy Ships

Contact Information

Chair: James Churchman

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Website: www.ragdv.com

Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes

Purpose

The purpose of the Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes (RAGD) is to increase awareness and membership to fight the diabetes epidemic. RAGD works to educate and help Rotary districts and clubs mobilize and provide service through a strong commitment to education, identification, and treatment of diabetes, especially among children in developing countries.

Membership

In 2010-11, RAGD reported 110 active members in 16 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Retinal Assessment in Mexico** – RAGD partnered with the Rotary Club of San Miguel to screen and treat diabetes eye disease using a retinal camera and laser. 1200 people have been screened to date.
- **Ledbury Diabetes Food Project** – RAGD is teaching foot care to reduce amputations in participating countries, including nine Caribbean islands. They have documented an over 80% reduction in amputations.
- **Life for a Child in Cameroon** – RAGD continues to investigate creative means to encourage participation in its Life for a Child project in partnership with the International Diabetes Foundation and HOPE. They are cooperating with efforts in 40 countries with completed Rotary Foundation grants in Bolivia and Nigeria, where children continue to receive care for diabetes at Rotary clinics.
- **RI Convention in New Orleans** – RAGD members manned a booth in the House of Friendship to provide assistance to Rotarians regarding diabetes related service projects and information on TRF matching grants. RAGD also held its annual meeting at the convention and participated in a breakout session on the world's diabetes epidemic and what Rotarians are doing to combat this disease.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development (CRCID)

Informal Collaborations: International Diabetes Federation (IDF), HOPE

Contact Information

Chair: C. Wayne Edwards

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Website: www.ragdiabetes.org

Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group

Purpose

Food Plant Solutions aims to help people, particularly in developing countries, learn about and grow the best local foods to match their nutritional needs as a sustainable solution for hunger and malnutrition.

Membership

In 2010-11, Food Plant Solutions reported 186 active members in 29 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Learn<>Grow** – District 9830 has pioneered the notion of indigenous foods that are nutritious and sustainable. The program they created is called Learn<>Grow and the Food Plant Solutions RAG has a healthy relationship with that group. The RAG helps create awareness, seeks engagement from and empowers Rotarians to develop Learn<>Grow groups and implement food plant solutions in developing countries. Learn<>Grow aims to provide information, resource materials and technical support to Learn<>Grow groups and other aid providers.
- **Learn<>Grow: Solomon Islands** – In August, the Learn<>Grow program in Solomon Islands was officially launched and received a very enthusiastic response from all stakeholders including government ministries, NGOs and community groups. The publications included a reference text of all food plants, a book on food crops for schools and community groups and a set of field guides to be used by people involved in growing food. Ten local stakeholder organizations and groups have been involved in the extension of this information to people in villages and communities throughout the country. A Royce Abbey Scholarship was awarded to a teacher from Solomon Islands, in order to study over the coming year at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research with mentoring by TIAR Honorary Associate, Bruce French.
- **Learn<>Grow: Timor Leste** – District 9550 has continued with the development of a program for Timor Leste and a publication to support this program has been translated into Indonesian and Tetun languages. It is now posted on the project website and undergoing final in-country evaluation prior to printing. Publications have also been prepared to support the District 9110 program in Nigeria.
- **Orphans in Swaziland** – A document has been drafted to support a program instigated by Tom Henderson from ShelterBox to explore an initiative for aiding orphans in Swaziland. This draft has attracted a good deal of interest and will be evaluated further.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Learn<>Grow

Informal Collaborations: Shelterbox

Contact Information

Chair: Dr. John G. Thorne

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Website: foodplantsolutions.podbean.com

Rotarian Action Groups

2010-11 Annual Report

World Health Fairs, a Rotarian Action Group

Purpose

World Health Fairs collaborates with local Rotary clubs and districts to build sustainable local health fair programs.

Membership

In 2010-11, World Health Fairs, a Rotarian Action Group (WHF) reported 400 active members in 35 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

WHF promotes, assists, and facilitates Rotary clubs in establishing health fairs in their communities. They support these efforts by helping with planning, attending the event, providing guidance and encouraging club initiatives.

The health fairs provide both information and direct medical intervention. The topics and services of the massive undertaking include a wide range of topics. These may include hypertension control, diabetes assessment, bone density, chiropractic, smoking cessation, alcohol abuse, cardio care, birth control, sexual health education, parenting, vision care, dental hygiene, colon cancer, diet and obesity. Health fairs attempt to address a complete range of preventive health care issues and a complete range of primary health care needs.

WHF has supported health fairs in the U.S.A., Mexico, Russia, China, Mongolia, Fiji, Philippines, Thailand, Australia, and Canada.

Contact Information

Chair: **Bruce Heslip**

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Website: www.worldhealthfairs.org

Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition

Purpose

The Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition (H&M RAG) aims to provide nutritious food to the hungry by creating and supporting Rotary projects and programs that enhance and sustain local food security, and increase self-reliance in families and communities.

Membership

In 2010-11, H&M RAG reported 107 active members in 14 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Rotary Paapa** – H&M RAG provided supplemental food to malnourished children aged 0-5 years in Chennai, India.
- **Caubian Island Solar Oven Project** – Installed a solar oven and instructed native population of its use in Caubian Island, Philippines.
- **Food to Haiti** – Sent food shipments to Haiti in conjunction with cooperative partner, Hunger Plus, Inc..
- **Community Garden program (USA)** -- Phase II of original garden at a family homeless shelter will begin this fall and there are plans for two or three gardens at new sites (Boys & Girls Club and a Chapter 1 Charter School for the poor). The template plan for the Community Gardens is being developed for distribution to all interested Rotary districts worldwide. H&M RAG has also contacted Rotary clubs in the US to encourage backyard gardeners to deliver their excess produce to food banks and pantries through the cooperative organization Ample Harvest.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: Hunger Plus, Inc., Rotary's First Harvest, Breedlove Dehydrated Foods, H.E.L.P. Foundation, Abundant Harvest, The Arizona Association of Food Banks, Stop Hunger Now

Contact Information

Chair: **Barbara Feder**

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Literacy Rotarian Action Group

Purpose

1. To increase general awareness of the severity of illiteracy throughout the world; its effect on the quality of the lives of individuals, families, communities and nations from generation to generation
2. To increase awareness among Rotarians, Rotary clubs and districts of ways in which they can help to reduce the extent and impact of illiteracy both locally and internationally.
- 3 To assist Rotarians, Rotary clubs and Rotary districts to increase the scale and effectiveness of their participation in the alleviation of illiteracy its consequences, so supporting pursuit of the Object of Rotary.

Membership

In 2010-11, the Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LITRAG) reported 70 active members in 19 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Illiteracy Eradication from Primary Schools in Cairo & Giza Governorates** – The Literacy Rotarian Action Group is working to establish a CLE literacy program, which trains teachers (up to the third year of primary school) and Arabic teachers (up to the second year of high school) to teach literacy. Currently, 30% to 40% of students in Ministry of Education primary schools in Egypt remain illiterate.
- **Teaching English in elementary schools in Nepal** – Nepal relies heavily on tourism so the ability to speak English is important for employment opportunities. LITRAG is working to teach English starting at the primary school level.
- **3-H Literacy Project in The Philippines (2007-11)** – By the year 2006, Rotary clubs in the south of the country had conducted CLE Literacy projects up through elementary school grades with high success. However, there was a need to spread the work more widely and achieve closer involvement with the National Department of Education. LITRAG is working to continue these CLE Literacy projects where they are needed.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: Philippines Ministry of Education and Nepal Ministry of Education, Education authorities and elementary schools in the Governorate of El Salam

Contact Information

Chair: Noraseth Pathmanand
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Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group

Purpose

Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group (REMaRAG) works to unite Rotarians and Rotaractors with other individuals, governments and institutions to control malaria and enhance the effectiveness of operational and delivery models.

Membership

In 2010-11, REMaRAG reported 140 active members in 22 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Volunteer travel** – There are numerous Family of Rotary volunteers travelling to remote areas – setting up training days, distributing nets, establishing efficient hospitals and diagnosing Malaria at an early stage.
- **Matching Grants Program** – A matching grants program is underway in Tanzania (Faye Cran), Mwanza, Dar es Salaam and Arusha involving multi-district support from Great Britain, Tanzania and the US, as well as ongoing projects in Papua New Guinea.
- **Volunteer placements** – REMaRAG has arranged volunteer placements in Tanzania and Uganda to help with all aspects of Malaria prevention.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: All Party Parliamentary Malaria Group (London), DFID (London), World Health Organization, United Nations, Malaria No More, Sumitomo Chemical Olyset Nets (London & Tanzania), PermaNets (Tanzania), Nothing But Nets, Nets No More, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, London School of Tropical Medicine, British Broadcasting Cooperation & Independent Television & Radio.

Contact Information

Chair: Brian Stoyel

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Website: www.remarag.org

Rotarian Action Group for Microcredit

Purpose

The Rotairan Action Group for Microcredit (RAGM) works to create dynamic partnerships focusing on education, motivation, communication and coordination to end poverty.

Membership

In 2010-11, RAGM reported 468 active members in 38 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Foundation for Women (FFW) Liberia Microcredit Program** – The FFW Liberia Microcredit Program now reaches more than 3,000 women and their families in 100 centers in 12 of the 15 counties in Liberia, touching more than 30,000 people. The goal remains to enroll every woman in Liberia who wishes to participate. This figure is estimated at approximately one million women. FFWL operates one center in Monrovia for disabled men and women at the request of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia. The center recently received the donation of a handicapped accessible vehicle from FFW USA, the first such vehicle in the country.

In addition to microcredit loans, the FFWL program provides financial education and literacy training for all members. The scholarship program has grown to support nearly 100 students. The first college graduate funded by this program, Martha Daniels, received her degree in accounting this year.

- **Columbia Project** – This project will create two trust groups for small loans in Santa Maria, Colombia, following the Grameen bank model. It is expected that these trust groups will assist forty to fifty low income people in establishing their own businesses. As well as being eligible for loans, trust group participants will receive training in business skills, financial literacy, personal development, and other group specific training. This program also includes savings and insurance programs for clients.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: Canadian Rotarian Collaboration for International Development (CRCID), District 5020 Microcredit Committee, District 5340 Mobilizing Rotary for Microcredit, District 5360 Microcredit Task Force, District 6290 Microfinance Committee, District 7070 Microfinance Committee, Foundation For Women (FFW), Mercy Economic Development International Canada (MEDIC Canada) , Opportunity International, Toronto International Microfinance Summit, Uniendo America Rotary Project Fair

Contact Information

Chair: Steve Rickard

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Website: www.rotarianmicrocredit.org

Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness

Purpose

The Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness promotes awareness to improve the lives of People with MS (PwMS) by helping MS Societies and MS Researchers to end MS through the global power of Rotarians and partners. It also supports researchers who study risk factors that make children susceptible to MS.

Membership

In 2010-11, Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA) reported 412 active members in 23 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$10

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Multiple Sclerosis Research and PhD Scholarships** – RAGMSA has raised \$AU9,000 to help fund another MSResearch PhD student, for a total of four students. The Rotary Club of Gisborne's Cycle Challenge also donated approximately \$14,000 to MS research. RAGMSA is collaborating with Trish Foundation to promote MS awareness and research. This year, the Rotary Club of Philadelphia, USA has raised approx \$US80,000 for research as well.
- **Email Group and World MS Day** – RAGMSA celebrated World MS Day on May 25th with an MS Global Dinner. This year, "Wild Action" Australian native animals participated in the event and raised approx \$A3,500. A RAGMSA email group allows participants to share information with each other. In Nigeria, information provided is read out at church as no MS Society exists. The next step is to help Nigeria establish a fledgling MS Society. Lebanon also has a fledgling organization gaining ideas how Rotarians can support their efforts.
- **International Fundraising and Promotion** -- RAGMSA was also represented in a booth at the New Orleans 2011 RI Convention, and promotes such events as MS bike rides, swims and walks.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: ARH , Melbourne University, Howard Florey Institute, Pratt Foundation, MS Research Australia (MSRA), Multiple Sclerosis Australia (MSA), Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) and National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), Trish Foundation.

Contact Information

Chair: Martin Taurins

E-mail: taurins3@vegas.com.au

Website: www.rotary-rfmsa.org

Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates

Purpose

The Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates (PSA) gathers and disseminates information to increase the contribution to the health of polio survivors and those involved with their health care.

Membership

In 2010-11, PSA reported over 200 active members in 12 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None

Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- **“Wheels of Hope”** – As a result of two matching grants in 2010 which equipped and improved productivity in a wheelchair production facility in Jos, Nigeria, PSA delivered 1000 wheelchairs to polio survivors. With the grant funds depleted, the Rotary Club of Traverse City, Michigan, USA, in conjunction with PSA, conceived and created a foundation to produce a continuing stream of revenue for the workshop in Jos. This foundation, called Wheels of Hope, is partnering with four Rotary clubs (as they did for the matching grant) in Jos to manage a sustaining stream of revenue for the purposes of continuing to support the large polio survivor population in the Northern provinces of Nigeria. Wheels of Hope became operational in November of 2011 and will have much more to report in the 2012 PSA annual report.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: None

Informal Collaborations: Post-Polio International of St Louis, Missouri, USA

Contact Information

Chair: Ann Lee Hussey

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Website: www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com

Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development

Purpose

The Rotarian Action Group for Population Growth & Sustainable Development (RFPD) promotes and implements humanitarian and community development projects that directly address and create awareness about population concerns.

Membership

In 2010-11, RFPD reported 23,005 active members in 84 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- **Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula in Nigeria** – RFPD’s signature project aims to reduce maternal and newborn mortality in 10 selected hospitals by 60%. The comprehensive approach includes an awareness and advocacy campaign with radio serials and community dialogues, the introduction of quality assurance in obstetrics, and the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula through training of fistula surgeons and operation of fistula patients, including their rehabilitation through vocational training and microcredit. The approach is published in the *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, and officially included in the list of commitments to the UN Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.
- **Improvement of Medical Services in Rural Villages in Nepal** – RFPD provided mothers and their families in more than 50 villages in Nepal with medical services, which contributed to the reduction of child mortality by 50% within the last decade.
- **Project for a Dramatic Radio Series for Honduras** – With the help of a US \$150,000 grant from the Bergstrom Foundation, RFPD helped develop a soap opera series to prevent adolescent pregnancies, delay first sexual experiences, fight against HIV/AIDS, empower women, provide women with vocational and technical education, eradicate poverty, and reduce infant mortality.

RFPD has also developed youth reproductive health education workshops in Cambodia, Guatemala, Uruguay and India, provided family planning support in Nepal, developed literacy programs in Panama, and provided bakery equipment to a vocational school in Brazil, among other projects.

Notable Collaborations

UNFPA Nigeria, Pathfinder Nigeria, Fundaciòn Juan Bautista Gutierrez, FNUAP, "Programa Alianzas" of AID, Organizaciòn Vecinos Mundiales, Alianza Joven Regional (AJR) de USAID/SICA, ONG Casa Esperanza Paraguay Ministry of Education, Uruguay Ministries of Education and of Public Health, Municipal Institute of Minors of the City of Mar del Plata and Municipality of General Pueyrredon in Argentina, Population Media Center, Population Institute and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

Contact Information

Chair: Harald Marschner
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Website: www.rifpd.org

Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group

Purpose

The Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) provides information, support, and encouragement to Rotarians and Rotary clubs and districts to take active roles in projects and programs that develop safe water and sanitation as a means of promoting health and alleviating hunger.

Membership

In 2010-11, WASRAG reported 1,536 active members in 81 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

WASRAG's mandate is to support Rotary clubs and Rotarians in the planning, execution and monitoring of their WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) projects and programs.

Most notable are the following:

- \$30,000 matching funds for two projects in Cote D'Ivoire to complement funding from TRF.
- \$100,000 grant from the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) for a holistic water and agricultural development project of the Rotary club of Bombay Mid Town.
- Matching funds for a rainwater harvesting and community development program of the Nakuru Rotary club (Kenya).
- \$250,000 funding for WaSH program for schools in South Africa.

The WASRAG network was very helpful recently in seeking funding from clubs for the Ghana component of the US AID/Rotary International "International H2O Alliance."

WASRAG has also entered into an agreement with car wash operators in Atlanta, Georgia (USA) to give one cent on every wash to water projects of clubs in developing countries.

Other strategic initiatives will enable clubs to become more effective in managing, and ensuring sustainability in WaSH projects and programs. They include:

- Redesigning the website to better enable clubs to find projects, access expertise, evaluate and select appropriate technology and develop "model practices" through an open forum.
- Creating the "Start with Water" (<http://www.startwithwater.org>) program as a vehicle for preparing packaged grants, endorsed projects and the PPP (Program Planning and Performance) process.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Wallace Genetic Foundation and the Harbinger Foundation

Informal Collaborations: Engineers Without Borders (USA), Living Water International, University of North Carolina (Water Institute), Niger Delta Partnership Initiative (Chevron), P&G Children's Safe Drinking Water/Africare/H2O for Life, US Dept. of State - AWASH program

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