Rotary Club of Newport, Oregon

International Service Report, August 19 2015

The Rotary Club of Newport recently received final acceptance for their Matching Grant MG 79398 to provide computers to an orphanage in Peru. Our club has previously participated in a matching grant to provide a bakery oven in the same orphanage.

In 2013-14, our club submitted and was approved for one of only 10 grants in D5110 under the new grant model. We were funded in July of 2014. GG1414726 Kokwa Island in Kenya

Total Project Cost	$41,400
Newport	$ 3,750
Eugene Metropolitan	$ 3,000
Bandon-by-the-Sea	$ 250
Florence	$ 500
Rotary Club of Meru	$ 100
District 5110	$15,000
World Fund (RI)	$18,800

We became aware of this project through contact with a D5110 sponsored Peace Scholar from Kenya who now works in the Molo area promoting peaceful elections. Our host club is the Rotary club of Meru, Kenya.

There are several small rural communities on Kokwa Island at Lake Baringo consisting of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled to this area after violence in 2007 forced them out of their previous homes. They lost everything including livestock, household items and even the school they had built. The population is from the Ilchamus community which is a sub-tribe of the Maasai. They have worked hard to rebuild their lives with support from Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife (FKSW) and a Kenya organization, Network for Ecofarming in Africa (NECOFA). The following project will move the communities towards economic independence and self-reliance.

This Project is comprised of several parts:

- Fence and tree planting at an elementary school
- Development of a school and community library at an elementary school
- Startup of a dairy goat milk cooperative
- Ambulance boat for dispensary
- Tourist toilets and huts for craft sales
- Water purification system
- Upgrade the water system at a community health center in Meru, Kenya (part of our international partner's large scale project)

The activities to accomplish the various pieces of the Kokwa Island project and are targeted to be completed over a two to three year period divided in quarter years. During the first two quarters since funding community planning meetings were held for the school, dairy goat, tourist and water projects. This process establishes community committees to implement and manage the projects. Work was begun before Christmas to partition the area for the library at the elementary school. Solar powered electricity was installed and some equipment put in place. Initial training in computer use was conducted for teachers at the school.

After resolving some land use issues, the next phase was the purchase and planting of tree seedlings and installation of fencing at the elementary school, purchase of library shelving and training for the community group responsible for the dairy goats in animal husbandry.

Water tanks have been purchased and installed at the community health center near Meru. Receipts for the tanks and installation materials have been received and approved. Although the Meru club continues with modernization of the health center water system, as it relates to the Rotary Club of Newport's global grant, this portion is complete.

Two members from the Rotary Club of Newport and two from the Rotary Club of Eugene Metro just returned from an 11 day visit to Kenya to meet with Samuel Muhunyu from NECOFA (Network for Eco Farming in Africa), our local NGO and community leaders on Kokwa Island. We participated in meetings with the various committees organized and empowered to manage the various portions of the project. We inspected the installation of the fence at the nursery school. Treated wood fence poles are alternated with rooted Ilcheniobuor trees which are indigenous to the region. These will provide additional shade for the children at the school.

Next we visited the Kokwa primary school where the partitioning of a classroom to provide a library and computer lab is complete. Reference books have been purchased and donations from other schools are being received. At our meeting with the school committee revealed that students are already doing better in class because of access to books in the library!

Newport High School's Interact Club chose an international project in support of the Rotary club's project in Kenya. Club President, **Larissa Williams**, organized the production of "Days for Girls" sanitary kits to distribute to school girls in Kenya so they would not miss a week of school each month. Our Rotary club held a fundraising Kenya dinner to help fund the students' journey to Kenya. Larissa and another Interact member, **Danny Romero**, travelled with four Rotarians to see the Rotary project there and distribute the sanitary kits.

Although not part of the original project, the presence of Newport optician, *Rick Letherer* led to the organization of impromptu eye clinics at three different schools. Larissa and Danny were vital to the operation of these clinics. In gratitude for our support of their community, school children and local residents performed traditional dances and songs and invited us to participate.

The journey to and from Africa was long and tiring; the distances traveled to and from Nairobi lengthy and uncomfortable, often on unpaved roads. Apart from the journey two and from Africa, we spent four days traveling to and from Kokwa Island and Nairobi. After three hard days of work at the schools, Larissa and Danny enjoyed a two day safari on the Maasai Mara and saw many species of animals and birds. Besides participating in a worthwhile humanitarian project, the graduates had a life changing experience.

Larissa Williams will attend the University of Oregon and study business administration. She plans a career in international business. Danny Romero will attend Lane Community College to study mechanical engineering. Danny wants to start an incubator non-profit company where engineering designers can invent products that will help disadvantaged people worldwide.

Respectfully submitted

Claire Little
International Service Committee