

Club Continues to Focus on Supporting Training Programs in Nepal

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Feb 19, 2024

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In recent years, the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise has focused its support for humanitarian projects in Nepal, Honduras and Mexico. Since the beginning of the 2023-24 Rotary year (July 01, 2023), the latest financial support has been for the Training of individuals in Nepal as a means to improve economic development in Gadhawa, Dang, a training program that started back in the 2020-21 Rotary Year.

Since late November, 121 Gadhawa Rural Municipal community members have completed or are currently involved in three training programs. Training has been provided for 21 participants in poultry farming, for ten women in a six month Beautician program and for 90 women who are presently taking financial literacy and business classes. Those taking the farming training program have been chosen by their Mother's Group and in being chosen they have committed to then share their knowledge and skills with the Group, thus providing others to benefit from the training.



The training programs provide opportunities to develop knowledge and skills particular to the area of study and how to develop marketing and business plans leading to entrepreneurship ventures. Each participant gains personal wellness, improved status, employment opportunities, and the means to improve their personal and family living standard.



Kelowna Sunrise Club International Service Director, Linda Frandsen, expressed that the training program continues to be very successful in empowering the Nepali to develop skills to enhance their ability to provide for their families and to improve economic development in their community. This has been largely due to the direction, operations and management by the local Nepal society 'Creating Possibilities', a not-for-profit organization. Frandsen explained that the organization has been fully trusted right from the beginning of the club's involvement when members of the Kelowna Sunrise club first met with the managers of the organization in Nepal during a Global Grant 4 Project several years ago. Continuing updates on the progress and operations of the program have been instrumental in maintaining this trust. The latest report recently received by the club, clearly illustrated the organization's transparency and the successful outcomes of the program.

The current training element of the training program which commenced on July 23rd has also had financial support from other Rotary clubs from the Canadian side of District 5060. Frandsen summarized the contributions that resulted in a budget of \$US 23,000 for the continuing training project. In addition to the contribution of \$US 9,000 from the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, financial support was received from the Rotary clubs of Kelowna Morningside with \$US 2,000, West Kelowna Daybreak with \$US 1,000 and Kelowna

Daybreak with \$US 1,000. A grant from District 5060 provided an additional amount of \$US 10,000.

Providing Humanitarian Support in Honduras



International Service Club Director Linda Frandsen shared that while the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise has not carried out a specific club project in Honduras for several years, the club remains connected with Rotarians in Tegucigalpa since 1992 with a project called AyO (Alternativos y Oportunidades). She pointed out that from this connection, individual club members have supported the goals through financial support for H.E.L.P. Honduras which focuses on providing scholarships for over 400 children from the poorest markets in the city. Frandsen stated that “we encourage members to personally support a student,” which to this date has resulted in 18

club members or friends supporting 29 children from the Kelowna Sunrise club alone.



Through the Wine Country Cluster group which consists of Rotary clubs of Ogopogo, Kamloops Aurora, Salmon Arm, West Kelowna, Lake Country, and Sunrise, the group has worked with Chispa, an organization that creates libraries in Honduras. Kelowna Sunrise Rotary has contributed \$US 2,500 (\$3400CAD) towards a District Grant for a library for this Rotary Year. Frandsen shared that

a team from the group will be going to Honduras this spring to visit one of the libraries.