

District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Rotary Club of Avalon, Santa Catalina Island

Project Title: Island Medical Transportation

☐ Progress Report ☒ Final Report

Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?

Due to geography and limited medical resources, the residents of Catalina Island must travel, by passenger boat, to the mainland for specialized medical care. The Catalina Island Medical Center and Clinic has a rural facility designation that is staffed primarily by family practice physicians. Residents of our community that require consultation with specialists, additional diagnostic testing, and/or surgery must travel to the mainland for their consultations and follow up care. In addition, several of our community residents are chronic dialysis patients or cancer patients needing frequent, sometimes daily trips to the mainland to receive their chemotherapy or radiation. The Medical Transportation Grant Committee included 8 Avalon Rotarians. The Committee Chair met with the Catalina Island Medical Center business office and Social Services Department. It was decided that the Social Services department and Medical Staff would screen and validate patients that had referrals to the mainland for medical care. The Catalina Island Medical Center business office would do financial screening for potential grant recipients. To maintain health record privacy (HIPPA) of the recipients; the Rotarians were not given any specific medical information on the recipient's diagnosis. Details of the District Grant were announced to the physicians and the nurse practitioners at a hospital "Medical Staff" meeting. Our club's Public Relation's Chair wrote an article about the transportation grant (see enclosed) and submitted it to our local newspaper, the Catalina Islander. Committee members met with the manager of the Catalina Express Avalon office to discuss ticketing policy. It was decided that gift cards with the Rotary Emblem be provided to the recipients to be exchanged for boat tickets. Catalina Express staff was instructed that the patient for their transportation for medical care could only use the gift cards, with the Rotary emblem. A letter was composed by a member of the Medical Transportation Grant Committee and translated into Spanish since some of our recipients do not have English as their primary language (see enclosed samples). A copy of this letter on Rotary Letterhead was placed in an envelope with each gift card. A member of the Social services department would contact the Committee chair when a qualifying patient had an appointment scheduled. The recipient would be contacted by a member of the Committee to arrange a time and place for the letter and gift card to be presented. Beneficiaries of the grant were Avalon community members who required medical travel to the mainland. Examples included diagnostic tests, surgery, consultation with medical specialists, radiation, chemotherapy, radiation for cancer treatment, and kidney dialysis. With the median per capita income of Avalon being \$40,000 annually, many patients qualified based on the medical center business office criteria for "charity care". Potential recipients completed an application and a statement of financial condition.

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

8 Avalon Rotarians comprised our Medical Transportation Grant Committee.

3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

Committee tasks completed: a). Composed and submitted articles for the Local newspaper. b). Attended meetings with Catalina Island Medical Center and Catalina Express. c). Composed a letter for each recipient explaining the grant and what Rotary Club does. d). Dispensed gift cards to recipients at a mutually agreeable location. e). Provided transportation in their vehicles to and/or from the patient's home to the Avalon Boat Terminal when recipient's requested.

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?

30 local adults and children benefitted from this grant. Several of these recipients qualified for and received multiple gift cards. A total of 44 round trip gift cards were purchased. Several recipients qualified for more than 1 gift card during the grant period due to multiple appointments.

5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?

Beneficiaries received medical care and treatments not available on Catalina Island. This will hopefully increase longevity and improve the quality of life for the grant recipients of our community. With Rotary International's focus on family, this grant helped ease some of the financial burden of the cost of travel. Many of our recipients were the primary breadwinners of their family and unable to work during their treatments or medical appointments. Often the Rotarians dispensing the gift cards had occasion to meet, not only the recipients but their families as well. I feel the interaction of the grant committee and the community at large had a positive effect on spreading Rotary's message.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

Catalina Island Medical Center: Medical and Financial Screening of Potential Recipients. Catalina Express: Working with Transportation Grant Committee to Purchase Transportation to Qualifying Recipients.

Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!

7. Income

Amount

1. District Grant funds approved by the District	1797.00
2. Club contribution	1797.00
3. Other funding (specify) Private donation	80.00
Total Project Income	3674.00

8. Expenditures - please be specific and add lines as needed - receipts must be attached

1. Catalina Express Gift Cards for Transportation	3674.00
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
Total Project Expenditures	3674.00

9. By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures have been provided to the district. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights in the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or at any time in the future, throughout the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or later developed. This includes the right to modify the photograph(s) as necessary in RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of RI and TRF.

Certifying Signature

Rita Ann Whitaker

Date: 04/04/2023

Print name, Rotary title, and club

Rita Ann Whitaker

Project Chair
