

I

World Community Service: Service and Fellowship on a Global Scale

- ? World Community Service (WCS) consists of activities within International Service through which Rotarians conduct projects to improve lives and meet human needs, and thus promote international understanding and goodwill by means of material, technical, and professional assistance.
- ? World Community Service gives Rotarians an opportunity for fellowship with an important difference — **humanitarianism**. Initiated in 1967, WCS allows Rotarians in two countries to join forces to help those in need.
- ? WCS encompasses a variety of Rotarian efforts. It includes international projects, where Rotarians in two countries have met, either through the *WCS Projects Exchange*, or at international conventions or other meetings, via Group Study Exchange teams, or through many other ways. It includes projects that have received Matching Grants from The Rotary Foundation and many that have not. It includes projects where partners have pooled funds, have shared donated goods, and have sent volunteers.

WCS has only three criteria

- ? The project must be **humanitarian** in nature;
- ? Rotarians in two or more Rotary countries must be involved;
- ? And one of those countries must contain the site of the project.

II

WCS PROJECTS EXCHANGE

The *WCS Projects Exchange* serves as a starting point for Rotarians who would like to undertake a WCS project, but lack an international Rotary partner. The *WCS Projects Exchange* offers clubs seeking assistance from abroad a chance to publicize their community service initiatives. Alternately, clubs that wish to assist a project abroad can consult the listing to find a project — and a partner. It offers a short description of Rotary club projects and lists local project coordinators so that potential donors can contact the local club for more information. Rotarians who would like to support a project can select from over 450 endeavors in 46 countries. The Projects Exchange features a great diversity of types of projects at a wide variety of costs.

III

Why Participate in World Community Service?

- ? WCS projects create an opportunity to further international understanding and promote cultural exchange. Through WCS, your club can build goodwill overseas and help create a favourable image of your country, letting down barriers to peace and trade. You also bolster the image of Rotary and promote Rotary's "Service Above Self" ideal.
- ? WCS lets you address global problems such as pollution and disease. Your partner's approach to literacy education or hunger alleviation may differ greatly from your own; these differences can promote an exchange of ideas. By adopting elements of your partner's approach, you might create an innovative solution to a problem in your local community.
- ? Lastly, WCS empowers all concerned — creating power to change a world, to reach out and touch lives, power to make a difference. By fostering a sense of self-help, Rotarians can help create a bright future for all.

IV

WCS Projects Exchange Rules

1. The project sponsor is defined as the local in-country Rotary club or district. Rotary clubs and districts outside the project country who wish to register (and thus seek support for) a project through the *WCS Projects Exchange* should cooperate with an in-country club or district, which can then register the project.
2. You must submit project information on the official Project Data Form.
3. The sponsoring Rotary club must notify RI Headquarters immediately if the project contact changes.
4. The project contact must respond to all inquiries about the project promptly
5. Each club may have only one project registered on the *WCS Projects Exchange* at any one time. There are two exceptions to this rule:

V

- ? A Rotary-club may register one additional project on behalf of anyone of its corresponding Rotary Village Corps, Rotary Community- Corps, Rotaract clubs, or Interact clubs. The corps or club must be registered and in good standing with RI.

- ? A Rotary club may register an additional project if the request is for donated books only. This cannot include funds for books or related items.