



HELPS Projects Provides 200 Stoves to Guatemalans *Rotary Matching Grant #21955*

Two hundred new stoves for Guatemala. No not electric or gas stoves, but rather wood burning stoves. And no it does not look like you grandmothers old wood burning stove. These are HELPS stoves, made out of cement.

HELPS is a 501(c)3 organization which in partnership with rural Guatemalans works to improve water, medical care, education, housing, agricultural and economic development.

In Guatemala most people are poor. They cook on an open fire which is located on the dirt floor inside their one-room home. This naturally creates several problems. As there are no chimneys, the house is constantly filled with smoke and most people spend much of their life in this smoke filled environment, causing respiratory problems for children and adults. In fact, respiratory problems are one of the leading health care concerns in Guatemala. The families are large with four to eight people usually living in the one room. Many small children are severely burned each year when they stumble and fall into the fire. The open fire method of cooking is very fuel inefficient, contributing to the denuding of the Guatemalan forest. Most women spend two to four hours a day just collecting wood.

The HELPS cooking stove addresses all these issues. It has a chimney which keep smoke out of the home, it is raised up off the ground with an enclosed heat box that prevents children from getting burned and it consumes one-fourth to one-third the amount of wood used by an open pit fire.

This grant purchased 200 stoves at a cost

of \$100 each to be distributed by the Antigua Guatemala Rotary Club and Vamos Adelante, a Guatemalan nonprofit that works with some of the poorest Guatemalans. Several clubs have made contributions to this grant. One hundred dollars will allow for the sponsoring of four stoves. The club's

money is matched by the district and that is matched again by The Rotary Foundation, so \$100 becomes \$400. If your club is looking for an international service project it is not too late to contribute to this one.



Rural Guatemalans received 200 wood burning stoves as part of a matching grant. The stoves have addressed numerous safety and health issues that these residents (right) faced daily prior to the delivery of the stoves.

Prior to the delivery of the new wood burning stoves, rural Guatemalans used an open fire (left) on the dirt floor inside their one-room home. The wood burning stoves are constructed of cement and are part of a Rotary Matching Grant which District 6920 participated.



The new stoves (above) are constructed of cement and have a chimney to help keep smoke out of the home. The stoves are raised off the ground with an enclosed heat box that prevents children from getting burned.



**Register for the District Conference and the P.E.T.S.
online at www.rotarydistrict6920.org.**



Matching Grants for International Humanitarian Projects?

Some of this information has been excerpted from the International Grants Handbook. Additional information has been provided by Bob Ashley, District 6920 World Community Service Chair/Foundation Grants.

Matching Grants assist Rotary clubs and districts in carrying out humanitarian World Community Service projects in cooperation with Rotarians in another country. The Rotary Foundation provides matching funds to clubs and/or districts for relatively small, one-time-only humanitarian service projects. Grants are awarded for a wide variety of projects such as agriculture, water, medical care/equipment, combating diseases, aiding the disabled, literacy and numeracy and educational/occupational training. The project must involve active personal Rotarian participation.

The Rotary Foundation provides a one-to-one match of district funds and a 50 cents match for every dollar contributed by a club, with a maximum grant of \$50,000. The most important point to remember about matching grants is that they are a tool for Rotarians to use to complete humanitarian service projects. Each project represents a partnership between Rotarians in different countries, a partnership struck with the ideal of service as the goal.

The international management of projects from start to finish is what makes Rotary grants so unique. Before grants are approved they are submitted to the Rotary Foundation for approval to see if they meet the criteria established by the foundation. Matching grant projects must meet the following guidelines:

- * Address a humanitarian condition that benefits a community in need
- * Have significant Rotarian involvement
- * Have visible Rotary identification
- * Demonstrably benefit no less than six individuals directly
- * Benefit the recipient community as a whole
- * Not involve the establishment of a permanent foundation
- * Involve participation and monitoring by Rotarians of clubs in at least two countries
- * Not directly benefit a Rotarian or his family
- * Not duplicate any existing Rotary sponsored program

Sometimes an easier way to remember what will qualify for a matching grant is to know what will not qualify. Matching grant funds cannot be used

- A. For the purchase of land or buildings or the construction of substantial buildings.
- B. For the payment of salaries or other personnel costs
- C. For international travel expense
- D. To support the operating or administrative expenses of any organization

There are a few exceptions to these general requirements, but this gives everyone a basic understanding of how it works.

Contact Us

Bruce Montgomery
District Governor
102 East 44th Street
Savannah, GA 31405
Office Phone: (912) 233-1065
Home Phone: (912) 238-0102
Fax: (912) 238-0401
E-mail:
BruceMontgomery@comcast.net
bruce.montgomery@ubspw.com

Deborah G. Steele
Newsletter Editor
4345B Hammond Circle
Martinez, GA 30907
Phone: (706) 854-1690
E-mail: dsteele76@comcast.net

GRANTS APPROVED



*Bob Ashley
WCS Chair*

This district should feel proud of itself. In the last two years we have had eight matching grants approved by the rotary foundation. Getting a grant approved is a lengthy and time consuming process. In order to meet the requirements of the foundation, all matching grants are overseen by a Rotary Club in the receiving district. This often means working with Rotarians whose primary language is not English. Fortunately for us the language of international business is English, so all of the Rotarians we have had as the primary contact person in their country have been able to communicate in English. Thanks to the advent of email and the fax machine getting the necessary forms back and forth between us has been greatly simplified. At first glance the process is daunting, but once you learn the ropes it is a fairly straight forward process, provided you follow the procedures precisely and follow up on all paperwork on a regular basis. The above mentioned eight grants had a total dollar value of \$194,125.00. This is your money that has been put to good use and contributed to a tremendous amount of good. These funds have come from the Share Fund and the World Fund. Your Paul Harris and Sustaining Member contributions go to the Share Fund and the World Fund and the interest on your endowments to the Permanent Fund also helps support the World Fund. Well done.

Grants Provide for Bore Wells in Nigeria and India

Rotary Matching Grant #20421, totalling \$17,374, was initiated by PDG Jim Puryear and completed under DG Montgomery. The project description as written by Rotarian Olumayowa Olukoya in Ijebu-Ode, Nigeria is as follows.

”An Ijebu community of Ogun State Nigeria with about 20,000 inhabitants require water borehole with overhead tanks and concrete stand. The present source of water is deplorable as the community relies only on dirty and stagnant pond in the bush. When completed the community will be free from water borne diseases e.g. Guineaworm, diarrhea and dysentery. Clean and safe water will be brought close to the inhabitants for healthy living.”

Approximately one year later, the project was complete and 20,000 people immediately had access to clean water. Unsafe drinking water is probably the number one cause of death and disease in the world today. PDG Puryear made safe drinking water the primary focus of his year in office for international service projects.

“It’s really hard to imagine that one Rotary district could accomplish this in less than one year,” said Bob Ashley, District 6920 World Community Service Chair/ Foundation Grants.

Also started under PDG Puryear’s administration, and still on going today, is



Water tanks are placed on concrete stands in Nigeria.



A Nigerian stands next to a water pump that provides clean water to his community.

Matching Grant # 17420 for \$10,908.00 to drill 54 bore wells in India in District 3250. This will place one well in each community of each club in the district. Each well is estimated to serve about 250 individuals for a total of 13,500 people served by this grant. The same year grant # 19473 for \$40,000.00 drilled 80 wells in India was begun.

“All total our Rotary District 6920 in the last two years has brought clean water to over 50,000



RI Board member David Roper, second from left, is on hand at the unveiling of a sign denoting Rotary District 6920’s involvement in securing funds for establishing bore wells in India.

people,” said Bob. “I personally consider this a truly amazing statistic and something that every member should feel immense pride in.”

District Support Brings Hope to Recipients

It was 15 years ago that District 6920 did its first matching grant with Bolivia; four years ago we sent a Group Study Exchange team to Bolivia and just recently I had the opportunity to visit two projects in Bolivia funded by 6920 – a rare opportunity to experience the relationship we are building with Rotarians there.

The importance of Rotary in less developed countries is clear once I realized that in Bolivia there is no United Way, no tax-deductible charitable contributions and no government social services.

District 6920’s support is important in another way: to encourage the Rotarians in Bolivia who know the needs and are eager to be good Rotarians through their project work. I attended a club meeting where they were having their first speaker; their usual meeting’s program was to work on projects, just projects!

I strongly believe that in-country Rotarians know the needs better than we could

from here in the United States – and sometimes the value is not so obvious. District 6920 and the Rotary Foundation provided \$20,000 for a girl’s rhythmic gymnastics program in Santa Cruz. These girls are from such a poor community that they could not even hold up their head when they won.



Members of a Bolivian gymnastics team are happy with the new equipment they received as part of an RI matching grant through District 6920.



that often shows less respect for women. Before our grant, they were practicing their exercises in the dirt.

Ultimately they performed ahead of a number of private schools and became the national champions and Rotarians in Spain paid for a trip for the team to compete there. Through this project, we are lifting up the sights of these girls in a culture

In Cochabamba, Bolivia, we are just beginning a grant for \$36,000 in support of the training of indigenous health promoters. Rotarians involved with MAP in Brunswick, Ga., know of the innovative leadership provided by Jose Miguel DeAngulo, M.D., the director of MAP – Chilimarca. The ills of Bolivia exceed the capabilities of tradition American medicine – medications and surgery. MAP Bolivia is “going upstream” to impact the living conditions – as you might have found in the U.S. 100 years ago - that directly impact health. They have so far recruited and trained over 600 health promoters who often travel for several days by foot, truck and bus to receive the training.

I can report to you that District 6920 Rotarians are providing blessings to the people of the country of Bolivia and I have seen this project with my own eyes; I wish every Rotarian in District 6920 could see the good we are doing and understand how important it is to the countries we are helping.

-Ken Matthews, Former WCS Chair and Current WCS Committee Member

Branch Recognized as Will Watt Fellow at Annual Teachers Banquet in Tifton

Edna Branch, wife of PDG for District 692 (1980-81) J. Lamar Branch, was recognized at the 12th annual Teachers of Excellence awards banquet in February as a Will Watt Fellow. The banquet is sponsored by the Tifton Rotary Club with the cooperation of the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence.

During his remarks at the event, DGE Leon Benefield spoke highly of Mrs. Branch, saying that she has "shown her concern and love for the youth of this community and the world through her many leadership roles. Tonight we recognize Mrs. Branch for her continued leadership in the support of the Georgia Rotary Student Program."

Edna is a Paul Harris Fellow and an honorary

member of the Tifton Rotary Club.

The tradition of recognizing teachers with a February banquet began when the Tifton Rotary Club decided to convert its Valentines celebration into a celebration of excellence in teaching. The Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence is a private foundation with the purpose of promoting excellence in education in the Tift County public schools.

State School Superintendent Kathy Cox was guest speaker at this year's banquet.



DGE Leon Benefield (above) joins Bertha Daniel, president of the Tifton Rotary Club, in congratulating Edna Branch and David Bedell during the club's 12th annual Teachers of Excellence Awards Banquet. Mrs. Branch was presented a Will Watt Fellowship and Mr. Bedell accepted a plaque recognizing four district governors from the Tifton Rotary Club. Among PDGs from the club in attendance were George P. Donaldson, PDG of District 241 from 1952-53; J. Lamar Branch, PDG of District 692 from 1980-81 and Bedell, PDG of District 692 from 1989-90. State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox (above right) was guest speaker at the event.

Thunderbird Raffle Sales Update

Lt. Gov. Bill Turbeville reports that sales for the Thunderbird raffle are progressing, "but we still need more clubs and members to support this major effort."

Ticket sales as of March 8 showed the St. Simons Island Rotary Club leading sales with 302 tickets sold for a total of \$15,100 collected. Savannah South is second with a 168 tickets sold, with \$8,400 collected. Coming in third is Skidaway Island with 163 tickets, for a total of \$8,150.

According to Bill, 1,122 tickets have been sold, with \$56,100 collected. Total membership for the district is 4,015.

To assist in the fund raising needed to rid the earth of polio, Rotary District 6920 is conducting a raffle for a new 2003 Ford Thunderbird automobile. The acquisition of a raffle ticket will require a \$50 tax exempt donation. The chance of winning the top prize is at worst 1 in 10,000, depending on how many tickets are sold.

The drawing will be held at the Rotary District Conference on May 3, 2003. The winning ticket holder does not have to be present to win. The net proceeds will go to Rotary International to help win the war against polio.

High School Speech Contest Competitions Update

District 6920 High School Speech Contest Chair Doug Baird has announced that area competitions have been completed.

According to Doug, all area competitions were held in late March, with the district competition slated for May 3 during the district conference.

"This program is a great opportunity to expose Rotary, its principles and objectives to our youth while helping them to develop leadership skills," said Doug.

This year's competition theme focused on the RI theme for the year: "Sow the Seeds of Love."

Speeches were limited to three to four minutes.

According to Doug, students were judged based on various criteria, including appearance, content and presentation.

Winners of the area contests will receive small awards and will be expected to compete at the district competition. Three scholarships will be awarded for the three winners in the amounts of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500.



Students Selected for 2003 Oslo Summer School Scholarship

Janna Lynn Deloach of Statesboro has been selected to receive the 2003 Oslo International Summer Scholarship from District 6920.

Other state winners are Kate Dwyer McCarthy of Vinings, District 6900, and Colleen Patraicia Stringle of Clayton, District 6910.

The International Summer School seeks to promote understanding and good will among people around the world and brings together over 500 students from more than 90 countries to live and study together at the University of Oslo.