

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE REPORT

October 17, 2024

- **D5500 CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS FAIR**

Rick and Sheree will have two videos and some other materials for the International Project Fair at the District 5500 Conference on Friday, Oct 18th, from 9:30 – 11:45 AM in Junior Ballrooms F & G at the Casino del Sol. We will feature our Adopt-a-Village sustainability activities, the value of Sister Clubs, the ICC USA-SPAIN and our recent NGSE success.

- **D5500 GUATEMALA FORUM**

- Informal discussions are planned at the D5500 Conference with Gene Medina and PDG Diane Goodyear.
- Rick and Gene Medina (RC Tucson Sunset) have continued to develop a plan for a “D5500 Guatemala Forum” to link OVRC with RC Tucson Sunset and other District Clubs and non-Rotary Organizations in the Tucson Area doing work in Guatemala.
- Rick and Gene have had several discussions regarding both collaboration in Guatemala and attracting other clubs to International Service.
- Eugene, PDG Diane Goodyear and Rick are also trying to build interest in International Service among the other clubs and members. This is one of DG Sue Archibald’s Areas of Focus.
- For Guatemala, this Forum would link EcoFiltro, GLP, ESL and the “Goober Guys” across our District.

THE FOLLOWING FIVE ITEMS ARE FOCUSED ON ROTARY’S “BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY” MISSION

1. FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

We continue our communication with Elijah Ndoeye and The Forgotten Children Organization. Rick and Elijah have also planned some additional discussions for the D5500 Conference to include English as a Second Language in order for underserved children in Senegal and Guatemala to have better opportunities in higher education and future careers.

2. EL JUTE SCHOOL LIBRARY / ESL CLASSROOM

Stacey has wired the \$16,100 to the Rotary Club of Gualan who will contact the contractor to start construction ASAP.

This Library is also the temporary ESL Classroom that is important for the future opportunities of the children of El Jute, a topic that has been reported in detail and was discussed with the RC Gualan, Sheree, Tim and Linda while in Guatemala.

3. EL JUTE SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

We have asked the Rotary Club of Gualán and School Director Sandra Carolina Mendez-Duarte to begin a search for qualified part-time ESL instructors (2 days per week). The budgeted cost is approximately \$2,000 per year. An insignificant investment for the future of the children of El Jute.

4. NEW BI-LINGUAL GOOBER GUYS

Tim has contacted Brittany Cacopardo at QuikPrint who printed both the original English version and Spanish version of the GOOBER GUYS. The plan is to create one Dual language flipped and rotated book from the two existing books. It was agreed that this book would be a perfect working tool in ESL Classes to promote one of the guiding principles of Rotary and be included in all the nearby school libraries. Reformatting and printing costs need to be discussed by this committee after we review Brittany's estimate. Once we establish a budget for reformatting and printing of books for D5500 and Guatemala, then, if the BOD agrees, this would be a good District Grant request.

5. GUATEMALA LITERACY PROJECT (GLP)

David will make a formal presentation in January 2025. As previously discussed, the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP) is one of the largest grassroots, multi-club, multi-district projects in Rotary. It is coordinated by the Ohio Pathways Club in District 6600. The 2024-2025 Global Grant #2463588 is hosted by the Rotary Club of Nueva Guatemala (D-4250) and sponsored by the Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada (D-6400). Our Rotary Club contributes \$1,000 annually to this very large Global Grant which typically raises over \$500,000 each year.

We see two possible routes for this source of funding. Our Club already commits a minimum of \$1,000 per year to this huge (\$500,000) Global Grant. If we go the District Grant route our \$1,000 (or more) is matched by the District. It is an annual application, i.e., one-time deal. If we can convince DG Sue Archibald to make D5500 an annual District participant in this amazing Global Grant, then our Club's \$1,000 is matched by the District and the District's \$1,000 is match by 80% from Rotary International. And with her approval, this can be an annual contribution of \$2,800 without having to file a District Grant Application every year.

- FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE BETWEEN D5500 & SPAIN (**ONGOING**)

This is being coordinated by Rick. The original article that Rick published in D5500 IMPACT has received a very good response. There are currently nine D5500 Rotarians who have signed up to go on an exchange in June or July 2025. Keep in mind, Rotary International Convention in Calgary is June 21-25, 2025.

Rick is working out the details with the Rotary Club of Denia and participants from Spain would arrive in Arizona in April 2025 (to avoid heat and rattlesnakes). Dr. Patricia Martin-Rico is also interested in making a trip to Guatemala to visit El Jute and meet with Dr. Edwin Oliva.

- FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE BETWEEN D5500 & GUATEMALA (**ONGOING**)

During our visit with the Rotary Club of Gualan, President Linda, Sheree, Tim, Rick & Rianne opened a discussion and extended a formal invitation to the members of our Sister Club to visit Oro Valley in October 2025, possibly at the time of the District 5500 Conference.

- ZACAPA HOSPITAL – PEDIATRIC ICU EQUIPMENT (**WAITING ON REPORT**)

Rick will contact Dr. Oliva directly to determine current status.

The main objective is to supply five (5) mechanical pulmonary ventilators and five (5) vital signs monitors, all new, for use in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) of the Regional Hospital of Zacapa, Guatemala. The April 2024 Guatemala Team from Oro Valley also visited this facility with Dr. Edwin Oliva who is also a Rotarian from Gualan.