

Rochester Rotary International Service Committee

Rochester Rotary International Service Committee’s (ISC) mission is to identify, assist and help fund projects that significantly improve the lives of the less fortunate people around the globe. We concentrate on three of The Rotary Foundation’s six areas of focus, namely: **providing clean water; supporting education and fighting disease.** The committee also targets projects where we can partner with other area Rotary Clubs as well as continue our efforts in supporting Exchange programs, Rotaract and Interact Clubs.

Over the last two years, the Rochester Rotary ISC has made significant contributions and built relationships with a variety of projects and initiatives. The following is a list of our various projects with associated partners:

Projects

Dominican Republic Water Project
 Rotary Books for the World
 Malawi Scholarships
 House with a Heart (Nepal)
 Helping Haiti Rebuild Thru Education
 Malawi Irrigation Project
 Bolivia Children's Health
 Water for South Sudan
 Water Purification Device Project
 Kenya Schools Project
 Nicaraguan School Project
 Baja Sur Mexico Library Initiative
 Malaria Prevention Project

Partners

UREWB, Roc. Latino Rotary
 Dist. 7120, Honeoye Falls/Mendon Rotary
 Dist. 7120, Fairport Rotary., Canandaigua Rotary
 Corning Rotary
 Intervol
 Seneca Falls Rotary
 AAVia Foundation, Rochester Latino Rotary
 Penfield Rotary
 Untapped Shores International Inc.
 Humans for Education, Pittsford and Fairport RC’s
 Linking Hands for Learning
 Mulege Rotary Club of Mexico
 NetLife

Images that correlate with our water, education and disease projects



“Be a gift to the world” is this year’s theme for Rotarians worldwide, as declared by our Rotary International President. Here’s how your support is helping the Rochester Rotary live up to that charge in 2019:

1. Untapped Shores International, Inc.

\$1,000 committed for a project to create large-scale, sustainable, safe water access for neglected villages in rural Uganda. This provides new access to daily safe water to over 15,000 people. The project will empower water entrepreneurs in-country to eradicate water-borne disease from their villages. The project will also incorporate the WASH program (water purification, sanitation and hand washing). This project is being coordinated with the Naples Rotary Club which is taking the lead in leveraging additional funds via a District Simplified Grant as well as other participating Rotary Clubs. Total project budget is about \$10,000.

2. Humans for Education

\$1,000 committed for a project in Kenya to provide the Glory Primary School with 19 cows, enabling it to become financially sustainable through microbusiness. The total cost of the project is \$5,000. An additional Rotary District Simplified Grant will provide funds, alongside donations from Fairport and Pittsford Rotary Clubs. The school uses the funds to purchase the cows and then after two months of grazing, the animals will gain 1.5-2X times their weight. The initial cost per cow is \$200. After they gain weight they should sell for 1.5-2X times their original price. The cows will be sold 3-4 times per year, generating an average of \$5,200/year. The school will have the ability to continue selling these cattle each year. The school budget is about \$5,000 (teacher, books, supplies, operating expenses, etc.) per year so in one year, the school is anticipated to become financially independent and self-sustaining.

3. Malawi Children's Village

\$1,000 committed to a scholarship fund that provides a post-secondary education for orphans at the Malawi Children's Village in Africa. The children who are awarded the scholarship will be provided career training that will allow them to find employment upon graduation.

4. Rotary Books for the World

\$1,000 committed to an organization that collects gently-used books donated through local school districts. The funds help offset the cost of shipping the books to Texas. The books are then distributed to developing countries around the world. Shipping consists of 26 pallets (about 480 books/pallet) in one truckload. Typical shipping costs are \$2300-4500 /truckload.

5. Linking Hands for Learning

\$2,000 committed to this non-profit that has collaborated with rural Nicaragua communities to build nine schools since 2011. The project's purpose is to support the on-going construction of new school buildings, purchasing school furniture, and educational materials. The Rochester Rotary (ISC) has supported this organization previously. The group is based in Livingston County and is also partnering with Rotary Clubs in Avon and Honeoye Falls Mendon to raise the needed \$17,000 to build a new school with appropriate furniture and books.

6. Working with Netlife

\$250 committed to purchase roughly 32 mosquito nets for villagers in southeast Senegal. The nets will be distributed at local health centers. The centers will promote the use and compliance of the nets. The nets are used during the hot season when people sleep outside. The use of the nets will reduce the rates of Malaria and improve the health of the community.

7. Water for South Sudan

\$750 committed for this project will maintain the ISC's partnership with this group. Their mission is to rehabilitate a water well previously drilled and provide hygiene education in the village.

8. Mulege Rotary Club

\$250 committed to this group to purchase library books in Spanish for a new library being formed in Mexico. This project is in partnership with the Mulege Rotary Club in Baja, Mexico. The local contact heard of Rochester Rotary through the daughter of Tay Keller, longtime member of Rochester Rotary whose was very involved in the International Service Committee.

CALL OUT BOX:

The story behind how Rochester Rotary ISC member Doug Cook connected with Sabrina Siino of Mulege Rotary:

Sabrina: *“One day I was walking down our river road here, wearing a Rotary shirt on the way to a Rotary event. A lady stopped me and asked if I was with Rotary. I told her yes, and she introduced herself as Barbara Keller. Barbara had been volunteering in the local library and had donated four computers to the library. She started telling me about how the library had recently moved and was experiencing a number of challenges. Getting books was one of them. Because our club has a large capital project that we are working on to fund the replacement of our health clinic roof, I told her that it would be unlikely that we would be able to contribute any money until our roof is fully funded. Barbara then told me that her father (Tay Keller) had been a member of the Rochester Rotary Club. She knew about the Books for the World Program and thought maybe our club might reach out to Rochester Rotary for more information. I told her I'd of course be willing to help however I could, and a few days later she emailed me a list of contacts that she said might be a bit dated (her daughter Tilden Keller had forwarded them). In the meantime, I made the connection with Bajabooks and purchased 60 books myself, and they agreed to donate another 40 making up our first 100 books. Your name [Doug Cook] and email were on the list she gave me, and you know the rest!”*

Doug: *“I have tears in my eyes as I write this note. I knew Rotarian Tay Keller very well and we worked together in the late 1990's on Rotary projects. I was relatively new to Rotary and Tay Keller was a wonderful man. I know many others in Rochester Rotary would remember Tay. In the early days, we worked together on a project to send books to his granddaughter Tilden, a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. I corresponded with Tilden from time to time and met her once (maybe twice) here in Rochester. Attachment 1 is a note from a Rochester Rotary monthly journal "Spoke 36" from about the late 1990's. Sadly, I did not know Barbara. I am so glad that you contacted me and allowed us to continue the legacy of helping, in small ways, to improve the lives of people in other countries. Thank you so much for involving us in your project and for your efforts in Mexico.”*