

# Rotary



Rotarian Action Groups  
2017 Annual Report

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## Introduction

Rotarian Action Groups (RAGs) provide assistance and support to Rotary clubs and districts in planning and implementing community development and humanitarian service projects. They are organized by committed Rotarians, Rotarians' family members, and Rotary program participants and alumni who have expertise and a passion for a particular type of service.

Every year RAGs submit a report of activities and finances to Rotary International. These annual reports summarize the groups' membership statistics and highlight their humanitarian service activities. The following report provides an overview of the work RAGs are doing to advance the Object of Rotary worldwide.

Additional information about RAGs can be found online, [www.rotary.org/actiongroups](http://www.rotary.org/actiongroups).

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## RAGs at a Glance

Since RAGs were first recognized by the RI Board of Directors in 2005, their popularity and impact have grown around the world. The following provides a broad look at membership, finances, and general highlights for RAGs in 2016-17.

### Membership

In 2016-17, 26 RAGs reported a combined membership of 31,076 in more than 100 countries worldwide. Excluding the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development, which reported the largest membership of any group at 13,500 members, the average size for each RAG is around 703 members.

### Finances

Together these groups reported a combined income of US\$889,888 from membership dues, grants, and other charitable contributions. Combined income of RAGs has grown by 40% in 2016-17. 22 groups required members to pay either annual or lifetime membership dues. The average annual membership cost was US\$27 and average lifetime membership cost was US\$100. Some RAGs offer five-year or 3-year dues as they need ongoing financial support from their members. RAGs reported expenses of US\$771,468 for international humanitarian service projects and other activities. At year end, RAGs reported combined net assets of US\$603,155. The Rotarians for Family Health and AIDs Prevention RAG reported the highest revenue with US\$502,356 and highest expenditures with US\$329,639.

### Highlights

#### New RAGs recognized in 2016-17

- **Hepatitis Eradication Rotarian Action Group** chaired by Humberto Silva from the Rotary Club of São Paulo-Jardim das Bandeiras, Brazil (recognized in January 2017). The RAG will provide assistance to clubs and districts in planning and implementing Hepatitis screening and testing campaigns.
- **Rotarian Action Group for Family Safety: Breaking the Family Violence** (<http://www.ragfamsafe.org/>) chaired by Norman Taralrud-Bay from the Rotary Club of

Melbourne, Australia (recognized in June 2017). The RAG will provide support to clubs and districts in planning and implementing programs and projects that will tackle domestic violence.

**Terminated RAG: *Hunger and Malnutrition Alleviation***

The RI Board of Directors terminated the Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition in June 2017 for not maintaining its active status as a Rotarian Action Group.

**2016-17 Global Networking Groups Committee (GNGC) activity and Board Decisions**

During their January 2017 meeting, the GNGC recommended a number of amendments to the Article 42 of the [Rotary's Code of Policies](#) with a purpose to support RAGs in their service activities and better position them as club and district resources. Some of the changes also helped simplify and improve flow throughout Article 42. Learn more by reviewing the [RI Board approved policy amendments](#).

**RAGs Activity at the 2017 Atlanta Convention**

The RAGs were very active at the 2017 RI Convention in Atlanta with many hosting booths, breakout sessions, and annual meetings for members in attendance. An annual meeting of all RAG chairs also took place at the 2017 Convention.

# Summary of Annual Reports

## Rotarian Action Group Addiction Prevention (RAG-AP)

**Topic:** assisting clubs and districts in the prevention of substance abuse and addiction

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RAGAP reported 236 members in 5 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 28

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Identifying international partners, securing funding, advising on TRF Global Grant application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **\*Training Addiction Treatment and Prevention** – RAGAP seeks to implement a well-structured, tried, and tested program to address the very need-based and socially important issue of tobacco, alcohol, drug, substance abuse, gaming, and internet addiction. The RAG specifically coordinates the global grant, advises on the content of the program and evaluations, supports the clubs and districts find partners. The program plans to encompass all stake holders and address the issue in its entirety by focusing on both prevention and treatment. The program consists of training of school and college teachers, students of Psychology, young professional in Psychology and mental health, Psychiatry, and medical doctors for treatment and prevention. The project will improve the capacity of local health care professionals, promote disease prevention programs, educate communities, and enhance the health infrastructure.
- **\*Opioid and Heroin Abuse Rotary Global Grant** – This project consists of six components: (1) educating teenagers about the dangers of drug abuse through a program called Teen Institute, (2) helping furnish an ambulatory detox treatment center, (3) purchasing and installing drug drop box kiosks, (4) mounting a major media campaign, (5) alleviating the lack of affordable transportation to detox centers and hospitals, and (6) distributing all the materials. The RAG specifically advised on the preparation of the global grant, helped find partners, and advertised the project on its communication platforms to find the needed support.
- **\*Addiction Prevention Collaborative Pilot** – The project will educate both adult and youth community members on substance misuse and the brain chemistry of addiction. It will also work to lower rates of use and addiction by strengthening local level infrastructure to implement best practice addiction prevention measures. This will be accomplished by launching two forms of addiction prevention education programs (adult and youth) and by enhancing the addiction prevention supports and assets within participating communities, directly benefitting 4,500 people and 75 coalition/community organization members. RAGAP provided technical support to the organizing club and helped identify an international partner,

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## **Alzheimer's/Dementia Rotarian Action Group (ADRAG)**

**Topic:** providing information and support to Rotarians on dementia and Alzheimer's disease

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, ADRAG reported 50 members in 7 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 21

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting community assessment, identifying international partners, securing funding, advising on TRF Global Grant application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **\*Why Is Alzheimer's a Higher Risk for Women than Men** – This research project is under the guidance of Dr. Rudy Tanzi, who serves as the lead researcher on women's increased risk of developing Dementia. Through the support of a global grant totalling US \$375,000, ADRAG is working with clubs, districts, and the Cure Alzheimer's Fund on this initiative. ADRAG's involvement includes consulting on the project and helping secure the international partner for the grant.
- **Memory Café** – Since July of 2016, ADRAG has developed a supportive community for people with Dementia. This café is a meeting place for people with Dementia to gather with their caretaker or relative. Already, many volunteers have assisted with the program, and an average of 25 participants attend per meeting. ADRAG has provided financial support and attended some of the provided training sessions.
- **Dementia Friendly Communities** – Building off previous projects where ADRAG partnered with clubs, districts, and agencies to create safe communities for people with Dementia to access facilities while maintaining social networks, ADRAG plans to replicate these communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

### **Notable Collaborations**

**Formal Collaborations:** Cure Alzheimer's Fund

**Informal Collaborations:** REPoD UK

### **Contact Information**

**Chair:** Dave Clifton (USA)

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## **Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention (RAG4BP)**

**Topic:** prevention of blindness and the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide

### **Membership**

In 2016-2017, RAG4BP reported 214 members in 44 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$50

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* US\$100/3 years

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 40

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF global grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **\*Mission For Vision In Rural Srilanka (Ihalawela, Kengala)** – Prior to holding vision screening clinics in Kengala, flyers were posted throughout the community announcing "Vision Awareness" meetings in preparation for the upcoming Screening clinics. On the weekend of the clinics, local Rotarians, along with Rotarians from clubs that partnered on the project, participated in the screening process which identified vision improvement requirements for the 416 individuals that were screened during the clinic. Several of those who were screened were referred to ophthalmologists for additional evaluation and eventual cataract surgery. Following the screenings, glasses were manufactured for each individual at local optical shops. A month later, everyone gathered at a local school where the glasses were handed out one at a time. The RAG provided technical expertise as well as \$2000 in funds from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund.
- **\*Mission For Vision In Rural Srilanka (Ihalawela Karunegala)** – Prior to holding vision screening clinics in Karunegala, flyers were posted throughout the community announcing "Vision Awareness" meetings in preparation for the upcoming Screening clinics. On the weekend of the clinics, local Rotarians, along with Rotarians from clubs that partnered on the project, participated in the screening process which identified vision improvement requirements for the 342 individuals that were screened during the clinic. Several of those who were screened were referred to ophthalmologists for additional evaluation and eventual cataract surgery. Following the screenings, glasses were manufactured for each individual at local optical shops. A month later, everyone gathered at a local school where the glasses were handed out one at a time. The RAG provided technical expertise as well as \$2000 in funds from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund.
- **\*Mission For Vision In Rural Srilanka (Ihalawela, Galle)** – Prior to holding vision screening clinics in Galle, flyers were posted throughout the community announcing "Vision Awareness" meetings in preparation for the upcoming Screening clinics. On the weekend of the clinics, local Rotarians, along with Rotarians from clubs that partnered on the project, participated in the screening process which identified vision improvement requirements for the 588 individuals that were screened during the clinic. Several of those who were screened



were referred to ophthalmologists for additional evaluation and eventual cataract surgery. Following the screenings, glasses were manufactured for each individual at local optical shops. A month later, everyone gathered at a local school where the glasses were handed out one at a time. The RAG provided technical expertise as well as \$2000 in funds from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund.

***Contact Information***

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## **Global Network for Blood Donation, a Rotarian Action Group (GNBD)**

**Topic:** blood donation projects

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, GNBD reported 2,120 members in 90 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* None

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities**

*Number of service projects supported:* 1101

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, and promoting an ongoing/completed project.

- **Governors' Challenge Blood Drive** – Through Rotarian engagement, this project continued to result in on-going, life-saving blood donations, primarily in the US and India. GNBD has been involved with this project by introducing the challenge at the International Convention, regional PETS, and various district events.
- **Cowboys and Indian Challenge (Governors' Challenge between Countries)** – In partnership with the Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals and local Community Blood Centers, GNBD worked with multiple districts and clubs primarily in the US and India to host blood drives for local blood banks and encouraged Rotarians and the general public to donate blood. The Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals partnered on this project.
- **Mon Sang pour les Autres** – GNBD conducted a countrywide blood drive in France that involved all districts in the country and in other francophone countries. This project will result in life-saving blood donations for patients in hospitals. The RAG provided education and coordination with clubs.

### **Notable Collaborations**

**Informal Collaborations:** Carter BloodCare, the Association for Donor Recruitment Professionals

### **Contact Information**

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## **Rotarian Action Group for Clubfoot**

**Topic:** *treating clubfoot deformities*

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RAG4Clubfoot reported 95 members in 5 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* \$25

*Charter Membership Dues:* \$100 for first year; \$25/year for renewal

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 4

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF global grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

**\*Ponseti Method Training for Treating Clubfoot in Brazil** – In partnership Brazilian and international districts, the Ponseti International Association at the University of Iowa, and the Ponseti International Association and with the support of a Rotary Foundation-sponsored Vocational Training Team, Rag4Clubfoot is helping train 65 Brazilian Orthopedic Surgeons on the Ponseti Method for treating clubfoot deformities. Clinical staff and parents of children with clubfoot will receive training and resources on treating clubfoot deformities. RAG4Clubfoot helped identify the international partners for the project, provided guidance and technical expertise on trainings, activities, and educational resources, assisted with the global grant application process, and helped put together a monitoring and evaluation plan for the project.

- **\*Ponseti Method Training for Treating Clubfoot in Bolivia** – To reach the ultimate goal of training enough local doctors in the Ponseti Method so that every Bolivian baby born with clubfoot can receive the most economical and effective treatment available, this project proposes to provide leadership training to three in-country trainers, train six orthopedic surgeons, mentor 15 new providers on the Ponseti Method, and guide the in-country trainers and trainees about promoting clubfoot awareness and the Ponseti Method. The RAG helped identify international partners and additional clubs and districts to financially support the project.
- **\*Clubfoot Ponseti Method VTT Grant – Mexico (draft status – 3rd revision)** – RAG4Clubfoot is proposing a VTT training program for orthopedic surgeons who, upon completion of the comprehensive training and after sufficient mentoring and clinical experience, will be fully qualified to correct clubfoot deformity using the Ponseti Method. They will then establish clubfoot treatment clinics within their healthcare facilities. In addition, newly trained providers will be prepared to raise awareness about clubfoot and its treatment among clinical staff, parents of children with clubfoot, and other advocates who are in positions to assist with community mobilization. This project will be implemented in collaboration with the Ponseti International Association (PIA) and its in-country PIA-affiliated providers. The RAG helped identify international partners and find three districts to use their district designated funds) DDF) to support the project.

### **Notable Collaborations**

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**Formal Collaborations:** Ponseti International Association (PIA)

***Contact Information***

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## Rotarian Action Group for Diabetes (RAGD)

**Topic:** providing service through a strong commitment to education, identification, and treatment of diabetes, especially among children in developing countries

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RAGD reported 178 members in 37 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* US\$100

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 2

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, advising on a TRF global grant application, and requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

- **Bicycle for Diabetes** – Partnering with clubs and districts in California and Illinois and the American Diabetes Association, RAGD organized Rotary club presidents in every city from Chicago to Atlanta to participate in bicycle rallies, raising awareness of the seriousness of diabetes. Rotarians and other with diabetes also supported the campaign and rallied in cities from Chicago to Atlanta in June 2017.
- **\*Diabetes Retinal Camera in India** – In collaboration with clubs and districts in the US and India and World Vision, RAGD served as middlepersons connecting Rotary districts to fund the project, which will supply retinal cameras to screen for diabetic eye disease and potentially prevent blindness.
- **\*Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes in Children** – In partnership with clubs in Chicago, IL, USA and American Diabetes Association, the RAG will help plan and implement a global grant project to intervene in development of type 2 diabetes in children.

### **Contact Information**

**Chair:** C. Wayne Edwards (USA)

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## **Disaster Network of Assistance Rotarian Action Group (DNA-RAG)**

**Topic:** develop an interactive network to assist with disaster preparedness, communication, and recovery worldwide

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, DNA RAG reported 107 members in 26 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25, US\$100/5 years

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 2

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF global grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

- **Advising D6930 in Disaster Preparation** – DNA RAG partnered with District 6930 and County Emergency Management (EMA) organizations to set up preparations for disasters and train district leaders and others to set up collaborative agreements with local EMAs.
- **\*Nepal Earthquake Recovery** –DNA RAG worked in advisory capacity to train Districts 3292 and 5810 in design and execution of grant applications in Nepal. The project resulted in the completion of one school and a cluster of homes. Two more schools will be completed in the coming year, and more houses are under construction.
- **General Disaster Preparation** – DNA RAG worked with Districts 7020, 7030, and 7000 and Zone 34 to put in place a 501 (c) 3 so that in the event of disaster, an easily accessible and rapid method of funds collection would be available for the districts. As a result of this project, it became easier and quicker to collect, hold, and disburse funds for disasters.

### **Contact Information**

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## **Rotarian Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES)**

**Topic:** to provide global awareness and focused action to preserve and protect endangered species

### ***Membership***

In 2016-17, RAGES reported 630 members in 61 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* None

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### ***International Service Projects and Activities***

*Number of service projects supported:* 4

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Identifying international partners, securing funding, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

- **Save our Rhino** – The RAGES Rhino Flagship Project began in 2012 following the tragic poaching at Kariega Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Partnering with the Chipembere Rhino Foundation for the first time, RAGES raised funds to put tracking collars on five rhinos.
- **Zentangles** – Since April of 2017, RAGES and the Youth Committee have been running a RAGES Primary School coloring competition using the Zentangles provided by Rachael artists. Before the competition, the RAG introduces students the concept of endangered species and diminishing biodiversity. The students are asked to focus on one or all three species during while creating their art. The RAG also has donated sports balls to be gifted to the winners. Currently, 96 schools are involved in the project.
- **Borneo Pygmy Elephants** – In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Huff City, New Zealand, and Sabah Wildlife Department, RAGES will work with the local Borneo people to help them effect change in their community through preserving wild life, specifically Pygmy elephants. This project will attract tourists and run education workshops in schools and communities so that animals can live within proximity of local villages without inflicting harm.

### ***Notable Collaborations***

**Formal Collaborations:** The Jane Goodall Institute

### ***Contact Information***

**Chair:** John Glassford (Australia)

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## **Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG)**

**Topic:** help clubs and districts plan, implement, and evaluate projects related to environmental sustainability, mitigation of climate disruption and awareness about climate change.

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, ESRAG reported 163 members in 32 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$30

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities**

*Number of service projects supported:* 13

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF global grant application, and promoting an ongoing/completed project.

- **Zika and Dengue: Creating Partnerships to Interrupt Transmission** – Partnering with CDC and members from at least five Rotary Districts, ESRAG developed and conducted this program at the Atlanta Convention to reveal that how environment underpins human health. Climate change also enables viruses that cause Zika, Dengue, and other infectious tropical diseases to flourish as the range of their mosquito carriers expands. Though there are no vaccines for Zika or Dengue, Rotary clubs can implement service projects that educate about Zika, clean up mosquito habitat, promote personal prevention, and implement an exciting new method to interrupt mosquitos' ability to transmit these viruses. ESRAG will provide educational materials to clubs that are interested in carrying out these kind of activities to prevent Zika and Dengue.
- **Support for Ian Riseley's 1.2 Million Tree Planting Challenge** – In partnership with multiple Rotary clubs and districts and the Food Plant Solutions RAG, a printing company, and the Nature Conservancy, the ESRAG Board created a Tree Planting Task Force chaired by ESRAG Director Ken Leonard in March 2017, developing resources to support President-elect Ian Riseley's 1.2 Million Tree Planting Challenge. The Task Force developed a brochure with the donated design services of Madison Rotarian Jennifer Weitzman. In May 2016, Chair-elect Karen Kendrick-Hands and Secretary Melissa Mills journeyed to RI Headquarters in Evanston to meet with President-elect Ian Riseley to offer ESRAG's support for the Tree Planting Challenge.
- **ESRAG Strategy and the Tree Planting Challenge – Post-Convention Workshop** – PDG John Anderson invited ESRAG to be a joint sponsor—together with District 5040, Zones 24, 25 and 26 to host the first ever Presidential Conference on Environmental Sustainability and Peace, which will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from February 9 to 11 in 2018. Karen Kendrick-Hands and Melissa Mills are honored to be serving on the Conference Planning Committee, helping develop the Conference Objectives, Learning Tracks,



speaker selection, and sponsorship recruitment.

### ***Notable Collaborations***

**Formal Collaborations:** Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group

### ***Contact Information***

**Chair:** Karen D. Kendrick-Hands (USA)

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## Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA)

**Topic:** helping clubs and districts plan and implement large scale disease prevention and treatment projects

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RFHA reported 915 members in 875 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities**

*Number of service projects supported:* 455

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF global grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, and promoting an ongoing/completed project.

**\*Rotary Family Health Days Africa** – In its sixth year of execution (in October 2016 and May 2017), RFHA's signature program leveraged the efforts of 4,828 Rotarians from over 385 Rotary clubs who served free health care to 377,279 citizens in the countries of Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana and South Africa. Offerings include lifesaving screenings for HIV, TB, malaria (and provision of bed nets), diabetes, hepatitis, blood pressure, cervical and breast cancer, and lifelong immunizations for polio, measles and other vaccines. Family counselling, distribution of condoms, deworming, and vitamin A supplements are also provided. In 2016-17 alone, nearly 850,000 health services were given, and over 92,000 people now know their HIV status thanks to the commitment of the Rotarians, other volunteers, physicians, assistants, and governments who supported the program this past year. RFHA was instrumental in securing partnerships with CDC, USAID, and each countries' Minister of Health, obtaining grants from the private sector, assisting with TRF Global Grant process, and partnering with major media houses and in-country NGO's. Two critical quality process systems have been developed by RFHA in order to measure impact and sustainability: 1) the data collection system and 2) the 90-day Impact Analysis system. The two systems together constitute the Monitoring and Evaluation process, which is critical for the success of this program.

- **\*Rotary Family Health Days RAHAT India** – The program was implemented across the State of Madhya Pradesh in India at 19 sites (hundreds of miles apart in this rural region of India) and was a success. It provided free health screens, similar to Africa, but all health services were provided through the private sector medical community, not public NGOs (as done in Africa). In addition to free screenings, the India campaign provided free medicines and some follow on surgeries. Private physicians/doctors were at each health site. Food was also cooked and provided in each site to each citizen after they completed their round of health care. RFHA, Inc. CEO Alicia Michael travelled with Alpharetta Rotary Club members, President Jason Binder and Past President Bill Weeks to India for program implementation and evaluation. Rotarians Jason and Bill were able to deepen the impact of Alpharetta Rotary Club's support by developing relationships that led to additional project partnerships. The three-day campaign leveraged the efforts of 19 Rotary clubs, over 2,300 Rotarians and Rotractors, volunteer doctors, assistants, and others served over 42,000 citizens.

## ***Notable Collaborations***

**Formal Collaborations:** South African Broadcasting Corporation, Gilead Sciences, Inc.

**Informal Collaborations:** South Africa Department of Health, USAID, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Ministry of Health Uganda, Ministry of Health of Nigeria, Ogun State Ministry of Health, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Kaduna State Government, Society for Family Health, Olaniba Memorial Hospital, Nigeria, Coca-Cola Nigeria, Institute of Human Virology (IHV) Nigeria, The Malaria Consortium, the SABC and Caxton in South Africa (media partners)

## ***Contact Information***

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## **Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group (FPS)**

**Topic:** helping people, particularly in developing countries, learn about and grow the best local foods to match their nutritional needs as a sustainable solution for hunger and malnutrition

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, Food Plant Solutions reported 505 members in 53 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* None

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* US\$16

### **International Service Projects and Activities**

*Number of service projects supported:* 1

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Requests for a subject matter speaker at a meeting/event

- **AOG World Relief Vietnam** –FPS has formed a valuable partnership with AOG World Relief Vietnam that is achieving great results in reducing malnutrition. This program continues to establish Food Plant Solutions gardens in schools in the rural communities in Vietnam and, as a result, see healthier, happier and more prosperous families. The program achievements include provision of nutritious food for school children, agricultural skills learned by students, 80% reduction in malnutrition, and increase in school enrollment. FPS RAG created the educational publications that AOG World Relief Vietnam used as the primary resource to establish the gardens.
- **World Vision Timor-Leste** – Through DFAT (ANCP) funding, World Vision Australia has initiated a project in East Timor called “Better Food Better Health,” which will combine agricultural interventions — designed to reduce poverty — with nutrition interventions to help mothers feed their young children more and better food. FPS has created two educational publications: “Potentially Important Food Plants of Timor-Leste” in English and “Food Plants for Healthy Diets in Timor-Leste” in Tetun. These publications will give young mothers more information about which plants are high in nutrients, particularly those that are high in iron and Vitamin A. The project is expected to bring about positive nutrition outcomes by improving access, utilization and demand for diverse, nutritious foods for 8,500 beneficiaries in Aileu district, Timor-Leste.

**Boart Longyear** – Partnering with Boart Longyear, Food Plant Solutions will help address malnutrition in Asia, specifically Cambodia. Boart Longyear, utilising Food Plant Solutions publications, will provide education resources to mothers with the aim of creating awareness and enabling a better understanding of the nutritional value of their local food plants.

### **Notable Collaborations**

**Formal Collaborations:** University of Tasmania – School of Land and Food, Food Plants International

### **Contact Information**

**Chair:** Una M. Hobday (Australia)

**Rotarian Action Groups**

2017 Annual Report

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## Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group (HEWRAG)

**Topic:** improving world health thorough health promotion, education, and disease prevention

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, HEWRAG reported 474 members in 37 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$30, US\$125/5 year

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF Global Grant)

*Number of service projects supported:* 24

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, promoting an ongoing/completed project, fielding requests for a subject matter speaker at a meeting/event.

- **2017 China Medical/Dental Mission** — HEWRAG and the Rotary Club of Chengdu partnered to execute this project, which took place from April 4 to 6, 2017, in Gaohe, China. Members from Alaska, California, Hawaii, North Carolina, Singapore, Australia, South Africa, India, and China participated in the mission as representatives of HEWRAG. There were seven International physicians, one Traditional Chinese Medicine Doctor, ten local medical consultants, one dentist, 30 Mandarin language interpreters, and 34 Rotarian volunteers. Medical personnel saw 594 patients, and health seminars were conducted on site for approximately 700 participants. Topics of the seminars were stress management, hand washing, oral health, nutrition, safe alcohol usage, tobacco, cancer, diabetes, and hypertension. 3,000 students in over 30 local schools were given lessons in oral health, teeth brushing, nutrition, hand washing, and sanitation.
- **Oral Health and Nutrition; and Cervical Cancer Prevention** – Partnering with the American Cancer Society and other Rotary clubs and districts, HEWRAG helped teach local Rotarians in Zambia how to present programs in oral health, nutrition, and cervical cancer prevention. Presentations were made to approximately 100 faculty members and students at the Dental Training School in Lusaka, leaders of the Rotary Club of Kusinta Lusaka, the 2017 Lusaka Presidents Elect Training Seminar, and 1,000 school children in rural Zambia. To develop the project, Sheila Hurst, Co-Chair of HEWRAG and Karl Diekman, Board of Director Member of HEWRAG met with directors and deputy directors of the Department of the Ministry of Health in Lusaka in February 2017. They met with Dr. Christine Kassebaum-Sata an Ob-Gyn physician whom is the former First Lady of Zambia, Dr. Sharon Kapambwe, National Coordinator for Cancer Prevention at the Zambia Ministry of Health, Dr. Itone Muteba, Chief Dental Officer, and Doreen Mwondela, Acting Chief Dental Therapist. HEWRAG is now working to provide Rotary members with the tools and the knowledge they need to advocate for cost-effective, low-technology programs and organize the Rotary leaders to address oral health, nutrition and cervical cancer prevention.
- **Healthy Teeth Nigeria** — Collaborating with all Rotary clubs in District 9142 and the Nigerian Ministry of Health, HEWRAG will help promote oral health projects for all seven

states in Nigeria. Information will be gathered regarding the number and names of schools and number of students in each school to teach a program of good oral health. In addition, this project seeks to form a committee that will inspire Rotarians, Rotary Community Corp, and Rotaractors to acquire funding and donations so that toothbrushes and toothpaste can be provided for all the students. HEWRAG will offer training, materials, and assistance for the school curriculum and hands on support for the entire project.

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## Rotarians for Hearing, A Rotarian Action Group (RfHRAG)

**Topic:** helping children and adults with hearing loss

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RfHRAG reported 63 members in 61 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$10

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* US\$100

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 0

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting community assessment, securing funding, advising on TRF Global Grant application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **\*Guatemala Hearing Loss Infant Screening and Management in Low Resources Global Grant** – In partnership with Fundação Sonrisas que Escuchan (Smiles that Listen), Healing the Children, and multiple Rotary clubs and districts, RfHRAG seeks to identify hearing loss in infants in low-income families, provide appropriate hearing aids, follow-up care, and parent training, and increase awareness about infant screening and pediatric hearing loss among families and caregivers. Infants with hearing loss as young as one month old can be given hearing aids so they can imitate sounds and learn to listen and speak the way normal hearing infants do. The participating infants will have follow-up care during and after the global grant with Fundação Sonrisas que Escuchan.
  
- **\*Ear Care Nepal** – This global grant project with Ear Care Nepal, headed by ENT Surgeon Dr. Milan Mahajan, will provide middle ear surgeries and \$20,000 in audiometry and surgical equipment as well as teach Nepalese women the importance of hearing health care and middle ear surgeries. 5,000 children will be screened in public schools or Buddhist monastic schools in the Kathmandu Valley; the Global Grant will pay for 100 of these children to have middle ear surgeries to either restore their hearing or to prevent further loss of hearing. ECN's volunteer surgeons will perform these surgeries without remuneration.
  
- **Rotarians for Hearing RAG Nigeria Collaboration with the Starkey Hearing Foundation** – At the 2016 Seoul RI Convention, Rotarians Omotunde Balogun, her brother Dr. Dele Balogun, and Chris Agbo wanted Rotarians for Hearing RAG to help locate resources for Nigerian children and adults with hearing loss. At the 2017 Atlanta RI Convention, Omotunde Balogun updated RfHRAG about the partnership between her newly formed Vintage Hearing Foundation (VHF), Olusegun Obasanjo Foundation (OOF), and the Starkey Hearing Foundation (SHF). The SHF launched a hearing mission in Nigeria during June and July, and Olusegun Balogen coordinated the project for Rotarians. In October of 2017, the SHF returned from Minneapolis, Minnesota, for a second hearing mission, requesting 20 Rotarians for each of the five Nigerian State visits.



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## **Hepatitis Eradication Rotarian Action Group**

**Topic:** works to eradicate Hepatitis C globally.

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, the Hepatitis Eradication RAG reported 50 members in 10 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* None

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 20

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Hepatitis Week: Ouro Preto** – In partnership with Rotary District 4580, local federal and state universities in Ouro Preto, Brazil, the RAG organized Hepatitis testing campaigns which coincided with World Hepatitis Day (July 28). The tests were offered on the campuses of local federal and state universities, the principal town square, and some local prisons (due to high prevalence of Hepatitis C). The students from the medical schools were chosen to carry out the tests. The RAG supplied the tests and provided the training for the test procedure and the monitoring of the testing.
- **Hepatitis Week: São Paulo Morumbi** – In partnership with Rotary District 4610 and Colegio Pentagano (a partnering organization) the RAG organized Hepatitis testing campaigns in São Paulo Morumbi (Brazil), which coincided with World Hepatitis Day (July 28). The tests were offered on the campuses of a local college (Pentagno), local government building, and a bus station. The students from the medical schools were chosen to carry out the tests. The RAG supplied the tests and provided the training for the test procedure and the monitoring of the testing.
- **Hepatitis Month: Peruibe** – In partnership with Rotary District 4420 and the local health authority, the RAG organized Hepatitis testing campaigns in Peruibe, Brazil. The local health authority participated with local health workers being used for the testing (without extra cost for the Rotary clubs or RAG as it was considered a huge public interest action). The tests took place outside local clinics and public squares thus maximizing the visibility of the projects and raising awareness both in the local population and visiting vacationers. The testing identified thirty-three people as being positive (having Hepatitis C) and these people were given advice as to their treatment. The RAG supplied the tests and provided the training for the test procedure and the monitoring of the testing.

### **Contact Information**

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## **Literacy Rotarian Action Group (LITRAG)**

**Topic:** reducing illiteracy

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, LITRAG reported 155 members in 24 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Five Year Membership Dues:* US\$100

*Number of service projects supported:* 7

*\*LITRAG did not report any significant involvement in particular international projects.*

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## Rotarians Eliminating Malaria, a Rotarian Action Group (REMaRAG)

**Topic:** coordinating efforts to control malaria

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, REMaRAG reported 5000 members in 23 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* None

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* US\$100

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 20

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **REMIT Health Hunger and Humanity** – In partnership with Rotary District 9211 (Tanzania and Uganda), Rotaractors, Municipal Directors and village leaders of Arusha and Moshi, and Rotary Community Corps, the RAG distributed mosquito nets and mosquito repellent seedlings and brochures. It also held symposiums, accompanied by films shows, mainly in government schools. The project served nearly 350,000 beneficiaries, and the budget totaled US\$90,900. The RAG supported the project through funds, advising, and monitoring.
- **\*REMIT Saving Lives in lower Kilimanjaro Region** –Through the support of a global grant, Rotary District 9211 (Tanzania and Uganda) worked with Rotarian partners and Pan Africa Vector, Kilimanjaro (a local organization) to initiate training in malaria pre-elimination, which targets killing the parasite before it gets the chance to produce havoc. Another aim of this projects is to identify and control arbovirus infections such as Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue. The project is expected to be completed in June 2018 and will serve 484,000 beneficiaries with a budget totaling US\$163,000. The RAGs' specific contributions to the project were providing the initial project funding, ongoing confirmation of the appropriate expenditure, liaising with all stake holders, and overseeing PR and publicity.
- **Rotary Big Bang** – Prize winners from the Rotary Big Bang Young Scientists competition spent a day at Imperial College London where they learned about the science behind malaria elimination. They had access to labs and were able to handle live mosquitoes, as well as try out their invention—the Morbosphere, which is a spherical ball with a rumble motor inside that causes ripples in the water and consequently causes the eggs and larvae to sink.

### **Contact Information**

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## Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development (RFPD)

**Topic:** improving maternal and child health

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RFPD reported nearly 13,500 members in 75 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* US\$100

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 21

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **\*Rotary Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Obstetric Quality Assurance (OQA) Program** – RFPD developed a comprehensive approach in the Maternal and Child Health area of focus aiming at a sustainable reduction of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in Nigeria. The MCH OQA Program started with a pilot project in ten hospitals of Nigeria (2005-2010) and has been more than doubled to a total of 25 hospitals in five states – Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja, and Ondo (2012-2015) as well as Enugu (2013-2015). The RAG drafted the Global Grant application for the newest project which was approved in October 2015 as well as applied for the funding from the German Government (BMZ). With the co-funding provided by the German government (BMZ), the project budget totals US\$1,000,000. The main aim of the project is to improve the Nigerian health system. This is reached through the support and acceleration of the implementation of the Nigerian Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response-Guidelines (MPDSR) with Obstetric Quality Assurance (OQA). The implementation will promote utilization of MPDSR. To enhance the effectiveness of Family Planning measures, the new project will emphasize to preform provider training and logistic training to prevent stock outs of all available contraceptives. Project contents and measures include awareness campaigns, introduction and improvement of quality assurance in obstetrics in selected hospitals, collection, and analysis of obstetric data in all selected hospitals, train-the-trainer workshops to transfer knowledge among doctors and midwives, distribution of clean birth kits and mosquito nets, integration of traditional/religious leaders, (local) governments and other stakeholders, and initiation of a door-to-door family planning pilot project in selected states.

The ultimate goal of the program is the inclusion of the Rotary MCH OQA model into the states' health systems to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and the RAG has already established alliances with the national and local governments to achieve this goal. The Nigerian Federal Minister of Health (FMoH) has signed an agreement to continue the OQA program and to integrate the MPDSR-guidelines into the national health system after the termination of the projects. FMoH and Ministries of Health of the eight project states have also agreed to provide needed medical equipment to the public hospitals and to expand the OQA system to additional hospitals/obstetric departments in their states.

- **\*Postpartum and Post Miscarriage Family Planning in Pakistan** – This ongoing project aims to enhance contraceptive uptake from the baseline of 5.5% (2013) to 30% among

women delivering in the hospital or undergoing management for incomplete miscarriage. The objectives of this global grant project are: (1) training student midwives and Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs) at the Gizri Maternity Hospital (GMH) in family planning counseling and method provision, and proficiency in providing emergency obstetric care; (2) provision of family planning (FP) services to at least 30 percent of women to provide [Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP)] or undergo management of incomplete miscarriage in the selected hospital; (3) provision of quality emergency care to women (during pregnancy and labor) and newborn babies; and (4) supply of necessary hospital supplies, training and office equipment. Direct beneficiaries of the project are about 3,500 women who seek care in the selected hospital with regard to antenatal care, deliver and miscarriage. In addition to these patients, the health personnel working in the hospital (9 doctors and one health supervisor) as well as 23 health workers underwent training at the GMH in providing FP services and antenatal care. The attached midwifery school also directly benefit from the project, since they will be trained in PPFP and comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC). Additionally, 22 doctors in Bolan Medical College were trained in emergency care as well as stipend payments for 10 pupil midwives were granted. The RAG initiated, co-funded, and supported the project based on our 20 years of experience. The RFPD also identified host and international clubs and drafted the Global Grant application for them. Meanwhile RFPD initiated a replication in Ethiopia and is planning further replications.

- **\*Awaken Afghanistan** – This project seeks to work with Rotary clubs in both the US and Afghanistan to establish more Saheli Centers for Women, expanding the RFPD’s current vocational training/literacy/hygiene program and adding computer classes and family planning workshops. In addition, the program will improve sanitation by adding new latrines and handwashing facilities at the Quala-e-Malakh School and Behsood Health Clinic. Finally, it will help equip and staff the clinic's new Maternal and Child Care Unit. RFPD has initiated, co-funded, and supported this project based on the established and currently operating Saheli centers in India (24) and Nigeria (1). The project has been carried out through a partnership with Rotary Districts 6960 and 2430 and AWAKEN (Afghan Women and Kids Education and Necessities).

### ***Notable Collaborations***

**Formal Collaborations:** The United Nations’ "Every Woman, Every Child" Program; WHO/The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Geneva; The Population Institute - Washington, D.C., USA; the Population Media Center, Vermont, USA; the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO); SOGON (Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria), the Ministries of Health in the states of Kano, Kaduna, FCT Abuja, and Ondo, Nigeria; the Ministry of Health in Enugu State and the RC of Trans Ekulu, Nigeria; and CIDJAP (Catholic Institute for Development, Justice and Peace), Enugu, Nigeria.

### ***Contact Information***

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## **Rotarian Action Group on Mental Health Initiatives (RAGMHI)**

**Topic:** advising Rotarians on mental health programs

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RAGMHI reported 39 members in 10` countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities**

*Number of service projects supported:* 4

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Incorporating sustainability components and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **\*Suicide Prevention in Lithuania** – In partnership with Rotary District 1462, the RAG supported a program that aims to reduce suicide rate in Lithuania, which is currently as high as 9.4%. The program entails (1) the development of a local community-based suicide prevention model based on the algorithm of communication and cooperation of the local institutions at the front line of suicide acts, attempts and intentions, and (2) the implementation of the model by series of training addressed to the front line institutions (police, healthcare, social care, education, emergency, etc.) and local communities, enabling them to act in an effective and coordinated way in suicide related emergency situations as well as have effective prevention tools. RAGMHI's Vice Chair Geetha Jayaram and other two RAG officers, who are certified in Suicide Prevention training in the US and Canada, provided consultation on the program.
- **\*Adolescent Wellness: Peer Leadership through Interact** – At RAGMHI's Annual Meeting in Atlanta at the RI International Convention, Bob Anthony (Rotary District 7910) presented this successful mental health project in the USA, Puerto Rico and India to those in attendance. The Rotary Club of Wellesley, Massachusetts, is now seeking other Rotary clubs to participate in a global grant bringing the program into Nigeria. The most depressed country in Africa is Nigeria, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In its 2017 World Health Day message, WHO identified the prevalence rate as 3.9% (over 7 million Nigerians) of the entire population. Rising suicide trend can be drastically reduced by understanding depression to be a preventable and treatable ailment. RAGMHI has contributed to this project by soliciting partner donations.

### **Contact Information**

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## **Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM)**

**Topic:** alleviate poverty through sustainable microfinance and community development

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development (RAGM) reported 696 members in 50 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25, US\$100/5 year

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 15

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant Application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event

- **District 5240 Microfinance** – In 2012, the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise, California, USA, attained the first Rotary Foundation microfinance grant awarded in a developed country. Eleven Rotary districts financially supported the grant, and it had a value of US\$240,476. It was focused on building the financial competency of low-income Hispanic women living in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, California, USA, enabling them to open and/or increase the stability of their small businesses, and giving them a sustainable means of increasing their standard of living and that of others around them. The grant had three components: outreach to the Hispanic community, creation of a Spanish language self-employment training curriculum that would be used to educate the target population, and a revolving loan fund. The grant was administered with Rotarian involvement and oversight by Women’s Economic Ventures (WEV), a non-profit organization with a 25-year-track record of providing small business training, technical assistance, and micro loans. RAGM members created the project, worked with TRF and WEV to justify the need and served as the project lead. Members of RAGM had responsibility for project performance as required for a TRF Microfinance Matching Grant. RAGM also recruited and supported other Rotarians in the district who served as mentors and trainers.
- **\*Honduras Economic & Community Development (HECD) Program** – HECD Phase IV has been focused on small to medium enterprise, and the total funding supplied in 2017 was US\$138,000. In April 2017, an Insight Tour — which involved inspecting the local Microfinance Institutes offices, visiting the host Rotary club, and spending time with up to ten clients — was completed. Due diligence was also completed for the funding of HECD Phase V. RAGM had originally created the HECD Program idea, which was then taken up by Rotary District 5360. RAGM is also the agency that signed the MOU with Opportunity International Canada (OIC).
- **LaunchDETROIT** – This is a multi-pronged program that offers qualifying entrepreneurs a combination of free business training, micro loans, assigned business mentors, and networking opportunities. RAGM and eight Rotary clubs in District 6400 have supported this project. RAGM has been actively engaged in the promotion and guidance in developing this project as a



possible model for other regions in the US and beyond. The project has continued to grow over the past five years and has begun to expand into the local suburban communities. Several of the earlier borrowers have completed their first loans and have returned for second- and third-time loans. Some of the borrowers have been able to grow their business, beginning to hire employees from their region as well as local school interns. This program is now planning to begin a phase 2 with the development of a new “Group Lending” program managed by three separate Rotary clubs. These “Groups” will select 5-6 entrepreneurs from their local communities to participate in a pilot program of “group lending.” This is a multi-pronged program that offers qualifying entrepreneurs a combination of free business training, micro loans of US\$1,000 to US\$2,500, assigned business mentors, and networking opportunities. RAGM and eight Rotary Clubs in District 6400 have supported this project. RAGM has been actively engaged in the promotion and guidance in developing this project as a possible model for other regions in the US and beyond. RAGM officers are also actively involved in the implementation of the initiative. The project budget is US\$68,000 and will serve 32 qualifying entrepreneurs who are coming from low income communities in Detroit.

### ***Notable Collaborations***

**Formal Collaborations:** Opportunity International Canada.

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## **Rotarian Action Group for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness (RAGMSA)**

**Topic:** improving the lives of People with MS (PwMS)

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RAGMSA reported 479 members in 23 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* None

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* US\$20

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 8

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **\*GG1636410 Florey Institute Melbourne, Australia Progressive MS Research Dr Laura Dumas** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Westtown-Goshen (USA), the Rotary Club of Gisborne (Australia), and several research organizations, RAGMSA facilitated this Global Grant project, which will support the research of Dr. Laura Dumas who is working on finding the cause and cure for MS. RAGMSA leaders connected Rotary clubs and districts that are interested in this project and advised them on the grant application.
- **2018 MS Research PhD Scholarship** – In partnership with Gisborne/Keilor East/Essendon North D9800, ARH, Melbourne University/Florey Institute, RAGMSA fundraised for a MS research scholarship and carried out vocational visits to the laboratory. This project seeks to select one person to join the research team and successfully complete the agreed scope of work. Currently, the RAG is advertising the scholarship in search for a suitable candidate.

### **Contact Information**

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## Rotarian Action Group for Peace (RAGFP)

**Topic:** advancing world peace and preventing conflict

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RAGFP reported 2200 members in 71 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$30 for Rotarians, US\$15 for Rotaractors

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 67

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **International Breakfast Meeting at United Nations** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of New York, RAGM, Mediators Beyond Borders, and Rotary Foundation NY, RAGFP brought together Rotarians and like-minded individuals at the NY Rotary Club International Breakfast Meetings at United Nations, which have normally taken place once every month. These meetings provide an opportunity for Rotarians to stay informed regarding United Nation programs and to exchange views on related topics with UN officials and representatives of its member states. The Rotarian Action Group for Peace makes these meetings available to RAGFP members and subscribers virtually.
- **The Hub Peacebuilder Tour** – RAGFP collaborated with the 21st Century Peace Literacy Foundation and spread the message of peace via a unique Peace Hub Tour throughout the West Coast. This mobile space facilitated conversations about peacebuilding through community visits and meetings with local Rotary clubs. The hub was a huge eye catcher and many clubs scheduled stops for their clubs along the tour. The tour also promoted peace fellows; some of which were asked to present on the tour. The tour used music to inspire conversations about peace that were later captured on video. It conducted interviews with Rotarians and asked them what peacebuilding looks like for them. These interviews were recorded, edited, and launched on a YouTube channel for the Hub Tour.
- **100 Peace Pole Project** – On Friday, April 21, 2017, Rotarians from around the Northwest planted Peace Poles at locations throughout Oregon, including dozens of schools, city offices, police precincts, houses of worship, and other nonprofit organizations. A Peace Pole is a monument that displays the message, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.” May Peace Prevail On Earth is an all-inclusive and universal message. It is a meeting place of the heart, bringing together people of all faiths, backgrounds, and cultures to embrace the Oneness of our planetary family. Poles usually include the saying in the language of the country where it has been placed and usually 3 to 7 additional translations. The message is referred to as "an affirmation of peace." Peace Poles are intended to inspire unity among people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

### **Notable Collaborations**

**Formal Collaborations:** The 21st Century Peace Literary Foundation

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## **Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates (PSA)**

**Topic:** improving the health and well-being of polio survivors

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, PSA reported 483 members in 51 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* None

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 1

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **Wheels of Hope** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Traverse City (USA) and the PSA, Wheels of Hope raises funds to send to a Rotary-based shop in Jos, Nigeria, where they build and donate hand-crank tricycles, purposely built for the terrain and for polio survivors' capacities. The PSA provides administrative and marketing support for this annual project.
- **\*Handicapped Rehabilitation Center** – In partnership with the Kaduna Rotary Club, District 9125, and an osteopathic hospital, PSA completed the building plans and are now fundraising. The project is still in the developmental stage, but it seeks to improve the mobility of polio survivors and handicapped people from other diseases and accidents.
- **Voice of Polio** – PSA is collecting stories to publish and distribute to Rotarians who are polio survivors and counting how many Rotarians are polio survivors.

### **Notable Collaborations**

**Formal Collaborations:** Wheels of Hope, Post Polio Health International.

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## **Rotarian Action Group for Healthy Pregnancies / Healthy Children (RAG HP/HC)**

**Topic:** improving the health of parents-to-be during the period before pregnancy

### ***Membership***

In 2016-17, RAG HP/HC reported 470 members in 57 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### ***International Service Projects and Activities (\*TRF global grant project)***

*Number of service projects supported:* 6

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **\*Reproductive health education program at secondary schools and hospitals** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Paramaribo Residence (Suriname) and the Rotary Club of Leiden (The Netherlands), the RAG HP/HC worked on a project that provided health education program at secondary schools as well as a healthy pregnancy education for women visiting hospitals and primary health care clinics in Paramaribo, Suriname. The program was carried out through trained midwives and other health care professionals and the RAG initiated and provided professional guidance and coaching.
- **A preventive child health care clinic by Skype** – The RAG worked with the Rotary Club of Lahore-Sharqi (Pakistan) to establish a preventive child health care clinic in the Medicare Trust Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan. The RAG chair brought preventive workers and pediatricians together using its Rotarian and vocational network. The initiative was presented during the RAG's breakout session in Seoul.
- **Starting folic acid weeks before conception instead of in early pregnancy** – In partnership with the Rotary Club of Leiden (The Netherlands), the Dutch drugstore chain Kruidvat, and health insurance company Zilveren Kruis, the RAG worked to create awareness regarding the benefits of use of extra folic acid before and during pregnancy. The project advocated for the usage of folic at least four weeks before the conception to prevent neural tube defects, cleft lips and palate. The project promoted that the folic acid should be placed on another shelf in the drugstore and attention should be asked for complementary preconception care and measures. RAG members initiated the project and started cooperation with the drugstore chain and received help from the insurance company.

### ***Contact Information***

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## **Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS)**

**Topic:** raising awareness and supporting programs, campaigns and projects to address slavery

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, RAGAS reported 269 members in 22 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$27

*5 Year Membership Dues:* US\$65

### **International Service Projects and Activities** (\*TRF global grant project)

*Number of service projects supported:* 19

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF global grant application, creating a plan for monitoring and evaluation, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and requesting subject matter speakers for a meeting/event.

- **\*District 5180 Human Trafficking Project** – Collaborating with various Rotary districts and clubs, RAGAS seeks to bring awareness of slavery to the community in District 5180 and to make the youth, the educators, and the general public aware of the signs of human trafficking. Through Three Strands Global, which has developed an educational program for 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders, a curriculum has been developed that is grade-level appropriate and state-level compliant, providing a holistic view of the reality of human trafficking in California and around the world. This program will be taught and administered in schools in and around the Greater Sacramento area. Through the Voices and Faces Project, the project will conduct a three-month public outreach effort, entitled “The Ugly Truth” and aimed at changing minds, hearts, and public policies on commercial exploitation and human trafficking. The RAG provided technical advice on the project as well as promoted it amongst the Rotary Family.
- **Trafficking Project among schools & a college in Northern Virginia** – In partnership with the Rotary Clubs of West Springfield, Virginia, “Just AskVirginia,” NOVA (Northern Virginia Community College), and the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force, RAGAS will launch an awareness program in middle and high schools and the second largest community college in Northern Virginia, NOVA. The aim of the project is to bring awareness and educate students and their communities about the realities and threats of human trafficking by providing educational materials in interactive and engaging formats. This project will start by targeting 50 public schools and the Northern Virginia Community College, reaching approximately 125,000 people in the Northern Virginia community, and will aid the prevention of human trafficking, which is afflicting the teen and young adult populations.

**Vehicle for Mumbai Trafficking Shelter** – Partnering with the Rotary Clubs of Ipswich Wolsey, Lowestoft South, Croydon South, Swaffham, Newmarket, and Norwich St Edmund, and organizations like YouCanFreeUs, Norwich Friendship Group, and St Fursey’s Church, RAGAS has raised funds so there will no longer be delays or disruptions to the classes organized by YouCanFreeUS for the survivors of sex slavery.

***Contact Information***

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## **Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG)**

**Topic:** providing safe water and sanitation to communities

### **Membership**

In 2016-17, WASRAG reported 1503 members in 80 countries.

*Annual Membership Dues:* US\$25

*Lifetime Membership Dues:* None

### **International Service Projects and Activities**

*Number of service projects supported:* 0

*Type of assistance requested by clubs and districts:* Conducting a community assessment, identifying international partners, incorporating sustainability components, securing funding, advising on a TRF Global Grant application, creating a plan for monitoring, promoting an ongoing/completed project, and subject matter speaker at a meeting or event.

- **The WASRAG Fund** – WASRAG is using \$5,000 in DAF (Donor Advised Funds) to fund the pilot of a new program targeted at assisting Rotary clubs to conduct improved WASH projects through the Rotary Foundation. By reviewing clubs' grant applications before they are submitted to the Foundation, WASRAG will help improve the efficiency of the Global Grant process. The RAG can also point out any issues in the planning stages that might impact the sustainability of the project. WASRAG conceived and is implementing the WASRAG Fund, in addition to raising funds for future awards.
- **WASRAG Ambassador Program** – In partnership with WASH experts around the world, WASRAG has launched the WASRAG Ambassador program, which will identify and appoint a qualified leader (Ambassador) in each Rotary district. Ambassadors are responsible for supporting and promoting the WASH goals of WASRAG and The Rotary Foundation at the district level. There are currently 37 Ambassadors with more being added monthly.
- **WASRAG Professional Services Team** – Many of the foremost WASH experts in the Rotary world are WASRAG members. Under the leadership of Chair Emeritus Ron Denham, a number of these authorities have come together to assist Rotarians in a number of ways. They have supported clubs and districts, on demand, to prepare robust applications for Global Grants and other requests for funding; evaluated optional solutions for WASH projects and programs; supported clubs and districts in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating projects and programs; provided their expertise and guidance on any aspect of WASH programs; assisted in collating "Lessons Learned" on all aspects of WASH projects; guided clubs and districts on the implications of sustainability to ensure that Rotary projects meet the requirements of the SDGs; and created an interactive forum to discuss and recommend appropriate processes.

### **Notable Collaborations**

**Formal Collaborations:** BREW (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide)

### **Contact Information**

**Chair:** Bill Boyd (New Zealand)

**Rotarian Action Groups**

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