

# ROTARY MEXICO MISSION PROJECT

In 2003 we ran an article in our newsletter about a group of Rotary clubs in Ohio who had banded together to start an International Project for their clubs. The thrust of the article was to show that smaller clubs working together can have a successful project and make a significant impact. The story doesn't end with just that 1<sup>st</sup> project, however; the Rotary Mexico Mission Project (RMMP) as it has come to be known, has continued on with their joint venture to reach out to those in need and is a model for all clubs to follow.

The Rotary Clubs of Celina, St. Marys and Wapakoneta, Ohio in District 6600 formed the RMMP in 2003 with the expectations of delivering an ambulance to the community of San Jaunito and its cargo of \$12,000 worth of medical equipment to the Clinca Santa Terisita in Creel, Mexico. Neither load made it across the border when the group made their first trip to the Sierra's in March of 2003. Eventually, however, the ambulance and equipment, with the help of the Chihuahua Amigo Rotary Club, found their way to the final destination. Since that first effort, the RMMP has been going strong and shows no signs of letting up. During that first trip the RMMP and the Chihuahua Amigo club agreed to do Matching Grants through TRF to dig 8 water wells for \$24,500. This was quickly followed with a Matching Grant to dig a filter well at the Santa Elena Boarding School for \$23,500. Other highlights of the RMMP's 4 year efforts are:

- Purchased two (2) fire trucks for later distribution
- Financially supported the filming of documentary material on the Tarahumara by WBGU/TV
- Teamed up with the Chihuahua Campestre Club by paying for a shipment of medical supplies through MSNI (Medical Supplies Network, Inc.) from Tulsa, OK to El Paso, TX for distribution in the Sierra's
- Donated to "Disciples in Action" for soil testing expenses
- Donated to Hunger Plus, Inc. for a corn and bean relief project
- Financially supported the filming of the Romaine Wheeler Concert by WBGU/TV with the proceeds going to benefit the Tarahumara Indians
- Following a visit by the GSE Team from District 4100, they joined with the Obregon Sur Club to write a Matching Grant for \$21,000 to provide the furnishings for the Madre Teresa de Calcutta home for the aged in San Jose de Bacum
- Agree to lend RMMP financial support to 3 matching grants totaling \$75,000 through the Rotary Foundation for food supplies for 38 birthing centers being constructed in the Sierra's
- Tentative agreement with the Chihuahua Campestre clubs to write a matching grant of nearly \$50,000 for the construction of a dam and water supply for the village of San Jose de Pinar in the high sierra's
- This year we will ship the two fire trucks to Nogales and Tijuana and also have secured an ambulance for a Rotary club near Vera Cruz to replace one destroyed in an accident there.

- In March 2007 the RMMP will make their third trip to Chihuahua State and it is highly likely they will be finding more good to do for our neighbors in the South
- With club donations reaching the \$40,000 mark, and the use of TRF and DDF monies, estimated financial impact into Mexico will soon exceed \$275,000

The introduction story we ran four years ago about a group of small clubs banded together is now a success story of how several clubs working together can achieve so much good.

The RMP has been recognized by the All Ohio PETS and District 6600 many times as an outstanding example to small and large clubs who need to fulfill their obligation of International Service in Rotary.