



## INTERNATIONAL GRANT FROM ANNAPOLIS ROTARY

By Anne Myers, Rotary Club of Annapolis

The Rotary Club of Annapolis recently gave a \$3,000 grant for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to hospital workers fighting the coronavirus in Caracas, Venezuela. The small grant has had a major impact on the community.

With the collapse of its healthcare system and ongoing humanitarian crisis, Venezuela has one of the highest mortality rates among healthcare workers of any country in the world. Doctors and nurses on the front lines routinely work without facemasks, gloves, or running water. Wages are meager and complaints about working conditions bring reprisals from authorities. Estimates from Amnesty International and the non-governmental organization Médicos Unidos de Venezuela indicate that medical professionals represent nearly 30% of the nation's COVID-19 deaths.

The grant, in partnership with the Rotary Club of El Peñón in Caracas, provided 3350 pairs of gloves, 2500 N95 face masks, and 52 gallons of antibacterial gel to San Juan de Dios Pediatric Hospital and Ana Francisca Pérez de León Hospital. The supplies will protect approximately 60 healthcare professionals for a month, enabling workers to continue their mission to improve health conditions in the neediest communities in Caracas.

Delegations from El Peñón Rotary Club and the recipient hospitals held an online meeting September 3rd to formally recognize the importance of the donated PPE. El Peñón Rotary Club representative Juan Quintera said, "Thank you Annapolis Rotary for this vital equipment to help us save lives."

Among those attending the online meeting for the Annapolis Rotary were Frank Andracchi, President; Sharon Taylor, International Lane Director; and Luisa Gil, a native of Caracas, and International Lane Grants Committee Chair.

## DISTRICT INTERACT COMMITTEE

By Marilyn Nevy Cruz, District 7620 Interact Chair

The District Interact Committee has expanded its leadership team and is now composed of leaders from across the district. They are committed to helping support our fellow Interactors and can be reached at [interact@rotary7620.org](mailto:interact@rotary7620.org). The team members are:

Marilyn Nevy Cruz

District 7620 Interact Chair, Rotary Club of Washington, D.C.  
[mncruz10@gmail.com](mailto:mncruz10@gmail.com)

Minahil Cheema

Rotaract Club of University of Maryland College Park (UMCP)

Sofia Husainy

Rotaract Club of American University

Vernon Penner

Rotary Club of Parole (Annapolis)

David Searby

Rotary Club of Metro Bethesda

This month, the District chartered two new Interact Clubs, the Interact Club of Howard County sponsored by the Rotary Club of Columbia-Patuxent and the Interact Club of Mount Hebron High School sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ellicott City. Three additional Interact Clubs are in the works. Charter and induction information is coming soon.

District 7620 currently has 28 active Interact Clubs in Washington, D.C. and Central Maryland. 3 are community-based and 25 are high school-based. For more information please visit the District 7620 Interact Page: <http://www.rotary7620.org/interact.php>

[Above] The Rotary Club of Annapolis recently gave a \$3,000 grant for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to hospital workers fighting the coronavirus in Caracas, Venezuela.