



Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group (HEWRAG)

Rotarians Working Together To Improve World Health

Volume 4, Issue 2 – May 2018

www.hewrag.org hewrag@gmail.com facebook.com/HEWRAG

Newsletter Editors and HEWRAG Co-Chairs: Jane Little and Sheila Hurst

Greetings!

As the 2017-2018 Rotary year comes to an end, we extend appreciation to colleagues, partners, collaborators, and all members who have contributed to the activities and accomplishments of another productive year. HEWRAG participated in Presidential Peacebuilding Conferences in Coventry and Vancouver and continues to make presentations at District Conferences, Assemblies, and other meetings worldwide. International projects took HEWRAG leaders to Africa, Asia, Europe, and Mexico. The *HEWRAG Cervical Cancer Guide for Rotarians* is in print, three Newsletters have been produced, new marketing materials were created, and membership is increasing.

In 2018-2019, HEWRAG will participate in a number of events, exhibits, and presentations and welcomes inquiries about arranging program speakers. This fall, HEWRAG will be at Rotary Family Health Days in South Africa and at the Ecuador Project Fair. Preliminary arrangements are being made for visits to Sri Lanka and Kenya in the spring, and other locations and projects are under consideration.

Everyone attending the Toronto Convention is invited to the HEWRAG Events described below.



HEWRAG Events at the International Convention in Toronto

Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 25: 14:30 - 16:00 Room 809

HEWRAG's activities for our three Areas of Emphasis and affiliated programs will be highlighted with updates and plans for Cervical Cancer Prevention, Medical/Dental Missions and Health Fairs, Oral Health and Nutrition, Autism, and The Leprosy Project.

(continued on the next page)

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Come to this open meeting to learn how you can be involved and how HEWRAG can support you, your club, and your district.

Cervical Cancer Prevention Special Session

Tuesday, June 26: 08:30 - 10:00 Room 203B

This Special Session will highlight successful projects that focus on various strategies for preventing cervical cancer. Presenters will discuss building awareness, working with local and national governments, vaccinations, partnerships, and funding possibilities in a variety of communities and settings including Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Kenya, and Senegal. All interested Rotarians and guests from every district, country, and club are encouraged to participate and will receive a copy of the new *HEWRAG Guide to Cervical Cancer Prevention*. **NOTE:** Panelists include Dr. Edward Partridge and Kristen Solt. Please also see their articles about cervical cancer prevention in this Newsletter.

The Leprosy Project Special Session

Wednesday, June 27: 08:30 - 10:00 Room 809

HEWRAG Co-Chair Jane Little and Tony Leung, Chairman of the Board of The Leprosy Project and Past President of the Rotary Club of Quarry Bay II in Hong Kong, will lead a discussion that will include conditions, strategies, funding, and ways to support The Leprosy Project in Liangshan, China. Come to learn about leprosy and the challenges endured by people with this disease. Be part of the planning process for the seven new leprosy villages in China. We invite you to participate with us in seeing how we can support this project.

HEWRAG Booth #210 in the House Of Friendship

Volunteers are invited to help to staff

Saturday 23 June through

Tuesday 26 June from 09:00 – 18:00 and

Wednesday 27 June from 09:00 – 16:00

(Except closed during plenary sessions)

What a great way to meet Rotarians from all over the world while helping in HEWRAG Booth #210. Look at the times when the booth is open, and email rotaryjane@yahoo.com with the day or days you can help.

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!

With Warm Regards,

Jane Little and Sheila Hurst

Co-Chairs, Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group (HEWRAG)

 Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group in Toronto Rotarians Working Together To Improve World Health Facebook.com/hewrag hewrag@gmail.com hewrag.org			
	DATE	HEWRAG EVENT	TIME/ PLACE
	23 – 27 June	HEWRAG Booth 210	House of Friendship
	Monday, 25 June	HEWRAG Annual General Meeting	14:30 – 16:00 Room 809
	Tuesday, 26 June	HEWRAG Cervical Cancer Prevention Special Session	8:30 - 10:00 Room 203B
	Wednesday 27 June	The Leprosy Project Special Session	8:30 – 10:00 Room 809

The Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group operates in accordance with Rotary International policy but is not an agency of or controlled by Rotary International.



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FEATURED ARTICLES

Cliff Dochterman, Rotary International President, 1992-93

Rotary Club of Moraga, District 5160, California, USA

Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Afghanistan

Stephen R. Brown, Past Trustee, The Rotary Foundation

Past District Governor, District 5340

Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, District 5340, California, USA

Fary Moini, Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, District 5340, CA, USA

Member of San Diego / Jalalabad Sister Cities Foundation

Eliminating Cervical Cancer is Possible

Dr. Edward E. Partridge, Director Emeritus & Professor Emeritus

University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center

Medical Director, UABHS Cancer Community Network

Chief Medical Officer, Guideway Care, Inc.

Past President, American Cancer Society

Rotary Club of Birmingham, District 6860, Alabama, USA

Dr. Isabel Scarinci, Associate Director, Globalization and Cancer Disparities

University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center

HEWRAG and The American Cancer Society: Cancer Eliminators

Kristen Solt, American Cancer Society, Managing Director, Global Alliances

In Kilimanjaro's Shadow: Improving Health and Opportunities Through Rotary

Walt Schafer, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Sociology

California State University, Chico, California, USA

Past President, Rotary Club of Chico, District 5160, California, USA

Autism: Sharing Our Action: Serve and share generates value and improves the quality of life for more beneficiaries (English Version)

and

Autismo: Compartiendo Nuestra Accion: Servir y compartir. genera valor y mejora calidad de vida a más beneficiaries (Spanish Version)

Miguel A. Martinez Pereyra

Past District Governor, District 4895, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Rotary Club of Montserrat

HEWRAG Director

Mentor of Endowment/Major Gift Adviser –TRF Zone 23 B 2017-2019

The Ebola Orphans of Sierra Leona

Dianne Wilson, President, Rotary Club of Moraga, District 5160, California, USA



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Cliff Dochterman, Rotary International President, 1992-93

Rotary Club of Moraga, District 5160, California, USA

A couple of recent experiences motivated me to share my thoughts with the Action Group. My small Rotary Club recently completed a \$350,000 playground where children with special needs could play side by side with siblings and other youngsters. Twenty-five pieces of specially built equipment attracts kids of all abilities to enjoy their playtime together in a safe and enjoyable facility. The new 6000 square feet area of safety swings, merry-go-rounds, sand boxes, musical toys, and creative play is a beehive of children's fun and pleasure.



Cliff Dochterman,
Rotary International President, 1992-93

The second Rotary project our Club has undertaken is building a children's home in Sierra Leone, Africa for youngsters who were orphaned by the death of their parents from the recent "ebola virus" epidemic. Their needs for adequate shelter, healthy food and educational opportunities are almost unlimited.

What do these two projects have to do with "Health Education and Wellness" you might ask? In both activities, we easily see how the special needs of a child or the impact of a deadly virus may affect whole families or communities, not merely a single individual or a patient needing personal medical care. Youngsters with special needs require personal attention from parents, teachers, siblings and other children. In a similar way, the illness of an individual adult will frequently create serious consequences for family members, care-takers, children and neighborhoods.

That is why I commend all the members of the Rotarian Action Group, who are spreading such a wide variety of educational materials and health information through those communities of the world where so little health knowledge is readily available. You are raising awareness of cancer screening and treatment, immunizations, personal care for good health, clean water and food, and so many other activities which contribute to improved wellness. In a very short time, you are "putting the action" into a valuable Rotarian Action Group.



1992-93 Presidential Theme

*If you want to be happy for an hour – take a nap
If you want to be happy for a day – go fishing
If you want to be happy for a month – get married
If you want to be happy for a year – inherit a fortune
But if you want to be happy for a lifetime – help others.*

---Chinese Proverb



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Cervical Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment in Afghanistan

Stephen R. Brown, Past Trustee, The Rotary Foundation

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Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, District 5340, California, USA

Fary Moini,

Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, District 5340, California, USA

Member of San Diego / Jalalabad Sister Cities Foundation



Medical Training Team at the Rotary Zone Institute in Adana, Turkey

In November of 2015 we prepared a global grant sending a medical vocational training team to Adana, Turkey for training on donated Philips fetal monitors. The team was composed of two groups; one included four Afghan Ob/Gyns and the Afghan technician. The other included individuals from Philips providing the training and myself as team leader.

In preparing the global grant application relating to the monitors, we learned of a small economical scope developed by an Israeli

company--Mobile ODT. The scope works with a smartphone to detect cervical cancer. Remote diagnosis is available by sending secure images through the Internet. In the grant budget we included funding for the purchase of two scopes.



Colposcopy with smart phone by Mobile ODT

The training on the monitors took place at the Medical University of Adana in partnership with Past District Governor Dr. Canan and Dr. Aysun from the Rotary Club of Guney, Turkey. While the training was taking place in Adana, I traveled from there to Tel Aviv and was trained by the Mobile ODT team (Mr. Alon Gold) for use of the scopes. I then returned to Adana to train the Afghan doctors.



Mr. Alon Gold training Fary Moini on the use of the scope

In researching information about the scopes, we learned that Dr. Bruce Kahn, an OB/GYN in San Diego is conducting clinical trials with the scopes. Following the training, we have enlisted the support of Dr. Khan to provide training to the Afghan team through Skype calls.

The question we then asked, what will happen after the diagnosis of cervical cancer?
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Through Mobile ODT we were introduced to WiSap, a company in Germany from whom we purchased a Cold Coagulator that can burn the cancer cells if detected in the early stages. Therefore, we purchased two cold coagulators for the treatment and sent them to Jalalabad. Since then, 432 women have been screened by our team, and 137 women have been treated for cervical cancer.

We decided to expand the program. We have received the approval of a second global grant to expand the cervical cancer screening and treatment program by providing training at a medical facility in Kabul. Working with the Afghan Ministry of Public Health we have identified hospitals and doctors to bring this project to five Afghan cities: two hospitals in Kabul, and one in Herat, Badakhshan, Kandahar, and Balkh.



Cervical cancer screening and treatment in 5 cities in Afghanistan



Physicians with Fary Moini in front of Adana University Medical Hospital

Twelve more female OB/GYNs will be trained by our already trained Jalalabad doctors. These trained Jalalabad OB/GYNs have already trained many of their local medical professionals on these devices. The new grant also provides funding for scopes and cold coagulators for the six hospitals represented. This program will be sustainable because these newly trained doctors will have the ability to go back to their own cities and train their staff at their own hospitals on use of these devices.

People from the five countries – The United States of America, Turkey, Germany, Israel, and Afghanistan - got together to help women in Afghanistan in spite of all the political differences that exist in their cultures and governments.

That is what Rotary is all about ...building bridges to connect continents. Rotary Does Make a Difference.

For more information: please email
farymoini@gmail.com or StephenRbrown@att.net

And visit

http://www.ljgtrotaryclubfoundation.org/uploads/2/2/1/0/22104606/sucessful_afghan_birt_hs_screening_afghan_women_final_pdf.pdf



People from 5 countries came together to help women in Afghanistan



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Eliminating Cervical Cancer is Possible

Dr. Edward E. Partridge

Director Emeritus & Professor Emeritus
University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center
Medical Director, UABHS Cancer Community Network
Chief Medical Officer, Guideway Care, Inc.
Past President, American Cancer Society
Rotary Club of Birmingham, District 6860, Alabama, USA
and

Dr. Isabel Scarinci

Associate Director, Globalization and Cancer Disparities,
University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Rotary Clubs of Birmingham (Alabama, USA)) and Colombo, Sri Lanka have a long standing collaboration establishing a Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Clinic in Colombo, Sri Lanka, open to the public.



Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Clinic - Colombo, Sri Lanka

The two Rotary clubs, District 3220, the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham have discussed how to help Sri Lanka become the first country to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem, as cervical cancer is preventable through age appropriate HPV vaccinations and screening. The Ministry of Health has committed to HPV vaccinations of each 10-year-old cohort for the next 10 years and to screen the 35 and 45-year-old cohorts, having a major impact on cervical cancer deaths in future years.

Dr. Isabel Scarinci, Associate Director of Globalization and Cancer at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, was engaged by Rotarian Dr. Ed Partridge, former Director of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Comprehensive Cancer Center and currently representing the Rotary Club of Birmingham.



Dr. Isabel Scarinci

As a polio survivor, Scarinci has witnessed firsthand the ability of Rotary International to serve as a champion to motivate communities around the polio vaccine worldwide. “If we look to PolioPlus as an example, it was not just the vaccine that eliminated polio, it was the social mobilization,” Scarinci said. “The same thing can be done with cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers, if the scientific, public, and private sectors can combine efforts and expertise.”

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“Successful progress reports from the Rotary clubs’ breast cancer early detection project – along with some strong indicators from the Sri Lankan population itself - partially inspired Ed Partridge’s suggestion to tackle cervical cancer in Sri Lanka,” said Susan Jackson, executive director of the Rotary Club of Birmingham. “Ed’s passion in leading the Rotary Cervical Cancer Project – Sri Lanka is more than matched by Isabel’s, whose knowledge, experience, and energy are critical to the training and the education that are central to the mission of the project.”



Dr. Ed Partridge describes the Rotary Cervical Cancer Project - Sri Lanka

Recently, representatives from each of the collaborative partners met in Sri Lanka to unveil the plan.

Vision: Eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem

Mission: Decrease morbidity and mortality through facilitation of prevention, screening, early detection, and social awareness.

The team from the U.S., utilizing the experience of the Rotary Club of Birmingham and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will assist with social mobilization, education, and awareness strategies, and the development and implementation of specific culturally-relevant strategies to reach women who are not responsive to broader efforts. Additionally, Umesh Gautam, CEO of Lanka Ashok Leyland PLC, has committed two mobile buses, including build-out, drivers, and maintenance.



An early billboard advertising the new Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Center in Colombo, Sri Lanka

“Together, significant progress has been made toward a comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control plan in Sri Lanka, and implementation steps are underway to be the first country to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem,” Scarinci said. “And, this is not only exciting but promising for other countries to emulate.”

For further information: please email susan@birminghamrotary.org, and visit <http://www.birminghamrotary.org>

Editor's Notes: *The Rotary Club of Birmingham, founded on February 6, 1913, became Club 56 with 32 members and 5 officers. At present the Club has 646 members, making it the largest in the world. The Rotary Club of Colombo was the 89th Club in the world, established in February 1929 in Colombo, Ceylon, later named Sri Lanka. The Club's current membership is about 125.*

Dr. Edward Partridge will speak at the Cervical Cancer Special Session May 26.



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HEWRAG and The American Cancer Society: Cancer Eliminators

Kristen Solt, American Cancer Society, Managing Director, Global Alliances

There is one way to **prevent** cervical cancer – and five other cancers- from ever occurring. That cancer prevention tool is the HPV vaccine, and increasing HPV vaccination rates is the main way to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer in the world. The HPV vaccine – the human papillomavirus vaccine – can prevent the infections that cause 90% of a group of six cancers. This vaccine is a powerful, proven, safe and effective **cancer prevention tool**.

Yet not enough girls and boys are receiving the vaccination, and there is still stigma and misinformation about the vaccine. HEWRAG and Rotarians, working together with the American Cancer Society, can change this worldwide.

This is why the American Cancer Society is investing in a long-term plan to increase HPV vaccination rates in the US and in countries where the HPV related cancer burden is greatest. Vaccinating more children around the globe gives us an opportunity to do something unprecedented – eliminate certain types of cancer –starting with cervical cancer.

Success won't be easy, but it rarely is. It's going to take a large and coordinated effort to get the word out that HPV vaccination is safe and prevents cancer. The ACS believes HEWRAG's attention to cervical cancer and Rotary's monumental success in polio eradication can play a pivotal role in this effort. The polio model has been proven to work and the same can be achieved with the HPV vaccine.

Globally, we continue to champion the work of organizations that focus on the important work of cervical cancer early detection through screening. But we're laser- focused on getting to the heart of the issue, and that's *preventing cervical cancer before it starts*.

Our work is focused in the US and in four key countries to start: Kenya, Uganda, Colombia, and India. We are utilizing our research, education, communications, and advocacy resources to increase the adoption and scale-up of the HPV vaccine.

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District 9212 Governor Elect and Member of the HEWRAG Board of Directors Jeff Bamford and Rotarian Purity Mwendwa with Kristen Solt and Jacqui Drope of the American Cancer Society after a meeting in Nairobi charting Rotary involvement in Cervical Cancer Prevention in District 9212 with the initial emphasis on Kenya.

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Fostering strong local partnerships is key, and we're interested in connecting with your clubs in these countries to grow the networks needed for this important work.

Here is how Rotarians can make a difference:

- **Educate** yourselves on the HPV vaccine and advocate to ensure the children in your lives are vaccinated,
- **Join** the American Cancer Society's Speakers Bureau and be trained to speak about the power of the HPV vaccine,
- **Leverage** your connections as business and community leaders, including with other Rotary clubs and district leaders, to encourage them to work with the American Cancer Society to implement key strategies.

We invite you to stop by the American Cancer Society Booth #1603/1605 in the House of Friendship at the Toronto Convention to learn more how you and your club may get involved.

Together, we can eliminate cervical cancer!

For more information, please contact us at
ACSandRotary@cancer.org.



Kristen Solt will speak at the Cervical Cancer Prevention Special Session May 26.

In Kilimanjaro's Shadow: Improving Health and Opportunities Through Rotary

Walt Schafer, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Sociology
California State University, Chico, California, USA
Past President, Rotary Club of Chico, District 5160, California, USA

RotaryForNorthernTanzania includes a series of projects focused on improving health and opportunities in two communities near Mt. Kilimanjaro. These projects originated from a 2005 meeting among four members of the Rotary Club of Chico, California where we agreed to focus our Club's international humanitarian efforts on clean water in Africa. After three years of fits and starts, we initiated a strong, enduring partnership with the Rotary Club of Moshi, Tanzania.

Over the next decade, focus on clean water broadened to become a comprehensive series of projects aimed at improving health and opportunities of 65,000 residents, especially children.
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A public sign with Rotarian Walt at the entry to Nyumba ya Mungu



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Key to these successes has been financial support, totaling \$565,719, from 20 Northern California Rotary Clubs, Rotary District 5160, and The Rotary Foundation, with Chico Rotary Club leading the way.



Students using newly installed faucets at Mwika Secondary School

We entered this venture thinking we would support water wells. However, it became clear during my wife's and my first visit in 2008 that wells would be expensive with uncertain yield. So we jointly decided with Moshi Rotarians to plan and build large rainwater harvesting systems that could also store water from water lines from Mt. Kilimanjaro's springs. This we did at seven schools and a small college in and near Mwika. Later we also brought water lines, storage tanks, and faucet clusters (along with hygiene instruction) to 35 schools.

Next we helped fund, plan and construct catchments and piping for new springs high up on Mt Kilimanjaro, and we helped rebuild Mwika's decades-old community piping system.

A couple hours away in dry Masai country, we initiated other water projects. Foremost was a new community water system for 3500 residents of Numba ya Mungu who had been drinking polluted water from an adjacent reservoir, resulting in high incidence of waterborne diseases, especially among children. Residents assisted by digging a half-mile trench from the submersible pump to the large treatment and storage tanks. Clean, treated water was dispersed to several community outlets, a health clinic, and a large primary school.



Water treatment and storage tanks at Nyumba y Munga Secondary School



Water before and after family-size bio-sand filter

Downstream at a residential secondary school we installed a smaller, similar system, along with solar power to light classrooms and the girls dormitory. In the outlying area, we supported 100 family-size bio-sand filters for Masai households. These were sold at sub-construction cost, and local men were trained how to build and sell the filters. Anecdotal reports suggest considerable benefit from these efforts in preventing disease and improving student attendance and performance.

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Rotarian Walt distributing non-deflatable soccer ball at Mwika Primary School.

RotaryForNorthernTanzania has evolved to improve health and opportunities in other ways: initiating deworming of nearly 10,000 students; microscope, medical supplies, medical transport vehicles, and computerization in three health clinics; several new school and public toilets; new computer labs in six secondary schools; helping fund and computerize a women's micro-finance program; improving cow nutrition to strengthen the local milk industry; helping with a new milk processing plant; and, on a lighter note, bringing 50 non-deflatable soccer balls for schools.

RotaryforNorthernTanzania is succeeding because it is multi-focused, multi-club, multi-year, local-need driven, cross-national, sustainable — all the result of patience, persistence, collaboration, and diligence.

For more information:

- **Visit:** www.RotaryforNorthernTanzania.org
- **Watch:** 23-minute documentary film, "in Kilimanjaro's Shadow" at wandermousefilms.com
- **Email:** walt5160@yahoo.com

Autism: Sharing Our Action: Serve and share generates value and improves the quality of life for more beneficiaries (English Version)

Miguel A. Martinez Pereyra

Past District Governor, District 4895, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Rotary Club of Montserrat

HEWRAG Director

Mentor of Endowment/Major Gift Adviser –TRF Zone 23 B 2017-2019

During this Rotary period we have been able to develop two central activities with the objective to help children with autism, fixing our focus in improving motor and sensory skills. On the one hand, it was possible to strengthen and expand the application system on mobile devices, which allows greater and better communication with the world around them.

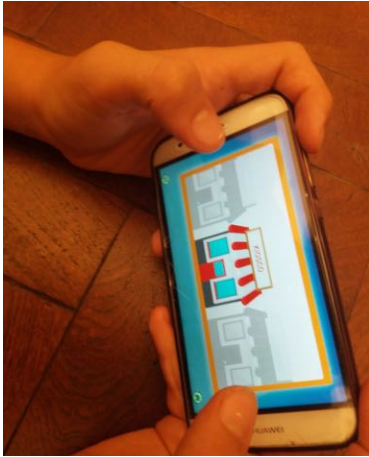
This system had already been implemented during 2016-2017 in a strategic alliance with companies such as Globant and the Technological University of Argentina, and in this second stage, the available uses were expanded.

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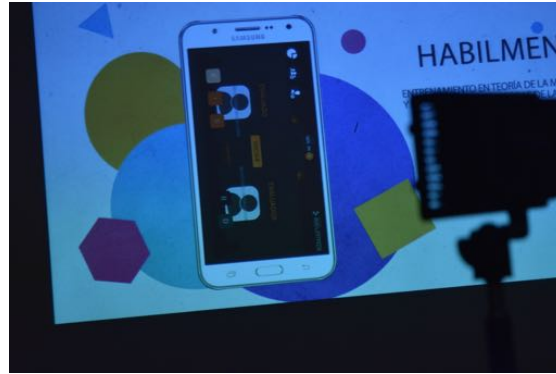


Rotary

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An app shows how to ask for a special candy in a shop



The app on a cellphone with instructions to train children with autism

The second important activity was to share these digital developments with the Apadea Centers (Argentine Association of Autistic Parents) established in Argentina, in provinces such as Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Chaco, San Juan, Tucumán, Chubut and Mendoza. At the same time, each of these Apadea delegations offered and made available the communication system and applications for use in smart devices in their areas of influence.



Psychoanalyst Carmen Rivero describes how children change the way they communicate their needs with adults



Carols Leguizamón, of Global Technology Company, explains aspects of the technical app development

This provision benefits more than 1000 children affected by this permanent disorder that until now, as is well known, has no cure, although a wide improvement can be achieved with treatments that allow a better interaction and stronger bonds as adults, both in schools and at home.

Other organizations such as Fadea and the Brincar Foundation have received our applications totally free, for mobile devices and from there we have shared this joint project carried out between the Rotary Club of Montserrat and Apadea. Fadea is the Argentina Federation of Autism, which works in research and scientific information, and
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the Brincar Foundation, also involved in autistic disorder, is supported by the Government of the City of Buenos Aires.

It is important to note that in November 2017, our Rotary friend, member of HEWRAG, and President of Apadea. Horacio Joffre Galibert presented at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, his work "ADULT LIFE AND AGING OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES", within the framework of the 4th Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference of the Royal Academy of London. In it he shared, among other topics, the extraordinary value of Rotary service and the importance of Rotarian Action Groups, such as HEWRAG, supporting and disseminating different topics such as autism, of great relevance to our society and to all children with different disabilities.



Horacio Joffre Galibert, Apadea President and our Rotarian friend, at The Royal Society of Medicine in London where he presented his work at the 4th International and Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference.

For more information, please email: mpconsu@fibertel.com.ar

Autismo: Compartiendo Nuestra Accion: Servir y compartir. genera valor y mejora calidad de vida a más beneficiaries (Spanish Version)

Durante este período rotario hemos podido desarrollar dos actividades centrales en la búsqueda de ayudar a niños con autismo, con el objetivo de mejorar habilidades motrices y sensoriales. Por un lado se logró fortalecer y ampliar el sistema de aplicativos en dispositivos móviles, que permiten una mayor y mejor comunicación con el mundo que los rodea. Este sistema ya se había instrumentado durante 2016-2017 en alianza estratégica con empresas como Globant y la Universidad Tecnológica Argentina y en esta segunda etapa se ampliaron los usos disponibles.

La segunda actividad importante fue compartir estos desarrollos digitales con los Centros Apadea (Asociación Argentina de Padres de Autistas) establecidos en Argentina, en provincias como Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Chaco, San Juan, Tucumán, Chubut y Mendoza. Al mismo tiempo cada una de esas delegaciones de Apadea ofreció y puso a disposición el sistema y aplicativos de comunicación para uso en dispositivos inteligentes.

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Esta puesta a disposición beneficia a más de 1000 niños afectados por este trastorno permanente que hasta ahora como es sabido, no tiene cura, aunque se puede lograr amplia mejoría con tratamientos que posibilitan una mejor interacción y vínculos más sólidos como adultos, tanto en escuelas como en el hogar.

Otras organizaciones como Fadea y la Fundación Brincar han recibido nuestros aplicativos totalmente gratis, para dispositivos móviles y a partir de allí hemos compartido este proyecto conjunto realizado entre el Rotary Club de Montserrat y Apadea. Fadea es la Federación Argentina de Autismo, que trabaja en investigación e información científica y la Fundación Brincar también involucrada en el trastorno autista y apoyada por el Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires.

Es importante destacar que en Noviembre 2017, nuestro amigo rotario, miembro del HEWRAG y Presidente de Apadea. Horacio Joffre Galibert presentó en la Real Sociedad de Medicina de Londres, su trabajo "VIDA ADULTA Y ENVEJECIMIENTO DE PADRES CON NIÑOS CON DISCAPACIDADES", en el marco de la 4ª Conferencia Científica Interdisciplinaria de la Real Academia de Londres. En el mismo compartió, entre otros tópicos, el extraordinario valor del servicio de Rotary y la importancia de los Grupos de Acción Rotaria, como el HEWRAG, apoyando y difundiendo diferentes temas, como el autismo de gran relevancia para nuestra sociedad y para todos los niños con diferentes discapacidades.

Email: mpconsu@fibertel.com.ar

The Ebola Orphans of Sierra Leone

Dianne Wilson, President, Rotary Club of Moraga, District 5160, California, USA

During 2014 to 2016, the world was shocked by the critical illness and deaths caused by the Ebola virus as it spread across West Africa. Sierra Leone was one of the most seriously affected nations. More than 4,000 people died as a result of the virus, leaving behind 12,000 orphaned children.

An Ebola cemetery where over 600 Ebola victims are buried, including the parents of the orphans Moraga Rotary is helping. Because of the stigma and fear of Ebola no one visits the graveyard. We were the first since Ebola ended in Sierra Leone.



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Many of these children were left to roam the streets and forage for food, nightly shelter, and personal care. Others sought help by begging in the streets or stealing food and other necessities.



Bambay Sawaneh with Unisa, one of the more than 30 Ebola orphans he has taken in.

Some of the homeless orphans found refuge in the home of Bambay and Mary Sawaneh, native residents of the village of Makeni, Sierra Leone. Bambay, who at age 15 had his hands cut off by rebel soldiers because he refused to fight with them, had made a personal commitment to help the children of his country by establishing soccer teams to teach the children the values of kindness, respect, and self-discipline. So it was a natural outcome that many of the homeless and hungry orphans sought out the coach's friendship and arrived at the Sawaneh's home. Soon Bambay and Mary were cooking a hundred meals a day on an open fire for a "new family" of 34 orphaned children in their own small home, which has no running water nor sanitation.

It was at this point that my sister, Becky, and her husband, Eric Baker, who had been in Sierra Leone since 2008 on medical missions, stepped forward to help Bambay and Mary in caring for many of the Ebola-caused orphans. The Bakers, who live in Seattle, Washington, were active founders of the non-profit FC-Seattle Sierra Leone, an organization composed of Seattle Football (soccer) teams and friends who collected and shipped soccer uniforms, shoes, and balls to the youth teams in Makeni, Sierra Leone.

When Becky told me about the Ebola crisis of health, homelessness, lack of sanitation and education, I knew I needed to take action. I brought the situation to the attention of the Rotary Club of Moraga in District 5160 where I am the 2017-18 President, and a whole new door of Health and Wellness opened. The Moraga Rotarians quickly recognized the need to build an adequate home for the children, establish proper water and sanitation systems, arrange for a continuous supply of food, and create opportunities for proper education in a nearby International School. This is a challenging and ambitious endeavor for a rather small Rotary Club.



Dianne Wilson visited Sierra Leone and was moved by the orphans' hopefulness and love in the midst of such loss

(continued on the next page)



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To prepare for the project, I went to Sierra Leone in February 2018 with award winning filmmaker Paul Freedman to produce a short documentary to tell the story of the humanitarian needs of the Ebola orphans and the proposed Rotary projects. Whenever we show the film, people have two reactions – one is amazement to see the tragedy resulting from the regional health disaster, and the other is to ask, “What can we do?”

If you also are asking “**What can we do?**” we invite you to consider several suggestions for Rotarians and friends to help the Ebola Orphans of Sierra Leone.

1. **You can watch the film** online and share this story with fellow Rotarians and friends at Club meetings and events and other gatherings. To view, go to [Moragarotary.com](http://www.moragarotary.com), select International Service, and scroll down to watch video. Or go directly to http://www.moragarotary.com/_videos/EbolaOrphans.mp4
2. **You can donate** 50 USD to sponsor a backpack filled with educational supplies for an orphan going to school, or you could contribute any amount for orphans’ general needs such as food, clothing, dental supplies, and malaria nets.

To donate funds, go to <http://www.moragarotary.org>, scroll to Donate to Rotary, select “Ebola Orphans.”

The Rotary Club of Moraga invites you to join us in helping the orphans created by the deadly Ebola crisis. For more information, please write to moragarotary@gmail.com.



Orphans walking to school in their school uniforms and backpacks provided by the Rotary Club of Moraga (District 5160, California, USA)



Rotary

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**The goal of the
Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group
is to promote good health and wellness
through healthy lifestyle choices and disease prevention.**

The emphasis is on building awareness, promoting education, and providing information to help achieve and maintain good health and to utilize effective prevention in an integrated way.

One of the first 10 Rotarian Action Groups formed was World Health Fairs (WHFRAG), which has been reorganized and expanded and was renamed in 2014 as the Health Education and Wellness Rotarian Action Group (HEWRAG).

You are encouraged to share this Newsletter with your friends and family, other Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, colleagues, business associates, and those you think might find it interesting and/or beneficial.

Comments and suggestions about HEWRAG and this Newsletter are welcome. With questions or for more information, please write to hewrag@gmail.com.

Readers are invited to submit an article about Health Education and/or Wellness projects and programs for consideration in a future issue. General guidelines:

- an article of up to 400 words (500 words maximum) and
- 2 or 3 high-resolution .jpg images (each a minimum of 1 MB to a maximum of 3 MB) with captions.

**The next issue of this Newsletter will be published in September 2018.
This issue and past issues are online at hewrag.org/publications.**

To submit an article about Health Education and/or Wellness for consideration in the September issue, please write to hewrag@gmail.com by August 10, 2018.

To request adding someone to the mailing list, please send contact information including Rotary affiliation and e-mail address to hewrag@gmail.com.

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