

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE REPORT
December 12, 2024

- **NEW** - FOOTBALL CLUB VALENCIA, SPAIN
 - Leo, Rick, Paul Melcher (Town of Oro Valley) and Crystal Franke (Town of Oro Valley) have been working with representatives of the professional football club of Valencia, Spain to conduct a youth soccer training camp in Oro Valley.
 - Twenty soccer fields at Naranja Park have been reserved for the five-day period of March 17-21 for this event.
 - The FC Valencia has conducted these highly successful youth training camps in Florida, Illinois, Oklahoma and many locations in Europe.
 - Currently, we are reaching out to several local Soccer Clubs in the Tucson area to help promote this event.
- D5500 GUATEMALA FORUM
(and *BUILDING AWARENESS IN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE*)
 - This group consists of Rick, Gene Medina, PDG Diane Ventura-Goodyear, Gordon Goodyear and PDG Dennis Bergquist. At the November 7th meeting, the group decided to explore these issues:
 - **DONE**: Developing strategies to energize clubs' interest in international projects. Providing lists of current "easy" projects in which to participate. An example was circulated at the District Conference by PDG Dennis Bergquist's "pick-and-choose shopping list".
 - **ONGOING WITH U of A ROTARACT**: Engaging youth/young adults (Rotaract, Interact) in international projects. Provide opportunities for youth to reach out and become engaged internationally. *This includes NGSE 2025 with Spain.*
 - Establishing a process for clubs to actively share what they are doing in their international projects (what works, what challenges they have met, how they assess ongoing progress, make adjustment and adapt to issues, and to evaluate outcomes and the like). It was suggested that we use <https://slack.com/>
 - Creating a sense of interdependence in international service. How can we work together, across clubs and district to provide international service?
 - **Guatemala**: Rick and Gene Medina (RC Tucson Sunset) continue to develop a "targeted" plan to link OVRC with RC Tucson Sunset and other District Clubs and non-Rotary Organizations (churches, NGO's, etc.) in the Tucson Area doing work in Guatemala. For Guatemala, this Forum would link EcoFiltro, GLP, ESL and the "Goober Guys" across our District.
 - Growing club focus on international projects across District 5500. We are obtaining a contact list of all D5500 Club Presidents and International Service Chairs (if assigned).

- ICC USA-SPAIN

The monthly ZOOM meeting. Our discussion focused on:

- Future **New Generation Service Exchange(s)** between District 5500 and one of the Districts in Spain.
- District 5500 has several potential U of A Rotary students who want to apply.
- Dr. Patricia Rico-Martin indicated that she can arrange internships in medical, nursing, physical therapy and laboratory and x-ray technicians.
- Medical students, as well as the rest of healthcare professionals, are welcome to come but it would have to be in La Rioja, Logroño, in the University Hospital of San Pedro in Logroño. This is a huge General Public Hospital, so any specialty would do.
- We will check to see if the offer from HCB in Denia (that we arranged last summer for Brooke McKalip) is available. Patricia will ask Ana Vasbinder, the director at HCB.
- Greg (D6000) and Rick said it is difficult to find working (internships) experience to offer Spanish or European students in the USA.
 - Therefore, we suggested that because we have a lot of “service activities” in Rotary Clubs and Rotaract Clubs in the USA, it could be possible to include service activities as an “internship” so that Spanish students who are interested in that, could also come to the USA. Greg was very enthusiastic about that idea and he is doing research in that direction.
- Juan-Manuel Garcia reported that there is one club in D2201 interested in NGSE:
 - Club de Almendralejo
 - Juan Manuel has spoken with their president and with the person responsible for youth exchanges, Blas Muñoz Reja.

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

1. FORGOTTEN CHILDREN (SENEGAL)

- **DONE:** The International Service Committee approved and committed \$1,000 to this project in Senegal. Elijah Ndoeye presented at our club and we had additional discussions at the District Conference before we made this financial commitment.
- Once this Global Grant is approved by Rotary International, our Club money will be donated to the D5500 DDF so Elijah will receive the 80% match from Rotary International.
- **ONGOING:** Elijah and I want to learn more about how his experience can be applied to the underserved children in El Jute who NEED to have the "tools" found in higher education and future careers to escape the cycle of poverty.

2. NEW BI-LINGUAL GOOBER GUYS

DONE: Tim has received all the copies of both the original English version and Spanish-English version of the GOOBER GUYS. A proof copy of the dual language book was presented at the District Conference and to our club. 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 TUSD school libraries. Reformatting and printing costs were \$1,699.65. In the future, this would be a good District Grant request.

Sheree and Tim have also conducted classes in TUSD using the new books.

3. EL JUTE SCHOOL LIBRARY / ESL CLASSROOM

- Stacey wired the \$16,100 to the Rotary Club of Gualan and the construction started last month.
- Construction is **ONGOING**. *Waiting on updates from the Rotary Club of Gualán.*



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

4. EL JUTE SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

ONGOING: 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.

5. GUATEMALA LITERACY PROJECT (GLP)

ONGOING: David will make a formal presentation to our Club in January 2025. He is also planning a trip in February with the GLP Team. 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 exchange is being coordinated by Rick.
- The original article that Rick published in D5500 IMPACT has received a very good response. There are currently twelve 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 from Denia is also interested in making a trip to Guatemala to visit the village of El Jute and to meet with Dr. Edwin Olivia (RC Gualán).

- 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.

A written letter of invitation was emailed on December 9, 2024.

- ZACAPA HOSPITAL – PEDIATRIC ICU EQUIPMENT

ONGOING: Rotary Global Grant #2569447 application was submitted by our Sister Club in Gualan with a “Request for Matching Funds” from the Rotary Club of Burlington North in District 7080, Canada. **The budget for the Global Grant is US\$121,103.00 and will require approval by Rotary International.**

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 the Rotary Club of Gualan.