

## District Grant Application

### Projects for 2022-2023

Total Budget: \$20,000

District Grant Funding: \$8,000

#### **1. Scout Hut Improvement-Storage, Equipment and Appliance Upgrades**

The San Juan Capistrano Rotary club owns the San Juan Scout Hut, the permanent home to 8 Scout troops serving over 100 Scouts in our community, as well as a meeting place for Scout leaders and other regional Scout meetings.

The Scout Hut is also the classroom for English as a Second Language (ESL) adult education courses, taught by volunteers of the South Coast Literacy Council, a nonprofit organization that has offered free ESL courses for over 50 years. There are 30 to 50 students attending classes at the Scout Hut each year.

The SJC Rotary club uses the backyard of the property for summer meetings; the annual Swallows Day Pancake Breakfast and from time-to-time other fundraisers and events.

Due to the increased number of Scout Events and attendees along with annual projects the SJC Rotary Club holds at the location, there is a need for an increased number tables, chairs; equipment and appliance upgrades as well as storage. The Scout Hut Maintenance Committee is requesting the purchase of additional tables/chairs; additional food/beverage storage for events and 2-3 sheds to be assembled and put in the back of the Scout Hut. 6 to 10 Rotarians will assemble the sheds.

#### **2. Capistrano Restorative Garden and Learning Center (CRGLC) expansion**

CRGLC is a garden and learning center for students from the following Capistrano Unified School District programs:

- Adult Transition Program
- Bridges Community Day School
- Continued Learning Adult Special Services

CRGLC serves as a work site for community-based activities and a therapeutic area for students with special needs grades 9 through 12 and continuing adult learners. San Juan Capistrano Rotary has worked with the CRGLC to develop the garden, and has been asked to continue its development by extending the planters out into the common area of the garden and along the fence lines. This will offer more students an opportunity to utilize the area.

In addition to the purchase and installation of the planters, CRGLC has requested Rotary volunteers to back fill these with soil. 10 or more San Juan Capistrano Rotarians are expected to assist in this effort, with the expectation that the work will be completed for the next school year. This project may be adjusted if the garden location is to change.

### **3. Casa de Ama Greenhouse and Garden Project**

Several years ago, a number SJC Rotary members worked with local non-profit organizations to put in a garden at Casa de Ama, a 35-bed residential facility in San Juan Capistrano for adults with disabilities. Goin' Native, the local non-profit organization that lead that project has expanded this work and provides a weekly (3 times a week) training program for residents, teaching and assisting residents with planting, caring and harvesting crops for use in their kitchen, as well as growing flowers for the residents. Casa de Ama is looking at a more sustainable way to grow plants from seeds every season, reducing the high costs of plant material, and plants started by seed are healthier and provide a higher crop yield. SJC Rotary is proposing the purchase or construction of a greenhouse for Casa de Ama, to meet this goal. The greenhouse is a project that the SJC Rotary Club can most likely complete in one day, along with residents, staff, and Goin' Native volunteers. 10-12 Rotarians will be needed. Ongoing, Goin' Native will enhance their classes to include additional garden support and craft classes.

### **4. Bicycle Rodeo**

A local non-profit, Great Opportunities, serves low income middle school age children. Each month, they hold bicycle repair clinics, as well as providing used bicycles for youth.

They have asked SJC Rotary to put together a Bike Rodeo. We will coordinate with at least 2 middle schools to reach out to students in San Juan Capistrano. There will be bicycle helmets, safety t-shirts, bike repair kits to be handed out to participants. In addition, we plan to have the Sherriff Department instruct on hand signals and street riding rules, and the Fire Department to talk about the need for bike helmets. The SJC Rotary will also do a hot dog BBQ for the attendees. 12-15 Rotarians will be volunteers for this event.

### **5. Shoes for the Soul**

San Juan Capistrano Rotary has been a part of the Shoes for the Soul project with the Rotary E-Club Noroeste Global in Tijuana for many years. We provide a new pair of shoes to every student at a middle school and a high school (the total number of students vary each year).

At least 50 San Juan Capistrano members in addition to family and friends provide funding to purchase shoes and other items for the students of these two schools. The Rotary E-Club Noroeste Global Tijuana also has 10 to 12 volunteers who get the correct shoe sizes from the students, procure the shoes in Mexico, wrap and package the shoes. Both clubs bring 10-12 volunteers to hand out the shoes to the students.

As with many clubs in Mexico, the Rotary E Club Noroeste Global Tijuana does not have a bank account. As in past years, San Juan Capistrano Rotary sends a check directly to Maurilio Melendez, the President of the club. Maurilio sends the receipt each year to San Juan Capistrano Rotary when he receives the shoes.

The shoes will be handed to the students the beginning of December.