

ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR CLUB FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

The International Service Committee assists clubs in the creating and sustaining projects and programs with an international component. This committee will work closely with the foundation, as our programs and ways of funding projects will change as we become a Future Visions District.

RI President-elect Ray Klinginsmith has announced the 2010-11 RI Theme, *Building Communities -- Bridging Continents*, and indicated a strong support for International service. The latest International Service Newsletter is here: http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/intl_service_eneews.pdf

Some of the programs that we will support are:

- **Microcredit**

Rotary Clubs in District 5340 began funding microcredit programs throughout the world in 2003-2004. Small loans to women start new businesses and provide for their families. For more information on how your Rotary club can get involved, please email Kenny Jones of the San Diego Rotary kennyj2@cox.net, Bink Cook of the San Diego Rotary binkcook@san.rr.com or Deborah Lindholm of the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary deborah@foundationforwomen.org for further details. You can also read about Rotary's involvement with microcredit at <http://www.rotarianmicrocredit.org/>

- **Thousand Smiles**

Started by Rotarians in District 5340, Thousand Smiles focuses on care of the less fortunate children in Mexico who suffer from lack of dental care and from maxillo-facial deformities such as cleft palate. Four clinics take place each year and the volunteers, many of whom are Rotarians, include both medical professionals and non-medical individuals. For more information on how your Rotary club can get involved, contact Kim Muslusky at kimcog@san.rr.com or go to <http://www.thousandsmiles.org/>

- **Shelter Box**

The Shelter Box project was conceived and developed by a Rotarian in England in 2001. The mission is to deliver immediate relief to victims of natural and other disasters anywhere around the world. The large plastic container can hold a 10-person tent and a range of equipment, but it will vary based on the needs of the particular disaster. For more information on how your Rotary club can get involved, contact Pete Griffith at pgriffith@cleewilliamsinsurance.com or visit <http://www.shelterbox.org/>

- **Gift of Life**

Rotary clubs, worldwide, are helping to save the lives of indigent children with heart disease by enabling them to receive needed heart surgery. To date, Gift of Life, a Rotarian based organization, has provided funding for 11,000 children and hopes to do the same for at least another 3000 kids every year. Several clubs in our district have formed the "Gift of Life 5340 Foundation" in order to sponsor children for necessary heart surgeries. Sixty five (65) kids have already been saved by the foundation. For more information, contact Henry Ebert at ebertgol@san.rr.com or go to: <http://www.rotary5340.org/international/pdf/GiftOfLife.pdf>

- **Friendship exchange**

Rotary Friendship Exchange is Rotary's international exchange program for Rotarians and their partners. Participants experience other cultures and build friendships by staying in the homes of Rotary club members in another country. Districts send a team of 4 – 6 couples to another district, and in return, host the other district in their homes. If you are interested in participating, contact Louise Andres, Friendship Exchange Chair, at louiserandres@gmail.com. Further information is available here: <http://www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/Fellowship/RotaryFriendshipExchange/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

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