

Rotary Club of Vancouver International Projects Committee

In Rotary, the idea of community extends far beyond the location of a single Rotary club; it encompasses people in places throughout the world. This is especially true today, as high-speed communications and transportation are bringing people together from all parts of the globe. The basic strategies for international service projects are the same as for local service projects. However, because at least two clubs in different countries must work together, communication is even more critical to a project's success.

To participate in an international project, clubs need to find an international partner. You can approach this in various ways:

- Explore the World Community Service Projects Exchange on the RI Web site.
- Speak with the district World Community Service committee chair.
- Contact your district Rotary Foundation committee chair and explore the Foundation's Humanitarian Grants Program.
- Use the *Official Directory* (007-EN) to find members of various RI committees or task forces to contact for project assistance.
- Network with fellow Rotarians at district and international meetings.
- Observe what other organizations are doing around the world.
- Reach out to fellow Rotarians on the Internet.
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World Community Service and The Rotary Foundation Programs

World Community Service (WCS) is an excellent way for clubs to participate in projects internationally. WCS occurs whenever a Rotary club in one country assists a club in another country with a service project. The WCS Projects Exchange is available for Rotary clubs with local community service projects seeking an international partner, or to clubs interested in supporting an international project.

As the club develops its WCS project, remember that many WCS projects qualify for funding from The Rotary Foundation. Consider the Foundation's Humanitarian Grants when planning to enhance and increase the impact of WCS projects:

- District Simplified Grants
- Individual Grants
- Matching Grants

For more information on using Humanitarian Grants to help finance your international service projects, refer to chapter 5, "The Rotary Foundation in the Club Committee Manual."