

World Community / International Service

Rotary International has established five “Avenues of Service”

Community Service
Club Service
Youth Service
Vocational Service
International Service



As with all Avenues of Service Rotary International has asked clubs to concentrate on Six Areas of Focus:

Peace/Conflict Resolution
Water & Sanitation
Disease Prevention & Treatment
Maternal & Child Health
Basic Education & Literacy
Economic & Community Development

Background - Sunrise Rotary, Vero Beach has a vibrant and active International Committee, led by Rick Root. Since 2011, our club has participated in fostering most of the Six Areas of Focus in the state of Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic. Working with the local Puerto Plata Rotary Club and Community Corps, these activities include:

- Funding bio-sand water filters
- Funding four aqueduct systems to provide an adequate water supply to remote villages
- Providing Spanish and Creole language books to local schools
- Funding an innovative literacy program known as “My Treasure is Hidden in Books” designed to foster a love of reading.
- Funding scholarships for a group of young women known as New Horizons. These young women aspire to break out of the male dominated cultural norms to pursue professional careers.



- For the last three years, Dr. Root has led a dental team to provide basic dental and oral health care to residents of remote villages who have never had access to dental care.
- Our club purchased a 65-passenger school bus to provide safe transportation of children to distant schools and to provide essential errands for a remote village.
- We have provided other services and funding that are usually incremental to our annual trips to the Dominican Republic.

Travel – The club makes an annual trip, (sometimes more often) to the Dominican Republic to assess the success and sustainability of the projects we have funded. Travel and subsistence costs are borne by member individuals. Funding for the projects comes from our Club Foundation, and some additional funding comes from District Matching grants. Much of this funding is matched by another non-profit organization in the Dominican Republic, Project Las Americas.

Looking Forward – The International Committee has made an exploratory trip to the village of Boquette in Panama, to look into working with the local Rotary Club there on projects to help the indigenous population with water and sanitation and basic literacy. In addition the committee will be examining the possibility of a project in Cat Cay, Bahamas.



Committee Members:

Rick Root (Chair)
Steve Brewer
Buck Vocelle
Jane Burton
Larry Labadie
Pam O'Donnell
Tom Lowther
Christine Steinkrauss
Marty Lewis
Brian Carman
Robin Pelensky

Please feel free to contact these members for any questions or more information.

