

Rotarian Action Groups 2013 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 2012-13.

Membership

In 2012-13, 18 RAGs reported a combined membership of 28,281 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 20,000 members, the average size for each RAG is around 487 members.

Finances

Together these groups reported a combined income of nearly US\$783,636 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. In 2012-13, 19 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\$100. RAGs reported expenses of over US\$ 1,011,521 for international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, RAGs reported combined net assets of over US\$290,061.

Highlights

At its June 2013 meeting, the Rotary International Board of Directors recognized the Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotarian Action Group to help provide a global platform for collaboration, education, and support on projects related to Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The group leverages its members' extensive experience and resources to support and promote club and district projects.

Fifteen Rotarian Action Groups exhibited at the 2013 RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal and seven of these participated in breakout sessions.

Summary of Annual Reports

Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention

Topic: preventing blindness and promoting eye health and vision worldwide

Membership

In 2012-13, RAGBP reported 273 members in 43 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25

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

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ Eye care Diagnostic and Surgical Equipment for Hospital. RAGBP worked with the RC of Pune North Ma, India (D3131) and RC of Long Neck Sunrise, USA (D7630) to help provide the necessary equipment for Desai hospital in Pune India to be used for Cataract operations as well as diagnostic and ocular examinations. A \$2000 grant was provided by the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund. DAF funds are matched \$50/\$1.00 by TRF thus providing \$3000 to the overall project.
- > Sri Lanka Eye care Project RAGBP worked with the RC of Kand, Sri Lanka (D3220) and RC of Jefferson Cty., Oregon USA (D5110) to help provide spectacles, transportation and cataract surgeries. A \$2000 grant was provided by the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund. DAF funds are matched \$50/\$1.00 by TRF thus providing \$3000 to the overall project.
- ➤ **Diagnostic Retinopathy Equipment** RAGBP worked with the RC of Madras Fort Chennai, India (D3230) and RC of Billericay Mayflower, UK (D1240) to help provide medical equipment to diagnose diabetic retinopathy for the Sanrakan Eye Hospital in Chennai, India. A \$2000 grant was provided by the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund. DAF funds are matched \$50/\$1.00 by TRF thus providing \$3000 to the overall project.

In addition to actual participation and "hands on" support the BP-DAF helps to fund numerous projects each year. The BP-DAF was established by PRIP Frank J. Devlyn for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to blindness prevention projects.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: American Academy of Opthamology

Contact Information

Chair: Walter C. Schloer, wschloer@gmail.com

Website: www.rag4bp.org Social Media: Facebook

Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group

Topic: blood donation projects

Membership

In 2012-13, GNBD reported 1,553 members in over 89 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- > Cowboy and Indian Challenge (AKA Governor' Blood Drive) GNBD worked with Districts in Zones 4, 5, 6, 21b, and 27, as well as Community Blood Centers within these districts (In the United States, the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals also participated) to hold a very successful blood drive for local blood banks that encouraged voluntary blood donations amongst Rotarians and the general population.
- ➤ **Mon Sang pour les Autres**. GNBD conducted a country wide blood drive in France that involved all districts in the country. The blood drives in Toulouse resulted in the largest collection of donors at one time in Europe. 2883 donors registered overall. Turnout was strong throughout France's major population centers.
- ➤ Governor's Challenge Blood and Vampire Ball (awards banquet)— GNBD worked with clubs in District 6890 and Florida Blood Services, Inc to encourage voluntary blood donations among Rotarians and the general public; and recognition of those clubs with the highest levels of participation.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals

Informal Collaborations: Florida Blood Services, Inc, I' Establishment Français du Sang

Contact Information

Chair: B.J. Smith, bjsmith@carterbloodcare.org

Website: www.ourblooddrive.org

Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery

Topic: raising awareness and supporting programs, campaigns and projects to address child slavery

Membership

In 2012-13, RAGBP reported 138 members in 18 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ Kalimpong Project —with various Rotary clubs and districts, RACSRAG helped to complete Phase 1 of the project for a vocational training center. This includes completion of security fencing, water supply, drainage and wiring, furnishing, computer related and training equipment, vehicle for transporting staff and guests. Kalimpong is a town in East Bengal, India, bordering China in the north, Nepal in the west, Bhutan in the east and Bangladesh in the south.
- ➤ **Punarnawa Ashram** In partnership with American, German, and English Rotary clubs, and the Free the Slaves of Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Sansthan (MSEMVS), RACSRAG worked construct of an open air roofed brick building for teaching the survivors of sex slavery.
- ➤ Trafficking Shelter, Mae Suai-After the RI Convention in Bangkok in 2012, a group of Rotarians from Australia, New Zealand, USA, Zambia and England visited a trafficking shelter in Northern Thailand, some for several days, in order to assess the needs of the shelter which provides protection of between 350-400 children (Akha Tribe) from trafficking into the sex industry in Thailand and elsewhere. Much of the building work to create the school is being done by Rotarian and other volunteers and a Global Grant project is being planned for the construction of a toilet block and water systems for the school.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Anti-Slavery International (based in London, England), Free the Slaves (based in Washinton DC, USA), Bachpan Bachao Andolan (based in Delhi, India, RC Diocese of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Bihar, India

Contact Information

Chair: Mark Little, mark@racsrag.org

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Social Media: Facebook

Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers

Topic: providing humanitarian dental service throughout the world

Membership

In 2012-13, RAGDV reported 764 members in 136 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ Beautiful Teeth, Healthy Children- Dental Prophylaxis Project (Romania)-RAGDV worked with District 2240, more than 45 Rotary clubs, the Romanian Ministry of Health, and Colgate Romania to provide a comprehensive dental prophylaxis project to 12,000 children in first grade classrooms throughout the country.
 - o In each of the 18 cities, 5 schools were selected, in which two classes of first grade benefited
 - Each of the 12,000 children involved received 2 tooth-brushes and tubes of tooth-paste.
 - This dental prophylaxis project is supported by an awareness campaign addressing children, parents, grandparents, teachers and local authorities.
 - Future goals for the project include....
 - Initiation of a national program for oral health education and preventive treatment for children
 - Achievement of a national study of oral health in Romania
 - 50% reduction in cavaties for children under 14 years of age
 - Publicizing "Sambata dulce" ("Sweet Saturday") in an effort to decreasing sweets intake.
- ➤ **Overland for Smile** (Eastern Europe)-is a traveling humanitarian project aimed at improving the dental health of children living in orphanages in Eastern Europe. Teams aim to provide free dentistry services to orphans that would otherwise not have access to such care.
- ➤ Alliance for Smiles (Tanzania and China)-RAGDV worked with the Rotary Clubs of Babati Tanzania, Greene and Putnam counties, Braselton, Monroe (North Carolina), Toccoa, Jasper, Oglethorpe County and Rome, as well as Districts 6910 and 9211. This is the 3rd trip to China, where they have done 182 surgeries on 154 patients in the city of Zunyi alone.
 - o In Tanzania Maria, a 10 year old girl from Isanzu, a village 110 km from Singida Hospital, came with a complete unilateral cleft lip and palate. The parents had taken her to the local clinic for this surgery 3-4 times before and had been told each time that the surgery needed to be postponed. On her visit with us Dr. Sandy McCulloch repaired her palate and did a beautiful job of repairing her lip. When her father came into the PACU he was so very happy that he wanted to take her home immediately to show everyone her beautiful new face.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Alliance for Smiles, Overland Smile, Romanian Ministry of Health, and Colgate Romania

Contact Information

Chair: Cos Ovidiu, cosovidiu@gmail.com

Website: www.ragdv.com

Social Media: MyRotary, Facebook

Rotarian Action Groups 2012-13 Annual Report

Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes

Topic: providing service through a strong commitment to education, identification, and treatment of diabetes, especially among children in developing countries

Membership

In 2012-13, RAGD reported 135 members in 27 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- > RAG for Diabetes has concentrated on assisting clubs and districtrs initiate diabetes related service projects worldwide. Club and district projects in Rwanda, Bangladesh, India, and the Caribbean Islands have been initiated or enhanced and grants were made to projects in Rwanda and the Caribbean Islands.
- Continued to support other NGOs' efforts to increase awareness of the worldwide epidemic of diabetes on World Diabetes Day.
- Working with the International Diabetes Federation, the Life for a Child Program is now in place in over 50 devloping, low income countries provideing supplies and treatment to children with diabetes.

Contact Information

Chair: C. Wayne Edwards, wayne@ragdiabetes.org

Website: www.ragdiabetes.org Social Media: Facebook, Twitter

Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention

Topic: helping clubs and districs plan and implement large scale disease prevention and treatment projects

Membership

In 2012-13, RFHA reported 870 members in 48 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD) is our signature program. In May 2013 the third annual RFHD provided comprehensive free health care services to 275,049 disadvantaged people in the countries of Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa.

5,500 Rotarians from 362 Rotary clubs, at 368 sites across these three nations provided their volunteer service at this event, all during the same three day period, which we believe makes this the largest 'non-polio' health event in the world of Rotary.

Uganda: 128,024 served at 131 sites
 Nigeria: 78,926 served at 77 sites

• **South Africa**: 68,099 served at 160 sites

Total Investments in this program totaled \$13,556,400, calculated as follows:

- ➤ The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation: \$450,000
- ➤ In-Kind Contribution of 5,500 Rotarians: \$6,000,000 (calculated using an independent monetization tool of FHI and Price Waterhouse salary table);
- ➤ In-kind medical and technical contribution of S.A. Dept. of Health, CDC, USAID, and partner NGOs: \$5,500,000
- ➤ The Rotary Foundation Global Grants: \$106,400
- > South Africa Broadcasting Corporation, smaller media outlets; Rotary International's broadcast media group (which are producing a documentary): \$1,500,000

We confirmed the need for each partner to have a specific role and set of responsibilities. RFHA is the convening organization, finding external partners and resources for different countries, working with the governments, and managing the overall program.

We achieved this work by appointing RFHA in-Country National Program leaders who work directly with RFHA U.S. Program Steering Committees are established in each country and they motivate and train all of the Rotary clubs in the country. In South Africa's case (because it had 4 Rotary districts), there were 4 Program Steering Committees.

Each Rotary club appoints a "Site Champion" and that Rotarian and his committee build the relationship at the district level with the government workers and the indigenous NGOs to implement the program. The Rotary clubs select, build and manage the sites. The site locations across a nation are agreed to by the governments (both in-country and U.S.).

We established a partnership infrastructure, a training system for all the Rotary clubs, and a distribution system for supplies in the country of South Africa that will be done in the other countries in 2014. Making this program work in South Africa, in particular, achieved "proof of concept" of this program.

Rotarian Action Groups

We confirmed that hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged are in need of these services. The medical services offered are sustainable, lifelong immunizations (such as polio drops, measles vaccine, etc.). Also provided are critical annual tests or screens for HIV, malaria, diabetes, cervical cancer screens, etc., in addition to safe male circumcision, de-worming, Vitamin A. Some sites offer dental or eye services.

We obtained unprecedented national government support (and a Letter of Intent) from South Africa's Department of Health, providing free health care support at all the sites under the name of Rotary. This will influence the other smaller country governments on the continent to provide more hands-on support. We developed a data collection tool in partnership with the CDC and the S.A. Department of Health that will be used by all the countries going forward. In addition, we will develop a pilot 90 day impact evaluation study in South Africa in 2014, tracking the results of those that tested positive in HIV, diabetes and hypertension. We have learned the significance of the comprehensiveness of the data that we are collecting about people's health across large nations in Africa. Public health institutions have an interest in analyzing our data to learn differences between people's health based upon urban or rural living, gender, age, etc.

Plans are already under way to hold this event in ten African countries in April 2014, continuing the partnership with The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, the SABC, the CDC, in-country Ministries of Health and many more. We plan to hold a pilot in India in 2015.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, Family Health International (FHI) 360, Office of Global AIDS Coordinator, South Africa Broadcasting Corporation/SABC

Informal Collaborations: Delta Airlines, Nampak, USAID, South Africa Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Ministry of Health Uganda, Minstry of Health of Nigeria

Contact Information

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Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group

Topic: helping 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 2012-13, Food Plant Solutions reported 292 members in 31 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None Lifetime Membership Dues: AUD \$20

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ **Field Guides** During the year field guides were completed for Cambodia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Guinea, Uganda and Western Pacific and the Haiti Handbook was upgraded. Work continues on field guides for Tanzania, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Philippines, North Korea and China and the Sierra Leone guide is being further upgraded. Response to the completed field guides has been very positive and it is pleasing to see these guides leading to the increasing development of new initiatives in many developing countries.
- > Our newsletter, news bulletins, social media and website are recognised as our most important communication with Non-Rotary aid providers continues and strong interest has been shown by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Bruce French is involved with an ACIAR funded project in PNG aimed at exploring potential uptake of FPS programs. Collaborative links with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), the World Vegetable Centre, Bioversity International, Crops for the Future, ECHO, Oxfam and World Vision continue to be explored. We have been invited to explore the development of an MOU with TIA and this is being pursued.
- > Food Plant Solutions Information Sessions- Our group receives regular requests to speak to local Rotary clubs, a few district conferences, attend the International Assembly and International Convention. Information and molding understandings about hunger and nutrition is at the core of our work. We had a strong presence at the recent International Assembly (2013) in San Diego and the International Convention in Lisbon.
- ➤ In addition we have the exciting prospect of attending the First Rotary China Conference in Chengdu. Chairman, PRID John Thorne and his wife have been appointed the Representatives for the RI President. As an additional aspect to this conference in China, there is a strong link with the needs of the population in North Korea. A group of Chinese Rotarians are working diligently for the desperate needs in North Korea and Food Plant Solutions has been invited to be a partner in this voluntary work.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), the World Vegetable Centre, Bioversity International, Crops for the Future, ECHO, and Oxfam

Contact Information

Chair: Dr. John G. Thorne, thorne.hobart@gmail.com **Executive Director:** Buz Green, buzgreen@bigpond.net.au

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Social: Facebook

Rotarian Action Groups 2012-13 Annual Report

Rotarians for Hearing, A Rotarian Action Group

Topic: helping children and adults with hearing loss

Membership

In 2012-13, RfHRAG reported 33 members in 10 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$10 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ Solar Ear Brazil Matching Grant Project (Candido Mota and Assis, São Paulo, Brazil)-RfHRAG partnered with the Folsom RC, District 5180, Pleasant Valley RC, Millbrook RC, District 7210, Rotary Clubs of Candido Mota, and Assis Norte, Brazil, and District 4510 to distribute 164 solar powered hearing aids to 82 poor Brazilian children and adults. Over 300 individuals with hearing loss were tested and identified. 164 ear molds were fitted on the 82 individuals with hearing loss. Each recipient got a solar charger for each hearing aid, 4 rechargeable AA and 4 rechargeable hearing aid batteries that last over 2 years, and 2 rechargeable Solar Ear hearing aids.
- ➤ All Ears Cambodia School of Primary Ear Care and Audiology Scholarships- RfHRAG partnered with the Pleasant Valley RC, District 7210, and the Phnom Penh Metro RC to develop the human capacity needed to treat ear infections and other causes of hearing loss, as well as provide audiological services where needed in Cambodia. Two Cambodian nationals are being trained to work in the All Ears Cambodia Clinics in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap and outreach programs in rural Cambodia.
- Children with Hearing Loss Learn to Listen and Talk (Guatemala)-Building capacity among teachers, technicians, therapists, other professionals and families to help children with hearing loss in Guatemala make use of hearing technology and learn to communicate through listening and spoken language.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: The Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss, All Ears Cambodia Clinics, School of Primary Ear Care and Audiology (Cambodia), Solar Ear Hearing Aids

Contact Information

Chair: Ellen Haggerty, ellenkhaggerty@hotmail.com

Website: www.rotariansforhearingrag.org Social Media: Facebook, LinkedIn, MyRotary

Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition

Topic: enhancing and sustaining local food security and providing nutritious food to the hungry

Membership

In 2012-13, H&M RAG reported 100 members in 15 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ Rotary First Harvest (Seattle, WA)-Working with Rotary District 5030, the Northwest Harvest, Food Lifeline, Emergency Food Network, Second Harvest, and the Oregon Food Bank, H&M RAG collected and distributed nearly 10 million pounds of produce to hunger relief agencies across the West Coast of the United States.
- > World Food Day Malaysia Rotary Food Pack(Kuala Lumpur)-The H&M RAG partnered with Rotary Club of Melawati and Stop Hunger Now for a meal-packing event that produced more than 30,000 meals to respond to local and regional hunger.
- ➤ **Meallionaires (Phoenix, AZ)-** The H&M RAG partnered with Phoenix 100 Rotary Club and Feed My Starving Children for a meal-packing event that produced meals for the City of Phoenix.

The RAG for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition coordinated a panel discussion as a breakout session at the 2013 RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal. The panel was comprised of members of the RAG who shared information on best practices and shared ideas with Rotarians in the audience.

RAG Vice President David Bobanick participated in two events that were coordinated by Rotary International staff.

- > The first was a webinar on hunger and how Rotarians can become more effectively involved in hunger relief activities locally and in other regions of the world through Rotary partnerships.
- ➤ David also participated in a Twitter Chat that was coordinated by Rotaract and Rotary International to discuss hunger. The chat consisted of a series of questions and discussions on hunger and malnutrition as well as suggested best practices for project and program development.

The RAG has also been trying to determine the most effective way to develop a Rotary Hunger Summit in the next year.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: Feed My Starving Children, Stop Hunger Now, Northwest Harvest, Food Lifeline, Emergency Food Network, Second Harvest, Oregon Food Bank

Contact Information

Chair: Barbara Feder, barbfeder@gmail.com

Website: www.alleviatehunger.org **Social Media:** MyRotary, Facebook

Rotarian Action Groups

2012-13 Annual Report

Literacy Rotarian Action Group

Topic: alleviating illiteracy

Membership

In 2012-13, the Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LITRAG) reported 38 members in 6 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Five Year Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ **Vulnerable Children Education in Liberia-** The civil war in Liberia which engulfed the entire country caused a breakdown in the learning process for all in this country with the worse impact being on the vulnerable and marginalized communities, especially in rural villages and towns.
- ➤ CLE Training in Thailand Illiteracy has been a serious problem in the south of Thailand due to political problems. District 3330 (Thailand) and District 2830 (Japan) organized a "train the trainer" program to train 150 teachers on the Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) methodology. The project was supported through a global grant. As of May, data showed that the students in the project schools had better performance in literacy skills at the critical thinking level and also much improved personal development, such as self-confidence, responsibility, self-esteem and public-mindedness.
- ➤ CLE Teacher Training Seminars, Nepal- This is a continuing project aimed at training teachers and Department of Education officials in the CLE methodology. A recent seminar which concluded in July, 2013 was attended by 150 principals, teachers, Education Department officials, trainers from the Education Department, lecturers and associate professors from various parts of Nepal. The objective of the two day seminar was to improve the Nepalese government's school syllabus.

Contact Information

Chair: Noraseth Pathmanand, noraseth@csloxinfo.com

Website: www.litrag.org

Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group

Topic: coordinating efforts to control malaria

Membership

In 2012-13, REMaRAG reported 170 members in 22 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$0 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- > REMaRAG supports global grant projects and other activities in Tanzania, Papual New Guinea, South America, and Nigeria.
- ➤ World Malaria Day, 25 April, continues to raise the profile of campaigns with high-level events throughout the world. The sixth annual commemoration of World Malaria Day has called attention across the globe to the need for continued investment in malaria control, research and product development.

Notable Collaborations

Informal Collaborations: All Party Parliamentary Malaria Group (London), DFiD (London), Nets for Life, Malaria No More, Sumitomo Chemical Olyset Nets (London & Tanzania), PermaNets (Tanzania), Nothing But Nets, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, London School of Health & Tropical Medicine, British Broadcasting Corporation

Contact Information

Chair: Brian Stoyel, brian@stoyel.co.uk

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Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development

Topic:

Membership

In 2012-13, Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM) reported 534 members in 49 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

➤ Honduras Economic & Community Development (HECD) Program —Honduras is the second poorest country in Latin America (after Haiti), and has a population of eight million people. Incredibly, 65% of the population lives below the poverty line where there is a high unemployment rate, as well as an underemployment rate. RAGM realizes that the healthiest and most sustainable way to decrease extreme poverty is through holistic microfinance and multi-faceted community development. The program's main focus will be on expanding microfinance services in Honduras, as well as building and strengthening other areas of community development.

RAGM will partner with OIC in Canada and IDH in Honduras to not only provide micro-loans and transformational training to clients, but also interest-bearing savings accounts. This ability to become a deposit-taking organization is both beneficial to the individual clients (as they are taught to save and enabled to build a personal credit-record) as well as to IDH as an organization, as it will help it expand its product line, geographic reach in Honduras, and sustainable business model. The poorest of the entrepreneurial poor and their communities will be the project beneficiaries.

The HECD Program, in collaboration with IDH, will partner with two other Honduran national organizations to achieve their mission of expanding health care to poor communities and implementing sustainable water systems in remote villages. Hondurans who are currently underserved with these vital services will benefit.

➤ RAGM OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR — In March and April of 2013 RAGM provided an orientation on Rotary microcredit programs to various district leaders and Rotary clubs in Colombia and Ecuador. In Colombia, RAGM connected the Rotary Club of Ibague with a Rotary club in Oklahoma to develop a future microcredit project. In Ecuador, RAGM connected several Rotary clubs with the microfinance institution (MFI) ECLOF and helped lay the foundation for future collaboration.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Canadian Rotarian Collaboration for International Development (CRCID) Opportunity International Canada

Contact Information

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Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness

Topic: improving the lives of People with MS (PwMS)

Membership

In 2012-13, Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA) reported 459 members in 23 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$20 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$20

International Service Projects and Activities

How We Work:

- ➤ We promote MS awareness and encourage Rotary clubs and districts to take on MS projects.
- ➤ Our email group shares MS research updates
- We ask Rotary clubs and districts to promote local MS projects.
- ➤ We encourage Rotary clubs to expand the reach of these activities as long term programs to help their own community and MS Society chapters.
- > When our help is sought in developing areas we can make introductions to those organizations and individuals who can offer advice and assistance.

MS Research

- This year we helped obtain a post-doctorate fellow scholarship for Dr. Andrew Fox to help break the genome code for MS at the Howard Florey institute in Melbourne, Australia.
- This year the RC of Gisborne Cycle Challenge Donated a further \$5,000 to MS Research into the effect of Vitamin D on MS(from RC of Gisborne fund raising account).

Email Group

Celebrated World MS Day May 29, 2013 and MS Global Dinner held each year. This year we had our post-doctorate fellow speak about his computer based project to mathematically analyse and compare cohorts to check which genes are associated with MS. And entertainment was provided by a group of singing rotarians from the Rotary Club of Werribee called "3 Dogs Barking". The evening raised approx \$A3000. We are not technical experts although four of our prominent members are MS nurses who provide practical information.

Contact Information

Chair: Martin Taurins

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Rotarian Action Group for Peace

Topic: advancing world peace and preventing conflict

Membership

In 2010-11, PSA reported over 1053 members in 43 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: None Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ **Supporting and Promoting Rotary Peace Projects**-The Rotarian Action Group for Peace worked with over 20 Rotary districts to support the planning and promotion of their peace projects over the last year. A sampling of the projects from some of the clubs and districts we have worked with is listed here: http://rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org/projects. The organizations we have interacted with through these projects include: PeaceJam, Norwalk Community College, RISE, NonViolent Peaceforce, The Forum for Cities in Transition, the Cyprus Frindship Program, Project Triumph, The Great Lakes Center for Conflict Resolution
- > Supporting and Promoting Rotary Peace Events- We support Rotarians, Rotary clubs, Rotary districts, community organizations and educational institutions by promoting their peace events and offerings. This year we supported more than 25 Rotary clubs and community organizations by sharing information on their peace events over the last year. A sampling of the events is listed here: http://rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org/events.
- Educational Resources in Peace and Conflict Resolution/Transformation-The Rotarian Action Group for Peace has replied to requests from more than 20 Rotary clubs or districts to provide educational resources to their clubs for specific peace projects they have undertaken. The Rotarian Action Group for Peace has assembled educational resources to help Rotary clubs and districts meet their peace education needs including: curriculum assessment, film and video offerings, bibliographies, definitions and glossaries, training manuals, facilitated reading discussions, access to journals and periodicals, connection to appropriate online peace journalism, materials for Rotary Peace Fellow Recruitment and International Peace Day planning. Our website will soon offer many of the materials we have gathered to help with individual club and district requests for assistance.

The Rotary Peace Timeline we created can be found here: http://rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/RI-PeaceTimeline2013.pdf

Contact Information

Chair: Al Jubitz, contact@rotariansforpeace.org
Website: www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org/
Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, My Rotary

Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates

Topic: improving the health and wellbeing of polio survivors

Membership

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

Annual Membership Dues: None Lifetime Membership Dues: None

International Service Projects and Activities

WheelChair Construction: The Rotary club of Traverse City, Benzie Sunrise and District 6290 raised funds to build wheelchairs for polio survivors in and around Jos, Nigeria and displayed polio survivor information at a bicycle tour and charity ride for handicapped youth.

Wheels of Hope, The Rotary Club of Traverse City, PSA RAG and several Rotary clubs in Nigeria participated in an National Immunnization Days led by Ann lee Hussey in December of 2012 and participated in two wheellchair distribution ceremonies in Jos and Kaduna, Nigeria

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Wheels of Hope, Crutches 4 Africa, Post-Polio Health International

Contact Information

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Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development

Topic: improving maternal and child health

Membership

In 2012-13, RFPD reported 23,005 members in 75 countries.

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

➤ Scaling up the Maternal and Child Health program in Nigeria – our goal is to scale up our pilot matching grant project (2005-2010) in the states of FCT Abuja and Ondo, Nigeria. Our aim is to reduce maternal and fetal mortality and morbidity through intensification and upgrading of quality assurance in obstetrics in the selected hospitals in Kano State and in Kaduna State, as well as scaling up of the model to five rural hospitals in FCT Abuja and five hospitals in Ondo State, including the provision of necessary equipment and infrastructure.

Our target group is approximately 64,000 pregnant and childbearing women, who seek care in the 20 selected hospitals in the states of Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja und Ondo during the project term. Indirect target group is a population of five million within the catchment area of the hospitals.

Our plan includes:

- Statistical data collection in all selected hospitals documented in semiannual Hospital Reports
- Conducting meetings for results analysis ("Review Meetings") for the exchange of experiences and know-how among the doctors and midwives involved, benchmarking and elimination of deficits
- Informing the population about sexual and reproductive health and rights through village gatherings ("Community Dialogues") with distribution of birth kits and mosquito nets for traditional birth attendants.
- ➤ Saheli Vocational Training Centers The RC of Tiruchengode, India and the RC of Muncie Sunrise, USA partnered on a vocational eduction project, which included training to become a clinical lab technician, training in use of computers to become employed in an office setting which could require accounting knowledge and other secretarial duties, and tailoring classes so graduates could become employed in the clothing construction industry and for contracts within the home. Qualified and licensed teachers were employed for these classes. In addition, all students participated in Maternal and Child Health classes organized and staffed by the various Rotary clubs in the communities where the centers are located. The volunteer instructors are doctors and other health professionals. These classes covered family planning, reproductive health, child spacing, prenatal and early childhood nutrition.

These centers covered two of Rotary's areas of focus: Maternal and Child Health and Economic and Community Development. 300 students were enrolled during this first year of operation. The equipment, facilities, and teachers are planned for 320 students to be trained each year.

The cooperating organizations are keeping records on the students following their education at centers to determine the number of women/girls employed in the area of training, the number who are self employed in the are of their training, information regarding family health and use of education regarding nutrition and reproduction, and their family status - economically and physical health.

In addition to the host club, the Rotary Clubs of Salem, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai Midtown and Salem Galaxy are involved with the continuation of this project through regular reviews and analysis of the project results. The clubs will also continue the Maternal and Child Health programs for all students

Saheli Center "Afghan Women's And Kids' Education & Necessities Inc." – This project will establish a Saheli center for indigent women who are unable to obtain this education without the center and funding provided by Rotarians, Rotary Clubs and TRF. The center will open near the current Awaken Clinic and School and will provide literacy classes, nutrition and reproductive health classes with focus upon Maternal and Child Health. The center will also provide vocational education, including but not limited to computers and tailoring.

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), WHO, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Geneva, The Population Institute - Washington D.C., USA, the Population Media Center, Vermont, USA, the Ministries of Health of the participating states (see project 1) Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja and Ondo, the German government, the AVENTIS Foundation and the Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung (German foundation).

Contact Information

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Social: Facebook, Twitter, MyRotary

Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group

Topic: providing safe water and sanitation to communities

Membership

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

Annual Membership Dues: US\$25 Lifetime Membership Dues: US\$100

International Service Projects and Activities

- ➤ Implementing the Project Enhancement Process in 6 Pilot Districts. WASRAG assisted TRF with the implementation of PEP. Seven PPP teams were organized by Wasrag and funded by TRF to do field studies (needs assessments) to prioritize and help detail WASH projects in Uganda, India, Turkey, Thailand, Tanzania (2) and Papua New Guinea. All projects are now under development with at least two filing Global Grant applications. The PEP program was deemed successful by TRF and has been reauthorized for 2013-14
- ➤ **Development of WASH Technical Guides**: Developed a series of Technical Guides for water, sanitation and hygiene education for use by all Rotarians who are planning and implementing WASH projects. With the assistance of TRF the guides have been translated into several of the official Rotary languages. See: http://www.startwithwater.org/page.aspx?name=training
- > **Uganda Rotary Water Plus Program:** Sixteen Ugandan Rotary clubs and a number of partner clubs under the guidance of the Uganda Country team have prepared proposals to improve life and livelihood in their communities through the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. Some of these proposals have already been submitted to TRF for funding support. In other cases they have gone to international NGOs to seek matching opportunities.

All the projects emphasize sustainability and "soft" issues such as capacity building, social marketing, training and encouraging behaviour change. A focus on the opportunities for women and girls is a common theme throughout

Notable Collaborations

Formal Collaborations: Artists of the World, Backyard Brands, Derrer Marketing, Eau Sans Frontieres, Engineers Without Borders (USA), University of N. Carolina (The Water Institute), Wallace Genetic Foundation, Wash Away Thirst (Carwash Dealers Association)

Contact Information

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