

WE SHARE FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE



REPORT TO MEMBERS JULY 2005

Quotarians continue to demonstrate their commitment to making a better life possible in developing countries worldwide through their interest in the We Share Foundation's nine 2005 Club-to-Club World Service projects.

In the 2004-2005 year, club presidents worldwide reported donations totaling more than U.S.\$39,000 to the approved Club-to-Club projects. More than U.S.\$50,000 was contributed to a variety of other world service projects.

Keep reading to find out how Quotarian donations are making a positive impact on this year's projects!

Quota International of Ba, Fiji

Project: Audiogram Project and Educational Support for HART Village Students

The Ba Club's 2005 Club-to-Club project addresses needs in Ba HART Village in three different areas—hearing, education, and vocational training.

Hearing Screenings: The Ba Quota club provides eight hearing clinics per year to identify hearing needs in the community. This screening project was expanded in 2004 to include local seniors, members of the Deaf Association, and residents of Ba HART Village.

Many Quota clubs around the world contribute used hearing aids to this project. The Australian audiologist who runs the hearing clinics for the Ba club refurbishes the hearing aids free of charge and distributes them to patients in Ba.

Educational Support for Young People: The Ba Quota club has long supported the educational needs of hearing-impaired students from HART Village. The program has helped lower drop-out rates among these students and successfully encouraged self-sufficiency after graduation.

The club supports the students by paying for hearing health needs as well as scholastic fees, supplies, and transportation costs. As a result, these children perform better in school and become able to complete their education.

The club also supports the young people after graduation to help them establish careers and to get needed hearing services, which can be crucial for job success.

Vocational Training: In 2004, the Ba club launched a sewing and dress-making training program to encourage village women to become self-sufficient. In 2005, the club is using donations to install a kitchen where these women can prepare food to sell along with their handicrafts.

Quota International of Cebu, Philippines

Project: Sawang Calero and Guba Day Care Centers and Feeding Programs

In response to overwhelming poverty and malnutrition in two fishing and scavenging areas of their city, members of the Cebu Quota club took action to set up day care centers to help the children. The successful program continues to grow, demanding expansion of existing facilities and services.

Sawang Calero Day Care Center: Sixteen years ago, Cebu Quota members established the Sawang Calero Day Care Center, providing 55 pre-schoolers with a clean, wholesome place to learn, receive nourishment and vitamins, and get medical care. Today, some 119 students are enrolled in this vital program.

Guba Day Care Center: The success at Sawang Calero led the Cebu club to establish a second, similar facility four years ago in a local mountain barangay. Quota volunteers operate the Guba Day Care Center, where 79 pre-school children receive a better chance at leading fulfilling lives.

The two centers serve populations living well below the poverty line in Cebu. Without the pro-active efforts of Quota, these children would not be educated nor enjoy nutritious meals and clean bathroom facilities. Donations to this project provide two meals per day for each student, plus school uniforms, de-worming, medical care, and vitamins. Monies also cover salaries for teachers and assistants, electric bills, building maintenance, and a Christmas party for the children.

Quota International of DLF City,

New Delhi, India

Project: Charitable Dispensary and Vocational Training Center

The DLF City club strives to improve health care for rural disadvantaged families and migrant workers through their dispensary, offering free medical care and hospitalization in urgent cases. Last year, the club added a vocational training center to help local women find work.

Free Medical Care: Underprivileged DLF residents now receive good, basic health care through the local Quota club's dispensary, established in 2001 in an impoverished part of town. Patients include destitute women and children as well as families of migrant construction workers, farmers, and residents of surrounding rural areas.

The dispensary is open six days a week, providing free medicine, physical exams, immunization, and counseling on health, nutrition, and hygiene. In addition, DLF Quota sponsors regular dental and eye camps at the facility, often providing hearing aids, glasses, or surgery for patients in need. In urgent or life-threatening situations, the club provides specialized hospital care as well.

Literacy and Vocational Training: In running the dispensary, the club recognized a need for a vocational training center to teach women skills to make a living or supplement family income. Classes offered by the club include fabric cutting, sewing, typing, and computer skills. When funding is sufficient, the Quota club plans to build a clinic and training facility, similar to the Quota Home in New Delhi, and implement a literacy program.

Quota International of Davao City, Philippines

Project: Mindanao Neonatal Hearing Screening Center

In this new service project, the Davao City Quota club partners with a local maternity hospital to provide free infant hearing screening for indigent families and an extensive information campaign about it in the community.

Until this Club-to-Club project launched this year, only one hearing center served the entire island of Mindanao with one otoacoustic emission (OAE) testing machine for infant hearing screening. Many infants with hearing loss went home unscreened with families who didn't realize their special needs.

That will change when 2005 Club-to-Club donations fund the installation of a neonatal hearing screening program in the birthing center.

All newborns will be screened through this new program. Fees for tests on infants whose families cannot afford them will be covered by Club-to-Club donations.

In addition, donations will pay for the creation and dissemination of a wide-ranging information campaign to encourage hearing screening and good prenatal care for hearing health and to teach the importance of hearing in a child's cognitive development.

Quota International of Iloilo, Philippines
Project: Teacher Scholarship Program

For many years, the Iloilo Quota club has supported two schools for the deaf that they founded in their city. But finding qualified educators to teach in these schools is difficult.

In hopes of encouraging more qualified teachers for hearing-impaired students, the Iloilo club established a scholarship fund last year for students in the education program at West Visayas State University. The scholarships cover tuition, books, and fees for students planning to teach hearing-impaired people. Club-to-Club donations in 2005 will help build this scholarship fund.

Quota International of Manila, Philippines

Project: Project for Battered and Abused Women

During their successful project to help inmates at the local women's prison, the Manila Quota club discovered that large numbers of local girls and women are being abused in their homes. In response, club members decided to take action and provide a place where these women and girls could go to escape the abuse and begin to heal.

Shelter from Abuse: In addition to wives being battered by husbands, girls in local neighborhoods plagued with dire poverty often are abused by their fathers, uncles, and brothers. Lacking education and self-esteem, most victims see no way out of their desperate situations and endure or even accept the abuse. Manila Quota volunteers hope to reverse this trend with this new Club-to-Club World Service Project.

Medical and Psychiatric Care: The club will offer these women food and shelter when they leave abusive homes and provide regular medical care to address any physical needs. In addition, to improve their mental health, the club will provide psychological and psychiatric services to help them begin different, improved lives.

Education and Self-Esteem: Once basic needs are met, these women and girls will attend Quota-sponsored classes and seminars to learn both job and social skills. When they are ready to go back out into the world, the club pledges to help them find jobs and ease their transition into society in every way possible.

Quota International of Manila South, Philippines

Project: Deafness Resource Library

Only a few dozen audiologists serve hearing-impaired people throughout the Philippines. Yet, the number of deaf and hearing-impaired persons there is growing. In response, the Manila South Quota club is preparing to establish a Deafness Resource Library to help members of the community learn more about hearing-related issues and stay up-to-date on advancements and treatments.

Information Resources: Quota volunteers say a number of teachers would serve hearing-impaired persons if educational resources were available. Library resources also will help doctors and other professionals to access pertinent information, while parents, caregivers, and relatives learn to better assist their hearing-impaired loved ones. Hearing-impaired persons can visit the library as well to educate themselves about issues in their own lives.

In Phase I, the club is collected a substantial number of books related to hearing and speech. In-kind donations of texts, manuals, research studies, journals, and magazines are being solicited from Quota clubs around the world as well as corporations, publishers, and individuals who want to help.

A New Library: In Phase II, which began this year, donations will refurbish and air condition an existing library, which is to house the new collection. The library will allow anyone who needs information about hearing-related issues, or who wants to expand their base of knowledge about hearing and speech, to access helpful materials. The building currently needs the following improvements and additions: shelves, tables and chairs, electrical work, lighting, carpentry, dry wall, ceilings, paint, and flooring.

Quota International of New Delhi, India

Project: Quota Home for Abandoned and Destitute Women and Home for Poor Aged Women

What began as a shelter for battered women in 1978 is now, thanks to Club-to-Club donations and an outside grant, a major facility with two buildings that house a women's shelter, a home for elderly women, a job and literacy training program, and a full elementary school for children of the Faridabad slums.

Literacy and Job Training: The job skills program trains dozens of impoverished local women each year in knitting, sewing, embroidery, textile painting, and cosmetology to help them find jobs in local textile factories or to launch cottage industries—and to begin new, independent lives as productive members of society.

Dignity for Aged Women: In addition to this extensive ongoing effort, the club helps the elderly through a Home for Poor Aged Women. Old and infirm women are often cast aside among impoverished slum dwellers near the Quota Home. The club hopes to afford these women dignity in their last years by providing them a nice place to stay, nourishing meals, and medical care.

Club-to-Club donations in 2005 are providing free cancer screenings for all of the women involved in the project and will finance cancer treatment for up to four patients diagnosed with the disease.

Quota International of Sainik Farms, New Delhi, India

Project: Home for the Aged and Quota Mobile Crèche

Quota's Sainik Farm club transformed a ramshackle nursing home into a place where elderly residents can complete their lives in dignity. Seniors once living in squalor without proper nourishment now reside in a completely refurbished facility and enjoy regular meals and medical care. In 2004, the club added a second component to their Club-to-Club project with a quality day care program for slum children.

Helping the Elderly: The Sainik Farm club took action and radically changed living conditions for residents, among them retired teachers and professionals who were simply cast aside by their families. The club maintains the nursing home and cares for residents' nutritional and medical needs and provides hospitalization and specialized medical treatment.

Serving Pre-school Children in Need: Quota Playschool serves neglected children of local laborers and domestic help. Because members of the working poor cannot afford child care, they often leave their children to fend for themselves during the day, and the children end up in the streets without even a basic education. Through a basic pre-school program, the playschool provides reading and writing instruction to the children through age six, when they are eligible to be tested for entrance into public schools.

Club-to-Club donations provide supplies, food, clothing, equipment, and transportation for both aspects of this project. Funds also help to pay the salaries of teachers for the crèche and maintenance staff for both facilities. Donations this year will also defray costs for adding more rooms at the nursing home and improving the school.

Conclusion

The We Share Foundation's Club-to-Club World Service Program has continued its vital mission of helping deserving people around the world. From meeting the most basic of needs to providing skills training, the Club-to-Club program has benefited young and old alike in meaningful ways.

In recognition as being an outstanding program resulting in significant benefit to society, the We Share Foundation World Net Service Program, which encompasses the Club-to-Club Program, was elected to the Associations Advance America Honor Roll (2005). This national awards competition is sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), based in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the International Service Committee members for all of their dedicated efforts this year. I am honored to have had the privilege of working with this group of women who are dedicated to helping make the world a better place in our Club-to-Club communities, and I thank all committee members for the participation these past two years.

- *Laly D. Castro*
Chair, International Service Committee
Past Governor
Member, QI of Manila,
The Philippines

International Service Committee **Members, 2003-2005:**

- Annemieke Dijkhout, *Quota International of Aruba, Dutch Caribbean*
- Julie Evans, *Quota International of Canberra, ACT, Australia*
- Dawn Holland, *Quota International of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia*
- Jayne Huston, *Quota International of Kent Valley, Washington, U.S.A.*
- Vicki MacNabb, *Quota International of Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.*
- Joyce Mull, *Quota International of Winchester, Virginia, U.S.A.*
- Jean Tregurtha, *Quota International of Glen Innes, New South Wales, Australia*