

The San Clemente Sunrise Rotary Club (SCSRC) has supported Rancho Sordo Mudo (RSM) since 1998 under the RI area of focus, Basic Education and Literacy. RSM is the only free residential home and school for disadvantaged deaf children in Mexico. The 25 students who currently attend range in age from five to 18 years of age. They reside there for 9 months; 24/7. The school receives no support from the Mexican Government and charges no fees to the students. Our club has made significant contributions to RSM, and the matching District Grant we were awarded allowed us to double our efforts and our impact on these kids who rely upon our club and others like us. Without our support, many of these children would be destined to live their lives in poverty on the streets. Because of our help, RSM is able to not only provide an education for the students, but also teach them a trade and help them to find appropriate work with which they are able to earn their living without having to resort to begging. As most of them do not even have the rudiments of communication when they arrive, the school teaches them to communicate in Mexican sign language – which is different from both American and Spanish Sign Language. For many families, this is the first time they have been able to communicate with their children. A future hope is that we will help to establish a couple more facilities similar to RSM in other parts of Mexico as some families must travel very far on limited public transportation to bring their children to the school's current location.

With our grant, we supplied RSM's primary need of food, to feed the students and volunteer staff who reside there for 9 to 10 months. We also paid the electrical and propane power bills necessary to cook their food and light their classrooms. We were also able to help them purchase supplies for the maintenance of their buildings and vehicles, and supplies for teaching in their classrooms.

SCSRC Rotarians make several trips per year to RSM. Our first trip was in the fall, immediately following the approval of the grant. We purchased enough food supplies to help feed the students and staff for the first half of the year. In past years our Rotarians would buy the food locally and deliver it to them. Now, our Rotarians go to the area and buy the food at their local Costco, which eliminates the issues surrounding importing.

Approximately 16 of our club members made another trip on January 17 to deliver gifts and host a lunch pizza party for the students and staff. Called "Christmas in January," the gifts are not a part of this grant request but are purchased and wrapped by every member of the club. We have 100% participation of our membership in this project. Our members also purchased additional teaching supplies needed by the staff.

To accomplish the four elements of this project, we contributed \$ 2,000 with a District match of \$ 2,000 for a total of \$4,000.

As this is an International grant, upon approval of the grant a dedicated Checking Account was opened to make transactions regarding this grant. No grant monies were deposited in any other account. All expenditures have been verified with receipts and duly reported as per the Rotary Foundation Reporting Requirements (including Photos of the subject projects).

We contacted Lupita Crio in the Ensenada Calafia, Mexico, Rotary Club to advise her club members of this project and invite them to participate with us. They were unable to meet with us during our January visit but have promised assistance in the future.