Special Grants Edition

From the start of each Rotary year, the main focus for the District TRF Team is encouraging the fulfillment of Annual Giving and PolioPlus goals set by each Club. But each year, equal attention ought to be given to the creativity, persistence and expertise of our Clubs in designing and executing Grants Projects...that is, the *spending* of the money that you all so generously donate. So we are very pleased to present an issue of the *TRF NewsToday* featuring some of the projects funded by District or Global Grants, the money that comes back to us from TRF.

**Rotary Club of Los Gatos**

**Tuguegaroa Hospital, Philippines**

Working with Assist International and a Rotary Foundation Future Vision grant, our club assisted in the installation of a neo-natal ICU and adult ICU at the Tuguegarao City People’s Hospital in the Philippines, a project that will save many babies and significantly improve medical treatment in the region. Medical equipment valued at approximately $250,000 was installed and the appropriate training was provided.
to the hospital medical staff. Los Gatos Rotarians traveled to the Philippines for the installation and had a wonderful experience meeting, socializing and working alongside members. In 2011, the Rotary Club of Los Gatos initiated a project for the Tuguegarao City People’s Hospital located in Cagayan Province, Philippines. The goal of the project was to provide equipment for the hospital’s neonatal and ICU wards. After raising $60,000 in donations and matching grants through Rotary International and working closely with Assist International to acquire equipment donated by General Electric, a team of people traveled to Tuguegarao to complete the installation of the needed equipment. The team included Rotarians Andrew Howard, Ron Cassel and Ed Stahl; Bob Pagett, Charlene Pagett and Ray Schmidt from Assist International; and former Assistant Mayor from the Town of Los Gatos, Marllyn Rassmussen. The March 2011 installation of hospital equipment included 6 ICU monitors, 6 critical care monitors, an incubator, an EKG machine, an ultrasound, and an anesthesia monitor, in addition to attendant networking and monitoring equipment needed to effectively use the new technology. By teaming up with Assist International, the Rotary money was able to purchase medical equipment for the hospital valued at approximately $250,000.

Rotary Club of Palo Alto University

Rotary Brings Hope to Caluco, El Salvador

Here are some photos taken from our recent trip to El Salvador, where we support a number of projects in health care, education, and agricultural development. The first photo is a new kitchen for an elementary school in Caluco, an impoverished region of El Salvador; the second photo is a medical clinic in Caluco; the third project is an agricultural project, also in Caluco. All of these projects were funded, in part, by PAUR and included the use of DDF. In February of 2010, we had an extensive discussion with the Mayor of Coluco about what she saw as the major needs for her community. The Mayor was...
very pleased with our work on education, but in addition she was particularly concerned about some of the youth, who were not the best students in school and who were unskilled and unemployed. She wanted to have a series of Vocational-Training Workshops to teach them a trade and skill. We agreed to fund $2000 for such a workshop for teaching a group of about 20 young people Electrical Installation in Residences. They took about 100 hours of vocational training and just this September, 17 of them passed their final course exam. They are now waiting to take the government exam to become certified and licensed. Already three of them have received job offers (subject to them becoming licensed). The attached picture was taken when they graduated from the Training.

Rotary Club of Livermore

Better Medical Care, Healthier Kosovo Children

In 2010 the Rotary Club of Livermore began a project to supply the country of Kosovo with a Pediatric Emergency Department and a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, to be located in the tertiary hospital in Prishtina. When the project began, Kosovo was in a pilot district and the Rotary Club of Livermore began to prepare a global grant application. When the club was ready to submit a Global Grant
Proposal, it was told that Kosovo was no longer in a pilot district and a global grant proposal could not be submitted. With the help of Cecelia Babkirk, District 5170 Grants Chair, we were able to secure the help of the Rotary Club of Istanbul, Topkapi as International Partner for a Matching Grant application. The grant application, for a total of $60,000, was written and finally approved in the Spring of 2012. The equipment was installed in late summer of 2012 and is now in regular use.

Rotarians involved in this project were:
- The Primary Contact in the Host Rotary Club of Prishtina, Kosovo, was Ardian Hoxha.
- The Primary Contact in the International Partner Rotary Club of Istanbul - Topkapi, Turkey, was Turgut Gökyigit.
- The grant application was written primarily by David Mertes of the Rotary Club of Livermore.
- The budget, document coordination and communications with the parties of the application was handled by Phillip Dean of the Rotary Club of Livermore.
- Valuable advice and support was provided by Cecelia Babkirk, District 5170 Grants Chair.

The total project cost was $60,000.00. The equipment for the hospital was purchased from Assist International of Scotts Valley, CA, USA, which also installed the equipment and will maintain it for one year.

Rotary Club of Oakland

Partners in Service from Brazil Support Services for Oakland Youth

A Global Grant is coming to fruition in Oakland, thanks largely to the donation of $10,000 in DDF by District 4420 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The dedication of the renovated DreamCatcher facility on May 1 brought Rotarians from the Rotary Clubs of Alameda, Oakland #3, and East Oakland to the site that serves runaway and exploited youth from throughout Alameda County. PDG Jose Luis Fonseca visited our district as a Partner in Service in 2010. He was impressed with the efforts to provide a safe place and social services for teenagers who were either runaways or who had been sexually exploited. These issues resonated with the concerns for the youth in Sao Paulo. He offered his help through participation in the Global Grant. This is one of only two known “reverse” grants in our District history, where we are the recipients of funds, not the donors. The project was delayed because the
original director of the center was tragically killed in an auto accident. It is now back on track, with part of the center named in memory of Nika. The renovated building will provide housing for runaways, a safe place and social services for sexually exploited teen females, and drop-in services for street children. The Rotary project will provide kitchen and bathroom facilities. The city of Oakland and Alameda County are also providing services and financing for the building. Alameda Rotarian Irene Kudarauskas, Executive Director of Alameda Family Services, oversees the program. All construction is expected to be completed by August 2013.

Major Gains Made Against Type 3 Poliovirus

It has now been 12 months since Asia has reported its last case of polio due to the wild poliovirus WPV3. That last case occurred April 18, 2012 in Pakistan. It is significant to note that over the past six months, only one case involving WPV3 has been reported worldwide, and that was in Yobe, Nigeria, on Nov. 10, 2012. These are the lowest ever recorded levels of WPV3 transmission, and there is reason to believe this strain is on the verge of eradication. If so, it would be the second wild poliovirus strain to be eradicated, following type 2 (WPV2) in 1999 — leaving only wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1). Chris Maher, WHO’s Senior Scientist for Polio Eradication says, “I don’t think it’s gone, but it’s definitely at its lowest ever levels; and if we keep up the pressure, it’s on its way out.” The last known WPV3 reservoirs are in northern Nigeria in areas that are insecure and difficult to access due to the ethnic warfare that continues to rage in that region. Therefore, it is hard to tell if this strain is still being circulated, but is going undetected.
Lighting for Literacy can Change the World

Tell me and I will forget, show me and I might remember, involve me and I will understand. – Confucius

By Rotarian Doug McNeil

In 1985, Rotary declared basic literacy to be a pre-condition to the development of world peace. Rotary International has an exponential opportunity to empower and mentor the next generation of youth by helping youth understand that they can change the world with humanitarian service projects that profoundly change the lives of the underprivileged throughout the world. Twenty percent, or 1.5 billion people, are living in total darkness with no electricity. Within this population, eighty-five percent are illiterate. Most earn an average of $2.50 a day, with thirty percent of their wages spent on kerosene and candles – both highly toxic, flammable products – to heat and light their homes. Los Gatos Morning Rotary in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Los Gatos, California, partnered to develop an Earth Day project for youth to promote literacy with an innovative, renewable, and sustainable solar lighting system. The Lighting for Literacy project teaches science, sustainability, and the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self,” while brightening educational pathways for those living off the grid. With this program, we have changed the lives of youth, and have profoundly influenced the next generation with a clear vision of serving the greater good. Through the power of STEM, youth gain first-hand experience in learning how something that they build with their own hands has the power of global stewardship and the opportunity to raise the human potential for the twenty percent who live in darkness after the sun sets.

In 2012, President Barack Obama announced the White House Initiative called “Educate to Innovate,” which promotes STEM programs and calls for a nationwide educational expansion of science-related projects to build the jobs of the future.
science proficiency, it seemed appropriate for Rotary’s District 5170 club in the Silicon Valley to take a lead role in catalyzing change. In 2012, we took a fundamentally simple concept and developed a transformational science program that is changing the lives of over a hundred youth, all in the blink of an eye. This April, another installation is taking place in Mexico. Middle and high school children work together with adult mentors to learn how to build a basic circuit board. With this board and a one-foot solar panel, a 12-volt battery, an 18-inch LED strip, and the flip of a switch, we are transforming the lives of underprivileged youth across multiple continents. With as little as 60 watts of solar power we are now generating enough renewable light to provide 700,000 lumen hours to win the futures of youth around the world who are living off the grid, all for the low cost of approximately 25 premium lattes per unit. This low-cost, compact, renewable, sustainable solar lighting system, used as a national STEM science project, is now spreading to villages in Mexico and India, providing four hours of lighting every night. This enabling youth service project provides the educational opportunity to read, write, and lead more productive lives. The Lighting for Literacy project helps today’s youth to help millions of underserved youth to learn and to experience the joy of reading.

The hope of the future is education. Mentoring youth with the knowledge to change the lives of others will enable the next generation of Rotarians to bring about profound and inspirational change in ways not thought possible. Through Rotary, we now have a project to educate, empower and enable a new generation of youth previously living in darkness. Together we brighten the futures of those who give and those who receive in building a better world through One Rotary. At a global level, we involve and teach youth so they discover “innovative humanitarian acts of service” to promote Rotary International President Tanaka’s Rotary goal of “Peace through Service.”

Doug McNeil co-developed Lighting for Literacy (LFL) and is the Senior Director at Kinestral Technologies, Inc.