



Spectrum



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Rotary and Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) partner to train Community Mediators

Posted on November 17, 2022 by Lina Stahl, Mediators Beyond Borders International



ARCoM graduates Barbara Miller (left) and Odwa Ndesi lead a mediation session for community members.

In 2019, a small group of visionaries from four Rotary districts in Zone 22, Southern Africa, approached service partner Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) to build social cohesion throughout the region by training a cohort of 100 community mediators to celebrate the Rotary's Centennial on the African continent.



ARCoM graduates Kate Ferguson, Kevin Rack, and Micheal Osatuyi plan to offer restorative mediation circles for the Muiz Community Kitchen in Cape Town and to carry out conflict mapping processes with the Learning Seeds Network in the coming year.

A steering committee of representatives from the four districts comprised of diverse ethnic and professional backgrounds was

created to co-design the program with MBBI. The project became Zone 22's Community Mediation (ARCoM) training. The training program includes two weeks of daily four-hour online training, followed by monthly four-hour coaching calls to support participants who are working to complete a commitment of 100 hours of mediation towards a community-based service project. The final week of the program, at the end of a calendar year, is facilitated entirely by the participants, who present to each other their service projects.

Great care was taken to ensure the greatest opportunity for diversity and inclusion. To ensure viability and long-term sustainability, the program was designed to have a cohort ratio of 70% community leaders outside Rotary and 30% Rotary member participants. Drawing on a scoring system, the team ensured that we had gender balance and leaders from every country's linguistic and cultural group in Southern Africa. Participant service projects varied from youth and community work to workshops on race and gender-based violence, natural resource governance, and indigenous knowledge.

Upon completion of the training, the ARCoM community mediators stay connected through an online platform, and Rotary club members and community members have reached out for peacebuilding interventions on various social issues.



ARCoM Trainer Siham Boda (left) with ARCoM graduates Odwa Ndesi (middle) and Barbara Miller, who host a series of cross-racial community dialogues to explore the impact of racial and divided pasts on relationships in places of worship in Cape Town.

The program's most recent graduates described it as "nothing but exceptional" and praised the expert facilitation on a range of

We meet calendar months' 2nd & 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

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topics, tools, and methodologies, all of which provided an abundance of opportunities to learn and practice new peacebuilding skills. Another graduate felt the program was a catapult to another hemisphere of professionalism. Given the intensity of the topics, which at times could be exhausting and overwhelming, the participants emphasized that energy, maturity, commitment to cause and persistence were essential for success in the program.

Participant MacDonald Rammala shared, "We create multidisciplinary teams with the aim of exchanging knowledge and expertise on various issues." Cohort peer Eugene De Witt added, "We stay connected with our teams and groups to give feedback to each other on a weekly or monthly basis."

Two more cohorts completed the program in October 2022, with plans for a new cohort to begin in Spring 2023. MBBi is partnering with the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University in Uganda to offer the ARCoM program and hopes to expand it throughout the region. To participate in a program cohort, or to explore partnering your club, district, or Rotary affiliate with MBBi's ARCoM program, contact ripartner@mediatorsbeyondborders.org.

Rotary Peace Fellowships impact thousands

Posted on November 17, 2022 by Alejandra Rueda, 2008-10 Rotary Peace Fellow, University of Berkeley



Alejandra Rueda

When I became a Rotary Peace Fellow in 2008, the presidential theme was Make Dreams Real. My dream was to support the Colombian countryside by improving the quality of life of farmers and, in turn, to achieve a more responsible use of nature and the ecosystem services it provides. I also wanted to help resolve the social conflict that Colombia has experienced.

Or at the very least, to contribute to the development of projects that would spur economic and social recovery in areas that sorely needed it.

I was already envisioning a new professional focus in my life, through my pursuit of a master's degree in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley. But coupled with the Peace and Conflict Resolution program, I was touched by a totally exciting new topic: sustainability. I knew that sustainable practices would be needed across the globe. As a peace fellow, I learned valuable tools to have an impact and make a difference in diverse communities.

During the last decade, I have been able to interact with hundreds, if not thousands, of farmers in Latin America. Nearly 4,500 farmers have been impacted by the programs that we, at NES Naturaleza, have developed. The Rotary Peace Fellowship started a chain of positive impacts. A chain of light which we have been able to continue and bring to the farmers.

Rural people have gained access to knowledge and been trained in sustainable practices in very remote areas of Latin America. Some of them have already been certified in existing sustainable standards. Unmistakably, without the Rotary Peace Centers program, this would not have been possible.

The knowledge I gained, I was able to spread to thousands of people. Farmers who in turn conveyed it to their relatives. Entire families were impacted. Thanks to Rotary and my experience

through the peace fellows program, many of these farmers are now entrepreneurs. Those who did not know very well their markets or their potential, now have a completely different vision, not only of their farm as a business, but also of the surrounding natural ecosystems that complement them. Nevertheless, there is still work to do.

This year's presidential theme, Imagine Rotary, returns us to a spirit of dreaming and doing. We are being invited to act for a better and more sustainable world where the pillars of sustainability become the philosophy that drives each one of us. Our planet can no longer wait. We have seen it, we have heard it, and we have lived it. We know the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. But in our daily lives, we have not yet appropriated them. It would be great to go back to basics. By knowing the definitions of social, environmental, and economic responsibility, we will clearly understand what they entail.

Imagine Rotary is imagining our world because Rotary is in every corner of our planet. Rotary embodies thousands of people always committed to giving something more. Thousands of people who, through Rotary Foundation programs like the Rotary Peace Fellowship, have positively impacted the lives of thousands of others. It is this chain of positive impacts that shines brightly every time someone in the community dreams and acts and connects to someone else.

For this and much more, I thank you Rotary.

About the author: After completing a Rotary Peace Fellowship, Alejandra Rueda founded NES Naturaleza in 2011, a social and environmental enterprise focused on sustainable agriculture for rural communities in Colombia and other Latin American countries.

Colorado Rotary members show comfort and care

Posted on November 15, 2022 by Ashley Kasprzak, president of the Rotary Club of Twin Peaks, Colorado, USA

Three Rotary members stand beside an Alpaca as they visit a fourth woman in bed with terminal illness



Rotary club members (standing from left) Laurell Richey, Ashley Kasprzak, and Charlene Santala Gearing visit Kate Gordon (in bed) with Richey's pet alpaca.

Rotary members in Colorado showed what it means to create a welcoming club experience of comfort and care, one of Rotary International President Jennifer Jones' initiatives for this Rotary year.

I was a small part of an effort to help longtime Rotary member Dennis Gordon and his wife, Kate, this spring. Every spring and summer since they had married 46 years ago, Kate had planted and cultivated brightly-colored gardens. But this year, she was in bed with a terminal illness which prevented her from doing so.

Dennis (Denny as he prefers to be called) is amazingly positive and agile even though he is a triple amputee. As a Vietnam veteran, a successful accountant, and a competitive cyclist, not much stops Denny. But gardening is one of the rare things he doesn't do. He shared with his friend and fellow Rotary member Charlene Santala Gearing that it would be wonderful if the club could help brighten up Kate's view.

Charlene asked Denny if it would be ok for the club to get things looking nice for Mother's Day, when his children and grandchildren would be visiting. Charlene then contacted members to help. Kirsten Pellicer donated flowers, and Beth Shipp a truck. Half a dozen members and friends cleaned up flower beds and planted.

Kate watched from her bed as we gardened. At the end of three hours, shrubs and trees were trimmed. Flowers were planted and everything was spiffed up. One member, Laurell Richey, even brought her pet alpaca, Dobby, who thanks to double doors, was able to come inside and say hello.

Everyone shared smiles, laughter, and a bit of joy. Rotary volunteers were able to bring some moments of distraction and levity to Kate and Denny during a sad time. Kate passed away on 18 May. Denny faithfully continues to attend Twin Peaks Rotary Club every Thursday at noon in Longmont, Colorado, USA.

Spread the word about how toilets save lives and our groundwater systems

Posted on November 19, 2022 by Claudia Urbano, Service and Engagement Senior Communications Specialist at Rotary International



Do you have access to a clean and safe toilet? Not everybody is so fortunate. Millions of people relieve themselves in the open air because they do not have access to a toilet, which spreads disease and kills thousands of children every day. World Toilet Day is held every year on 19 November to celebrate toilets, raise awareness of the billions of people living without access to safely managed sanitation, and take action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. This crisis profoundly impacts public health, educational attainment, economic productivity, and environmental integrity. For women and girls, the indignity, inconvenience, and danger of not having access to safely managed sanitation is a barrier to their full participation in society.



Rotary members work to bring sustainable sanitation systems and hygiene management training to communities worldwide. These are some of the ways they do it:

- In El Salvador, the Rotary Club of San Salvador Maquilishuat organized a project titled TOILETON. It provided three public schools in El Salvador with appropriate toilets and sinks for each gender as well as an appropriate solid waste management system. Hygiene management training for teachers, students, and community members was a critical project component. *The aim of TOILETON is to provide students, in three public schools in El Salvador, with appropriate toilets and sinks for each gender as well as an appropriate solid waste management system. Additionally, the project will provide training on WASH-related topics to teachers, students, and members of the community. 1,388 students (more than 50% women) will benefit directly.*



Educational and Promotional Aids for School Communities

- In 2019, the Tokyo-Higashi-Edogawa Rotary Club in Japan partnered with the Akha Tribe in Thailand to equip the local community with water purification systems and water management best practices. Since 2020, the Haramachi Chuo Rotary Club in Japan continues to partner with the Akha community on projects that will provide access to clean and safe toilets and strengthen hygiene practices.
- In Ghana, the Rotary Clubs of Cape Coast-Central, Obuasi, and the E-Club of District 7040-Premier (Canada) are partnering to provide boreholes and Microflush toilets in the Obuasi area, which will impact more than 25,527 lives.
- In the Philippines, the Rotary Club of Intramuros-Manila, in collaboration with their international partner, the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay (Australia), installed toilets in the Aeta communities of Flora, Kawayan, and Babo. The new facilities were coupled with community workshops on hygiene practices.



Vere Gray (with yellow ribbon), a member of the Rotary Club of Batemans Bay, Australia, gets a tour of the project site by Floren Naguit (light blue shirt), Rotary Club of Intramuros-Manila, during a dedication ceremony in early 2020.

This year, World Toilet Day focuses on the impact of the sanitation crisis on groundwater. Inadequate sanitation systems spread human waste into rivers, lakes, and soil, polluting the water resources under our feet. However, this problem seems to be invisible because it happens underground, in the poorest and most marginalized communities. Groundwater is our most abundant source of freshwater. It supports our drinking water supplies, sanitation systems, farming, industry, and ecosystems. We must protect natural water sources from pollution and use them sustainably, balancing the needs of people and the planet. **The central message of World Toilet Day 2022 is that safely managed sanitation protects groundwater from human waste pollution.** Encourage your club and district to get involved by:

1. Organizing a water, sanitation, or hygiene (WASH) project in your community. Collaborate with the Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group (WASH RAG) for help conducting a community assessment to determine local WASH priorities.
2. Reading the Guide to WASH in Schools to learn about creating healthier communities while improving school enrollment and attendance by bringing sanitation and hygiene services to schools.
3. Learning about best practices for WASH projects through Rotary's partnership with USAID.
4. Supporting an existing WASH project. View a list of projects seeking support on the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group website.
5. Sharing about projects you have already implemented on Rotary Showcase.



Brief outline of the Global Grant 1991152

Purpose: 'Fight against Anemia in Women'

Objectives: Treat women of Anemia by screening and treatment and prevent by educating them

Title: 'Matri-Raksha' - protection of mothers

Scope of work: Provide screening camps, minor and major surgeries, medicines, awareness training, healthcare professional training and providing diagnostic equipment at community health centers

Coverage: Both districts of 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India
Sponsors: Rotary clubs of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata of District 3291, India and Nidau-Biel, Biel-Bienne, Biel-Butteneberg of District 1990, Switzerland:

Grant Partners: Rotary Foundation India, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International,

Associates: Related Government and civic bodies, NGO's

The 9th Matri Raksha Anemia screening and treatment camp will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at Perona Mohila Songha Bhavan, Sehagori, Joypur, Howrah in association with RCC Bhatoghari Janakalyan Samity, Amta with support of local Gram Panchayet (Rural Administration)

QUOTE

One of the greatest gifts adults can give - to their offspring and to their society - is to read to children. Carl Sagan

UNWIND

Are your legs tired? Because you been running through my mind ALL day long.

Reply: Yes, they are. I've been running away from you

Anniversaries of members in Nov 2022

Spouse Sapna & Sanjay Agarwal on November 19, 2022

President Archana & Mukesh Goyal on November 21, 2022

Past Prez Dr Aruna & Rt Dr Om Tantia on November 27, 2022

Spouse Sushila & VP Indra Kumar Bagri on November 30, 2022

November is Rotary Foundation month

TAILPIECE



Physicians and other health-care professionals gathered to protest inside COP27 on Thursday, November 17, 2022. Their message: the climate crisis is a health crisis. (Flora Graham for Nature).