

Nepal Earthquake Relief Donor Advised Fund

A group of Rotary Senior Leaders including Past RI Directors Bob Stuart, Michael Colasurdo and Don Mebus have opened a Rotary Donor Advised Fund account to support LONG TERM RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION in Nepal. Robert Rose, a Rotarian from Seattle, WA, with extensive experience working with Rotarians in Nepal is also acting as an advisor to this account.

We encourage Rotarians, Clubs and Districts to donate to this account as it will get needed funds where they will do the most good. We have endorsed District 3292's project to build 1000 new homes (at approximately \$4,500US each) and to equip 140 schools being built by the FNCCI (Nepal Chamber) (at approximately \$20,000US construction cost and \$20,000US equipment cost). In November 2015, 3 members of the DAF visited Nepal and investigated the viability of the projects and its leadership. We participated in handing over a new community hall and saw 47 new homes close to completion, while breaking ground for over 57 more new homes. Work is underway for our DAF's first global grant.

Our experience with Donor Advised Fund (DAF) accounts set up after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans (USA) and the 2010 Earthquake in Haiti taught us valuable lessons, including:

- Needs assessment by LOCAL Rotarians is imperative. No matter how much experience one may have had in a foreign land, we do not know what local folks need as well as local Rotarians do.
- Buying locally sourced materials stimulates the local economy rather than disturbing it, making local sourcing preferable even when it may be DRAMATICALLY more expensive.
- Project oversight by a task force of local Rotarian Leaders gives important credibility and accountability by:
 - Assuring donors that local Rotarians who have a stake in the game will identify needs and prioritize projects.
 - Making sure the funds are utilized correctly because it is their community and their reputations on the line.
 - Lending gravitas to the projects, since local Rotary leaders are leaders in their community and in their country.
 - Accessing local networks--they know who to call on to get the job done.
- The local task force may recommend to the DAF account advisors what projects are needed in what order. Prioritizing projects gives focus to the process.
- A DAF account can support construction projects; Global Grants may then be used to furnish the building or place needed equipment into the building.