

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE REPORT¹ January 16, 2025

- FOOTBALL CLUB VALENCIA, SPAIN (UPDATE)
 - On January 9th, Rick, Ivan (FC Valencia) and Crystal Franke (Town of Oro Valley) participated in a ZOOM Conference Call to discuss the next steps in preparing for the Youth Soccer Camp schedule for March 2025 at Naranja Park.
 - The FC Valencia is ready to start promoting the camp in Oro Valley and has created this website: <https://vcfinternationalcamps.com/oro-valley-arizona/>
 - Crystal provided us the many ways she can help advertise the camp on Social Media, Local Newspaper (The Explorer), The Explore OV App, Video Interviews and even network television news stations.
 - The Rotary Club (Rick & Jane) will continue to prepare materials for distribution for and to local Rotary Clubs, Rotary District Newsletters, our Club Facebook Page, etc. and will coordinate with Crystal to utilize the local Chamber of Commerce and The Explorer.
 - Jane also sent an article to the Rotary District Newsletter. This same article was also sent to the Chamber of Commerce and The Explorer.
 - You can also read the article on our Club website and Facebook page:
1) <https://orovalleyrotary.org/> and 2) <https://www.facebook.com/ROTARYOROVALLEY>
- D5500 INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FORUM (UPDATE)
 - This group consists of Rick, Gene Medina, PDG Diane Ventura-Goodyear, Gordon Goodyear and PDG Dennis Bergquist.
 - The mission is to build awareness and participation in international service among the clubs of District 5500. Less than 30% of District 5500 Clubs are active in International Service.
 - During November and December, Rick & Gene were provided with a list of all District Club Presidents and their email address. There are only seven clubs with named International Service Chairs.
 - Currently, the group is preparing an introductory letter and PowerPoint presentation to start meeting with interested clubs to build awareness in International Service, Sister Clubs and Grant preparation. These future club meetings will include:
 - 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).
 - 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.

¹ The International Committee will conduct a ZOOM meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 1700 hours commencing February 19th, 2025.

- ICC USA-SPAIN (UPDATE)

The monthly ZOOM meeting. Our discussion continues to focus on:

- Future New Generation Service Exchange(s) between District 5500 and one of the Districts in Spain.
- Engaging youth/young adults (Rotaract, Interact) in international projects. Provide opportunities for youth to reach out and become engaged internationally.
- Brooke McKalip distributed a “screening” application for interested students to complete and the deadline was January 15, 2025.
- District 5500 has five (5) potential U of A Rotary students who have applied.
- Dr. Patricia Rico-Martin indicated that she can arrange internships in medical, nursing, physical therapy and laboratory and x-ray technicians. Medical students and other 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.
- Patricia will ask Ana Vasbinder, the director at HCB in Denia, if the offer from HCB in Denia that we arranged last summer for Brooke McKalip is also available.
- The committee is also searching for “service activities” in Rotary Clubs and Rotaract Clubs in the USA, in order to include service activities as an “internship” so that Spanish students who are interested in that, could also come to the USA
- During a separate conference call with Juan-Manuel Garcia, it was 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, and there are possible opportunities at several non-medical business in the area that would attract engineering students.

- ROTARY “BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY” MISSION

1. EL JUTE SCHOOL LIBRARY / ESL CLASSROOM (UPDATE)

- The construction is 85% complete and a full report with photographs was distributed to all members of the Rotary Club of Oro Valley on January 6, 2025.

2. 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.

3. GUATEMALA LITERACY PROJECT (UPDATE)

- 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.

- Unfortunately, the presentation that David planned to give our club that was originally set the Fall 2024 was rescheduled at least twice due to other local non-profits taking priority. His presentation is now planned for February 27th!
- Since no members signed up for the GLP trip to Guatemala in February, David is not going either.
- On Monday, January 13th, David called Cooperative For Education to find out how many districts participate annually in the GLP and whether there are other districts that have a policy of not matching club funds for international projects. We think District 5500 is an outlier.
- We see two possible routes for this source of annual GLP 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.
- David plans to visit other clubs once his presentation is updated. It would certainly help if the strategy we have proposed for our club to get District funds could apply to other clubs. The matching funds really incentivizes other clubs to support the GLP and other international programs.
- **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 (UPDATE)**

Background: During our visit with the Rotary Club of Gualán, 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.

Update: A written letter of invitation was emailed on December 9, 2024. The Rotary Club of Gualán has responded and its members are “very excited with the invitation to Oro Valley, we already have six (6) members ready to go and in the next few days I think others are added, we will send you a formal acceptance to your Club’s invitation.”

- **ZACAPA HOSPITAL – PEDIATRIC ICU EQUIPMENT (ONGOING)**

Rotary Global Grant #2569447 application was submitted by our Sister Club in Gualán 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 Gualán.