

FEBRUARY 2009

HUNGER PLUS INC.

To Feed The Hungry and Help Them Become Self-Reliant

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... a passion for feeding the hungry

Another Hunger Plus project..... The *Tarahumara Indians* in Mexico



Rotary Distributes Food to *Tarahumara Indians* Frank C. Murray, DRFC

The *Coordinacion de la Tarahumara* (Bureau of Indian Affairs) for the Mexican State of Chihuahua announced the delivery and distribution of 80,000 pounds of food supplies to the 34 state owned and operated birthing centers established late last year in the Sierra Madres. The Sierra's are home to the *Tarahumara Indians*, one of the poorest tribes in Mexico. The birthing centers were established to help decrease the infant mortality experienced by Indian women at childbirth.

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Working in cooperation with the Stated Government of Chihuahua; the Rotarians from the Odessa Texas Club proposed the 3 humanitarian matching grants to provide this year-long supply of food and nourishment. Each family with pregnant mothers going to the birthing center will receive a bag of food with 60 servings to aid in the critical time following the birth of their child.

The 40 tons (80,000 lbs) of food will supply over 36,000 families during this next year. The commitment of these humanitarian grants through the Rotary Foundation made it possible for the State Government to budget, construct, and develop the 34 birthing centers in the very rugged and mountainous region.

With Odessa, Texas spear-heading the grants' requests, the 3 club (RMMP) Rotary Mexico Mission Project in Celina, St. Mary's and Wapakoneta along with DDF monies from D-6600 jumped into the project. District 5730 from Western Texas, plus other Texas and Oklahoma clubs along with a group of three Chihuahua clubs and District 4110, all joined together to support this multiple matching grant effort.



Totaling nearly \$143,000, the commitment was made to the *Coorinacion de la Tarahumara* and the construction project was launched. Today, thousands of newborn Indian children will get a better chance at life through this effort. Post natal care provided by centers and the food supplies are instrumental in infant survival among the *Tarahumara*.

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The Rotary Mexico Mission Project, which started in March 2003 with a discovery trip to the Sierra's, has had a financial impact of over \$350,000 in this region of Mexico due largely to their participation in the Rotary Foundation Matching Grant Program.



Current RMMP ongoing projects include the Construction of a Dam and Water supply to the village of San Jose de Pinar, the Micro business of ornamental flower production by a *Tarahumara* village, and the shipping of a handicap transport van to a nursing home at San Jose de Bacum. In late February, the RMMP shipped two fire trucks to Nogales for use in the communities of Nogales, SON and Escupania, SIN... The group endeavors to make annual trips to Mexico to see the results of their efforts. The RMMP has worked with many other organizations and Rotary clubs such as our own MESA project; Medical Supplies Network Inc. (MSNI) from Tulsa, OK; Hunger Plus, Inc. from Plainview, TX; Disciples in Action from Levelland, TX; and the Mexican Rotary Clubs in Chihuahua, Obregon, Nogales and Tijuana.

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