

Chronological Summary of the Twin Club Partnership Between The Knoxville and South Africa Rotary Clubs

2004-05 • RCK Past President Michael Shires, now retired, living in his homeland, and a member of the Knysna Rotary Club, contacted Townes Osborn saying that he could use some help from our district and our club to equip SA preschools with books and bookshelves. Thanks to then PDG John Bailey, District 6780 directed funding and a matching grant which Townes Osborn and Knysna Rotarian Joan Huskisson managed, the twin club connection began and the pre-school children had their first books.

- In December 2005, RCK provided a club Special Projects grant to help the Knysna Sea Cadet program to purchase computers to facilitate the vocational training of the cadets.

2005-06 • In July 2006, Allen Pannell and his family (wife, Deanne; son, Nicholas – 14; daughter, Jessica – 12) traveled to Knysna, SA to meet the members of the Knysna Rotary Club and learn first hand about the projects and programs there that RCK could support. Also, RCK helped three college students, Michael Ahillen, and Erin & Lauren Bernstein, travel to Knysna to volunteer their services at Rotary projects. Erin and Lauren are also active in Rotaract at UT. The trip was very successful and helped assure that RCK's second Twin Club relationship had taken root.

- In 2006 the World Community Service Committee approved the request from the Knysna Rotary that our club's Special Projects Fund for SA be used to help the local school in Knysna procure a much needed van to assure that many children get to and fro school. DG Jim Devlin also approved direct district funding to help. Additionally, RCK will provide support for a project in Knysna that UT Rotaract adopts.

2006-07 • Plans are underway for several RCK members to visit Knysna in September 2007.

2007-08 • Matching grants were received that leveraged, by a ratio of 5 to 1, the \$3,000 approved for the van in 2006-07 according to the following formula:

RCK/Special Project	\$3,000
RCK/Knysna	3,000
RI Match (50% of RCK&RCK)	3,000
Dist. 6780 Foundation DDF	3,000
RI Match (100% DDF)	3,000
Total	\$15,000

Additional participation by a Rotary Club in Ireland plus at-cost pricing by local Toyota dealership made possibly the purchase and delivery of the van to the Percy Mdala School on June 26, 2007.

All of this occurred because RCK gave \$3,000 in seed money; Rotary works magic every day!

- In addition, the club provided a grant of \$2,500 raised by Knysna AIDS Council to match the \$2,500 raised by the UT Rotaract Club's fundraiser in November. The \$5,000 was sent to the Knysna Rotary, and they raised additional funds to purchase a car for the AIDS Council so that AIDS patients needing help can be transported to the local treatment center. The urgent need for this vehicle was identified by the college students, Erin and Lauren Bernstein and Michael Ahillen, who spent the summer in 2006 in Knysna volunteering and learning firsthand about the multitude of problems in this region of South Africa.

2008-09 • Past President Frank Rothermel visited South Africa in September 2007 to attend the dedication ceremonies of the two vehicles previously provided. While there, Frank and the Knysna Rotarians identified additional Twin Club project possibilities. As a result, two additional matching grant (MG) projects were initiated in Knysna, South Africa in 2008-09.

The first, MG#65305, was a two-part project to help support an after school program known as MADaboutART by providing a bathroom at the school which will also enable the re-establishment of a preschool program. The second part was to provide some badly needed painting in the classrooms at the Hornlee Secondary School plus some classroom projectors. Matching grants were received as follow to fund the project:

RCK/RFK (WCS)	\$2,000
RFK (donor advised)	2,000
RC Knysna	2,000
Dist. 6780 DDF	2,000
Dist. 9350 DDF	1,000
TRF World Fund	
(50% RCK/RCK & 100 % DDF)	<u>6,000</u>
Total	\$15,000

The second project MG#66439, was in cooperation with the Knysna Educational Trust at several of their preschool facilities to help feed, educate, and instill reading among children, many of whose parents are affected with HIV/AIDS. The project will provide a book (800) for each child over 3 years of age – most likely their first book ever – several group educational games; the construction of bathrooms at two preschool facilities; several large cooking pots for use in the school kitchens; and tables & chairs for use by the students. Matching grants were also received as follows to fund this project:

RCK/RFK (WCS & Literacy)	\$1,500
RFK (donor advised)	1,000
RC Knysna	1,000
Dist. 6780 DDF	2,500
Dist. 9350 DDF	1,000
TRF(50% RCK/RCK & 100% DDF)	<u>5,250</u>
Total	\$12,250

Past President Townes Osborn provided a dedication grant to the Knysna Rotary Club to underwrite the launch of the club's Safe Cycling Program and to procure 10 mountain bikes and bike helmets. This program is for the underprivileged children who live in the townships. At the conclusion of the Safe Cycling Program, the ten bikes were actually awarded to ten outstanding children who participated. These children were then able to be part of the annual bike race that took place in Knysna in May 2008.

- 2009-10 • In July 2010 the RCK initiated the South Africa Discovery Outreach Team – and provided a travel grant contributed by Townes Osborn. The team members were three Webb Interact students, Connor Moore, Sam Adams and Stephanie Biggs, who along with their coordinator and team leader, Erin Bernstein traveled to Knysna where they were hosted by PP RCK Mike Shires and Knysna Rotary PP Joan Huskisson. The team visited and helped out with the many projects on which RCK has collaborated with the Knysna Rotary during the past seven years. They were also on hand to present the bicycles to township children that an RCK member provided with a Townes Osborn dedicated grant for the third year in support of Knysna's Safe Cycling Program.

Then the team went to Stanford where they stayed at Kathryn Johnson's Mosaic Farm and worked with the new Stanford Rotary Club. Throughout their trip the Webb teens distributed hundreds of books for pre-school

and elementary school children. They collected the books before they left and shipped several boxes and took the rest with them. Their South Africa experiences were life changing and generated great ideas for new outreach projects and programs which RCK and the students will be initiating during the coming year.

- 2010-11 • In Stanford, South Africa, we helped the Rotary Club to raise funds for a project, to package Christmas boxes for underprivileged and shut-in families that included 76 children. We received this note of thanks for the club: *"We cannot thank you enough for your support and active partnership in this project"* –Anise Reitsma
- In Knysna, South Africa, 10 township children received bicycles because a member of our club provides funds to make this possible each year. In addition, we supported the Webb Interact Club's outreach to Knysna, which included a grant for the Knysna Sports School scholarship fund. There was also a transportation grant given to the Stanford Rotary's soccer program.
- 2011-12 • South Africa Outreach Group, i.e. *Team Ubuntu*, from Webb School spent two weeks in South Africa. This was the third Discovery group (first from Catholic and two from Webb) the Rotary Club has sponsored. Liz Gregor from Webb led the group assisted by Jayanni Webster from UT and consisted of three Webb students, Lizzie Johnson, Morgan Larimer and Isabel Schaad.

The team stayed in Knysna for five days and participated in the **Feeding Scheme** in Knysna that was established by Sandy Shires to feed breakfast twice a week to day laborers most of which are HIV positive. They also provided the students at the **Rheenandal Preschool and Primary School** with animal flash cards, Legos and finger puppets. This school building was built by the government but was inhabitable, until a Rotary Matching Grant of \$15K allowed them to connect the bathrooms to the local sewer, set up a kitchen and provide computers for a lab. Other service projects in Knysna included visiting the **Wonderland Pre-School in Knysna** and the **Recycle Swap Shop**. They also saw the **Souns** preschool literacy program in action. This program won the Rotary Peace Prize and helps children learn phonetically. In **Noluthando** the team read to children in English whose native language was Afrikaans

or Xhosa. *Team Ubuntu* also met other **SA Interact Students** at the **Knysna Sports Center**. They provided t-shirts for the children participating in the bike safety program and heard about the kids competing in the Oyster Bike Race with bikes provided each year by Knoxville Rotarian Townes Osborn.

The second week was spent in Stanford, SA where Knoxville Rotarian Kathryn Johnson hosted them at her Mosaic Farm B&B. They visited the **Stanford Soccer Team**, who benefit from Rotary provided transportation and uniforms. A District Simplified Grant has provided for the **Jubilant School Youth Centre**, an after school program, to keep the children safe, homework assistance and even a library. The **Okkie Smuts** program takes 7 & 8 graders of parents with substance and alcohol addiction on trips to expose them to life outside their township. The **Food 4 Thought** program was the biggest program the team visited which provided a safe and fun environment for kids with lots of toys. They helped alongside volunteers at the **Soup Kitchen** making soup for the kids to bring their mugs and bowls after school to take home nourishing soup. The team also helped make waterproof sleeping bags out of trash bags, newspapers, and tape to keep people dry in their shacks. The team also learned about **Solar Jars** that are much safer than candles and how the Rotary Club of Stanford is providing the jars to area residents.

2012-13 • In Knysna, South Africa, for the 8th consecutive year, 10 township children received bicycles because a member of our club provides funds to make this possible. Each year RFK wires \$1,000 for 10 bicycles and helmets for 10 impoverished children. The Knysna Rotary Club then teaches the children how to take care of their bikes and trains them to be able to participate in the annual bicycle Tour de Knysna. In addition funds were provided for support of the Wonderland Pre-school, Rheenendal School and the Breakfast Feeding Program.

- In Stanford, funds raised from the Webb Interact's Club Thai Dinner Fundraiser were used to provide support for the DeKop School and Feeding Program; Okie Smuts school; and Anchor Soup Kitchen.

2013-14 • In Knysna, South Africa, for the 9th consecutive year, 10 township children received bicycles because a member of our

club provides funds to make this possible. Each year RFK wires \$1,000 for 10 bicycles and helmets for 10 impoverished children. The Knysna Rotary Club then teaches the children how to take care of their bikes and trains them to be able to participate in the annual bicycle Tour de Knysna. In addition funds were provide for support of the Bags of Love Program in Stanford, SA.

- 2014-15 • A District Grant was used to match \$3,000 donated by a Club Member to provide school books, school uniforms, and nutritional supplements for +100 children at the Wonderland Preschool in Knysna. This grant also provided funds for the Gogo (grandmother) project which is a group of mature township women who work with the children to insure they have shoes, coats, underwear, and the required uniforms as well as insure school attendance.
- Through the Osborn Fund, grants were provided to the Knysna Rotary Safe Cycling Program (Bicycles for township children) for the 10th year, the Bags of Love program in Stanford, South Africa, the Mateszalka Christmas Fund, to support and to help support projects of the South Bulawayo Rotary (orphanage support), Victoria Fall Rotary (eye project), Stanford Rotary Club (rental van transportation for youth soccer team).
- In mid-February 2015 the RCK's ZSA ZSA Team went to Zimbabwe and South Africa to be on hand for the dedication of the new nursing school in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe and to learn about the other projects and programs with which the Bulawayo Rotarians are involved. It was an eye opening and heart opening experience. The group was hosted graciously by the Bulawayo Rotarians and likewise in Stanford, SA by the Stanford Rotary members. The trip served to reinforce how Rotary makes a difference in each community and how working together makes a huge difference.

2014-2015 Zimbabwe Vocational Training Team

Rotarians Dr. Phil Mitchell and President Dr. Roy King led the first Vocational Training Team (VTT) from District 6780 to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. The team consisted of trauma nurses and doctors from the University of Tennessee trauma unit and were tasked with setting up an Advanced Trauma Life Support training program for ER nurses and doctors. In addition, the team was able to add several facets to the project. Firstly, the team was able to fill a container of supplies generously donated by members of our club. Secondly, we were also able to teach a short but intensive pathology course to the third year medical students. Finally, members of the team provided a program on women's health to nurses.

Thailand Clean Water Outreach

Under the leadership of PDG Frank Rothermel in 2014-15 our Club received approval of Global Grant 1421342 which will provide clean water systems for 28 villages in northeast Thailand. The amount of this latest grant is \$111,591.00 with financial support provided by Rotary Club of Knoxville members Wes Stowers, Mack Gentry, Dave Baumgartner, Joe Johnson, Sam Weaver, Don Hasson, Paul Kedrow, James Schaad, Jim Decker, Frank & Judy Rothermel as well as the Rotary Clubs of Kokomo, Tullahoma Sunrise, Smithville, and Maryville/Alcoa. Over the last nine years our Club has provided clean water in and around Khon Kaen which is located in the Issan region of northeast Thailand. This will be our fourth large Rotary Foundation grant providing clean water to a total of 112 villages in turn helping thousands of children and their families avoid waterborne diseases.

2010-2013 India

For the 2nd year our club, and several individual members joined with the Webb Interact Club to provide funds to help support a slum school outside of Chandigarh, India that serves around 50 children. Webb Interactors Sarah King and Isabel Schaad and their mothers Elisa King and Jenny Banner traveled to India to participate in National Immunization Days (NID) to help administer polio vaccinations. While there, they also visited the Bal Bahar slum school and presented \$4,000 from the Webb Interact Club, RCK members, and the Cleveland Rotary Club.

In February 2011, RCK member Elisa King, along with her daughter Nicole King and daughter of James Schaad, Isabel Schaad and her mother, returned to Chandigarh, India to participate in the NID – Polio Immunization – in the Indian slums. They also delivered funds raised from Webb Interact (most given by RCK members) to the Bal Bahar Slum School – in order for the school to renovate and improve its kitchen and pantry. The Webb Interact Club, with assistance from RCK, produced a 2012 calendar showing pictures of the school and also produced Christmas cards with pictures drawn by the orphans in Mateszalka, Hungary. These two initiatives netted \$5,000 for international outreach projects. RCK members were very supportive. Since 2010-2011 they have provided \$10,000! To date the initiative has contributed \$15,000 USD to the Bal Bahar slum school along with school supplies, clothing and toys.