

ROTARY DISTRICT 5190 – WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE



## Rotary District 5190

WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE... A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Rotary leadership changes every year and with that comes some change in policy and programs. This can be good for a vibrant organization to keep up with the times. Unfortunately, “World Community Service” is one of the programs being cut this year as we move in a new direction. World Community Service is the idea, the program, which brings Rotarians from around the world to work together on community service projects that help in service to one of their communities. This idea, this practice, is what is fundamental to Rotary. World Community Service encourages international fellowship and helps build lasting friendships around the world. The practice of working directly with a Rotarian in another country on any project be it to provide clean water, or even to help build literacy, is one that Paul Harris himself would be proud. Building friendships while building healthy and educated communities by directly working together and practicing Service Above Self is primary to Rotary’s ideals.

We may be a little prejudiced, having had the honor of serving on the District 5190 World Community Service Committee for the past 15 years, but it’s hard to let go. It’s hard to believe the basic concept of helping fellow Rotarians on a one-on-one basis around the world is a concept that would or could be relinquished. When we think of the friends we have made in Dumaguete, Philippines while working on well projects, delivering books, providing meds and a toilet to a mental hospital. Then while visiting Butuan, Philippines with a team of like-minded Rotarians to work on a project to build a floating medical and birthing facility on the river. We made friends. Then there are the partnerships in Bidar, India to provide free cataract surgeries to the blind, school desks to needy, and hope to the poor. Today we are still friends and still in contact with the Rotarians we worked with on these projects. Invitations to weddings, birthdays remembered and holidays celebrated all continue because World Community Service works. They may have been what are considered small projects, but all have had a positive and lasting change in their communities and on us.

Within District 5190 Rotarians have answered the call for help from fellow Rotarians with projects in Ghana, Brazil, Romania, Russia, and Lebanon. The projects these Rotarians completed were wide in scope and in effectiveness. Each Rotarian worked together to achieve a goal. Each had a profound effect, not only on the community in which they served, but on the Rotarians themselves. WCS touches everyone and accomplishes much to bring Peace and understanding to people around the world. The Rotarians and volunteers who traveled across the globe to participate in WCS projects act with the hope of directly contributing to building a

better world through action and deed. The idea that one individual can make a difference is what motivates many to contribute time, money and energy to Rotary projects.

WCS may not be an “official program” after this year, and may be called something else in the future, but the idea and basic premise will be there. Whenever you work one-on-one with a Rotarian in another club in another country to help better the community, that is World Community Service. It is the first hand knowledge of people and their cultures on this singular level that maintains peace, builds friendships, and establishes Rotary in communities. We encourage you to keep the values and ideas of World Community Service in your heart and not lose sight of what Rotary was about when it first started, a way to make friends and build better relationships. You will always have friends and know that you are following the path of Rotary as it was meant to be. Rotary – people to people – World Community Service, a Rose by any other name....

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District 5190 World Community Service

Developing a World Community Service (WCS) project is a great way to further [Rotary's Avenue of International Service](#). A WCS project is created when Rotary clubs from two or more countries unite to serve one of their communities. These collaborations help Rotary clubs undertake more ambitious projects that improve lives while fostering international fellowship and understanding. In addition to providing volunteers, clubs can support projects by offering financial assistance, donating goods, or becoming a [Matching Grant](#) partner. Program details can be found in the [WCS Handbook](#).

## **Use ProjectLINK**

[ProjectLINK](#) is an online, searchable database that lists Rotary club and district service projects in need of support and examples of best practices.

Use [ProjectLINK](#) to list your club's project, learn about other club's service efforts, or make a contribution.